



CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, May 7, 2024 * 6:30 PM

MINUTES

Present was:

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

Absent was:

District 3 – OPEN
District 6 Commissioner – Stan Smith

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

2. Invocation and Pledge to Flag - Commissioner Carson, District 6

Commissioner Carson gave the invocation and led the Pledge to the Flag.

3. RVi Stephen Noto – Comp Plan Update

Steve Noto Consultant with RVi Planning, spoke about the preliminary assessment and status of the Comprehensive Plan. He answered a couple of questions raised by the Council at a previous meeting. He noted that the update has multiple stages and is in full gear to start public hearings for transmittal to the State.

The preliminary assessment is the first step in the update process. It consists of the community as a whole (i.e., demographics, housing, economics, infrastructure), which sets the stage for how the City will guide the update to the State; it is not meant to give direction but to analyze the data. RVi will be submitting and writing the Comp Plan update for State approval. RVi will be scheduling two public hearings with the P&Z Board (May & June) for recommendation to the Council and a City Council meeting (July) to approve the submittal to the State for adoption in November-December 2024. The Comp Plan must be completed with all edits by the end of March 2025.

The Septic Sewer section is a separate report related to the Comp Plan update. RVi is working with a sub-consultant who may be able to help the city tackle the issue if needed.

He announced that the Community Survey has been open since October and has received 80 responses. It was pushed out to the community via social media, the City newsletter, and a community event held in October 2023.

Comm Bobrowski asked if RVi would be open to providing paper surveys that could be distributed at city events. Mr. Noto said yes, and they could also man the table and collect the survey if necessary. CM Rudometkin noted on average, 1-2% usually submit and respond to community surveys.

4. Consent Items – There were no Consent Items presented.

5. Citizen Comments

Mayor Fouraker opened for Citizen Comments.

- Lynn DeJarnette, residing at 6513 Matchett Rd, spoke in favor of restoring the Lancaster House. She said the Pine Castle Historical Society and Pioneer Days are willing, able, and capable of restoring the home for the community. She asked the Council to remove it from CCA property and allow them to restore the house.
- Lori Treviranus, residing at 5019 Saint Denis Court, spoke in favor of Resolution 24-04, Hoffner Avenue, and the Transportation Plan multiuse path use.

Mayor Fouraker closed citizen comments and asked for a motion to approve Resolution 24-04

- Resolution 24-04 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA, APPROVING A STATE-FUNDED GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AS A SIGNATORY ON THE LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECT, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Clerk read Resolution 24-04 by Title.

Comm Partin moved to approve Resolution 24-04 as presented.

Comm Bobrowski seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 5:0.

Mayor Fouraker reopened citizen comments.

- Sue Nielsen, residing at 2613 Nela Avenue, spoke in favor of restoring the Lancaster House. She asked if the City would be willing to have the house inspected and follow the process of restoring it with the other agencies, or she asked for a legal opinion to enforce the lease with the school and have them restore the house.
- Charles Rutterbash, Vice President of Pioneer Days residing at 7524 Gondola Avenue, spoke in favor of restoring the Lancaster House. He said Pioneer Days has offered to work with the City on a Plan and donate \$9,000 for the restoration.

There being no further comments Mayor Fouraker closed citizen comments.

6. Unfinished Business

a. Lancaster House Update, Discussion, and Possible Motion

Mayor Fouraker reported that CCA Chairman Brooks had contacted the City and offered to carve out the house and a small portion of parking without affecting the value of the lease/rent. The City can work with Pioneer Days to restore the home.

Mayor Fouraker asked the Council to consider a workshop with CCA and the Council to discuss several items, including the lease term, how much of the land will be carved out from the lease, and security concerns.

Comm Vertolli said the discussions of the Lancaster House date back to 2018. He said he recognizes the residents' concern about keeping the house, but if a long-term plan is not submitted to refurbish and maintain it, he will not be able to support keeping it.

Comm Bobrowski moved to direct the City Manager to discuss carving out a piece of land and keeping the building with the CCA chairman. The plan also includes funding discussions with Pioneer Days and the Historical Society, which the Council will discuss at a workshop.

Vice Mayor Lowell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 5:0.

7. New Business

b. Approval and Acceptance of Donation for Police Department Ice Maker

Comm Carson moved to approve the donations in the amount of \$1750 for the Police Department Ice Maker.

