

**MINUTES
CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021 - 6:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Triolo on the above date at 6:00 PM in the City Commission Chamber located at City Hall, 7 North Dixie Highway, Lake Worth Beach, Florida.

ROLL CALL: Present were Mayor Pam Triolo; Vice Mayor Andy Amoroso; and Commissioners Scott Maxwell, Carla Blockson and Herman Robinson. Also present were City Manager Michael Bornstein, City Attorney Christy L. Goddeau and City Clerk Deborah M. Andrea.

INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE: on behalf of Commissioner Herman Robinson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: led by Commissioner Scott Maxwell.

AGENDA - Additions/Deletions/Reordering:

Presentation B, Barton Elementary School, was moved to the March 16, 2021 meeting. Consent D was moved to New Business B.

Action: Motion made by Commissioner Maxwell and seconded by Vice Mayor Amoroso to approve the agenda as amended.

Vote: Voice vote showed: AYES: Mayor Triolo, Vice Mayor Amoroso and Commissioners Maxwell, Blockson and Robinson. NAYS: None.

PRESENTATIONS: (there is no public comment on Presentation items)

- A. Presentation by Erica Whitfield regarding educational issues
Erica Whitfield, School Board Representative, welcomed Commissioner Blockson to the dais. She reported that 76% of high school students, 63% of middle school students and 40% of elementary students were participating virtually. She said that more than 100% of students had access to computers, more than needed, and that the City had been very helpful with hotspots and internet access. She said that handing out computers was a plus, but many students were not logging on. She stated that there was no statewide testing last year, but the schools had done their own testing; the English Language scores had improved slightly while the Math scores declined. She said that there was a big difference between the students learning remotely and those attending classes in person and those who were struggling were encouraged to go back to in person learning. She reported that the schools were feeding many children, but it was a struggle to get the food to them when they were not in school. She stated that three of the four elementary schools sent food home in backpacks for the weekends. She requested that the commissioners sit on school advisory boards for the City schools and that community support would be needed because the effect of COVID was devastating to education and there should be monthly meetings to speak about the issues.

Vice Mayor Amoroso asked Ms. Whitfield about community partners for the backpack program.

Ms. Whitfield replied that there were five or six organizations that packed the backpacks; funding for the food was needed.

Vice Mayor Amoroso stated that the City had food and stored food for later distribution. He requested a wish list from Ms. Whitfield to see if assistance could be provided and said that the schools should have food pantries that he could fill with non-perishable items.

Commissioner Maxwell asked about the backpacks that were being used and how many children were missing.

Ms. Whitfield replied that the backpacks belonged to the students but items to go inside were needed. She said that the teachers knocked on doors to try to find the missing students and she would provide the numbers to the commission.

Commissioner Blockson expressed concern that parents were not sending struggling kids back to the brick and mortar schools and asked if there was data on how low the transmission rates were, indicating that it would be safe for them to attend.

Ms. Whitfield responded that the buildings were taking safety precautions very seriously and no visitors were allowed. She said that school staff were reaching out to the parents, but some did not want to send their children back.

Commissioner Robinson thanked Ms. Whitfield for letting the commission know about the educational difficulties. He asked what her thoughts would be regarding an educational board.

Ms. Whitfield answered that a board with an hourly meeting every month could be very beneficial for the community and should be made up of community members for continued discussion between the community and the educators.

Commissioner Robinson suggested putting the word out to obtain ten volunteers and asked for consensus from the commission.

Mayor Triolo expressed her support for an advisory board and opined on having professionals as well as community members on a board.

City Manager Bornstein said that having an official ordinance for a board would bring complications.

Ms. Whitfield said that different administrators would attend and it was important that a board meet to help the students.

Vice Mayor Amoroso said that the commission could recommend members separate from the commissioners; Sunshine Laws and other restrictions would apply if an official board were created.

Commissioner Robinson challenged the Neighborhood Association (NAPC) to reach out to the community to find members.

Ms. Whitfield stated that she would attend the NAPC meeting.

