



CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Held in City Hall Chambers 1600 Nela Ave, Belle Isle

February 15, 2022 – 6:30 pm

MINUTES

Present was:

Nicholas Fouraker, Mayor
District 1 Commissioner – Ed Gold
District 2 Commissioner – Anthony Carugno
District 3 Commissioner – Karl Shuck
District 4 Commissioner – Randy Holihan
District 5 Commissioner – Beth Lowell
District 6 Commissioner – Jim Partin
District 7 Commissioner – Sue Nielsen

Absent was:

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum

Mayor Fouraker called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, and the Clerk confirmed quorum.

Also present were City Manager Francis, Attorney Langley, Chief Houston, Public Works Director Adkins, and City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno.

2. Invocation and Pledge to Flag - Comm Lowell - District 5

Comm Lowell gave the invocation and led the pledge to the flag.

3. Consent Items

- a. Approval of City Council Meeting minutes - January 27, 2022
- b. Monthly Reports-January 2022: Jan 2022 Finance Reports, Christmas 2021-After Action Report, Red Light Camera, and Fire Unit Responses.

Comm Nielsen moved to pull the meeting minutes for further review of January 27, 2022.

Comm Gold seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 7:0

Comm Holihan moved to approve the monthly reports as presented.

Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 7:0

4. Citizen's Comments

Mayor Fouraker called for citizen comments.

1. Chip Hanna, Servants Heart Ministry, thanked the Mayor and Council for their support and for allowing the 5K event Hearts Against Hunger in the City. He briefly spoke about the program and submitted a sponsor packet for consideration.
2. Speaking on behalf of the Pine Castle Historical Society, Larry Miles shared his concern about preserving historic structures in the City. He spoke in favor of saving the Lancaster House and its historical value.
3. William Morgan, Chairman of the Pine Castle Pioneer Days, spoke to save the Lancaster House. The Pine Castle Pioneer Days Inc. was willing to renovate the home; however, they could not approve moving it to another location or a private residence.
4. Ben Bateman residing at 7215 Conway Circle spoke to save the Lancaster House.
5. Landis Arnold, residing at 12807 Madison Pointe Circle, Orlando, FL, spoke to save the Lancaster House.
6. Karen Palmer Postava residing at 1843 Wind Harbor Road, spoke to save the Lancaster House.

7. Bill Moore residing at 4409 Hoffner Avenue, spoke in favor of saving the Lancaster House and submitted his written comments for the record.

There being no further comment, Mayor Fouraker closed citizen comment.

5. Unfinished Business - na

6. New Business

- a. Appointment of Tree Board Member - Hannah Wooten
Comm Carugno moved to nominate Hannah Wooten.
Comm Gold seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 7:0.
- b. Appointment of Budget Committee Member - Nate Davenport, District 1
Comm Gold moved to nominate Nate Davenport.
Comm Carugno seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 7:0.
- c. Budget Committee Recommendations for Approval – This agenda item was removed for discussion at the next City Council meeting.
- d. Approval of Change to Purchasing Policy to allow for Local Preference
City Manager Francis said in 2020, the City Council adopted a purchasing policy. Over the past year, especially with supply chain and other purchasing issues, the staff has requested a change to the current purchasing Policy to consider local preference. Local preference can generate local employment and stimulate the local economy. Many cities follow this Policy and offer a 5% preference to local businesses.
Comm Gold moved to change the City Purchasing Policy to allow for a 5% local preference for businesses within the City of Belle Isle.
Comm Lowell seconded for discussion.

Comm Carugno asked if Orange County or State offers more of a percentage. Can the Council revise the Policy later if the staff finds that they do? City Manager Francis said yes.

The motion passed unanimously, 7:0.

7. Attorney's Report – No report.

8. City Manager's Report

City Manager Francis reported on the Issues Log dated February 15, 2022, with the additional notes as follows,

- a. **Issues Log**
Transportation Issues: City Manager Francis spoke of the new development starting on Judge Road. He said this development could bring additional truck traffic and encourages residents to write to Orange County Commissioner Uribe and let her know that they would like to prohibit truck traffic down that road. The staff will continue to monitor the progress.
Charter School Lease: CCA is looking to close its bond in June. It will be a phased project over 2-3 years before completion.
Municipal Code Update: The City is looking for a replacement for a Planner. April Fisher's last day is February 28, 2022. He will be researching having a Planner on staff to start before the development of CCA.
Comp Plan Update & Bi-Centennial Celebration: The Comp Plan updates are due by 2024; however, staff will be looking to start the process in the summer. In addition, the Council should start looking at planning the Centennial Celebration in 2024.
Sienna Place Annexation: Voting has been scheduled for May 11. Mr. Francis said only the people in Sienna Place would receive ballots, not current residents. Comm Gold asked if the current Belle Isle voters get to vote in the referendum.

