



CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, April 1, 2025 * 6:30 PM
MINUTES

Present was:

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 – OPEN
District 4 – OPEN

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 Pownall, Chief Grimm, Public Works Director Phil Price, and City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno were also present.

2. Invocation and Pledge to Flag

Comm Smith gave the Invocation and led the Pledge to the Flag.

City Manager Rudometkin announced that after the swearing-in ceremony, there will be a short break to celebrate Mayor Fouraker's six years of service. In addition, he is requesting to move up Public Comment to item 3, and Items 7a and 7b will be rescheduled for May 6, 2025. Council consensus was to move forward with the proposed agenda change.

3. Public Comments & Announcements

Mayor Fouraker opened public comments.

- Larry Miles, residing at 6110 Matchett Rd, shared his gratitude to Mayor Fouraker for his service and commitment to the City and its residents.
- Council Members, the City Manager, and staff thanked Mayor Fouraker for his passion and personal and professional growth throughout his two terms as Mayor.

There being no further comments, Mayor Fouraker thanked the City and residents for their support and welcomed the new Mayor.

The Council moved for a 20-minute recess. Meeting resumed at 7:13 pm.

4. Presentations – N/A

- a. Swear-In: Mayor Jason Carson
Mayor Fouraker swore in the incoming Mayor Jason Carson.
- b. Swear-In: Commissioner Holly Bobrowski
Chief Grimm swore in Holly Bobrowski as District 2 Commissioner.
- c. Appointment of Vice Mayor - BIMC Section 4.03
Commissioner Smith moved to appoint Jim Partin as Vice Mayor.
Commissioner Lowell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 5:0
- d. Arbor Day Art Contest Winners: HS-1st Place Grace, Elem-1st Place-Simone, 2nd Place-Madison and 3rd Place Kylie
Mayor Carson recognized the winners of the Arbor Day Art Contest and awarded them a certificate of appreciation.

5. Consent Items

- a. Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes - March 4, 2025
- b. Approval of City Council meeting minutes - March 18, 2025
Comm Lowell moved to approve the consent item as presented.
Comm Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 5:0.

6. Unfinished Business

- a. ORDINANCE NO. 25-04: FIRST READING AND CONSIDERATION - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA, AMENDING ARTICLE V OF CHAPTER 30 OF THE CITY CODE AUTHORIZING THE USE OF GOLF CARTS WITHIN CERTAIN COMMUNITIES AND ON STREETS DESIGNATED IN RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN APPLICATION PROCESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Manager Rudometkin read the Ordinance by Title.

Chief Grimm presented the ordinance and stated that the changes are being presented to align with State law and enhance safety regulations. The proposed changes will clarify the definitions of golf carts and low-speed vehicles, operation restrictions, enforcement, and liability. Chief Grimm added that the staff has created a brochure to hand out to residents registering their golf carts for reference.

Comm Bobrowski asked for golf carts that ride over 25 mph and drive on County Road to be allowed with the proposed changes. Chief Grimm said no, per the County. Golf carts on the sidewalk in Conway/Judge & Daetwyler do not fall under Belle Isle's jurisdiction. He encourages residents to contact their Orange County and Orlando Commissioners to share their support for jurisdiction or a dedicated path similar to what we have with Matchett Road. Comm Bobrowski also said the City should look into electric bikes and scooter safety.

Comm Smith stated that a resident in his neighborhood shared that he had to ride his golf cart to O'Rielly's to get a part for his car and was stopped by an Orange County Officer who cited him with a \$168 ticket. Chief Grimm noted that he and City Attorney reviewed the proposed changes for discrepancies.

Mayor Carson opened for public comment.

- Kyle Van Velzen, residing at 6606 Conway Lakes Drive, shared her concerns with riding their golf carts out of their community to Judge & Daetwyler to get on a golf-friendly street.
- Andy Pomeroy, who lives at 6521 St Partin Place, expressed concern about using Judge & Daetwyler. He would like those sidewalks to ensure a full circle path through the community.
- Chris Van Velzen, who resides at 6606 Conway Lakes Drive, said it may cost about \$1000 to get the carts up to speed. What are we currently looking at with the ordinance change? Chief Grimm said nothing has changed with the city's regulations for low-speed vehicles. If the golf cart goes over 35 mph, having it registered as street legal at the DMV doesn't hurt. Chief Grimm said if a resident is riding out of the City limits, they must follow State Law and City/County regulations.
- Ms. Springsteen, residing at 3564 Country Lakes Drive, asked for clarification on driving out of the City. Chief Grimm said that out riding out of the City limits, golf cart riders must follow the County/City regulations.

There being no further comment, Mayor Carson closed public comment.

