



**MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH
MARCH 3, 2014 7:00 P.M.**

City Hall
2200 A1A South
St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Samuels at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Brud Helhoski, Commissioner S. Gary Snodgrass, Commissioner Undine Pawlowski, Mayor Andrea Samuels, Vice Mayor Rich O'Brien.

Also Present: City Manager Royle, City Attorney Whitehouse, Deputy City Clerk Benson, Finance Director Burns, Police Chief Hardwick, Public Works Director Howell, and Building Official Larson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2014

Motion to approve the minutes of March 3, 2014, Moved by Commissioner Undine Pawlowski, Seconded by Mayor Andrea Samuels.

Vote: All yes (5-0)

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS OF THE AGENDA

City Manager Royle asked to add Presentation item D – A presentation by Winstream telephone services.

CHANGES TO ORDER OF TOPICS ON THE AGENDA - None

PRESENTATIONS

A. Tree Board/Beautification Advisory Committee:

1) Plaque to Mr. Eric Chaconas for Five Years of Service on the Board/Committee
The plaque was presented by Mayor Samuels.

2) Interview of Ms. Pat Shelby for Position of Senior Alternate on the Board/Committee
Motion to appoint Pat Shelby as Senior Alternate to the Tree Board/Beautification Advisory Committee, Moved by Mayor Andrea Samuels, Seconded by Commissioner S. Gary Snodgrass.
Vote: All yes (5-0)

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1) Abell Wedding at #1 12th Street, April 12, 2014, from 3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- 2) English Wedding on Beach Near Pier on November 8, 2014, 3:00 p.m.
Motion to approve wedding permits for Abell and English weddings, Moved by Commissioner S. Gary Snodgrass, Seconded by Vice Mayor Rich O'Brien.
Vote: All yes (5-0)

B. Peer City Review and Assessment of Non-Law Enforcement Departments of the City:
Review of Proposal by Dr. Robert Lee, Local Government Advisors, Inc., and Executive Director of the Center for Florida Local Government Excellence at the Florida Institute of Government
Motion to approve the proposal by Dr. Robert Lee to conduct a Peer City Review, Moved by Commissioner Brud Helhoski, Seconded by Commissioner S. Gary Snodgrass.
Vote: All yes (5-0, roll call)

B. Telephone & Data Service - Windstream
Phillip Borner presented information on the phone system his firm offered. The service would include higher speed internet access and data services, as well as telephone services and equipment. They would tie in with the public works facility and the police department, for one total system serving the City's facilities. They would own and maintain the equipment and the City would lease it. Mr. Borner explained there would be no capital costs for the City. The monthly fee for services and leased equipment was slightly lower than the current expense for telephone & internet service.

Ed Slavin, Box 3084, St. Augustine, noted this item was not on the published agenda. He urged the use of the competitive bidding process. Robert Kahler, 29 Sunfish, agreed with Mr. Slavin.

Mayor Samuels noted that staff did research other vendors and examined competitive proposals. Commissioner Snodgrass asked for more information and the Commission agreed to consider the matter at their next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ann Palmquist, 213 10th Street, asked about parking at the Versaggi Street walkover and parking. She was concerned the walkover might impact the neighboring properties. Ms. Palmquist asked if parking will be provided and if other neighborhoods would be assessed the same way for such improvements.

Steve Mithers, 17 Sea Oaks Drive, asked if the worn street striping would be repainted.

Ed Slavin, Box 3084, St. Augustine, said the City of St. Augustine amended their pension plan to provide equal pension benefits for same sex partners. He also said he met with a lawyer for Key International and he suggested construction of a motel on a new pier.

Pat Gill, 218 B Street, asked that the City write to St. Johns River Water Management District to object to the proposal to withdraw 150 million gallons of water per day for use in Central Florida.

CJ McCartney, 1740 Santiago Street, St Augustine, thanked the City for allowing use of Ocean Hammock Park for the birding event. She reported approximately 400 people came to the park and were very impressed. The site was named the Birding Hot Spot for Florida and won the state competition with 405 check lists submitted. Internationally there were 144,000 checklists.

