



Meeting Minutes
City Council

Monday, March 4, 2024

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

Immediately following the Special CRA Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Mayor Depew called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Present: 5 - Mayor Diezel DePew, Councilwoman Charlotte Gillis, Councilwoman Gigi Bennington, Councilwoman Debbie Dolbow, and Councilman Jonah Powers

Also Present: 3 - City Attorney Aaron Wolfe, City Manager Glenn Irby, and City Clerk Bonnie Zlotnik

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None at this time.

3. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/PLAQUES/CERTIFICATES/DONATIONS

None at this time.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None at this time.

5. APPROVAL OR CHANGES/MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

None at this time.

6. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Rene Sortman of the Edgewater Animal Shelter presented a dog that is up for adoption.

Councilwoman Gillis attended the Volusia Forward Building Sustainable Communities Workshop; the Florida League of Cities leadership class; a meeting with Alliance Church; Edgewater Public and New Smyrna Beach Middle School SAC and PTA meetings; the State of the County; the Yappy Hour event; the Zorbini Circus at Hawks Park; a ribbon cutting at VIP Care Edgewater; Edgewater Fitness Clubs community open house; a day with Parks & Recreation; a Habitat for Humanity home dedication; a Volusia County Schools Stakeholders meeting; Pet-A-Palooza; the Mary S. Harrell Black history Museum annual Black History Festival; a River to Sea TPO meeting; Guest Reader Day at Indian River Elementary School; a Council workshop regarding the staffing study; a private presentation with Police Chief Mahoney and City Manager Irby about the staffing study; the Princess Ball; and a celebration of life for local teacher Jeanne Heifner, she stated CAPS is planning on doing a scholarship in her name. She is planning on attending the yearly ethics class; the Middle School Jazz Band fundraiser; the Heart of the Manatee 5k and had signed up for the Mayors Fitness

Challenge.

She had met with the City Manager; Development Services Director Ryan Solstice and participated in ride alongs with the Edgewater Police Department. She thanked Edgewater Fire Department C-shift as they had helped deliver a baby in the middle of the night and Grant Writer Sandy Camp for her work.

Councilwoman Bennington attended the Princess Ball; Pet-A-Palooza and the Yappy Hour for the Animal Shelter. She reported that their new building will be fantastic once it's completed.

Councilwoman Dolbow attended the Volusia County fourth quarter update; the ribbon cutting at VIP Care Edgewater; a Habitat for Humanity home dedication and build day; Pet-A-Palooza; the Princess Ball, she thanked all staff that had participated; the Yappy Hour event; and the Council workshop for quarterly updates. She asked Council if they would consider putting their cell phones away or on silent as they could be distracting.

Councilman Powers attended the Yappy Hour at Trudy's Neighborhood Tavern, he commended the staff and volunteers for their work, and the Princess Ball.

Mayor Depew attended a Habitat for Humanity build day; a Volusia Elected Official roundtable meeting; a YMCA board meeting; the Yappy Hour event; a school board meeting; a Mayors meeting call with Volusia County Mayors; ribbon cuttings for New Smyrna Beach High Schools new traffic light, Atlantic Outdoor Lighting, Paco Submarine and VIP Care Edgewater; the Upwards Trend Academy Gala; the State of the City at Southeast Volusia Chamber of Commerce; Tallahassee's Elected Official Days; a Volusia League of Cities dinner; a Port Orange Chamber of Commerce mix and mingle event; a Mayor-Manager breakfast; a Southeast Volusia Ambassador meeting; multiple political events; the State of the County; New Smyrna Beach's State of the City; an interview on Daytona State College TV station; Guest Reader Day at Indian River Elementary School; the Princess Ball and a Volusia Echo board meeting.

He met with New Smyrna Beach Commissioner Valli Perrine; US Senator Rick Scott; New Smyrna Beach Mayor Fred Cleveland; Mr. Alcorn; Stephanie Ford of the Southeast Volusia Chamber of Commerce; the US Florida District Attorney; Buddy Davenport; Grant Writer Sandy Camp; Police Chief Joe Mahoney and Police Captain Geiger.

He asked Samantha Bergeron, Economic Development Director, to provide an update on the pickleball courts. Ms. Bergeron said that they had scored high on their applications so they would go onward to the County Council meeting for the funding.

Mayor Depew asked that the City Council be able to approve the workshop agendas beforehand so they will be able to add what they'd like. He also suggested that there should be two (2) City Council meetings a month going forward.

For the next meeting, Mayor Depew would like to discuss Council goals; City Managers objectives for the year and Council salaries.

Councilwoman Bennington requested that any staff updates or explanations be simple and easy to understand so they can relay that to residents.

City Clerk Zlotnik clarified that there would be workshops monthly and staff updates quarterly.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilman Powers, second by Councilwoman Gillis, to approve the Consent Agenda, excluding items 7a and h. The MOTION was APPROVED by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor DePew, Councilwoman Gillis, Councilwoman Bennington, Councilwoman Dolbow and Councilman Powers

- a. Request to award and to authorize the City Manager to execute a contract to Gov Rates, Inc. for the Utility Rate Study Services (RFP 23-FN-15).