Comm Partin seconded the motion which passed unanimously at 5:0.

c. Appointment of Special Events Committee Members

Comm Bobrowski moved to approve the appointments of John Tremblay and Kyle Sue Vanvelzen to the Special Events Committee.

Vice Mayor Lowell seconded the motion which passed unanimously at 5:0.

8. Attorney's Report

Attorney Pownell reminds the Council of the upcoming Sunshine Law and Ethics Training on May 21st from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Mayor Fouraker stated that he will be traveling from Las Vegas and may not be at the meeting on time.

9. City Manager's (CM) Report

CM Rudometkin reported that he received a request from the sponsors of the 5K Run for a City representative to attend the event from 7:00-9:00 am. He asked the Council to contact him if they are interested.

a. CM Task List

City Manager Rudometkin provided an updated Task List. There were no Council comments on the report.

b. Strategic Planning Budget Goals

CM Rudometkin provided the Council with last year's budget goals for review and discussion at the May 21st City Council meeting. He asked the Council to bring forward their top three priorities and one long-term budget preparation goal.

c. Chief's Report

Chief Grimm briefly spoke on an incident that occurred over the weekend. He reported that Officer Mathews was doing well and recognized the other Belle Isle Officers and the Sheriff's Office for their assistance and support. Chief Grimm reported on PD Stats: multiple DUIs, property damage, battery and kidnapping, boating citations, and traffic stops.

d. Public Works Report

Phil Price reported that the City received one bid for the Landscaping RFP Bid and recommended that the City put it back out for bid. The staff may make minor changes in the scope of work before resubmitting for Council review and consideration. The sidewalk repair list has been completed, and the staff wants to submit a new list for approval for the new budget season.

10. Mayor's Report

Mayor Fouraker called for a motion to excuse Comm Smith from the meeting.

Vice Mayor Lowell moved for an excused absence for Comm Stan Smith.

Comm Vertolli seconded the motion which passed unanimously 5:0.

Mayor Fouraker reported that the City received a Grant opportunity through Congressman Soto's Office for stormwater-related projects. Mayor Fouraker noted that he would circulate a draft letter for council and resident support on the initiative.

Mayor Fouraker attended a MetroPlan meeting. At the meeting, they asked for the opportunity to present an update on their initiatives to the Council. Mayor Fouraker said he signed up and that they would reach out to the city shortly.

Mayor Fouraker noted that P&Z Board Member Shenefelt contacted him regarding the new regulations on submitting Form 1. He noted that the board member is not comfortable with the reporting process. He said he would write to the governor and senator stating that the new process is invasive and creating an issue with volunteer boards—more discussion to follow later.

Mayor Fouraker reported that he and the City Manager have been “bicycle” riding around the City. They found a homeless camp behind Windsor Place south of Conway during the ride.

Mayor Fouraker spoke on an agenda item added on Friday to allow Comm Bobrowski to participate in the Centennial planning. He said the item was removed because it was inappropriate to discuss an item already discussed and voted on by the Council. After attending the tree-planting event, he reflected and asked the Council for discussion because the committee needed help. He asked the Council to reconsider allowing the Commissioner to finish the centennial Planning. If yes, he would like a motion or consensus to add to the agenda. Discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Lowell said it would be added to a future agenda for consideration if the council agrees. Comm Bobrowski discussed the request, apologized for misunderstanding the process, and asked for reconsideration.

Comm Partin shared his concern with the request. He agreed and understood that there was a need for Holly's help, which the Council recognized at the outset. He reminded Ms. Bobrowski that when she was appointed, Council said she could not serve on a Board—and she agreed. He noted that it is unfair to be placed in a position to change rules and guidelines when it benefits the city; where do we draw the line? Comm Carson agreed.

After further discussion, the Council consensus is that this was a moot issue.

11. Commissioners Report

- Comm Vertolli said he was canvassing his neighborhood and noticed Peacocks visiting the City. He asked if anyone could check that they were not nesting in the area.
- Comm Bobrowski thanked everyone who attended the tree-planting event. She would like to start a community clean-up project at Regal Park, and the Council to consider a resident recognition program for presentation at the Centennial event.
- Vice Mayor Lowell stated that some constituents complain that the airport noise is getting louder.
- Mayor Fouraker asked if the PD could place a cooler with water for the Crossing Guards during the summer days.

The Council thanked the staff and the PD for their service and wished Officer Mathews a quick recovery.

12. Adjournment

With no further business, Mayor Fouraker called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was unanimously approved at 8:05 p.m.