



**CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

City Hall Chambers, 1600 Nela Avenue, Belle Isle, FL 32809

Tuesday, October 18, 2022, \* 6:30 pm

**MINUTES**

Present was:

Nicholas Fouraker, Mayor  
District 1 Commissioner – Ed Gold  
District 2 Commissioner – Anthony Carugno  
District 4 Commissioner – Randy Holihan  
District 5 Commissioner – Beth Lowell  
District 6 Commissioner – Stan Smith  
District 7 Commissioner – Jim Partin

Absent was:

District 3 Commissioner – Karl Shuck

**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, and City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno.

Mayor Fouraker called for a motion to excuse Comm Karl Shuck's absence.

**Comm Gold moved to excuse Comm Shuck's absence from today's meeting.**

**Comm Holihan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0.**

**2. Invocation and Pledge to Flag – Commissioner Jim Partin, District 7**

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

**3. Consent Items**

- a. Proclamation of Week of the Family
- b. Approval of meeting minutes of October 4, 2022
- c. Monthly Reports: OC Fire Responses

Mayor Fouraker read the Proclamation for the record.

**Comm Holihan moved to approve the consent items as presented.**

**Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0.**

**4. Citizen's Comments**

Mayor Fouraker opened for Citizen Comments.

- Gary Meloon residing at 6101 Matchett Blvd, spoke regarding the change of plans with CCA and future development with Wallace Park. He asked for additional information on the design and layout of the proposed facility to allow the homeowners who live around the field to participate in an informed conversation as the Council reviews the future use of the field. He asked will there be a holding cell, how will they regulate noise from sirens, and how will firearms be secured.

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

**5. Unfinished Business**

**a. Discussion on Wallace Field**

City Manager Francis said this agenda item had been reopened for discussion by Council at a previous meeting. He said when the City was looking at purchasing the Bank Of America building (BOA), the intent was to house the new police department. After discussions with Cornerstone Charter Academy (CCA), the City

Council approved CCA to lease the BOA building for the school expansion. The new lease agreement with CCA was approved and opened for further research of a new location for the City staff. The City has been engaging in discussions with Development companies to relocate City Hall and the Police Department. The Staff has completed a Space Needs Analysis but has no approved Conceptual Plan for the building. Some viable locations are Wallace Field, with access to a boat ramp, and the funeral home on Orange Avenue.

For the record, Mr. Francis read the agreement section that spoke to Wallace Field and clarified that Wallace Field is not part of the school expansion plan. This property belongs to the City to consider for development. At this time, the concept for discussion is that the Police Department will have its facility, and City Hall Admin will move into the existing Police Department. City Hall will be reconstructed with adequate meeting space. Mr. Francis said the City does have an additional location for consideration; however, he has not received a final report for review. The \$1.7 million grant proposed by the State has since been dissolved. He noted that the City would reapply, through the lobbyists, for State funding to help build the facility in the new year.

Mr. Francis stated that it is challenging to obtain new annexations because Orlando borders the properties on the east. The Pine Castle preservation District goes to Orange Blossom Trail; without Orange County's cooperation, we are landlocked.

Comm Holihan asked if the Staff was looking at other locations. He said he would like Council to decide on a couple of sites and make a decision on one of the sites to move forward. Comm Holihan said he wants to see City Hall and the Police Department in one building.

Council discussed eminent domain, satellite locations, traffic noise from the police department vehicles if placed on Wallace field, and how inadequate the current Police Department facility is for the officers, Staff, and code enforcement officers.

Chief Houston said they could regulate the use of the sirens. At this time, the Fire Department turn on its sirens once they are on Orange Avenue. Chief Houston said she is not a fan of satellite offices. In response to the Public comment, Chief Houston said all guns are kept in the vault and securely managed.

Comm Gold said he would like to see Wallace Field be allocated as a park, stay true to the commitment to the residents, and keep it part of the City's green space.

**After discussion, Comm Gold moved to dedicate Wallace Field as part of the green space and have the proposed city buildings at another location.**

Attorney Langley clarified and said the City Manager is asking for direction to take Wallace Field off the list as a location for a new city building.

