



CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 5:30 PM

City Commission Chambers – 105 S. 2ND Street, Flagler Beach, FL 32136

PRESENT: Mayor Patti King, Chair Scott Spradley, Vice-Chair James Sherman, Commissioners Rick Belhumeur, Eric Cooley and Jane Mealy, City Attorney D. Andrew Smith, III, City Manager Dale L. Martin and City Clerk Penny Overstreet.

1. **Call the meeting to order:** Chairman Spradley called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The Commission reached consensus to move the proclamation first from the Regular Meeting agenda.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence to honor our Veterans, members of the Armed Forces and First Responders:** Chairman Spradley led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **General Business**

- a. Discussion and regarding Fourth of July Activities. Mr. Martin reviewed the purpose of the meeting, and advised the County is in their second year of a three-year contract to hold fireworks at the airport, this is a joint project with Palm Coast. The County and Palm Coast are promoting a county wide event of the 5k, parade and activities in Veterans Park during the day and the fireworks show at the airport in the evening.

Chairman Spradley summarized the report and recommendations from the 2021 Ad-Hoc Fourth of July Finding Committee. He stated its not whether we want fireworks, it is the logistics that we cannot have them. Chairman Spradley spoke to the differences between the 4th of July and the recent New Year Event.

Commission Belhumeur reported the budgeted amount for the fireworks was spent on the New Year Event and the City normally engages assistance from the Sheriff's Department for the 4th of July and they are supporting the County event at the airport. He felt it would be impossible to have them on the same night. Commissioner Belhumeur hoped to reestablish fireworks in the future.

Commissioner Sherman was concerned about finances and safety on the community.

Commissioner Mealy felt there would be a way to fund the fireworks. She thought the City could celebrate on July 3 or July 5. When she went to the 2023 event at the County, it did not have the same feel as it does in Flagler Beach.

Commissioner Cooley spoke of the safety perimeter needed on New Year. He did not feel that the safety perimeter could be managed on the 4th of July. Commissioner Cooley felt it would put a tremendous strain on the City's Police Department. At the New Year event, no one was on the beach. The 4th of July there will be thousands on the beach. He expressed his concern about bring the 4th of July event for the 3rd. His thought was it would bring more people to town for the entire weekend and on the heels of the Army Corps beach renourishment project scheduled on July 5. He also thought it was a little late to change course with participating with the County and Palm Coast.

Chief Doughney spoke of the being very short staff due to open positions and several officers out on Workmen's Compensation. He felt his department would be spread more than thin if they were asked to support a five-day event.

Commissioner Mealy felt the timing and place of what will happen on July 5 is not set in stone. The Army Corps will be selecting their contractor on May 2 and that would still give the City time to plan.

Commissioner Belhumeur reminded all that the City started looking for a fireworks contractor about the same time of year two years ago and had no luck securing a vendor. He felt it would again be tough. Commissioner Cooley asked the City Manager for his opinion. Mr. Martin felt the logistics would be a challenge. He had discussed with the former city manager of Palm Coast and the current County Administrator this year's 4th of July was to be a united Flagler County event.

Mr. Martin asked if the Commission would like to re-establish the tradition in 2027. By 2027, all projects in Flagler Beach will be completed. The County has a 1-year contracts for three years.

Public comment was opened. The following attendees expressed their concerns, opinions, suggestions about the 4th of July, 2024 event: Benjamin Belhumeur from Moorehead City, North Carolina, Scott Fox, Tony Roy, R.J. Santori and Jim Vagen. Public comment was closed.

It was the consensus of the Commission for the City Manager to inform Palm Coast and the County that the City of Flagler Beach is planning on hosting fireworks for the 4th of July in 2027.

It was the consensus of the Commission for the City Manager to direct staff to proceed forward with all normally scheduled July 4th activities

The Workshop ended at 6:44 p.m.