

**MINUTES
CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBER
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 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 Carla Blockson and Herman Robinson. Also present were City Manager Michael Bornstein, City Attorney Christy L. Goddeau and City Clerk Deborah M. Andrea. Commissioner Scott Maxwell was absent.

INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE: led by Vice Mayor Andy Amoroso.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: led by Commissioner Herman Robinson.

AGENDA - Additions/Deletions/Reordering:

Presentation item C, Presentation for Apprentice Linemen Graduation was added to Presentations.

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

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

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

A. Presentation from Palm Beach County Community Services Director James Green
Mr. Green stated that the presentation would provide an update on the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), on Health and Human Services (HHS), share information about Leading The Way Home and Securing Our Future Initiative and provide information about Emergency Rent and Utility Assistance. He said that the CAC looked at the quality of services, accessibility, accountability with an integrated approach. He spoke about the six priorities from the Board of County Commissioners and stated that the Securing Our Future Initiative was working to ensure that families could move up economically; there was a plan to reduce poverty by ten percent in the next ten years. He said that there was a comprehensive plan to address each domain and hyperlinks for each issue with information. He explained that Leading The Way Home had its challenges, but had a new integrated approach to deal with homelessness focusing on prevention with strategies to provide interim housing moving into permanent housing.

Vice Mayor Amoroso thanked Mr. Green and asked where the shortfall in funding from what had been given by the Cares Act had come from and if people could receive help before getting an eviction notice.

Mr. Green replied that \$20 million had been allocated for rent and utility assistance and \$20 million for foreclosure assistance, but he had to go back to the county for additional

funding. He said that there were eligibility guidelines and parameters to be used and different avenues to help when documentation was not adequate.

Commissioner Blockson asked what residents without valid government identification could use to obtain assistance and for Mr. Green to give the website again.

Mr. Green responded that there was a partnership to help that population access services and the website was rentalassistancepb.org.

Commissioner Robinson asked if there were community organizations that focused on the causes of the issues and how much pressure was put on Tallahassee to fix the causes. He asked about vaccine access and if there was money for utility payments.

Mr. Green answered that there was a legislative affairs office and human services coalition that created a green book listing their priorities for Tallahassee. He said that more improvements were necessary and there was a department that worked with both Tallahassee and Washington. He said that there were sites throughout the county to distribute vaccines, but there was a lack of vaccines available and it was difficult to sign up.

Mayor Triolo asked what assistance the county would offer to middle class working families who were struggling.

Mr. Green stated that people making up to six figures could have gotten assistance, but the current focus would be to provide assistance for emergency rent and utility payments.

B. PBSO update by Captain Todd Baer

Capt. Todd Baer gave the quarterly update regarding community policing. He stated that there had been multiple aspects and reported about events and initiatives; mentors from Lake Worth Beach were needed for “Hope Dealers”, prostitution and drug operations were ongoing, “Project Warmth” as was the collaboration with In Jacobs Shoes. He spoke about juvenile probation checks as a way to maintain accountability, traffic saturation patrols to address traffic complaints, school backpack giveaways and the soccer tournament. He reported about the policing forum earlier in February and said that there have already been progress including a substation at the Osborne Center. He reviewed the overdose data for 2020-2021 which was trending downward, but still needed work. He iterated that there were 76 cameras in the City covering all of the hot spots and 32 automatic license plate readers (ALPR) which resulted in 6680 ALPR hits, 56 ALPR recoveries, 127 assisted arrests and 176 referrals to deputies. He announced that the Department of Justice Community Based Crime Reduction Grant was currently in its Year Three Implementation Phase and would be extended for a fourth year due to Covid 19 which was affecting community involvement, and there was a FDOT Impaired Driving Grant of \$75,000 for FY2021 to target DUIs in the City. He stated that there was a rotation of deputies in high crime areas and there were double digit drops in some violent crimes. He explained that there were community meetings, but everything was being done virtually, deputies were attending neighborhood meetings and the Leadership Council meetings were continuing.

Vice Mayor Amoroso asked if the Lock It Secure It materials could be distributed to the Neighborhood Crime Watch and asked for details about the grants.

Capt. Baer replied that the materials were refrigerator magnets and literature and the grants had strict parameters requiring details of how the funds would be spent when applying. He

said that there was little discretionary spending allowed.

Commissioner Robinson asked if First Appearance was still taking place and if PBSO had mental health training. He said that community policing was great with deputies on the street and inquired if manning the substations would take people off the street or affect the budget.

Capt. Baer responded that the residents were still volunteering their time and there was a Pipe and Prep prostitution program as well. He stated that the deputies had mental health and first aid training. He said that the substations would not be staffed full time, but deputies would stop in to interact with the community and it should not affect the budget.