Bob Kahler, 29 Sunfish Drive, said he opposed limiting free speech. He praised the City's conclusion with the Marriott matter.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

CONSENT

1. Proclamation: to Declare March 11, 2014 as International Women's Day in the City
2. Resolution 14 – 01, to Enter into a Grant Memorandum Agreement with State of Florida, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry.
3. Beautification Project, Corner of Pope Road and SR-A1A: Approval of License Agreement with 7-11 for Irrigation. -
4. Budget Resolution 14-05, to Amend the FY 14 General Fund Budget to Appropriate \$2,200 for Fence for Emergency Generator.

Mayor Samuels moved to approve all items on the consent agenda. There was no second.

Vote to approve item #1 of the consent agenda, All yes (5-0)

Vote to approve item #2 of the consent agenda, All yes (5-0)

Ed Slavin, Box 3084, St. Augustine, said the City Attorney's law firm is also representing 7-11. He felt the City should hire an attorney without this conflict.

Vice Mayor Rich O'Brien moved, seconded by Commissioner S. Gary Snodgrass, to approve item #3 of the consent agenda.

Vote: All yes (5-0)

Motion by Commissioner S. Gary Snodgrass, seconded by Vice Mayor Rich O'Brien, to approve consent agenda item #4.

Vote: All yes (5-0)

OLD BUSINESS

5. Former Building Department Office:

A. Request to Approve Engaging Architect, Mr. Michael Stauffer, to Develop Plans for Renovations

B. Budget Resolution 14-04, to Amend the FY 14 General Fund Budget to Appropriate \$4,000 for Mr. Stauffer's Services

Motion to approve by Mayor Andrea Samuels, seconded by S. Gary Snodgrass.

Bob Kahler, 29 Sunfish Drive, asked where are the quotes from other architects. City Attorney Whitehouse confirmed that items under \$10,000 do not require competitive bidding.

Motion to approve engaging Mr. Stauffer and to approve Budget Resolution 14-04, by Commissioner S. Gary Snodgrass, seconded by Commissioner Undine Pawlowski.

Vote: All yes (5-0)

6. Coquina Beach Surf Club Restaurant, 421 A1A Beach Boulevard: Request by Owner, Mr. Chris Way, for Commission to Reconsider Denial of Permit for Outside Live/Recorded Music

Mr. Way was not present and no Commissioner moved to bring the issue forward for reconsideration.

7 Grants: Continuation of Review of Policy

Motion to approve the revised Grants Policy by Commissioner Undine Pawlowski, seconded by Commissioner S. Gary Snodgrass.

Vote: All yes (5-0)

8. Evaluation of Police Chief and City Manager: Request by Commissioner Snodgrass to Discuss Methodology

Commissioner Snodgrass explained the first step in the process was to ask the Police Chief and City Manager to conduct self-assessments, provide a review of their job descriptions, a summary of accomplishments for the year, and a self-assessment of their accomplishments. These should be provided to the Commission prior to the April meeting. Mr. Whitehouse said the evaluations can be discussed with the employees privately by individual commissioners, but the Commission as a whole can discuss the evaluations only as part of the public record.

Bob Kahler, 29 Sunfish Drive, felt if there were no complaints about them from public or employees no further evaluation was needed.

Pat Gill, 218 B Street, felt the evaluations should be discussed in a closed session. Mr. Whitehouse was asked to review the matter.

It was the consensus of the City Commission to proceed with the evaluations of the City Manager and Police Chief. The self-evaluations are due to the Commission by March 22. Chief Hardwick asked that his time be extended to the end of the month because he is currently on leave. The Commission agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

9 Lake Sienna Subdivision: Request to Approve Modification to Original Plat

Mr. Larson explained the request was to combine 4 lots into 2 lots. Commissioner Pawlowski asked if granting the modification would create a precedent since the development order has expired. Mr. Whitehouse responded it would not affect the status of the development order, which has been scheduled to go before the Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Board.

Vice Mayor O'Brien moved, seconded by Commissioner Pawlowski, to approve the modification to the original plat as requested.

Vote: All yes (5-0)

10. Former City Hall: Consideration as to Whether the Cultural Council is in Default of Lease

Mayor Samuels noted the issue was not about the leases with the Art Studio or the Dance Group. She wanted to review options for a private-public partnership in renovating the building.

David Rice, President of the Board of the Cultural Council, said the topic on the agenda is default, not renovation. When the Cultural Council took over the building it was in bad shape and they have spent about \$800,000 on the building. They kept the rent low to help those artistic groups, but they don't have money to do the renovations the building needs.

