



**MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH
FEBRUARY 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 Burnett, Deputy City Clerk Benson, Finance Director Burns, Police Chief Hardwick, Public Works Director Howell, Building Official Larson and Events Coordinator Michael Cunningham.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING OF JANUARY 6, 2014

Motion: to approve the January 6, 2014 minutes as submitted. **Moved by** Vice Mayor Rich O'Brien, **Seconded by** Commissioner Undine Pawlowski.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous voice vote (**summary:** Yes = 5).

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

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS OF THE AGENDA

City Manager Royle noted the additional presentation for National Night Out Award 2013 for the City's National Night Out event in August 2013. He asked to move item #10 to the Presentations portion of the agenda and to delete agenda items 4 and 5 that have been withdrawn.

Motion: to approve the changes to the agenda. **Moved by** Vice Mayor Rich O'Brien, **Seconded by** Commissioner Brud Helhoski.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous voice vote (**summary:** Yes = 5).

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

CHANGES TO ORDER OF TOPICS ON THE AGENDA

Mr. Royle reported the Maratea agenda item was removed because the letter of authorization was not provided and the applicant asked to postpone the item to March. The agenda item to consider purchasing property was removed because the owner is considering another offer.

Commissioner Pawlowski asked about public comments during Additions or Deletions to the Agenda and City Attorney Burnett said the setting of an agenda was not an item for public comment. The public may make their remarks in the Public Comments portion of the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

A. Plaque to Mr. Troy Arrington for Saving Two Children from Drowning
Chief Hardwick presented a plaque to Mr. Arrington expressing support for his efforts that saved two children.

National Night Out: Mr. Cunningham said the City received a national award for the 2013 event. Mayor Samuels presented the plaque to Chief Hardwick.

B. Recognition of Police Officers:

- 1) Certificate of Officer Russell Kelly for Five Years of Employment with the City
- 2) Plaque to Sergeant Ralph Correa for Ten Years of Employment with the City

Chief Hardwick recognized Sergeant Correa and Officer Kelly for their years of employment.

C. Holiday Lighting Awards:

Ann Palmquist, Chairman of the Tree Board/Beautification Advisory Committee, explained the criteria for the awards. Mayor Samuels presented the awards to Ms. Tilly and Ms. Palmquist.

1) Residential:

- a. Best Use of Recycled Materials: 213 10th Street (Ms. Ann Palmquist)
- b. Best Energy Efficient/LED Lighting: 22 Surferest Street (Ms. Debbie Tilley)

2) Best Neighborhood/Subdivision Entrance: Spanish Oaks (Ms. Sheila Billings)

10. Parking of Tractor Trailer Cabs in City Hall Parking Lot during Early Voting and Elections: Request by Commissioner Helhoski to Discuss

St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes said that during the last election large trucks took up valuable parking at city hall and created traffic flow problems for vehicles and pedestrians. She asked the Commission to place restrictions on oversized vehicles parking on the lot during voting. Mayor Samuels said that since the vehicles carried campaign signs, she hesitated to regulate any form of free speech during election time and felt the police department could handle the public safety issue during that time. The Commission agreed that Chief Hardwick will meet with Ms. Oakes and report before the March meeting.

D. Part-Time Events Coordinator, Mr. Michael Cunningham:

- 1) Update Report by Mr. Cunningham on Recent New Year's Eve Beach Blast Off and Preparations for Event in December 2014

Mr. Cunningham reported that Beach Blast Off was very successful. The final accounting had not been completed and he expected to report the results next month. He said he would rebuild the Beach Blast Off website this month and send information to tour operators by end of February for this year's event. Commissioner Pawlowski asked that the accounting show staff expenses and overtime. Chief Hardwick said there were 100 law enforcement people working the

event under mutual aid agreements and there were no arrests. Staff from the Public Works Department were phenomenal, he said.

2) Review of Mr. Cunningham's First Year with the City

Mr. Cunningham said he has worked on several events, handled press releases, and handled some event conflicts. He announced on February 15 there will be a walk to benefit the Philippine typhoon victims coordinated with similar walks worldwide and part of an attempt for a Guinness record. Coordinators are expecting 500 people. He has been working with the County to streamline the permit process and improve communication. He asked the Commission to consider offering city pins or pencils to give out. He said his hours leading up to an event are long, but between events are less. He keeps a log of his hours in his personal journal. Mayor Samuels suggested the position be expanded to full time. Commissioner Snodgrass said good work has been done, but he wanted a cost-benefit assessment and details of what work would be added to the position if the hours were increased. Mayor Samuels asked that expanding the position to full time be scheduled on the March agenda. Commissioner Pawlowski said it would be up to the City Manager to recommend the staffing change.

