



CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL
CITY COUNCIL MEETING & SECOND BUDGET HEARING AND ADOPTION

Tuesday, September 17, 2024 * 6:30 PM

MINUTES

Present was:

District 1 – Commissioner – Frank Vertolli
District 2 – Commissioner – Holly Bobrowski
District 3 – Commissioner – Danny Otterbacher
District 4 Vice Mayor – Jason Carson
District 5 Commissioner – Beth Lowell
District 6 Commissioner – Stan Smith
District 7 Commissioner – Jim Partin

Absent was:

Mayor - Nicholas Fouraker

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum

Vice Mayor Carson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, and the Clerk confirmed quorum.

City Manager Rick Rudometkin, Attorney Dan Langley, Chief Grimm, Public Works Director Phil Price, and Clerk Heidi Peacock were also present.

2. Invocation and Pledge to Flag

Comm Vertolli gave the invocation and led the Pledge to the Flag.

Vice Mayor Carson announced that Mayor Fouraker could not attend and asked for a motion for an excused absence.

Comm Otterbacher moved to excuse Mayor Fouraker.

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

3. Second Budget Hearing - FY 2024/2025 Budget

Vice Mayor Carson called for a motion to open the Budget Hearing and Adoption.

Comm Lowell moved to open the Budget Hering.

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

a. Budget Presentation - City Manager Rick Rudometkin

City Manager Rudometkin stated that the Council will approve the final Budget, millage rate, and 5-year CIP. He announced the rollback rate at 4.1428, generating the same property revenue as the prior year. The proposed millage rate is 4.4018, an increase of 6.25% over the rollback rate. The increase is to maintain the current level of service, inflation, and increased cost of Orange County Fire Services.

b. Council Discussion

Vice Mayor Carson opened for Council discussion. There being none, he closed the Council discussion.

c. Citizen Comments

Vice Mayor Carson opened for Citizen comments. There being none, he closed citizen comments.

d. Resolution 24-17 FY24-25 Adopting Final Millage Rate

Attorney Langley read Resolution 24-17 by title.

Comm Vertolli moved to adopt Resolution 24-17 as presented.

Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed upon roll call 6:0,

Lowell – aye

Smith – aye

Carson – aye

Otterbacher – aye

Vertolli – aye

Bobrowski – aye

e. Resolution 24-18 FY24-25 Adopting Final Budget

Attorney Langley read Resolution 24-18 by title.

Comm Bobrowski moved to adopt Resolution 24-18 as presented.

Comm Vertolli seconded the motion, which passed 6:0,

Comm Partin joined the meeting at 6:37 pm.

f. Resolution 24-19 FY24-25 Adopting Five-Year CIP

Attorney Langley read Resolution 24-19 by title.

Comm Bobrowski moved to adopt Resolution 24-19 as presented.

Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed 7:0,

There being no further business, Comm Vertolli moved to close the Second Budget Hearing. Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed 7:0.

4. Call the Regular City Council Meeting to Order

Vice Mayor Carson called for a motion to open the regular City Council meeting, which was unanimously approved.

5. Citizen Comments & Announcements

Vice Mayor Carson called for citizen comments; without public comment, he closed the citizen comments section.

3. Presentations

Comprehensive Plan First Reading & Consideration - Stephen Noto, RVi Planning

ORDINANCE NO. 24-03: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE TEXT OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO AMEND THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ELEMENT, CONSERVATION ELEMENT, HOUSING ELEMENT, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION ELEMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE ELEMENT, PUBLIC SCHOOLS FACILITIES ELEMENT, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT, PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS ELEMENT, AND TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT; AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND A SERIES OF MAPS WITHIN THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Attorney Langley read Ordinance 24-03 by title.

Stephen Noto, RVi Planning Consultant, gave a brief overview of the Comprehensive Plan. He noted that the introductory hearing to the City Council was held on August 6, 2024, and that tonight's vote is for the Transmittal of the proposed amendments to Florida Commerce. Mr. Noto respectfully requested approval to transmit the draft amendments to the City of Belle Isle Comprehensive Plan. He stated that they will have ten (10) business days to transmit the documents, which will be coordinated with staff with a potential adoption hearing shortly after January 1, 2025.