**Comm Vertolli moved to advance Ordinance 25-04 for second reading and adoption.
Comm Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously upon roll call 5:0.**

7. New Business

- a. Appointment of District 1 Planning & Zoning Applicant - Robert Agrusa – moved to May 6, 2025.
- b. Appointment of District 1 Planning & Zoning Applicant - Joel Shear – moved to May 6, 2025.
- c. Amendment to City Manager Employment Agreement

City Manager Rudometkin addressed the three changes to his employment contract as noted in the workshop for discussion.

- Lift the requirement to pay back relocation
- Change the monthly \$700 car allowance to receive a city vehicle
- Remove the requirement for living in Belle Isle

Comm Smith asked which of the three items would benefit the City. Although there may not be a benefit to the City, CM Rudometkin said he did not have the opportunity to discuss these terms with the City, so he is bringing it up for discussion. Comm Smith said the \$700 is all-encompassing of his current vehicle costs. He asked if CM Rudometkin had an estimate on the price the city would pay for a vehicle, fuel, tolls, and insurance.

Comm Partin said that when we were reviewing the contract, we all agreed to have the Mayor negotiate on behalf of the Council. Comm Partin said Section 9 would go away after two years. As far as the vehicle, what would be the financial result?

If the city manager remains in the city, he will be compensated with an additional \$15,000; however, if he resides outside the city limits, there could be a decrease in salary.

Comm Bobrowski said she has never been a fan of the primary residency requirement. She would like to discuss adding a reasonable distance if moving out of the City.

Mayor Carson said he has seen contracts that call for living within a radius of the area. The council discussed the former Mayor's stance on the contract language.

Comm Lowell said she agrees with a reasonable radius as long as the accessibility and availability meet the requirements. She asked if there was an additional city vehicle available. Mr. Rudometkin said no, the city must budget for a vehicle or add it to the PD vehicle leasing plan.

Comm Vertolli said the requirement to pay back will go away after another year and is not against moving out of the city within a radius. The city vehicle, however, should be used only within the City. Council discussed the diminutive use of a city vehicle.

After the discussion, Commissioner Bobrowski moved to

- **Table the primary residency requirement and vehicle allowance until the City Manager provides further information**
- **Reject the change to the payback language in said contract.**

Commissioner Partin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 5:0.

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
 - Resident requests approval for a Lake Clean Up event with paddle boards. He will bring forward more information at a later date.
 - Committee and Council seats. Two candidates submitted for the P&Z Board, and one applicant for the Council seat in District 4
 - Arajo Condemnation will be on the agenda for April 15.
 - Meeting with one of the two vendors regarding Hurricane Ian. He is meeting with KPMG to discuss the next steps.
 - Started the road show – looking to see if other areas in the city will schedule an event.

b. Chief's Report

- Chief Grimm announced
 - K9 is ready to pick up and will bring forward more information.
 - PD created a page on the website to upload the PD Calls for Service and Code Enforcement Activity Reports.
 - PD Boat Dock is in its final stages of completion.
 - Will research and bring forward information on scooters and electric bicycles

c. Public Works Report

Phil Price reported that

- PD Boat Dock's final stages are awaiting power from Duke Energy.
- The Jade Pump station has been set up and is ready for the beginning of the storm season.
- Reported that the City of Orlando is paving from the 528 Northbound to Hoffner – Completion by April 3.
- Orange County project on Sol – the line going east on Arajo sewer issue; maybe 60-90 days before repair.

10. Mayor's Report—Mayor Carson thanked the Council and the residents for their support and challenged them to fill open committee and board seats.

11. Commissioners' Report

- Comm welcomed and congratulated Mayor Carson.
- Comm Smith reported that the next Metro Plan meeting is on April 9th. He spoke on the roadshow with his HOA and encouraged all Council members to schedule an event.
- Comm Lowell asked residents to donate water/soft drinks for staff and Marine Patrol. She would also like to see a ribbon cutting for the PD Boat Dock.
- Comm Bobrowski attended the last League of Cities meeting and gave a summary of the topics. She asked if the Council would consider revisiting a Chicken ordinance in the City. This may be a good time to review the Charter, go down to a Commission of five members, and serve at large. We have more Commissioners per Capita than Altamonte and Maitland, and very few people to fill the positions.
- Comm Vertolli spoke briefly on being part of the Canvassing Committee, which was very interesting, and encouraged all commissioners to participate. He and the City Manager spoke with the CCA principal about the Youth Council, who was very receptive to the idea. He also asked for Council consensus to host a Tri-County meeting on the third Thursday in October. Council discussed sponsorship and locations.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Carson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, which passed unanimously at 8:40 pm.