



MINUTES

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP MEETING NOVEMBER 19, 2020 6:00 P.M.

A regular workshop meeting of the City of Madeira Beach Board of Commissioners was held at 6:00 p.m. on November 19, 2020 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
Helen "Happy" Price, Commissioner District 1
Nancy Hodges, Commissioner District 2
John Douthirt, Commissioner District 4

MEMBERS ABSENT:

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Robert Daniels, City Manager
Clara VanBlargan, City Clerk
Patty Kordis, Deputy 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

Mayor Hendricks opened to public comment.

Robert Preston, 425 S. Bayshore Drive, complimented the sanitation crew for doing an excellent job. He stressed concerns that the City is putting their workers at risk for injury. There is no enforcement of the rules on the size of the trash receptacles. Some are up to fifty-five gallons and are being filled up, which becomes heavy. The City Code of Ordinance 54.57 says trash containers be a maximum size of thirty-two gallons and maximum weight is fifty pounds. He said there were no sandbags at Archibald Park during ETA, and vehicles were making a wake when driving on City streets during storms. The wakes from the vehicles driven too fast are ruining garage doors and forcing water into houses.

Travis Palladino, 267 Rex Place, said Sanitation, Public Works, and the Storm Water crew did an excellent job during the past storm. The City Manager and staff should be proud of what was done on the clean up after the storm. He thanked the Board of Commissioners for their outstanding job on the budget.

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. REPORTING FINAL OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS - NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION - *Clara VanBlargan, City Clerk, Election Official*

City Clerk Clara VanBlargan said there were six Charter amendments on the November 3, 2020 General Municipal Election ballot. She read the Charter amendments and the certified final results for each.

She thanked all the voters who went out to vote and reminded everyone about the upcoming Election on March 9, 2021.

Mayor Hendricks said the voting numbers were high. He congratulated all the residents of Madeira Beach for going out and doing their civic duty.

5. PRESENTATION

Introduction of New Hire & Lieutenant Promotion – *Clint Belk, Fire Chief*

Fire Chief Clint Belk introduced the new hires and Lieutenant promotion.

- New hire Firefighter/Paramedic Luis Suarez.
- Recently promoted Fire Inspector Raul Perez.
- Firefighter/Paramedic Tom McClave was promoted to Lieutenant.
- New hire, Firefighter/Paramedic Johanna Marinello, was unable to attend. She will be recognized at the December meeting.

Mr. Palladino commented and remembered Firefighter Belk when he came to serve at the City, and now he is the Fire Chief. He congratulated Fire Chief Clint Belk for his accomplishments and the accomplishments for the Madeira Beach Fire Department.

6. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Backyard Chickens - *Mayor Hendricks*

Jeri Davis, 749 Sunset Cove, thanked the Mayor and the Commission for the opportunity to speak on backyard chickens. It would be a great teaching tool for families to be allowed to have hens in the backyard. She proposed an ordinance to allow hens in the City limits, including safety and sanitary codes to protect the chickens.

Commissioner Price asked why the City had an ordinance that says no chicken within the City limits. Community Development Director Linda Portal said farm animals and fowl were not allowed in the City limits.

The Board recommended:

- Regulations are in place.
- Limitations on the number of hens.
- Coop specifications.

- Odor control.
- Permitting and banding of the hens.

The Board was in favor.

Mayor Hendricks opened to public comment.

Tom Edwards, protected address, said if the City goes forward allowing hens in the backyard, property owners should be required to apply for a permit. If the hens are not being taken care of, revoke the permit and remove the hens.

Rodger Gerston, 171 E. Madeira Avenue, was in favor of allowing backyard chickens.

Robert Preston, 425 S. Bayshore Drive, was in favor of allowing backyard chickens.

Travis Palladino, 267 Rex Place, was in favor of allowing backyard chickens.

B. Agreement for Finance & HR Services - *Andrew Laflin, Financial Consultant*

Mayor Hendricks said the City was not getting a good value with the HR contract and could hire a part-time HR person.

Vice Mayor Andrews said he was not in favor of the HR contract and having a person reporting to the office only one day a week.

Commissioner Price said she read the contract, and there were no specific duties. The person in the position needed to be on-site with the day-to-day operations.

Finance Consultant Andrew Laflin said the HR contract is through his firm. If the City needs more on-site office time, he could have Ms. Mathews move to a two-day work week.

Mayor Hendricks said having Ms. Mathews on site one day a week might not be the best fit for the City. Having someone on-site daily would be more of a benefit to serve the City.

Commissioner Andrews said it was strictly a financial decision and was opposed to approving the HR contract.

Financial Consultant Andrew Laflin asked if the Board would like Ms. Matthews to continue in her current capacity until a replacement is in place. The Board agreed.

Mayor Hendricks opened to public comment.

Robert Preston, 425 S. Bayshore Drive, said the HR person plays an important role. It is crucial to get a qualified person in the position and one that is on-site daily.

