

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

321 WALNUT STREET, GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA
TUESDAY, MAY 07, 2024 – 7:00 PM



MINUTES

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag - **Bob Page**

Roll Call

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Connie Butler, Vice Mayor Steven Kelley, Council Member Ed Gaw, Council Member Matt Johnson, Council Member Thomas Smith

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: L.J. Arnold, III, City Attorney, Steve Kennedy, City Manager, Mike Null, Assistant City Manager, Erin West, City Clerk

Mayor to call on members of the audience wishing to address the Council on matters not on the Agenda.

1. David Coughlin 23 Widener Way, Orange Park, speaks to the Council concerning Red Light Cameras and provides a written statement to be included in the minutes.
2. Joe Sobotta 212 North St. GCS speaks to the Council concerning Red Light Cameras and the amount of traffic that has increased in 15 years.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

1. Proclamation - Public Service Recognition Week
Mayor Butler reads and presents the proclamation to city staff.
2. Proclamation - National Police Week
Vice Mayor Kelley reads and presents the proclamation to Chief Guzman.

PRESENTATIONS

3. FMPA - May 2024 **Bob Page**
Mr. Page presents the May report.

ADD: Council Member Gaw advises he needs to make a nomination for a new Planning and Zoning Board Member. Mr. Gaw nominates Phil Vetter.

Emergency motion to appoint Phil Vetter to the Planning and Zoning Board.

Motion made by Council Member Gaw, Seconded by Council Member Smith.

Voting Yea: Mayor Butler, Vice Mayor Kelley, Council Member Gaw, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Smith

PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. First reading of Ordinance O-14-2024 regarding the proposed zoning of a portion of Parcel 016564-002-00 for approximately 6.03 acres *Michael Daniels*
Zoning Amendment From: Unzoned To: M-1 Light Industrial
Council Member Smith reads Ordinance No. O-14-2024 by title.
Development Services Director, Michael Daniels presents the Ordinance.
Mayor Butler opens the public hearing.
Following no comments, Mayor Butler closes the public hearing.
Council discussion concerning the use of the property, the traffic, and road conditions.

Motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance O-14- regarding the proposed zoning of a portion of Parcel 016564-002-00 for approximately 6.03 acres.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Kelley, Seconded by Council Member Johnson.

Voting Yea: Mayor Butler, Vice Mayor Kelley, Council Member Gaw, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Smith

5. First Reading of Ordinance O-13-2024 Form Based Code Companion Ordinance *Michael Daniels*
Council Member Smith reads Ordinance No. O-13-2024 by title.
Development Services Director, Michael Daniels presents the Ordinance.
Mayor Butler opens the public hearing.
Following no comments, Mayor Butler closes the public hearing.

Motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance O-13-2024, regarding amending applicable sections of City Code Chapter 78, 101, 113, 117, 125 as described herein, for form and legality.

Motion made by Council Member Johnson, Seconded by Council Member Smith.

Voting Yea: Mayor Butler, Vice Mayor Kelley, Council Member Gaw, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Smith

6. Second and final reading of Ordinance No. O-15-2024 which provides consent for the creation of the Rookery Community Development District within the Rookery Development *L.J. Arnold III*
Council Member Smith reads Ordinance No. O-15-2024 by title.
City Attorney Arnold speaks about the Ordinance.
Mayor Butler opens the public hearing.
Following no comments, Mayor Butler closes the public hearing.
Council Member Gaw advises he saw signs saying no CDD and asks Katie Buchanan with Kutak Rock LLP to speak on the signs he saw.
Ms. Buchanan advises it is a matter of preference of the development.
Mr. Arnold advises there is an update on the ordinance that will incorporate the legal description.

Motion to approve Ordinance No. O-15-2024 on second and final reading which provides consent for the creation of the Rookery Community Development District within the Rookery Development with the information Mr. Arnold suggested.

Motion made by Council Member Smith, Seconded by Council Member Johnson.

Voting Yea: Mayor Butler, Vice Mayor Kelley, Council Member Gaw, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Smith

CONSENT AGENDA

All matters under the consent agenda are considered to be routine by the city council and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion on these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered separately. Backup documentation and staff recommendations have been previously submitted to the city council on these items.

Council Member Gaw pulled item 18 and Mayor Butler pulled items 11 and 22.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda items 7 through 24 minus 11, 18 and 22.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Kelley, Seconded by Council Member Johnson.

Voting Yea: Mayor Butler, Vice Mayor Kelley, Council Member Gaw, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Smith

7. City Council approval of Amendment #3 to contract with WGI for engineering services under Bid LC 2021-02 covering the period from April 21, 2024 through April 20, 2025. *Mike Null*
8. City Council approval of the 2023 water quality Consumer Confidence Report and authorization to include in all customer bills instructions for reviewing electronically or obtaining a copy. *Scott Schultz*
9. City Council approval of funding in the amount of \$2,171,400.00 to Mittauer & Associates for permitting and design services for the Magnolia Point Reclaimed Water System & Reynolds Water System Improvements. *Scott Schultz*
10. City Council approval of, and authorization for the Mayor, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute, Amendment 3 to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), State Revolving Fund (SRF), Agreement No. WW1000420, extending the construction completion date to February 15, 2025 and establishing semi-annual loan payment dates, for construction of the Harbor Road Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility (HRAWWTF). *Scott Schultz*
11. City Council approval of Resolution No. R-07-2024, amending the personnel policy manual, modifying the emergency operations policy and payrate during declared emergencies changing the pay during emergencies to be paid at employee's double time rate (2 x hourly rate) instead of their overtime rate (1.5 x hourly rate). *Dee Jones*
Human Resource Director, Dee Jones explains the resolution and advises we are getting ready for hurricane season.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda items 11, 18, and 22.