**Comm Gold revised his motion and moved that the City Council officially take Wallace Field off the list for an Emergency Operation Center/City Hall.  
The motion died for lack of a second.**

Council discussed the following topics and thoughts on what is best for the City,

- CCA Shared Use Agreement and proposed improvements before approval of new lease
- What does the Park look like independent of the school (dog park with greenspace)
- The City has zero surplus property; Wallace Field's location may be odd for a municipal complex
- The Vamp building on Hansel/Orange Avenue is available; combined facility for all City staff. However, traffic on Orange Avenue may hinder Police Officer access
- Consider Condemnation (may not be cost-effective and can be in the court system for years before resolution)
- Other sites available to bring forward for discussion

After discussion, Council agreed to the following action items,

- The consensus was to have one municipal complex for City Hall and Police Department Staff. However, having City Hall a couple of blocks away can be an option to consider if not possible.
- Purchase the new property to grow the City surplus and house staff appropriately
- Hire an Appraiser to negotiate the purchase price

## 6. New Business

### a. Approval of Pioneer Days Donation Request

**Comm Smith moved to approve the donation to Pioneer Days for the Acoustic Stage.**

**Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0.**

### b. Discussion on Holiday Meeting Schedule

City Manager Francis provided a list of calendar dates for the upcoming City meetings and holiday events. Mr. Francis said there would be no need to cancel any scheduled meetings because no conflicts are pending with forthcoming holiday events.

## 7. Attorney's Report – No report.

## 8. City Manager's Report

### a. Issues Log

Mr. Francis gave an overview of the Issues Log dated October 18, 2022.

He informed the Council of the following additional items,

- Mr. Francis said he would like to create two Adhoc Committees, (1) Traffic and (2) Comp Plan. He would like to fill the positions as soon as possible and be appointed by District.
- 4-Hour Council Training scheduled off-site for Friday, October 28, from 10 am -2 pm.

### b. Chief's Report

Chief Houston reported on the following,

- Chief Houston reported that Patrick Albery, Code Enforcement officer, moved to Public Works. There is an opening for Code Enforcement Officer and a Crossing Guard.
- PD is accepting canned food for Food Drive. Drop-offs can be made at the Police Department.
- Lake Conway is closed due to damaged docks and debris in the water. Chief asked residents to please stay off of the lake until further notice.
- The Police Department will have additional officers around the city on Halloween night. She is recommending that the festivities end at 9 pm.

**Comm Gold moved that the City allow Halloween Festivities to end by 9 pm in the City.**

**Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0.**

### c. Public Work Report

- Pipe Issues on Cullen Lake Shore, St Moritz, and St Regis. Staff meeting with contractors to evaluate the areas.
- Barby Lane drainage project should be out for bid next week.
- Cross Lake storm drain will be redesigned to flow towards the lake.
- Sol/Kandra project discussions on final paving for the intersection. The ground is very saturated. Some front yards are raised, and the irrigation drains from the front yards to the sidewalk. The Contractor asked for door hangers for the residents to stop using their irrigation until the paving is complete. Mr. Francis said the Contractor provided contact information to the residents to allow them to submit any damage claims.
- Conway Road and Belle Vista – The HOA fence was destroyed. The City of Orlando should be contacted for repair.

## **9. Mayor's Report**

Mayor Fouraker reported on the following,

- Mayor Fouraker shared an email he received from Terry Keller, Swan Avenue, thanking Staff and JJs for the quick cleanup of hurricane debris.
- Annual Blues BBQ – Saturday at 6:30 pm.
- Mayor Fouraker attended the BOCC meeting to support the Resolution for the Road Realignment.

## **10. Items from Council**

- Council thanked Staff and the PD for their support during Hurricane Ian's cleanup efforts.
- ANAC meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 21, at 10 am.
- Boat Parade dates Dec 16, 17 and 18
- City staff is encouraging lake users not to create a wake within 500 ft from shore. City boat ramps are currently closed until further notice.
- City staff identified the areas with existing Hurricane Ian debris. Friday is bulk day, and JJ's will be going around the City to pick up the trash/debris broken down to manageable size.

## **11. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mayor Fouraker called for a motion to adjourn.

The motion passed unanimously at 8:30 pm.