E. Request to Have Red Light Cameras at Certain Intersections in the City

Chief Hardwick said this discussion was to follow up from last May's report. He introduced Chief Robert Musco from Green Cove Springs and Chief Gary Goble from Orange Park, both of which had the cameras in their cities. Neither Chief had information on the financial aspects of their programs. They both said they felt the programs increased safety in the intersections and drivers tended to stop at yellow lights. Chief Goble said there was no increase in rear end collisions.

Mayor Samuels noted proposed legislation at the state level would restrict the amount of money that could be collected by cities. Chief Musco said his other methods to police traffic lights were not cost effective, but this program improved compliance. He said he had less than 3% repeat offenders.

Mr. Bob Kahler, 29 Sunfish Drive, Ms. Ann Palmquist, 213 10th Street, and Mr. Ed Slavin, Box 3084, St. Augustine, opposed the cameras.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. C.J. McCartney, 1740 Santiago Street, said the Great Backyard Bird Count will be held the weekend of February 14-17. She thanked the City for the use of Ocean Hammock Park and thanked staff for assisting with event.

Mr. Steve Mitherz, 17 Sea Oaks Drive, asked the status of repairs to the Building Department building. He asked about plans and schedule for the Pope Road parking lot.

Ms. Ann Palmquist, 213 10th Street, invited the public to help the Beautification Advisory Committee with planting on the corner of the new 7-11 store on March 22 from 7 to 11 a.m.

Mr. Ed Slavin, Box 3084, St. Augustine, thanked the Commission for the joint meeting with the County Commission.

Mr. Bill Rosenstock, 57 White Court, asked the City to obtain a title search for the ownership of the Pope Road parking lot. He said an attorney with the State Department of Environmental Protection insisted the State owned it and the County says they own it.

Mr. Bob Kahler, 29 Sunfish Drive, objected to the Mayor not allowing public comment during the portion of the agenda to add or delete agenda items.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

CONSENT

1. Code Enforcement Board: Re-Appointment of Regular Members to Three-Year Term: Mr. Alan Anthony, Mr. Stephen Brenner, Mr. William Genovese, and Ms. Trish Gilpin

Motion: to approve the re-appointments of Mr. Alan Anthony, Mr. Stephen Brenner, Mr. William Genovese, and Ms. Tish Gilpin as regular members of the Code Enforcement Board., **Moved by** Mayor Andrea Samuels, **Seconded by** Commissioner Undine Pawlowski.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous voice vote (**summary:** Yes = 5).

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

2. Proclamation: to Declare February 14-17, 2014 as "Citizen Scientists Birding Weekend"

Motion: to approve the Proclamation. **Moved by** Mayor Andrea Samuels, **Seconded by** Vice Mayor Rich O'Brien.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous voice vote (**summary:** Yes = 5).

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

OLD BUSINESS

3. Proposed Courtyard by Marriott Hotel: Review of Proposed Ordinance to Amend Planned Unit Development to Include Preservation of Two Trees, Providing of Lots for Parking, and Payment to the City of Money for the Vacating of the 6th Street Right-of-Way

Mr. Ashdji said he was withdrawing his request to modify the PUD. He said he agreed to the payment of \$560,000, to preserve the two specimen oak trees, and to set aside the parking lots for three years as public parking. City Attorney Burnett said the PUD did not need to be amended because those conditions were part of the motion made to approve the PUD initially. He said the Building Official could uphold those conditions as he issues permits for the property.

4. Maratea Planned Unit Development: Request by St. Augustine Development, Inc. for Two-Year Extension of Permit for 30 Condo Units on 4.5 Acres

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At the applicant's request, this item was postponed to the March City Commission meeting.

5. Lots 9 and 11, Block 3, Chautauqua Beach Subdivision, North of 8th Street:
Consideration of Purchasing

This agenda item was removed from the agenda.

6. Solid Waste Disposal Fee Issue: Request to Approve Settlement with St. Johns County

City Attorney Burnett reported that the mediation went well and resulted in a negotiated settlement that the County would pay the City \$34,500. The issue was that the County was collecting \$74 per year for solid waste and yard trash collection from county residents. For city residents they collected \$74 for solid waste, but billed the City additionally for yard trash. Commissioner Pawlowski asked if the problem is corrected going forward and Finance Director Burns said it was.