C. ICMA requirement for City Manager - *Vice Mayor Andrews*

Vice Mayor Andrews said requiring candidates who are a member of ICMA limits City Manager candidates.

Commissioner Price made inquiries to the ICMA, but they would not disclose information about a former City Manager.

Mayor Hendricks said approximately forty percent of candidates were eliminated because they did not have an ICMA membership. He asked the City Clerk how much notice was required to add a new charter amendment to the March election. The City Clerk responded.

The City Attorney said it would require a new ordinance, the ballot language resolution, and two hearings to occur before the cutoff on December 30, 2020. After everything was approved, the charter amendment would go on the ballot in March.

Mayor Hendricks said the current BOC should be the ones to determine job qualifications requirements for the charter officers, not something written in the City Charter.

Commissioner Price said membership dues were paid. The ICMA's inability to provide benefits or any information hindered the City's ability to find information on City Managers.

Mayor Hendricks opened to public comment.

Tom Edwards, protected address, said the public needed to be informed and given the opportunity to ask questions about the issue before putting on an amendment on the ballot.

Robert Preston, 425 S. Bayshore Drive, said ICMA required no qualification except a recommendation by two other members. He was in favor of the amendment.

Deputy Clerk Patty Kordis read public comments that were submitted electronically.

William Gay, 423 150th Avenue, asked why the ICMA's findings and the Florida Commission on Ethics against the former City Manager were not included in the item.

D. Council-Strong Mayor form of government - *Vice Mayor Andrews*

Vice Mayor Andrews explained his reasons for the discussion on the item.

Commissioner Price's said if the Mayor ran the City, it would be a full-time job.

Mayor Hendricks said Redington Shores and Indian Shores have a strong mayor form of government. There may not be enough qualified candidates in Madeira Beach to run for the chief executive's office because of the limited population. There should be more discussion on this topic.

The Mayor opened to public comment.

Tom Edwards, protected address, said the pool of candidates in a small city like Madeira Beach might not have the population with qualifications as larger cities.

Robert Preston, 425 S. Bayshore Drive, said the Mayor and Commissioners are not compensated for their dedication to the City. There should be an increase in their salary.

Deputy Clerk Patty Kordis read public comments that were submitted electronically.

William Gay, 423 150th Avenue, asked Vice Mayor Andrews if he was advocating to drop the city manager form of government for a strong mayor form of government.

Ronald Lugget, 13231 Gulf Lane, was in favor of the current City of Madeira Beach form of government.

E. Recreation Department Bus Driver Position - *Jay Hatch, Recreation Director*

Recreation Director Jay Hatch said he would like to merge the bus driver position and after-hour maintenance as a full-time position with an all trade candidate. There could be a decrease in overtime and part-time jobs. The Board was in favor.

Mayor Hendricks opened to public comment. There were no comments received in person or electronically.

F. Request of additional Sanitation position - *Jamie Ahrens, Public Works Director*

Public Works Director Jamie Ahrens praised the sanitation department and the stormwater crew for the fantastic job they are all doing daily and with the clean up after the tropical storm. He proposed hiring one more full-time position for Sanitation.

Mayor Hendricks said he had concerns about the garbage trucks sitting stationary on back streets and would like to see the enhanced supervision. He would like enforcement on the size of cans and educating the public about the size limits of 32-gallon containers or less.

Director Ahrens said large cans are red tagged. If the resident is a repeat offender, a report is sent to Code Enforcement to follow up with a violation. On the Public Works/Sanitation page of the City website, the can size requirement is listed.

Commissioner Price suggested making a flyer to hand out to residents when they get their parking pass or adding on the website a tab making citizens aware of the City codes.

Vice Mayor Andrews said the storm was a learning curve for the City. Public Works staff should have been on duty to serve the community in preparing for the storm.

Director Ahrens responded to the sandbag issue. He provided information to the residents in the July City Managers Report about acquiring sandbags before a storm.

Mayor Hendricks opened to public comment.

Tom Edwards, protected address, said to consider the use of larger cans with affixed lids and the heaviness to stay put during windy days. If citizens are abiding by the weight limit, they should not be red tagged.

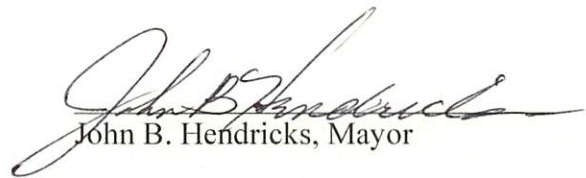
Robert Preston, 425 S. Bayshore Drive, said the City let the citizens down by not providing sandbags at Archibald Park.

Mayor Hendrick updated the Board on the November 6th John's Pass Inlet meeting.

The City Attorney said the attorney handling the case Madeira Beach versus Skyway Properties, LLC, requested an out of the sunshine meeting under Florida Statutes 268.01. With the Commissioners authority, he can coordinate a date and time for the discussion to take place. The Board consented.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Hendricks adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.


John B. Hendricks, Mayor

ATTEST:


Clara VanBlargan, MMC, MSM, City Clerk

