



CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, February 18, 2025 * 6:30 PM
MINUTES

Present was:

Mayor - Nicholas Fouraker
District 4 Vice Mayor – Jason Carson
District 1 Commissioner – Frank Vertolli
District 2 Commissioner – Holly Bobrowski
District 5 Commissioner – Beth Lowell
District 6 Commissioner – Stan Smith
District 7 Commissioner – Jim Partin

Absent was:

District 3 Commissioner – Danny Otterbacher

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum

Mayor Fouraker called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, and the Clerk confirmed quorum. City Manager Rick Rudometkin, Attorney Langley, Chief Grimm, DC Millis, Public Works Director Phil Price, and City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno were also present.

2. Invocation and Pledge to Flag - Commissioner Holly Bobrowski, District 2
Comm Bobrowski gave the Invocation and led the Pledge to the Flag.

Mayor Fouraker asked for a motion to excuse Comm Otterbacher.

Comm Lowell moved to excuse Comm Otterbacher from tonight's meeting.

Comm Carson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0.

3. Presentations – N/A

4. Public Comments & Announcements

Mayor Fouraker opened for public comments.

- Lynne Voltaggio, residing at 5104 Dorian Avenue, a Special Events Board member, said the committee is short on members due to recent resignations. She asked the Council if they would allow Comm Bobrowski, an ex-officio on the committee, to assist with the events. She has been instrumental in organizing events in the City, and her guidance would be welcomed.
- Antony Carugno waived his request to speak.

There being no further comment, Mayor Fouraker closed public comments.

5. Consent Items

- Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes – January 21, 2025
 - Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes – February 4, 2025
 - Proclamation: Arbor Day Celebration 2025
- Comm Carson moved to approve the consent items as presented.**
Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0.

6. Unfinished Business

a. 3904 Arajo Court Condemnation and Demolition Quotes

City Manager Rudometkin said the City had issued a condemnation order for 3904 Arajo Court. Due to safety concerns, the city is looking to condemn and demo the property. The home is occupied with personal items, which has increased the cost of demolishing and removing the property. The items must be removed appropriately through sale or donation. Mr. Rudometkin provided three quotes for consideration and recommended the "I'm your Demo Guy" quote totaling 19,800.00.

Comm Smith said this has been a blight in the neighborhood. He has been approached by a resident, Jeff Giles, who wants to purchase the home from the current homeowner. Comm Smith asked the Council to consider tabling the discussion until mid-March so that he could speak with the homeowner. Attorney Langley said the Council can table or delay the discussion until March and does not see any legal consequences.

Mayor Fouraker recommended that the Council approve the quote and set a start date so the resident, Jeff Giles, can speak with the homeowner before the city proceeds with the demo. Mr. Rudometkin said if the Council approves the vendor quote, staff can call the demo company to formalize the approval and stipulate a start date for demolition, allowing Mr. Giles to bring forward his proposal and contact the homeowner.

Comm Smith moved to accept I'm Your Demo Guy's quote of \$19,800 for 3904 Arajo, including the demo slab, inside and out. Comm Partin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0.

b. Girl Scouts Bat Shelter Project

City Manager Rudometkin spoke on the Bat House Project presented by the Girl Scouts at a previous meeting. In talking with staff, we are excited about the project. However, the location and maintenance of the bat house need to be discussed. Staff discussed Wallace Field or Trimble Park as options. The staff did not expect the proposed size and maintenance of the bat house. The staff are not equipped to maintain or upkeep the project.

Comm Lowell said there is no guarantee that bats will populate a bat house. Regarding maintenance, the staff should research the required process and speak with a bat expert, such as Fly by Night Company, for more information. Comm Bobrowski said she favors the project and that the Bat Conservancy is also a good resource for information.

Brian, residing at St Denis Court, said Eli would like to start and finish the project in March before graduating from High School. They would like to work with the City on the height and location.

Mr. Rudometkin said he would contact the Fly by Night and Bat Conservancy to request more information for consideration.

c. Review and Approval of JJ's Solid Waste & Recycling Services Agreement First Amendment

City Manager Rudometkin presented JJ's Contract Amendment, which includes language regarding Annexation and FEMA Hurricane storm pickup. He stated that the Council has already approved a new 5-year agreement. The reason for the deal is approval for a guarantee of 3 years with a 3-5% CPI annual increase through Sept 30, 2030.

Comm Lowell asked if the city would be reimbursed or if a contract change would be made if it decided not to continue recycling. Mr. Rudometkin said it could be renegotiated into another Amendment. Attorney Langley said if the city wants the right to terminate recycling, it should be added as new language as a mutual agreement. Comm Lowell said she would also like a review date and an extension agreed upon in the contract before the deadline.

