

JULY 16, 2025
MARY BETH TAYLOR

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

PUBLIC COMMENT

Good Evening Everyone,

TOPIC: Town Commission's FY 2026 Budget Priorities/Initiatives Requests

- **LISTED, Improvements to Blakely Park** All of our parks are priceless, rare treasures, to be preserved for the health and well-being of our citizens.
- **LISTED, OVAL-A-BOUT**, hopefully located on Tenth Street, CRA. **Thank You** for prioritizing funding for a much needed improvement. The town is investing a million dollars in the Oceana Coffee Project, a good looking building, with lovely landscaping, but it is devalued due to the awkward street design and ugly bollards defacing the view of the building.
- **LISTED, New Community Center.** I checked with residents to make sure that I didn't miss a meeting or a Commission vote on the topic of a *New Community Center*. The public had no idea what I was talking about, reminiscent of the most recent, 16 story surprise. I do recall using grant funding (\$400,000) for a plan including *accurate* cost estimates....but then I recall a diverting of grant funds to Kelsey Park for an approved water/fountain type of Splash Pad, which I did not see on the list of priorities.

At a recent commission meeting a Commissioner said, that "it doesn't matter how many residents show up, fill the chambers and voice their opinions because they do not have all the facts and information that the commissioners have". **I respectfully disagree.** BUT, To clarity, please publish and disseminate all plans/information and cost estimates of a New Community Center, by mail and social media, including the Town's website so that citizens know the facts.... so that they have access to all the information that commissioners have.....**Also**, after digesting the provided information and cost estimates allow citizens the opportunity to engage in the Community Center conversation and decision making process, by survey, shared public gatherings, or a dedicated prioritized Quarterly Outreach Meeting. Most importantly, consider resident's input **before** prioritizing costly new projects ahead of already studied and paid for projects such as The Town's *Mobility Plan, Park Avenue Road Diet, town wide traffic calming, Sea Walls, Park improvements, etc. which residents have been patiently waiting....for years! If these are listed under capital improvements please list for all to see..... or are they forgotten, gathering dust on a storage shelf.*

Our refreshed library is another treasure, when is the open house to show off our beautiful bibliotheca?