B. (moved to March 16, 2020) Barton Elementary School Presentation

COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

Commissioner Maxwell: wished everyone a Happy New Year and expressed hope that 2021 would be a better year. He asked City Manager Bornstein if anything was being done at the county level to address the new COVID strain and disseminate the correct information to the public. He said that there had been a power outage due to the illegal removal of a tree after Christmas and stated that there should be a discussion regarding permits for landscaping.

Commissioner Blockson: thanked her fellow commissioners for her appointment. She said that she had been volunteering in the City for a long time and her position as commissioner would allow her to work harder on a broader basis. She announced some of the events that would be held during the MLK Celebration, which was very important to her. She spoke about the wall on the south end of the City, once a symbol of segregation, that was changing to a symbol of hope with artists beginning to paint on MLK Day. She said that the City had been extremely supportive of the project and there were volunteers who did not live in the district working on the project.

Vice Mayor Amoroso: wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed Commissioner Blockson to the dais. He announced that the food distribution would continue on Tuesdays as long as there was a need and funding and that he was doing home deliveries of food. He stated that he was working with the elders in the community to find the vaccine; calls could be made to the county to obtain an appointment.

Commissioner Robinson: congratulated Dr. Tiffany Cox for the band concert and for obtaining her doctorate and extended condolences to the McKinnon family on Mary Jane's passing. He thanked PBSO for their traffic calming, acknowledged Mary Lindsay for her work with Little Free Libraries and thanked the Public Works Department for addressing bulk pickup on Federal Highway. He welcomed Carla Blockson to the commission and thanked all the board members who volunteered time to the City. He said that he looked forward to the work sessions on various issues facing the City and requested that the CRA do a quarterly report on its activities.

Mayor Triolo: wished everyone a Happy New Year. She welcomed Commission Blockson saying that it was wonderful to have another woman on the dais. She said that there some great holiday events including the house decorating and the showing of "Polar Express" at Bryant Park. She said that the work sessions mentioned by Commission Robinson were being queued up and suggested that there should be a review of the penny sales tax as an agenda item, concerning better investment in the south end of the City; facilities and programs in some neighborhoods should be enhanced to help the children and there were various groups with plans over the years that should be brought to the commission.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OF NON-AGENDAED ITEMS AND CONSENT AGENDA:

Deborah Andrea, City Clerk, read the comments submitted by the following:

Adela Shiner wrote that the appointment of the new commissioner seemed to be decided before the meeting.

Matthew Portilla wrote to request drastic traffic calming on 12th Avenue South.

Margot Emery wrote to announce that St. Andrew's Episcopal Church would join with the Lake Worth Interfaith Network and the City of Lake Worth Beach's MLK Jr. Committee to present a Zoom entertainment.

Teri Silverman wrote about the value of leaving a public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Action: Motion made by Commissioner Maxwell and seconded by Commissioner Robinson to approve the following minutes:

- A. Work Session - November 19, 2020
- B. Regular Meeting - December 1, 2020
- C. Regular Meeting - December 15, 2020
- D. Special Meeting - December 21, 2020

Vote: Voice vote showed: AYES: Mayor Triolo, Vice Mayor Amoroso and Commissioners Maxwell, Blockson and Robinson. NAYS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA: (public comment allowed during Public Participation of Non-Agendaed items)

Action: Motion made by Commissioner Maxwell and seconded by Commissioner Robinson to approve the Consent Agenda.

- A. Proclamation recognizing January 18, 2021 as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- B. Ratification of a reappointment to the Division 1 of the Firefighters' Retirement Board of Trustees
- C. Payments of Fiscal Year 2020 Invoices
- D. (moved to New Business B) Resolution No. 01-2021 – Budget amendment to the 5-Year CIP Plan
- E. Authorize Amendment 1 to Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Agreement DW501740 for the Lake Osborne Estates watermain improvement project

Vote: Voice vote showed: AYES: Mayor Triolo, Vice Mayor Amoroso and Commissioners Maxwell, Blockson and Robinson. NAYS: None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

There were no Public Hearings on the agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no Unfinished Business on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Authorization to execute a quit claim deed to Constru American LLC, for property located at 503 North K Street

Action: Motion made by Vice Mayor Amoroso and seconded by Commissioner Robinson to authorize the Mayor to execute the quit claim deed for property located at 503 North K Street, Lake Worth Beach.