Motion made by Council Member Johnson, Seconded by Vice Mayor Kelley.

Voting Yea: Mayor Butler, Vice Mayor Kelley, Council Member Gaw, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Smith

12. City Council approval of the National Safe Boating Week Proclamation. *Erin West*
13. City Council approval of the Military Service Day Proclamation. *Erin West*
14. City Council approval of the Mental Health Awareness Month Proclamation. *Erin West*

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15. City Council approval of the Annual Memorial Day Riverfest to include street closures. **Michael Daniels**
 16. City Council approval of the Monica's Fight Special Event to include street closures and the waiver of all fees. **Michael Daniels**
 17. City Council approval of the Site Development Plan for the Development of Gustafson Park to the East of County Road 15A on a portion of parcel 016515-008-01 **Michael Daniels**
 18. City Council approval of the Site Development Plan for the Clay County Fire Station 20 at 1305 Idlewild Avenue **Michael Daniels**
Clay County Fire Chief speaks about the plans for the new Fire Station.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda items 11, 18, and 22.

Motion made by Council Member Johnson, Seconded by Vice Mayor Kelley.

Voting Yea: Mayor Butler, Vice Mayor Kelley, Council Member Gaw, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Smith

19. City Council approval of Minutes. **Erin West**
Regular Sessions: 2/6/2024 and 3/12/2024
20. City Council Approve Pay Application #1 for the West Street CDBG Stormwater and Sidewalk Improvements to Besch and Smith in the amount of \$167,621.04. **Greg Bauer**
21. City Council Approve Pay Application #1- Walnut Street Improvements, to provide roadway, utility, pedestrian and streetscape improvements on Walnut St from Palmetto Ave to the River in the amount of \$811,086.65 to CGC, Inc. **Greg Bauer**
22. The Finance Department needs to add the requirement for a Suspension and Debarment Certification to our formal procurement requirements. Staff is seeking Council approval of Resolution R-08-2024 to adopt this change to the Purchasing Policies & Procedures Manual. **Mike Null**
Assistant City Manager, Mike Null speaks this is a request from the auditors and will update our procurement policy.
Motion to approve Consent Agenda items 11, 18, and 22.
Motion made by Council Member Johnson, Seconded by Vice Mayor Kelley.
Voting Yea: Mayor Butler, Vice Mayor Kelley, Council Member Gaw, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Smith
23. City Council approval of Spring Park Dock Extension Project Pay App # 4 to C&H Marine in the amount of \$51,392.39. **Greg Bauer**
24. City Council approval of Spring Park Dock Extension Project Final Pay App # 5 to C&H Marine in the amount of \$14,065.65. **Greg Bauer**

COUNCIL BUSINESS

25. City Council update on the status of the Harbor Road Wastewater Treatment Facility (HRWWTF) construction and approval of the process for executing an agreement with the “Tender Contractor” (Sawcross) to complete construction. **Scott Schultz** Assistant Water Utilities Director, Scott Schultz updates the Council on the Wastewater Treatment Facility construction. City Attorney Arnold speaks about the process concerning agreements and the next steps.

26. Classification and Compensation Study Contract for PaypointHR, LLC **Dee Jones** Human Resource Director, Dee Jones explains the process of picking the company to complete the study and advises this will be complete for the upcoming budget sessions.

Motion to authorize engagement of PaypointHR, LLC to conduct a Classification and Compensation Study provided for in the FY 2024 budget and based on vendor proposal amount of \$32,500, to begin immediately and complete by August 1, 2024, and authorize the Mayor to execute the contract.

Motion made by Council Member Johnson, Seconded by Council Member Smith.
Voting Yea: Mayor Butler, Vice Mayor Kelley, Council Member Gaw, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Smith

27. City Manager & City Attorney Reports / Correspondence
The City Manager and City Attorney made comments regarding various city activities, events, operations, and projects.

28. City Council Reports / Correspondence
The City Council made comments regarding various city activities, events, operations, and projects.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

Constance W. Butler, Mayor

Attest:

Erin West, City Clerk

[David Coughlin 7 May 2024 Remarks to GCS Town Council]

There is a persistent myth circulating about the efficacy of the Green Cove Springs Red Light Camera Enrichment efforts.

The myth is that prior to the 2011 implementation of Red Light Camera Operations; Collisions, Fatalities, and Injuries were frequent; and that Red Light Camera Operations have reduced these numbers.

Here are a few data points, courtesy of the Florida Department of Transportation:

- 1. Average daily throughput on Hwy 17 in Green Cove Springs was greater in 2003 than in 2022.**
- 2. Before and after the 2011 implementation of the Green Cove Springs Red Light Camera Regime, annual red light running related collisions at the three intersections operating red light cameras, have consistently ranged from zero to two in every year since 2007.**
- 3. For the 16 year period 2007 through 2022, only 12 red light running collisions have occurred at the Green Cove Springs intersections operating red light cameras. That would be a rate of three quarters of a collision per year caused by red light running.**
- 4. For the same 16 year period, no fatalities have occurred at the three intersections operating red light cameras.**
- 5. Based on FDOT throughput counts, there are no less than 10 Million annual opportunities to cause mayhem at the three Green Cove Spring Red Light Camera intersections. This translates into one red light running violation per thousand passages and one non-fatal collision per 13 Million passages.**

Gentlemen: Red Light Running at these intersections has always been negligible, to the point of being statistically insignificant.

What is significant is the hundreds of thousands of dollars netted by the City, underpinned by a false public safety narrative of reckless outsiders raging through Green Cove Springs bringing death and destruction to your bucolic community.

If the public safety narrative were real, revenues collected from this regime would be applied to motorist safety improvements at these intersections.

Gentlemen, this is bad governance. This is dishonest.