



MINUTES

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING JANUARY 25, 2023 6:00 P.M.

The City of Madeira Beach Board of Commissioners held a regular workshop meeting at 6:00 p.m. on January 25, 2023, in the Patricia Shontz Commission Chambers at City Hall, located at 300 Municipal Drive, Madeira Beach, Florida.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John B. Hendricks, Mayor
Doug Andrews, Vice Mayor/Commissioner District 3
David Tagliarini, Commissioner District 1
Ray Kerr, Commissioner District 2
Dave Hutson, Commissioner District 4

MEMBERS ABSENT:

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Robin Gomez, City Manager
Clara VanBlargan, City Clerk
Thomas Trask, City Attorney

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hendricks called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

City Clerk Clara VanBlargan called the roll.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chuck Dillon, 529 Lillian Drive, said a way to increase participation in government would be to do away with districts. Commissioner Districts Three and Four had no opposition for the past four years. He could not understand why a town with less than 4,000 people had districts. Doing away with districts would be a good way to get more community involvement.

Commissioner Tagliarini asked Mr. Dillon if he was suggesting all four commissioners be at large and not be assigned to a district, the same as the Mayor, meaning that all candidates could be from any district. Mr. Dillon said he did not get into it too deeply, but there should be four representatives of the people and the Mayor.

4. CITY MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT – DECEMBER 2022

City Manager Robin Gomez reviewed the City Manager's Report for December 2022.

5. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Discussion on Ordinance 2023-11, amends the Madeira Beach Comprehensive Plan and Data Analysis

This Item was moved from 4.J.

Jerry Murphy, University of Florida and Planning Consultant to the City, reviewed the Evaluation and Appraisal of the Comprehensive Plan, which Florida Statutes requires every seven years. The due date is in May 2023. It would get transmitted to the County and the State and come back with objections, recommendations, or comments.

Mayor Hendricks asked if most was language cleanup. Mr. Murphy said yes, and some redundant policies were eliminated. The data and analysis were updated to the twenty-first century.

Vice Mayor Andrews asked if there was anything fundamentally different than what was approved last year. Mr. Murphy said no, and the Planning Commission recommended that the Board move forward.

Commissioner Hutson asked about the reduction in density and the loss of population. Mr. Murphy said he called it the commercialization of residential properties where people were renting their properties as short-term rentals, and they lost homestead.

Commissioner Kerr asked if there were any changes to the Property Rights Element, Section 15.0. Mr. Murphy said no, it was adopted a while ago.

Mayor Hendricks opened to public comment. There were no public comments.

B. FY 2023 Budget Amendment #1

Finance Director Andrew Laflin reviewed the item and responded to questions and comments from the Board.

Mayor Hendricks said it was standard to carry out projects that did not get done.

Mayor Hendricks opened to public comment. There were no public comments.

C. Discuss State Lobbying Services

The City Manager asked for direction to proceed. They have been using the lobbying firm Shumaker Advisors for a few years, and staff recommends continuing with their services. If the direction of the Board, he would bring back a professional services agreement for approval at the February 8, 2023, BOC Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Tagliarini asked if there was an increase in the amount they were paying. The City Manager said he thought there was a slight increase from 2021 to 2022 but not from 2022 to 2023. Commissioner Tagliarini said he was in favor of keeping the lobbying services.

Mayor Hendricks said most local communities use Shumaker. They do a lot in Tallahassee that they do not necessarily see. He was in favor of continuing with their services.

Vice Mayor Andrews said they received a lot of grant money from using them.

Commissioner Kerr said it sounded like a great investment.

Mayor Hendricks opened to public comment. There were no public comments.

The consensus of the Board was to continue with the services of Shumaker Advisors.

D. City Public Fireworks Show(s) - Frequency

The City Manager asked for direction on the number of fireworks displays to use for the year.

Recreation Director Jay Hatch said there are three events they were looking at for fireworks display:

- The Grouper Gala on May 6, 2023
- The Fourth of July
- The Spring Break Waterfront Festival with the Gulf Beaches Rotary on March 17, 2023

Commissioner Tagliarini asked if the Board would consider having fireworks display on New Year's Eve.

Mayor Hendricks said he was fine with the three shows but would rather split the money up for the smaller shows during the year.

The City Manager said if the direction of the Board, they would issue a bid to include the Fourth of July, the March carnival, the Grouper Gala, and New Year's Eve.

Vice Mayor Andrews suggested netting out the fireworks display with the Rotary. He was in favor of having the Fourth of July display on July 3rd. He suggested adding a fourth event on the Veteran's Boat Parade night.

Commissioner Hutson asked if there was something to help with the businesses on the Fourth of July. Director Hatch said he would reach out to the businesses.

Mayor Hendricks opened to public comment. There were no public comments.

The consensus of the Board was to go ahead with an RFP for the four events.

E. Request for Qualifications (RFQ) Continuing Engineering Consultant and Urban Design Services

The City Manager explained the item and said they would proceed with the process over the next six or seven months. It could be difficult to have an in-house engineer because of its complexity.

Mayor Hendricks said it was something they needed to do. He did not want to sign another one-year contract with the present engineering firm.

Commissioner Kerr asked if the RFQ would bring at least two different firms. Public Works Director Megan Wepfer said there was no maximum.

Commissioner Kerr asked the annual budget for the services. Director Wepfer said multiple departments had engineering services budgeted. The City Manager said it was close to \$500,000 for everything.