Comments/requests summary:

1. Commissioner Robinson stated that the City was not in the real estate business, but having the property back on the tax rolls would be positive.
2. Vice Mayor Amoroso said that the property had code issues and asked City Attorney Goddeau to explain the circumstances behind the quit claim deed.

City Attorney Goddeau responded that the City did not own the property, but there were code issues; the property was quit claimed to the City which would allow for a clear title on the property.

Vice Mayor Amoroso clarified that the hope was that the derelict property would be improved by the new owner.

Vote: Voice vote showed: AYES: Mayor Triolo, Vice Mayor Amoroso and Commissioners Maxwell, Blockson and Robinson. NAYS: None.

B. (moved from Consent D) Resolution No. 01-2021 – Budget amendment to the 5-Year CIP Plan

City Attorney Goddeau did not read the resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-2021, A GENERAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, MAKING SEPARATE AND SEVERAL BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND CORRESPONDING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CITY'S NECESSARY OPERATING EXPENSES, THE USES AND EXPENSES OF THE VARIOUS FUNDS AND DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2020 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Action: Motion made by Vice Mayor Amoroso and seconded by Commissioner Robinson to authorize the Mayor to execute the quit claim deed for property located at 503 North K Street, Lake Worth Beach.

Comments/requests summary:

1. Commissioner Robinson stated that Howard Park improvements and 17 S M Street were two separate things and questioned if the CDBG money for Howard Park could be used for activity programs for children.

City Manager Bornstein replied that there were some restrictions on CDBG funding, which was generally used for capital projects and improvements.

Commissioner Robinson questioned whether spending \$80,000 on resurfacing a basketball court was a good use of funds. He asked if there were restrictions on commercial uses at Bryant Park.

City Manager Bornstein clarified that the resolution was to amend the five-year Capital Improvement Plan. He said that the resolution included Howard Park expenditures already approved by the commission and the soft costs of moving the historic structure to Bryant Park that were not included in the CIP. He iterated that the property had been purchased initially to use for parking with the intention of moving the historic building to a place worthy of its history; it was currently being used as the Leisure Services office, which would continue when it was moved. He explained that the costs would be brought back to the commission and the resolution was the first step in moving the process forward. He stated that M street parking was separate from the potential project on South L and M streets and no development was in process there.

Commissioner Robinson opined that more time and input from the community was needed regarding South M Street.

Juan Ruiz, Assistant City Manager, made clear that the \$80,000 at Howard Park included many other elements such as renovation of the pavilion and bathrooms, a walking trail and updating the picnic tables and playground. He said that the community would be involved in the decision making.

Vice Mayor Amoroso left the meeting at 7:32 PM and returned at 7:34 PM.

2. Commissioner Blockson reported that she had been one of the stakeholders who met with City officials about the CDBG funds. She said that there was an understanding that the proposal was a work in progress and the City gave assurances that it would listen to the stakeholders' opinions regarding other renovations.

Assistant City Manager Ruiz replied that the breakdown of the revised project included items that Commissioner Blockson mentioned would be provided to the commission.

3. Commissioner Maxwell stated that his impression was that the commission understood that there were placeholders for CDBG funding for Howard Park and the South M

Street property; nothing had been decided and the projects would come before the commission in the future.

4. Mayor Triolo reiterated that a dollar amount had to be requested to receive the CDBG funding and there were often no specific projects before the commission; the details would be discussed by the commission and the public multiple times before a project was finalized.

Commissioner Robinson expressed concern about changing funding once a decision had been made.

Mayor Triolo stated that it was important to vet projects before they were approved.

Commissioner Maxwell explained that the projects in the resolution were the same as all the other projects in the CIP, listed until a final project was presented.

City Clerk Andrea read the comments submitted by the following:

David Savage wrote that the 17 S M Street relocation and renovation of the contributing historic structures to Bryant Park deserved public discussion.

