



## CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL CITY COUNCIL MEETING -

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 \* 6:30 PM  
**MINUTES**

Present was:

Nicholas Fouraker, Mayor  
District 4 Commissioner – Jason Carson  
District 5 Commissioner – Beth Lowell  
District 6 Commissioner – Stan Smith  
District 7 Commissioner – Jim Partin

Absent was:

District 1 - OPEN  
District 2 - OPEN  
District 3 - 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.

Also present were City Manager Rick Rudometkin, Attorney Langley, Chief Grimm, City Planner Raquel Lozano, and City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno.

### 2. Invocation and Pledge to Flag

Vice Mayor Beth Lowell gave the invocation and led the Pledge to the flag.

### 3. Welcome City Manager Rick Rudometkin

Mayor Fouraker and the Council welcomed City Manager Rick Rudometkin.

Mayor Fouraker recognized Holly Bobrowski for her leadership in the Special Events Committee and for putting together the holiday events for the city.

### 4. Presentation

a. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services - Lenora Spence

City Manager Rudometkin said Ms. Spence was unavailable to attend and would be rescheduled for a later date.

### 5. Consent Items

a. Approval for Posting Belle Isle Commissioner Vacancies - Districts 1, 2 and 3

b. **RESOLUTION NO. 24-01** - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THE MAYOR AS SIGNATORIES ON THE CITY CHECKING ACCOUNTS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

c. Approval of Declaration of Surplus Items

City Manager Rudometkin said items on the consent agenda are considered routine, have been vetted, and do not require discussion. A Commissioner can pull an item if further discussion is needed.

**Vice Mayor Lowell moved to approve consent agenda items (a, b, and c) as presented.**

**Comm Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

### 6. Citizen's Comments

Mayor Fouraker called for citizen comments.

- Holly Bobrowski, residing at 2400 Hoffner Avenue, spoke on Form 6 and its impact on local governments in Florida. She said she does not see the Form requirement as a negative but as an opportunity to streamline our government. She stated that larger cities have fewer commissioners for a population larger than Belle Isle and asked the Council to consider reducing the Council to five Commissioners instead of seven and having all seats elected at large.
- Gary Meloon, residing at 601 Matchett Road, spoke briefly on the proposed Police Boat Ramp and asked what the proposed land use designation would be and if the ramp would be open to the public.

Mayor Fouraker noted that after speaking with the City Manager, he said he would like to make some changes to agenda items and change Citizen Comments to Public Comments moving forward. There being no further comments, Mayor Fouraker closed citizen comments.

## 7. Unfinished Business

### a. Discussion and Approval of PD Boat Dock

Chief Grimm stated that the Council consensus narrowed the location to Wallace Field. Staff had spoken to the surrounding neighbors regarding the proposed plan, and they favored it if the city built a quality product. In response to the public comment, he said the dock would not be open to the public and would only be used by City staff. He noted that this location is advantageous because it is in the middle of the lakes and agreed upon by all the Council. The city boats in the water are the most important to allow the Agency to respond accordingly. The City budgeted ARPA Funds to fund the project, and he asked for Council approval to move forward with a Request for Proposal.

Mayor Fouraker stated that the Council held several workshops to discuss the proposed location. The Clerk compiled Council comments, and one of the reasons Wallace Field was attractive is because the City already owns the land and lowers the project cost to move forward.

City Manager Rudometkin commented that it is a great location and allows much-needed access to the lake for the Police Department.

The Council asked if access to other agencies would be allowed. Chief Grimm said yes if needed, and other emergency and law enforcement agencies would be allowed to use the ramp.

**Comm Partin moved to direct the City Manager to obtain an official property survey and submit a Request for Proposal for the Belle Isle Police Dock at the Wallace Beach Easement location and move forward with a property survey and RFP.**

**Vice Mayor Lowell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 4:0.**

## 8. New Business

### a. Appointment to Vision Zero Action Plan Working Group

City Manager Rudometkin said in a meeting with the City consultants regarding the Vision Zero Action Plan, they requested a stakeholder group consisting of two citizens, a Commissioner, and a staff member. This is not a formal appointment but informational. After the meeting, he asked the Council to let him know if they would like to participate in the stakeholders group.

Vice Mayor Lowell asked if a vote comes before the Council, should the Council be attending the stakeholder's group to excuse themselves from the vote? City Manager Rudometkin said no, it was an information visionary discussion, and he did not believe it would cause a conflict. Attorney Langley recommended that only one commissioner be selected for the discussion.

**9. Attorney's Report** – No report.

**10. City Manager's Report**

City Manager Rudometkin said he is reviewing upcoming procedural changes with staff and has enjoyed meeting staff and residents. He is reviewing the location and buildout of a City complex, annexation, and the upcoming Centennial and will have it on a workshop agenda for discussion.

Mayor Fouraker invited the Council and suggested walking around the City after 90 days to meet the community and introduce the City Manager.

a. Chief's Report

Chief Grimm gave a STAT report on 405 arrests and 3300 tickets and is in the process of completing the selection of the Officer of the Year award to be presented at a meeting in March.

b. Public Works Report

City Manager Rudometkin gave a brief progress update on Cross Lake and sidewalk active projects, software programs for consistency, and city hall landscaping updates.

**11. Mayor's Report**

Mayor Fouraker spoke on the following,

- He gave a brief on the TAC Committee openings and said they would be discussed at the next meeting for review. He noted that he would not be available on February 6<sup>th</sup> and asked the Vice Mayor to lead the meeting.
- Mayor Fouraker said he has received calls on recent tree removals in the City and would like to discuss reactivating the Tree Board and review tree removal and replacement standards. The Council briefly noted the lack of response of volunteers to fill open seats on Committees.
- Mayor Fouraker announced that he and the city manager are working with Senator Soto's office on a Lake Improvement grant opportunity and have scheduled a meeting to discuss further.
- He asked for Council consideration to schedule a reception to thank the four Commissioners for their years of service.
- Mayor Fouraker announced the 3-open Council seats and welcomed residents to apply. With Council approval, he said he would like to hold a small celebration for the four outgoing Commissioners to thank them for their years of service and give them a small token of appreciation.

**12. Items from Council**

- The Council briefly spoke on Form 6.
- Comm Partin thanked Mr. Price for completing the sidewalks at Windsor Place. He addressed some issues regarding overnight parking at Belle Isle Commons. The PD staff have been working with them to curtail the nuisance.
- Comm Partin reminded the Council of the upcoming meeting in the City of Edgewood and asked that the Clerk post accordingly.

**13. Adjournment**

With no further business, Mayor Fouraker called for a motion to adjourn.

The motion passed unanimously at 8:10 pm.