Les Thomas, 32 Cordova Street, St. Augustine, said the notice in the agenda was picked up by news and made the Cultural Council look bad. They did not receive notice from the City that they were in default. Steve Cupolo 611 A1A Beach Boulevard, noted the Cultural Council had initiated the discussion of options for the building.

Mayor Samuels said she wanted to see the building utilized to the best potential. Commissioner Snodgrass wanted a business-like conversation regarding the building, without the legal issues. Vice Mayor O'Brien praised the enthusiasm the Cultural Council showed for this building. Commissioner Pawlowski stressed that she was not in favor of discussion of default. She apologized for the discomfort caused by this agenda.

Mayor Samuels said her goal was to bring forward the issue to repair the building and get the full use of it. She apologized that the issue was handled this way. Commissioner Snodgrass wanted workshops regarding the building. Mayor Samuels suggested a possible workshop in May or June.

11. Personnel Manual: Request to Have Labor Attorney Wayne Helsby Provide Review of Updated Draft.

Commissioner S. Gary Snodgrass moved to approve the request to engage Mr. Helsby to review the draft personnel manual, seconded by Commissioner Undine Pawlowski.

Vote: All yes (5-0)

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Pawlowski: She received complaints regarding the condition of the Hammock Dunes parking lot. Mr. Howell said they will fill some potholes with a different material that might be more effective. It will be an on-going process that will continue. Commissioner

Pawlowski asked if there were plans to install plantings at the 2nd Avenue ditch project. Mr. Howell said he will address the landscaping after the contractor's work is completed. She asked fellow Commissioners to drive 11th Street and see the conditions.

Vice Mayor O'Brien: Asked to discuss next month about outdoor music and our code inconsistencies. He talked with several happy homeowners who said they appreciate taking advantage of the relaxed setbacks for balconies.

Commissioner Helhoski: He is unable to attend the next Intergovernmental meeting. Commissioner Pawlowski said she would attend.

Commissioner Snodgrass: nothing

Mayor Samuels: Reported on a meeting regarding transportation in the area. She asked the Commission for permission to attend these meeting. There was a consensus that Mayor Samuels should attend the meetings.

The Tourist Development Council is changing their grant process for 2015. She attended a ribbon cutting for the renovated bocce courts. The City is working to help businesses meet the beach lighting regulations. A joint workshop will be held on March 11 for the City Commission and the Charter Review Committee to discuss the Charter Review Committee's recommendations. A special meeting of the City Commission will be held April 3 to discuss the actual ballot language for the charter changes.

Police Chief Hardwick: Discussed the parking issue during elections with City Attorney Burnett and Vicky Oakes. They have a plan to address the issue. He explained that phone calls to the police station for service are directed to the 911 system, even when it is not an emergency, because they have the equipment to determine which car is available to be dispatched. He reported that auto break-ins had increased at Ocean Hammock Park. There was an arrest, but he recommended caution.

Finance Director Burns: The City now accepts debit and credit cards.

City Attorney Whitehouse: Noted that when Mr. Burnett is unable to attend City Commission meetings, he is an expert in government law and legally qualified to be here in his stead.

City Manager Royle: Thanked Ms. Burns and Mr. Howell for their work on a recent grant application.

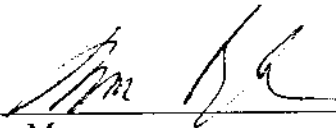
Public Works Director Howell: Thanked employees Troy Jones and Bob Cramer for their great work on the rehabilitation of a truck that is over 20 years old.

Building Official Larson: Reported he met with the County regarding work at the Pope Road parking lot. They will determine later if rest rooms will be installed. He said that in reviewing the Land Development Regulations regarding outside music, he found only that it may not exceed a certain number of decibels.

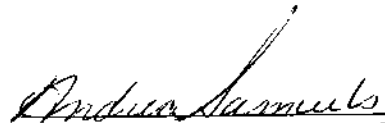
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Commission, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

ATTEST:



City Manager



Andrea Samuels, Mayor – Commissioner

(THIS MEETING HAS BEEN RECORDED IN ITS ENTIRETY. THE RECORDINGS WILL BE KEPT ON FILE FOR THE REQUIRED RETENTION PERIOD. COMPLETE VIDEO CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.STAUGBCH.COM, OR BY CONTACTING THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER.)