Mayor Fouraker said he would like language in the contract to require any updates submitted during the city's budget discussion and approval process, which runs from June to July. The council discussed that JJs previously noted that they did not receive increased rates from Orange County before the end of July.

Comm Vertolli shared his concern with the contract language and his perception of the contracted dates; ten years is a long time to stay with any contractor. Mr. Rudometkin reminded the Council that the 5-year contract with 3-1-year amendments had already been approved, and we are in year six.

Comm Partin said he would like staff to ask if JJs had any inclination to increase and report back to the Council in April in a timely manner to allow the city to plan in the budget. He asked if the city must add JJs as an approved vendor with FEMA. City Manager Rudometkin said the new contract language would allow the city to use them during a potential storm. He said he would bring it to the Council before contracting JJs for eligible disaster debris during a storm. Mayor Fouraker noted that he would like to add the language "eligible disaster reimbursement" or "FEMA eligible."

The Council consensus was to have the City Attorney and City Manager change the amendment as discussed for council review at the next meeting.

7. New Business

a. Review and Approval of Fisher Planning and Development Services, Inc. Contract

Comm Vertolli shared his concern and asked if the City needs a certified City Planner. Mr. Rudometkin said he will bring forward some options for Council consideration. Comm Lowell asked for a job description or a synopsis of a day-by-day look at the position.

Comm Smith moved to approve the \$5,950 contract with Fisher Planning and Development Services, Inc. for the interim City Planner position, as outlined in the new contract and amendment.

Comm Partin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0.

- b. Approval of Conway Groves MOU Private Streets Enforcement Agreement
Chief Grimm presented Conway Groves MOU for consideration and approval. He provided a brief history of the request and an open invitation for all other HOAs interested in traffic enforcement.

Comm Lowell moved to approve the MOU between the City of Belle Isle and Conway Groves for traffic enforcement on private streets and authorizes the City Manager to execute the agreement.

Comm Carson seconded the motion, which passed 6:0.

- c. Approval of 2025-2026 SRO Agreement CCA/COBI

Chief Grimm presented the proposed 2025-2026 SRO Agreement with Cornerstone Charter Academy. He noted that the new contract requires an additional SRO and an updated cost structure. He noted that CCA has not committed to a second SRO; however, the proposed contract may have them agree to allow us to plan for the new budget.

Comm Bobrowski asked for clarification on the cost of an SRO and if CCA pays the city for the entire cost. Chief Grimm stated the SRO works for the school 180 days a year and pays approximately 75% of the total cost incurred. It is not a profit for the City. The Agency spends much time at the school as a practical public safety matter. The recommendation is 1 SRO per \$1,000 students. If the school wants to increase the number of students by \$2400, it will benefit the community.

Comm Bobrowski moved to have the proposed 2025-2026 SRO Agreement to CCA for approval.

Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed 6:0.

- d. Approval of OCSP Dispatching Services Continued Services 2024-20226

Chief Grimm presented the extended contract with OCSO through 2026. The current agreement for dispatching services expired on September 30, 2024. The proposed extension ensures service for the next two years without increasing cost.

Comm Smith moved to approve the second addendum extending the dispatching services agreement with the OCSO through September 30, 2026.

Comm Partin seconded the motion, which passed 6:0.

8. Attorney's Report – No report.

9. City Manager's Report

- a. City Manager's Report

The City Manager presented,

- City Manager's Task List
 - The staff continues to research the findings regarding Hurricane Ian with the tree vendor.
 - The staff is on track with submittals for Milton reimbursement.
 - Staff will send an e-blast to committee and board members.
 - City Manager evaluation has been distributed for Council and Mayor submittal for discussion at the March 18 meeting.

- b. Chief's Report

- Chief Grimm announced that Congressman Soto had recognized Officer Shaba for the Congressional Records for Black History Month.

- c. Public Works Report

Phil Price reported that the PD boat dock is coming along and should be completed within a month. The Jade Pump station is scheduled to complete the electrical work.

10. Mayor's Report

Mayor Fouraker thanked Phil Price and his staff for their efforts in maintaining the City's beautification.

11. Commissioners Report

- Comm Lowell asked if the city could accept volunteers for specific events only if the staff does not receive applications for committee members.
- Comm Vertolli spoke briefly on House Bill 301 regarding increases in liability insurance.
- Comm Bobrowski announced and welcomed the new NAV Board member Mathew Craig.
- Vice Mayor Carson spoke briefly on the PACE Program and shared his disbelief in the damage it has caused citizens.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Fouraker called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, which passed unanimously at 8:00 pm.