

City of Belle Isle
City Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 21, 2024 * 6:30 PM
MINUTES

Present was:

District 1 Commissioner – Frank Vertolli
District 2 Commissioner – Holly Bobrowski
District 4 Commissioner – Jason Carson
District 5 Commissioner – Beth Lowell
District 6 Commissioner – Stan Smith
District 7 Commissioner – Jim Partin

Absent was:

Mayor - Nicholas Fouraker
District 3 – OPEN

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum

Vice Mayor Lowell called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, and the Clerk confirmed quorum. City Manager Rick Rudometkin, Attorney Dan Langley, Chief Grimm, Public Works Director Phil Price, and City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno were also present.

2. Invocation and Pledge to Flag - Commissioner Smith, District 6

Commissioner Smith gave the invocation and led the Pledge to the Flag.

Vice Mayor Lowell called for a motion to excuse Mayor Fouraker from tonight's meeting.

Comm Partin moved for an excused absence for Mayor Fouraker, Comm Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously at 6:0.

3. Citizen Comments

Vice Mayor Lowell opened for citizen comments.

- Shannon Douglas, residing at 6420 Matchett Road, shared her concerns about golf cart safety. She notes that she is not against golf carts in the City; however, she would like to see the City enforce the laws on safety, seatbelts, and speed before there is an accident.
- Anthony Carugno, a Belle Isle resident, gave an update on the last ANAC (Airport Noise) meeting. The next meeting will be held in July.

There being no further comment, Vice Mayor Lowell closed citizen comments.

3. Presentations – No report.

4. Consent Items

Vice Mayor Lowell called for approval of the Consent items.

- Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes – May 7, 2024
- Proclamation Celebrating May 2024 Neurofibromatosis (NF) Awareness Month.

CM Rudometkin asked to pull the Proclamation to be read for the record.

Vice Mayor read the Proclamation for the record.

Comm Carson moved to approve the amended minutes and the presented proclamation. Comm Partin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously at 6:0.

5. Unfinished Business – No report.

6. New Business

a. Discuss and Approve JJs Proposed Contract Extension

Darren Bateson, JJ Representative General Manager, presented a proposed contract for waste services in the city for Council consideration. He thanked the City for their partnership for the last 5-years. JJs proposed a new 5-year term with a financial hold placed on increasing rates for the residential portion of the contract. This is to be held for 3 years, the remaining 2 years of the contract to incur an annual increase of CPI or 5%, whichever is greater, starting October 1, 2024, until September 2029.

JJs proposed a single annual increase for the commercial business from October 1, 2024, until the end of September 2029. The increase will be the CPI or 5%, whichever is greater, plus any increases in disposal via landfills. He noted that JJs received a massive landfill increase of 12% last year and could not recover the cost. Mr. Bateson asked the Council to consider placing a financial hold on the residential portion of the contract until they receive confirmation from Orange County on any increases to the landfill portion.

At the end of the initial 5-year term in 2029, the rollover term as per the original contract will be followed by an extended period of 3 years, with one 1-year extension.

Comm Partin clarified if JJs are asking for a hold on approval until August to allow them to confirm the landfill increase from Orange County. Comm Partin asked if JJs could charge Sienna Place as residential. Mr. Bateson said he is willing to work with their HOA regarding their services; however, they would need to evaluate their waste consumption and illegal dumping.

Council discussed and thanked JJ's continued service to the community. Comm Smith asked for clarification on the contract extensions. Mr. Bateson said the contract is a 5-year term with a renegotiation of three, one-year extension upon Council approval, or the City may move forward with an RFP.

City Manager Rudometkin said he has received very few complaints about JJs' service since joining the city. He is in favor of extending the contract and will continue discussions with JJs on annexations and service.

Vice Mayor Lowell asked if JJs would be willing to change the days of service instead of raising prices. Mr. Bateson said they are willing to work with the City.

The City Clerk noted that August might be late for approval due to the posting dates of the solid waste non-advalorem fees; the latest decision should be made no later than July 1st.

Comm Partin moved to approve with the stipulation that the deadline be changed to July 1st and that additional changes and circumstances can be negotiated with the City Manager. Comm Bobrowski seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0.

b. Approve At-Large Posting for Budget Committee Members Districts

City Clerk noted a correction to the agenda item for District seats. She noted that the Committee is appointed At-Large, as passed by the Council with Resolution 21-02.