Betty Resch wrote to suggest that the item be removed from the consent agenda to allow for public input.

Cliff Kohlmeyer wrote in opposition to relocating the historic structure on south M Street.

Anne Fairfax wrote to oppose the building of a seven-story apartment block in the historic district.

Tammy Pansa wrote to object to the City practicing closed-door politics and government activity by having the item buried in the consent agenda.

Christopher McVoy wrote to request that the item be pulled from the consent agenda for public discussion by the commission.

The following individuals read their comments via Zoom:

Catherine Kohlmeyer said that moving a contributing structure from the downtown would change the character of downtown.

Thomas Conboy requested that a public meeting charette be conducted by a professional urban planner to share ideas for the downtown.

City Manager Bornstein clarified that the property on South M Street had been purchased with sales tax funding and this recognition in the CIP gives direction to staff to explore the options for the property to present data for a decision by the commission. He said that any project would go before the HRPB twice and there would be multiple occasions for public input, including neighborhood meetings.

Mayor Triolo stated that there was a lot of disinformation concerning L & M streets and that the sales tax money had been used to address the issue. She expressed confusion about seven-story buildings or projects being discussed in the community when there were no projects before the commission in that area.

Commissioner Maxwell asked if City Manager Bornstein could have the steps involved in the process put in writing and posted on the website or given to the commissioners so they could explain to residents who misunderstood what was involved and the opportunities they would have to participate in the discussions. He stated that the City should mitigate the confusion from the residents although there were those who stated that there were no meetings for the bond referendum when 60 meetings had been held.

Mayor Triolo stated that the City had to do a better job of communicating and allowing residents to speak on the issues. She urged residents to email the commissioners with concerns so they could be addressed.

Vote: Voice vote showed: AYES: Mayor Triolo, Vice Mayor Amoroso and Commissioners Maxwell and Blockson. NAYS: Commissioner Robinson.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

City Attorney Goddeau did not provide a report.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Bornstein provided the following report:

- Welcomed Commissioner Blockson to the dais on behalf of the organization and said that discussions and orientations with the various departments were being set up.
- Reminded everyone that complaints and concerns could be submitted by clicking on “Make a Report” on the top right side on the City website. He explained that the issues would be addressed by staff and there would be a paper trail for the submission. He asked that the commissioners recommend the option to their constituents and it will be publicized on social media.
- Stated that he and Mr. Ruiz were up to date and in communications regularly with the county which would be in charge of vaccinations. He said that the county knew that the City was ready to distribute vaccines as soon as they were available and he would inform the commission when there was news.

Mr. Ruiz stated that the Health Department was the lead agency in the vaccination process and details were not ready about a rollout of the vaccine. He encouraged everyone to follow the City’s social media which had the most immediate up to date information. He said that the City would take every opportunity to partner with the county to bring vaccines as soon as possible.

- City Manager Bornstein said that the power line that was knocked down by the tree trimmers was an inconvenient expense and could have killed someone. He said the City was working with PBSO to quantify the impacts and Code Compliance would go after the

property owner for unpermitted work; a license or permit was required to trim or remove trees of a certain size. He said he would bring a report back to the commission.

- Said that evictions piles being put on the street had been a problem for a long time, but the City had been better at cleaning up the main arteries and rights-of-way in the past few years. He reported that when piles were put out on the wrong day, a fee was attached to the property.

Mayor Triolo stated that residents could go on the website to find out garbage and bulk pickup dates. She said that with the new GIS, every project in the City could be seen.

City Manager Bornstein said that people should follow the rules and there was a community standard of behavior.

ADJOURNMENT:

Action: Motion made by Commissioner Maxwell and seconded by Vice Mayor Amoroso to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 PM.

Vote: Voice vote showed: AYES: Mayor Triolo, Vice Mayor Amoroso and Commissioners Maxwell, Blockson and Robinson. NAYS: None.

Pam Triolo, Mayor

ATTEST:

Deborah M. Andrea, CMC, City Clerk

Minutes Approved: February 2, 2021