Attorney Langley said the Code only requires the electors and voters in the annexed area to vote in an involuntary annexation process. If the Council chooses to do so, it is optional but not required and very rare.

Lake Conway Issues: Staff, Orange County, and FWC met and took a boat tour around the Lake. Orange County is moving forward with its ordinance on specific lake issues. The staff is working with Orange County on a Joint presentation to FWC for approval. BOCC will meet on March 22 to discuss the lake issues.

Lancaster House: RFP bids for demolition due February 24. Staff will place the bids and recommendation on the March 1st agenda.

b. Chief's Report

Chief Houston reported on the following,

- Police Advisory Board will meet on February 24, 2022, at 3 pm.
- Traffic focus this week on Hoffner/Avocado and Perkins.
- Crime spiking on McCoy – some officers may be diverted from traffic plan.
- Officers will be participating in OC Command School.
- Additional patrol on McCoy – Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety paid for by FDOT.
- Code Enforcement – Recommending changes to the Code. Chief Houston stated that residents should not hire unlicensed tree companies. Please call City Hall to ensure they are on the approved vendors' list.
- Officer Alan Wausman was promoted to Corporal.

c. Public Works Report

Derreck Adkins reported on the following,

- Sol Road repair on schedule and out for bid.
- Street Paving – awaiting the revised proposal (Middlesex)
- Swann Beach's approval allows the engineer to complete both design projects mid-March. Staff will look at the complaint on the down fence.
- Sidewalk Repair – Oak Island starting this week, and Cross Lake in the design stage

9. Mayor's Report

Mayor Fouraker reported that he would be participating in the Inaugural Alumni Game on February 25.

Pinecastle Pioneer Days – Feb 26-27, 2022

10. Items from Council

Comm Nielsen said it had been brought to her attention that the older citizens do not hear news from the City. She would like to find a way to communicate with those residents. Chief Houston stated the Senior Watch Officer currently shares City news to approximately 50 elderly residents. She encourages everyone, who knows of any elders to add to the list, please call the Police Department.

She further shared her opinion about saving the Lancaster House, and the presentations heard at this meeting. She is wondering if there are any other legal avenues to keep the home and the issue between Lease vs. Ownership. Can the City de-annex the parcel to Orange County or rent the home to someone who will take care of it. She feels like the City will receive a lot of flack when the house is demolished. For Council to reconsider, the Council will need to vote on a motion from the prevailing majority to bring the motion back up for a vote.

Attorney Langley said the Council has the authority to rescind a prior vote. This may be a bit complicated because a lease must be amended.

Comm Partin shared his frustration with social media and gave an overview of the timeline from September 2018 to date regarding the disposition of the Lancaster House.

Comm Lowell asked if the pet station at Homewood/Nela could be repaired because the bags were all jammed up.

Comm Gold shared his concern with some of the posts on social media. He commended the efforts made by Council and the Pine Castle Pioneer Days, Inc. (PCPD) to save the home. Some options may be (1) PCPD can raise enough money to renovate the home and offer office use to CCA staff, or (2) Place the portables on Wallace Field until the home is renovated.

Comm Shuck spoke on the importance of pedestrian and bicycle safety, specifically on Nela and Lake Avenue. He further shared his concern with the Lancaster House, and after 3-years, the Council decided to demolish the house because a viable plan had not been submitted for review.

Comm Carugno said the following,

- He thanked the staff for their continued work on the Hoffner Crosswalk.
- March 19 – Military/First Responder Celebration for Veterans Event
- He received only a few correspondences regarding the Lancaster House. He addressed his concerns with Facebook posts, and he believes the CCA Board deserves an apology because they are doing what they believe is in the best interest of the students and the community.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Fouraker called for a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.