

**COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 16, 2011**

Pursuant to Public Notice, Mayor Ferrante convened the regular meeting of the City Council on Wednesday, February 16, 2011, at 7:10 p.m., in the Council Chamber. Those present were Mayor Joseph Ferrante, Vice-Mayor Mike Chase, Councilman Jeffrey Fleis, Councilman Scott Rhodes, Councilman William Higginson, City Manager Michael P. Crotty, City Attorney James Beadle, and City Clerk Barbara Montanaro.

Vice-Mayor Chase led a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION

PRESENTATION HONORING EAGLE SCOUTS NICHOLAS KIRKMAN AND DAVID BRUNER

Mayor Ferrante presented a proclamation commending Nicholas Kirkman and David Bruner for their achievements and being inducted into the Eagle Scouts and invited each to describe their project. Nicholas Kirkman refurbished the prayer garden at Holy Name of Jesus. David Bruner built two gopher tortoise pens at the Florida Wildlife Sanctuary.

Mayor Ferrante gave them a City pin and an autographed copy of the *Beachcaster* where they were mentioned in Councilman Fleis' Council Column.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS – No introductions.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Gregg Billman, 690 Anderson Court, stated that he has read all the minutes from the Blue Ribbon Committee, and it was obvious the Committee devoted time to strategically think through varying options concerning the growing financial struggle. Though it was a valiant effort, it was fundamentally flawed because the Committee members believed all current City services are valid government activities and should be funded. Elected leaders believe they are providing services the voters have said they want; but elected leaders have to stand up to all special interest groups to run a limited and efficient government. If the study had started with an assessment of basic functions of government, you could realize a savings in available revenue. Mr. Billman was concerned about references to temporary cuts until finances improve. The definition of insanity is to do the same thing over and over and expect a different result. If you govern by asking what must government do vs. what can government do, the insanity will end.
- Dominick Montanaro, 465 Glenwood Avenue, stated that people moved to this country and lived in communities for federalist reasons and for other reasons – the amenities that a community has to offer. People chose to live in condos and pay condo fees or gated communities and pay homeowner association fees, or a special taxing district and community development district and pay taxes on top of City taxes for the amenities of those locations. Our City was founded on principals and amenities that have lived for 54 years. Things are different and times are tough now, but our citizens expect certain services from our government. He encouraged Council to make decisions based on what is right for the community; fifty to one hundred vocal citizens do not speak for 10,000.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Higginson

- Participated in the COP and Marine volunteer patrols.
- Attended the Space Coast League of Cities Board meeting and was disappointed by the lack of attendance for Legislative Days in Tallahassee on March 21 and 22.
- Attended the Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization meeting where they discussed the need to develop new project priorities as soon as possible. He gave City Manager Crotty information about a meeting of local city managers on February 24.

Councilman Fleis stated that the emphasis of his Council Column in the *Beachcaster* was to get a baseline on the people who choose to live in Satellite Beach even though we are one of the higher, if not the highest, millage rate and to associate a portion of that millage to the beachfront that has been acquired and will be preserved in perpetuity. It is good for a fair comparison to be able to take the 8.1 mills and remove the 15 to find perspective with neighboring cities. I wanted to point out the hidden 10% utility taxes that some of the other cities pay. We have been very transparent by using ad valorem taxes.

Councilman Rhodes

- Attended the Samsons Island Park Committee meeting where they discussed a bobcat living on the Island;
- Stated that other towns and cities are competing to bring businesses in and asked if Satellite Beach can offer some type of incentive to attract businesses – reduced/free construction fees? Can we be proactive to show that we want businesses here?

Vice-Mayor Chase

- Reported that there was no liaison activity since the last meeting.
- Referred to the article in the Sunday Florida Today regarding the Virtual Caravan that Laura Canady, Community Development Director, hosted and commended her and the City for a well planned and well executed event.

Mayor Ferrante

- Called Holly Bristow of Fox TV to thank her for a fair article on red light cameras.
- Sent a note to Mr. Moody to thank him for the article in Florida Today.
- Attended the Space Coast League of Cities meeting where Joy Cooper, President of Florida League of Cities, spoke on the President's committee for urban culture.
- Will attend the February 22 meeting of the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners to receive recognition of Hightower Beach Park.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

City Attorney Beadle did not have a report.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Crotty did not have a report.

DISCUSS/TAKE ACTION ON MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS FOR VAC TRUCK

When Council authorized the purchase of a vac truck at the January 19 Council meeting, a citizen recommended purchasing extended warranties for various components of the truck. The City regularly purchases maintenance agreements for vehicles and equipment. The funding source for the vac truck and warranty agreements is the capital account of the Stormwater Utility which funds Cassia Phase I and

Phase II, the purchase of the vac truck and warranties, and the FEMA hazard Mitigation North Drainage Project.

Public Works Director Potter gave an overview of the warranties recommended in his February 9, 2011, memo as follows:

1. Chassis Warranty (Standard 1 year), extend to five years for \$5840.00
2. Omsi PTO (Standard 1 year), extend to five years for \$3361.00
3. Water Pump Wear Items for five years for \$2500.00
4. Drive Jack Shafts, Pumps and Blowers for five years \$1960.00

In response to questions from Council, Public Works Director Potter stated he had checked with the company and the City can use the truck in other municipalities without impacting the warranties.