Commissioner Blockson thanked Capt. Baer for acting on the substation in the Osborne Center and asked if grant funds would be used. She stated that there were approximately 100 young people and she would come back to ask for programming for them. She thanked Capt. Baer for dealing with the substation so quickly.

Capt. Baer replied that all of the grant money was for that area and the funding had paid to hire a victim advocate for violent crimes.

C. (added) Presentation for Apprentice Linemen Graduation

Ed Liberty, Electric Utility Director, introduced Walt Gill, Electric Utility Assistant Director. He said that due to the pandemic there could not be a celebration in the Chamber. He reported that The City of Lake Worth Beach Electric Utility had started the Linemen Apprenticeship Program in 2012 due to trouble recruiting Certified Linemen and desirous of having a group of future line workers who would learn the trade on the EU's system. He explained that the apprentice program was registered with the Florida Department of Education's Division of Career and Adult Education and sponsored by Atlantic Technical College. He stated that the apprenticeship spanned four years and comprised 432 hours of classroom time and 6000 hours of on the job training. He said that the first class of five apprentices graduated in 2016 with four still employed by the EU, and since graduating two had been promoted to Troublemen and two had grown to be exceptional Linemen. He declared that the second class, the Class of 2021, had produced four top notch linemen who would be a tremendous asset to the EU for many years to come. He introduced Sam Jackson, IBEW Chairman and Lead Instructor, and the four linemen, Zack Parker, Kyle Jenkins, Chris Ross and Everardo Garcia Gomez.

Mr. Liberty expressed appreciation for the hard work they had done and said that the Mayor would get to meet them the following Friday. He stated that there was a value in craft labor and programs for an important career choice.

City Manager Bornstein said that he was grateful to work with local home grown talent and complimented them on their achievements.

Mayor Triolo expressed pride in the Linemen and said that it was great to see them graduate.

COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

Commissioner Blockson: thanked the commission for having allowed her to work with them. She said that she had learned so much and enjoyed the experience.

Vice Mayor Amoroso: said that food distribution would continue. He stated that the downtown would be revitalized when the Gulfstream Hotel reopened and that the Wi-Fi project was giving access to children to continue to learn.

Commissioner Robinson: stated that he had learned a lot about the Government's systemic racist policies during Black History Month. He said that the Gulfstream Hotel would be moving forward and the Electric Utility meeting revealed all of the progress that had been made. He expressed the desire to have work sessions on various issues on which the commission would need to decide and looked forward to March 10.

Mayor Triolo: said that the commission had been working very hard, especially with COVID. She thanked the School District and said that LWB would be the first city to have extenders for the WIFI project because of having its own electric utility. She stated that it was necessary for the community to have a hotel and she committed to working to have the right project there. She named people who had allowed the commission to vet those interested in a project at the Gulfstream Hotel and CDS and Restoration St. Louis would partner to open a hotel; the older portion would open in six months with construction continuing on the new section. She announced that local residents would be considered first for the 1,000 jobs that would be created. She thanked her fellow commissioners and City Manager Bornstein for their vision. She thanked PBC for reimbursing the City for \$314,000 of COVID expenses.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OF NON-AGENDAED ITEMS AND CONSENT AGENDA:

Deborah Andrea, City Clerk, said that Jennifer Rodriguez would read her comments via Zoom but Ms. Rodriguez was not in the room to do so.

Vice Mayor Amoroso left the meeting at 7:40 PM and returned at 7:43 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

- A. Regular Meeting – February 2, 2021
- B. Regular Meeting – February 16, 2021

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

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

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

- A. Payments of Fiscal Year 2020 Invoices
- B. Second Amendment to Retail Lease with Maxplan Enterprises, Inc., d/b/a Kilwins Chocolates and Ice Cream
- C. Ratification of appointments to the City Tree Board

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

There were no Public Hearings on the agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There were no Unfinished Business items on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

There were no New Business items on the agenda.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

City Attorney Goddeau did not provide a report.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Bornstein provided the following report:

- Said that Lake Worth Towers had confirmed that vaccinations were being given there and pressure was continuing to have more vaccination sites.
- Announced that The Bohemian project had broken ground and would have a parking garage and interaction with the transit corridor.
- Reported that the legislative session began that day and the City had requested funding for several projects; the City would follow the progress. He said that there was a constant attack on home rule.

ADJOURNMENT:

Action: Motion made by Vice Mayor Amoroso and seconded by Commissioner Robinson to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM.

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

ATTEST:

Betty Resch, Mayor

Deborah M. Andrea, CMC, City Clerk

Minutes Approved: April 6, 2021