Mayor Hendricks said he had a problem paying the current engineering firm \$200,000 to manage the Crystal Island Project, and then the City got charged \$125.00 to \$200.00 for each email and phone call. He felt the City was getting double billed. Director Wepfer said there were FEMA houses on Crystal Island, and they had to document every phone call and email. That was reimbursable and may have been lumped into the billing. She did not think any department head reviewed it before it was sent. She could guarantee they were not billed for phone calls or emails on any projects she was overseeing. Mr. Laflin said he would check to see if the City was reimbursed for the FEMA charges.

Commissioner Hutson asked if they could use Deuel and Associates for the transitional period if they went with another firm. Director Wepfer said yes, and Deuel and Associates could qualify through the RFQ process.

Commissioner Kerr asked if they could go out for an RFQ for specifically large projects. Director Wepfer said yes.

Vice Mayor Andrews asked if the RFQ was along the lines of an approved vendor list so they could pick and choose the services. Director Wepfer said yes. It worked great because they already had their qualifications.

Mayor Hendricks opened to public comment.

Chuck Dillon, 529 Lillian Drive, asked how much the City spent on engineering last year without the Crystal Island Project. He asked why they could not have an in-house engineer and use the RFQ list as a backup.

The consensus of the Board was to go ahead with the RFQ.

F. Extension of Engineering Services Contract

The City Manager said they were requesting an extension for Deuel and Associates' services to complete existing projects until the RFQ was complete. It was a three-year agreement with two one-year extensions. They did not do the one-year extension at the end of last year as they should have. Once the RFQ is approved, they could utilize any contractor on the list. It would be brought back to the February 8, 2023, BOC Regular Meeting for approval.

Director Wepfer listed existing projects Deuel and Associates were involved in:

- Beach groins project
- Two roadway projects that were near the bidding process
- Multiple projects they started working on with Pinellas County for they are an engineer of record with Pinellas County

Mayor Hendricks asked where they were with the beach groins project. Director Wepfer said they were waiting on permitting.

Commissioner Kerr asked if they were requesting to extend the rates and use Deuel and Associates until the RFQ was issued unless Deuel and Associates participated in the RFQ, which would nullify it. The City Manager said they would enter into a different agreement if that happened.

The City Manager said they were asking for a one-year contract with Deuel and Associates so they could continue with the projects. They could not continue until they had engineers of record through the RFQ process. The hourly rate would not change; it would be per the original agreement.

Mayor Hendricks opened to public comment. There were no public comments.

The consensus of the Board was to move forward with the one-year extension.

G. Stormwater Station Generator Replacement located at 14101 N. Bayshore Drive

Director Wepfer gave the background on the item and asked for approval to purchase a generator that would run off natural gas. They would try to repurpose the generator as well.

Mayor Hendricks opened to public comment.

Chuck Dillon, 529 Lillian Drive, asked why the City owns that generator and not any others.

H. Sanitation Solid Waste Chapter 54 Ordinance proposed changes

The City Manager explained the item and responded to questions and comments from the Board.

Mayor Hendricks asked if they could use sunset the day before collection to put trash bins at the curb. The City Manager said they could, but sunset varies throughout the year. The bin would need to be concealed somewhere away from the curb.

Commissioner Tagliarini suggested they make the put-out time 5:30 p.m.

Commissioner Kerr asked how it would be viewed if a resident purchased a second similar can on their own. Director Wepfer said the purpose of the City purchasing the cans was to clean up the City and make it look cleaner. They could make that clear in the ordinance.

Mayor Hendricks opened to public comment. There were no public comments.

The consensus of the Board was to move forward with the ordinance with the recommended changes and bring it back to the Board for approval.

I. Discuss Possible Certain Residential Amenities Rental Prohibitions

The City Manager gave the background on the item and asked for feedback from the Board.

Mayor Hendricks said it would be good to have an ordinance in place before they had any problems. Commissioner Tagliarini and Commissioner Hutson agreed.

Mayor Hendricks opened to public comment. There were no public comments.

The consensus of the Board was to move forward with the ordinance.

J. Update on John's Pass Dredging

The City Manager said they were in the permitting process. He thought the Army Corps would begin dredging the federal waterway west of the John's Pass Bridge within the next two to four years. He requested approval from the Board to continue utilizing APTIM or to piggyback on the Pinellas County contract to continue through the entire project.

The City Manager said the Army Corps and its related agencies are part of the process to ensure the sub-aquatic vegetation and marine life were not harmed. They were looking at completing the process by the end of the calendar year.

Mayor Hendricks asked if there was a discussion on where the sand would go. He would like to see them harden their beach and build the dune back. The City Manager said it was their priority.

Commissioner Hutson asked if the Army Corps would dredge their part of the waterway in a year. The City Manager said they did not give them a timeline.

Mayor Hendricks opened to public comment. There were no public comments.

The consensus of the Board was to move forward and bring the grant document and piggyback contract with APTIM, the county contractors, back to the February 8, 2023, BOC Regular Meeting for approval.

K. Discussion on Ordinance 2023-11 amends the Madeira Beach Comprehensive Plan and Data Analysis

This Item was moved to 4.A.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Hendricks adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

John B. Hendricks, Mayor

ATTEST:

Clara VanBlargan, MMC, MSM, City Clerk