Motion: to accept the mediation settlement. **Moved by** Mayor Andrea Samuels, **Seconded by** Commissioner Undine Pawlowski.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous voice vote (**summary:** Yes = 5).

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

7. Grants:
 - A. Continuation of Discussion
 - B. Review of Proposed Grant Policy

The Commission agreed to a few corrections to the draft policy. Mayor Samuels said the Commission had approved a budget line item of \$50,000 to be used as matching funds for staff to move ahead on grants without waiting for City Commission approval. Commissioner Pawlowski asked the policy be amended to show that staff had that discretion. Staff will make the amendments and bring the policy for approval at the next Commission meeting.

- C. Review and Approval of City Applying for a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant for Ocean Hammock Park

Motion: to approve the application for a matching grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for improvements to Ocean Hammock Park and to allocate up to \$50,000 in matching funds. **Moved by** Mayor Andrea Samuels, **Seconded by** Commissioner Undine Pawlowski.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous voice vote (**summary:** Yes = 5).

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

8. Social Media Policy: Review of Changes

Motion: to approve the Social Media Policy as amended. **Moved by** Mayor Andrea Samuels, **Seconded by** Vice Mayor Rich O'Brien.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5).

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

9. Beach Access for Linda Mar Subdivision: Continuation of Discussion

Mr. Howell reported the consultants have been contacted for permitting work and survey work. Mr. Burnett said it would be good to have the property surveyed.

Ms. Ann Palmquist, 213 10th Street, asked if this and other walkovers had been assessed for their usability and accessibility. She was concerned about parking for public use of the walkover. Mr. Howell said the County told him they will not build a new walkover if there is no designated parking area. City land there could be used for parking, but the Commission declined to build a parking lot.

It was the consensus of the City Commission to approve survey and design planning for the walkover.

10. Moved to earlier on the agenda.

11. Variances for Parking: Consideration of Requiring Commission Approval if Variance Exceeds by 35% the Number of Required Parking Spaces

Following discussion of the issue, it was the consensus of the City Commission to not take any action at this time.

12. City Charter: Setting a Date in March for Workshop Meeting with the Charter Review Committee

The consensus of the City Commission was to schedule the meeting for March 10, 2014 at 7 p.m. They also agreed to schedule a special meeting on April 3, 2014 at 7 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS - None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Snodgrass – Mr. Bob Lee will attend the March meeting to discuss options for a peer city review.

Commissioner Helhoski – Asked if the City was going to have a title search on the Pope Road property. Mr. Burnett said there was no need because the City does not assert ownership of the land.

Motion: to not conduct a title search on the property. **Moved by** Commissioner Brud Helhoski, **Seconded by** Mayor Andrea Samuels.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous voice vote (**summary:** Yes = 5).

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

Commissioner Pawlowski – The workshop with the County Commission went well. She appreciated the largest share of public participation from City residents. She thanked the Public Works Director, Police Chief, and Finance Director for meeting with her. She suggested the Finance Director receive support for her time spent on the City's investment policy. She recommended the City purchase pins or other items to give out as appropriate. Mayor Samuels agreed.

Vice Mayor O'Brien – The Beachfront Resort was sold for over \$9 million, not as originally reported. Regarding the property that was no longer offered for sale to the City, he asked Mr. Royle to question reimbursement for ½ of appraisal cost.

Mayor Samuels - On January 20 she attended the Tourist Development Council, on January 17 she met with Key International with Mr. Royle and Chief Hardwick. There were introductions and general discussions, but no plans were submitted. The City is committed to keeping its event space at the beach. No deals or promises were made. Key officials mentioned they had talked with the County and Mayor Samuels felt it important that a City official attend those meetings as well.

City Attorney Burnett – The Key International meeting did not have a site plan. They authorized the City Police to arrest trespassers and addressed Mr. Larson and Chief Hardwick's concerns for the current condition of the property.

Finance Director Burns – She found an option where the City could accept payments by credit cards. It was the consensus of the Commission to approve Ms. Burns' suggestion to have an agreement for the service.

Police Chief Hardwick – Ocean Hammock Park has experienced car break-ins and purse thefts. He urged the public to not leave valuables in the open in parked cars.

City Manager Royle - The Arbor Day Foundation has once again awarded the City the Tree City USA designation. The Planning & Zoning Board meeting for February will be cancelled because there are no items for the agenda.

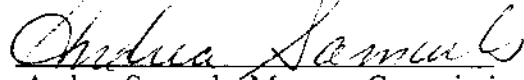
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Commission, the meeting adjourned at 9:58 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.)