Comm Vertolli asked if the Council approves the plan as presented, if it is binding, or if the Council makes changes if needed after it is approved. Attorney Langley said it is binding but can be amended following the proper process for public notice. Comm Vertolli said he has concerns about the creation of Historic Housing Boards and does not feel it is necessary to go into that much depth. Mr. Noto said it is a recommended policy based on best practices. The Council can remove them if they feel they do not fit for the City.

Comm Vertolli moved to remove the language on page 37 related to creating a Historic Housing Board if the State does not require it.

Attorney Langley stated the motion to approve the Ordinance on First Reading and transmittal subject to the change indicated by Comm Vertolli to strike the language as requested.

Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed 4:3 with Comm Smith, Vice Mayor Carson, and Comm Partin voting no. Attorney Langley noted that an amendment can be made at the second reading.

7. Consent Items - na

8. Unfinished Business - na

9. New Business

Chief Grimm presented three items for Council consideration. He stated that the staff has created a new process before presenting items for Council approval, which includes a memo with the City Manager and Finance approval/comment.

a. Approval of PD K-9 Program

Chief Grimm noted that the handler and dog must undergo officer training. The motion will include the program's startup for one tracking bloodhound. For the first year, the handler will not receive additional pay for 24/25 and will allow for a \$25 pay period thereafter to be approved during the next budget cycle. There will be no compensation to other jurisdictions if the services of the bloodhounds are requested; it will be honored if available. Council discussed a multipurpose canine officer vs a tracking canine officer.

Comm Otterbacher moved to approve the K-9 Officer program.

Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 7:0.

b. Approval of PD AXOM Fleet 3-Camera System

Chief Grimm presented the sole source Axon 10-year Contract, which provides critical real-time awareness, mobile automatic license plate recognition, dual view cameras, live streaming, and other advanced capabilities to enhance public safety and officer effectiveness.

The Council asked the following,

- If the city was bound to the service during the 10-year contract. Chief Grimm said no, that the agreement guarantees the yearly fiscal amount, and that the City is not bound to the ten years of service.
- How many cameras would the city be using? Chief Grimm said the Agency would start with two at \$6,477.72 (dash cam, license plate readers, live stream, and storage); should the Agency need additional cameras, it will be the annual amount times the number of cameras used every year; approximately 14-16 vehicles for the department.
- The data is captured and stored in compliance with policy.
- The cameras are not owned and will be used contractually.

Comm Lowell moved to approve the PD Axon Fleet 3 Camera system.

Comm Partin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 7:0.

c. Annual Red Light Camera Report Requirements FSS 316.0083(4)(a)

Chief Grimm announced that new legislative requirements, effective July 1, 2024, outlined in Section 316.0083(4)(a), require the City to present an annual RLC report for Council approval to continue using the Red Light Camera.

Comm Vertolli moved to approve the continued use and renewal of red-light cameras within the jurisdiction, as outlined in the annual Red-Light Camera report, pursuant to Section 316.0083(4)(a) of the Florida Statutes.

Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 7:0.

8. Attorney's Report - na

9. City Manager's Report

City Manager Rudometkin gave a brief overview and provided a copy of his task list for review.

He briefly spoke on

- Reminded Council of the Oct 15th Council meeting to discuss the condemnation order for the Arajo property.
- CM Rudometkin stated that the GOAA meeting scheduled for tonight was canceled without notice and will provide the Council with an update once he has more information.
- Awaiting a response from Publix regarding annexation.
- Currently reviewing two parts of the environmental study for the property on Judge.
- Connecting with Congressman Soto's office on the Daetwyler Grant funds
- Awaiting for CCA carve out of the Lancaster House approval at their next Board meeting.

a. Chief's Report

Chief Grimm reported,

- Boat ramps were closed due to high water. Residents can call the Agency to get boats in/out of the Lake for service.
- Officer Matthews is on the way to recovery; he continues to work on light duty until clearance.

b. Public Works Report

Phil Price reported,

- Trimble Park's aeration system has been replaced.
- Continuing sidewalk repair schedule

10. Mayor's Report - na

11. Commissioners Report

- Comm Smith asked if the home on Arajo is in default on its mortgage. Attorney Langley stated there is no way of knowing that now. He further noted that one of the mortgage companies is no longer in existence.
- City Manager Rudometkin summarized the NAV meeting and spoke briefly on the lake levels and managing the weir. After discussion, the Council consensus was to have a workshop on October 1st from 5:30 pm-6:30 pm to discuss the weir.

12. Adjournment

With no further business, Vice Mayor Carson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was unanimously approved at 7:43 pm.