Mayor Ferrante asked for public comments; the following individual addressed Council:

- Dominick Montanaro, 465 Glenwood Avenue, stated that residents plant ficus, oak, and other trees in or near the rights-of-way and the roots grow into and clog the stormwater pipes. Now that the City has replaced a lot of pipes and will be cleaning other pipes, should the City start looking at what people plant in the right-of-way?

ACTION: Vice-Mayor Chase MOVED, SECOND Councilman Higginson, to approve the purchase of the extended warranties for the vac truck outlined in the Public Works Director's memo dated February 9, 2011. VOTE: ALL AYES. MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSS/TAKE ACTION ON RENEWAL OF CONTRACT WITH QUENTIN L. HAMPTON, ASSOCIATES, FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES

In March 2006, as a result of competitive negotiation, the City authorized a non-exclusive agreement with Quentin L. Hampton Associates (QLHA) for engineering services. This was for an initial five-year period with three one-year renewals. It is the consensus of the City Manager, Community Development Director, Public Works Director, and Grant Writers that QLHA has demonstrated its capabilities and has acquired the corporate knowledge to continue the multi-million dollar, ongoing projects already approved, including the North Drainage Project, Cassia Phase III, and the BMAP/TMDL process.

Mayor Ferrante asked for public comments; there were none.

ACTION: Councilman Fleis MOVED, SECOND Councilman Higginson, to authorize the execution of the addendum to the agreement for professional engineering services contract between the City and Quentin L. Hampton Associates, which extends the agreement to March 23, 2012. VOTE: ALL AYES. MOTION CARRIED.

Council expressed appreciation to David King and QLHA for their professional service.

BUDGET ISSUES

Council discussed the following:

- Increase the tax base to lower the millage rate.
- Readdress the market study that said no property should be converted from commercial to residential.
- Let the market dictate the amount of commercial vs. residential property, especially in certain areas

such as the west side of South Patrick Drive.

- Offer an incentive of residential density for town homes.
- Eliminate Policy 1.9.4 of the Comprehensive Plan, which prohibits changing commercial to residential unless the loss of commercial land is offset by at least a 1:1 ratio.
- The current millage could be the cost of living in a beautiful place.
- Can the City become less dependent upon ad valorem taxes?
- Can we give a breakdown of how a tax dollar is spent – for fire, for police, etc.?
- Reserves provide a means to continue operation of the City in the aftermath of a disaster.
- Get preliminary numbers and begin to address how to deal with the shortages in revenue for FY 11/12.

Council asked that consultant Jim LaRue attend the March 2 meeting to discuss residential vs. commercial uses and other issues from the market study.

Mayor Ferrante “assigned homework” asking each Councilman to think about the millage rate and next year’s projected \$750,000 shortfall from declining assessments and pension fund costs. Millage was 7.8 last year and is 8.1 this year. Budget will be discussed at each meeting because it is important to give the City and the City Manager direction now, rather than waiting until August. Where do we want to go with millage and services?

Mayor Ferrante asked for public comments; the following individuals addressed Council:

- John Fergus, 135 Maple Drive, stated the time is right to put a questionnaire in the next *Beachcaster* asking what services the citizens would like to have and what they are willing give up. Input from several hundred citizens is better than having to make decisions based on a few people speaking at the podium.
- Gregg Billman, 690 Jackson Court, spoke in support of the survey. He voiced his concern about the City providing recreation and amenities instead of talking about cuts. He concluded by saying that government is not here to do nice things, but to run the City.
- Pat Gibbons, 469 Coach Road, also supported seeking public opinions about services, etc. He suggested that the Blue Ribbon Committee ask each department to outline what they would eliminate if their budgets were cut twenty percent.
- Dominick Montanaro, 465 Glenwood Avenue, suggested that the City compile an information sheet comparing the total cost for taxes in Satellite Beach to neighboring communities, including ad valorem taxes and the ten percent utility taxes on water and electricity that are charged by those with a lower millage rate. The Community Development Director could use this to show the whole picture to businesses interested in moving to Satellite Beach. Utility taxes on a business that uses a lot of water and electricity could greatly increase their total taxes. Mr. Montanaro also spoke about changes taking place in the Governor’s Office and Department of Community Affairs; it may be easier to attract businesses.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS

City Clerk Barbara Montanaro presented a list of board vacancies, reappointments, and applications for Council to consider.

Mayor Ferrante asked for public comments prior to the vote; there were no comments.

ACTION: Councilman Fleis MOVED, SECOND Councilman Higginson, to move Colleen McNatt from an alternate position to a regular position on the Recreation Board, said term ending February 16, 2013. VOTE: ALL AYES. MOTION CARRIED.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

City Manager Crotty presented a short list of items for the next meeting.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

FEBRUARY 2, 2011, WORKSHOP MEETING

FEBRUARY 2, 2011, SPECIAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 2, 2011, REGULAR MEETING

ACTION: Councilman Higginson MOVED, SECOND Vice-Mayor Chase, to approve the February 2 , 2011, Workshop Minutes and Special Meeting Minutes as presented and the Regular Meeting Minutes as amended. VOTE: ALL AYES. MOTION CARRIED.

By consensus, Council excused City Manager Crotty from the June 1 Council meeting.

Mayor Ferrante adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Barbara Montanaro
City Clerk