Mayor Depew expressed how important approving this was to him as it may create a new solution for the utility bill; he was concerned because of the lower service pricing but City Manager Irby is confident with the services that will be provided. Councilwoman Dolbow agreed.

Councilman Powers confirmed with Mr. Irby that the previous contract the City had was historically closer to this lower bid amount.

A motion was made by Councilman Powers, second by Councilwoman Gillis, to award and to authorize the City Manager to execute a contract to Gov Rates, Inc. for the Utility Rate Study Services. The MOTION was APPROVED by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor DePew, Councilwoman Gillis, Councilwoman Bennington, Councilwoman Dolbow and Councilman Powers

- b. Request from (ECI) East Coast Independence Baseball Club for a discounted rate to use the Baseball Fields at Hawks Park Baseball Complex
- c. Request from CRUSH Girls Softball Club for a discounted rate to use the Baseball Field at Whistle Stop Park
- d. Purchase of portable radios that are EDACS and P25 capable.
- e. Request to authorize the City Manager to enter into negotiations beginning with the top ranked firm(s) (Jones Edmunds & Associates) and execute the contract for Professional Services for the Development of a Comprehensive Stormwater Master Plan per Terms and Conditions set forth in RFQ 23-ES-13
- f. Manhole Lining and Repair
- g. Refuse Truck Purchase
- h. CDBG Small Cities Grant for Rehabilitating Sewer Lines and Manholes in the Hart Avenue Neighborhood

Councilwoman Dolbow wanted to go over the Hart Avenue manholes as it relates to the stormwater project. At a previous meeting, they had to postpone the canal rehabilitation because of the Hart Avenue project. The City was awarded a grant for \$1,821,000 and the cost of the project went over \$3 million; had they passed up the grant in favor of pursuing the canals, the City would have lost the grant money. She agrees that the canals are very important and they will be taken care of, she just wanted to explain the circumstances.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bennington, second by Councilwoman Dolbow, to approve Consent No. AR-2024-706. The MOTION was APPROVED by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor DePew, Councilwoman Gillis, Councilwoman Bennington, Councilwoman Dolbow and Councilman Powers

- i.** High Calcium Bulk Quicklime
- j.** Sodium Hypochlorite
- k.** Purchase of Pipes, Fittings, and Other Appurtenances for Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Operations and Maintenance
- l.** Liquid Carbon Dioxide

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS, ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

- a.** Grant Proposal

City Manager Irby provided a staff report and recommendation.

Mayor Depew opened the public hearing.

Councilwoman Bennington asked why there was a need for a new boat and how often it would get used; Mr. Irby explained that the current boat they have is very small and that the boat would be in the water very often. Police Chief Joe Mahoney added that they would be part of a maritime task force.

Councilwoman Bennington approved as she had received complaints from riverside residents about transients coming onto their property from the water; Mr. Irby clarified that they don't have the grant yet, this is just the first step.

Mayor Depew asked that the grant application be sent out to all Council members.

Councilwoman Dolbow asked where the matching money would come from and if there was an Officer that would captain it; Mr. Irby said that the money would come from reserves and there would be someone to captain it, they just haven't gotten there yet.

Councilman Powers wondered if they could budget for the matching cost with revenue instead of reserves if the grant isn't awarded until after the next budget cycle, Mr. Irby confirmed that they

could do that as he doesn't believe it awards until November.

Councilwoman Gillis stated that she was happy to see the grant moving.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dolbow, second by Councilman Powers, to approve Resolution No. 2024-R-00. The MOTION was APPROVED by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor DePew, Councilwoman Gillis, Councilwoman Bennington, Councilwoman Dolbow and Councilman Powers

9. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

None at this time.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Requesting Approval for Proposal from Halff Engineering for Engineering, Design and Permitting to Replace the Menard May Park Fishing Pier Damaged by a Sailboat During Hurricane Ian

City Manager Irby Provided a staff report and recommendation.

Mayor Depew opened the public hearing.

Councilwoman Dolbow said that the money for this will be reimbursed eventually by FEMA.

Councilwoman Gillis asked if the City would be able to apply for other grants for the rebuilding after the engineering was completed. Mr. Irby said they would have to check but they shouldn't supplant one for the other.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Dolbow, second by Councilman Powers, to approve Other Business Item No. AR-2024-693. The MOTION was APPROVED by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor DePew, Councilwoman Gillis, Councilwoman Bennington, Councilwoman Dolbow and Councilman Powers

11. OFFICER REPORTS

- a. City Clerk

City Clerk Zlotnik had nothing at this time.

- b. City Attorney

City Attorney Wolfe provided litigation updates on the Hatcher, Lawrence Garrett, and the Ingles cases.

- c. City Manager

City Manager Irby had nothing at this time.

12. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None at this time.

13. ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Depew adjourned the meeting at 6:42pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Monique Toupin, Assistant to the City Clerk.