Comm Bobrowski asked if the City can post for openings on all committees. City Manager Rudometkin said the Council would not be able to approve the request because it is currently not an agenda item; however, he will place it on the agenda for the following meeting.

Comm Smith moved to post the openings for the Budget Committee seats as requested. Comm Partin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0.

c. Discuss Budget Goals for 2024-2025

City Manager Rudometkin said that at the last meeting, he provided the Council with previous Council goals and spoke about current projects in the City that may need continued funding. After discussion, the City Manager asked for Council goals for 2024-2025 to be submitted for consideration after the Memorial Day holiday or no later than May 31st.

Chief Grimm said that the PD will request an additional officer to support the school expansion during the upcoming budget discussion.

7. Attorney's Report – No report.

8. City Manager's Report

City Manager Rudometkin provided a Task List and spoke on some highlighted items,

- Working on carving out the Lancaster House and new site plan from the current lease.
- The draft budget will be provided sooner than in previous years.
- Duke Energy is proposing underground cables, and staff is discussing how to move forward. They further discussed working with AT&T and Cable providers on the initiative.
- Comp Plan update will be presented to the P&Z Board in June and sent back to the Council for approval.
- The City Manager thanked the staff for their support.

City Manager Rudometkin asked the Council if they want to cancel the first City Council meeting in July because it is the Fourth of July week. The council consensus was to revisit the request for discussion at the first meeting in June.

a. Chief's Report

Chief Grimm reported that Officer Mathews was recovering and thanked everyone for their support. Chief Grimm gave an update on the PD Stats and stated they had issued 416 Citations with 214 warnings.

b. Public Work's Report

Phil Price said the staff continues to access sidewalks for repair. Trimble Park needs improvement, and staff is focusing on its upkeep and continued maintenance. The dog fountains are scheduled for installation in Gilbert, Regal/Montmart Park. City Hall refurbishing quotes are almost complete. Public Works is working with Code Enforcement to update the signs at Perkins Boat Ramp.

The staff received one bid for the Landscaping, which was higher than anticipated. The City will revisit the scope of work and resubmit the RFP for bid. At this time, staff will continue to maintain the city's landscaping.

9. Mayor's Report – No report.

11. Commissioners Report

- Comm Vertolli spoke about the P&Z Board vacancies because of Forms 1 and 6 and asked if the City would be willing to be part of the lawsuit geared towards other cities. City Manager Rudometkin said he would research the request and bring it forward for discussion. He further added that the Peacocks are back.
- Comm Bobrowski said she also received calls regarding the Peacocks and researched further with FWC and found information on how to discourage them. She said it would be good for staff to be proactive and send an alert. She has received some complaints about boat ramps. Lake Conway Estates changed their gates with license readers and said the city might want to investigate an automated system for the city boat ramps. Chief Grimm said if the Council would like staff to research it further, they could also see if the City could charge for entry.
- The council agreed and thanked the Special Events Committee for a successful event on the bridge.
- Comm Partin reported that there is a sewer smell by the Atrium by the auditorium. Mr. Price said he would investigate it and notify the County if necessary. Comm Partin asked if, once the City has tackled all the sidewalks, does the City have criteria or a continuing program in place that would indicate a repair and an immediate fix. Comm Partin reported that he will not be available for June and is willing to participate via Zoom or request an excused absence.
- Comm Smith asked for an update on the FDOT Fema grant. CM said the Council approved the resolution and contract at the last meeting, and the city is awaiting their approval.

Comm Smith said he attended the PRM Board meeting and said they spoke at length about the State of Florida's stance on PD and PW taking vehicles home. Chief Grimm said he would confirm with legal. He noted that, in the past, they required staff to carry non-owner insurance. The second item was Cyber Security Training, which requires that all City staff take 4/8-hour training to comply with the insurance laws. Comm Smith said the state has programs that will have a representative come to the city and give a class to all staff.

- Vice Mayor Lowell said hurricane season is upon us and wanted to know if we have contact should there be a need to lower the weir. Phil Price said if the need arises, the staff can follow the process and request that the weir be lowered. Comm Lowell also thanked the Marine Patrol for keeping the activities and lake users safe.
- Comm Carson also received calls regarding the Peacocks in the City.

12. Adjournment

With no further business, Vice Mayor Lowell called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was unanimously approved at 8:35 pm.