



CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, April 02, 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 6 Commissioner – Stan Smith
District 7 Commissioner – Jim Partin

Absent was:

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.

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 Partin, District 7

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

3. Swear In Ceremony

- a. Swear In - Incumbent District 5 Commissioner Beth Lowell
- b. Swear In - Incumbent District 6 Commissioner Stan Smith
- c. Swear In - District 1 Commissioner Frank Vertolli
- d. Swear In - District 2 Commissioner Holly Bobrowski

Mayor Fouraker swore in Commissioners: Incumbent Beth Lowell-District 5 Commissioner; Incumbent Stan Smith-District 3 Commissioner; Candidate Frank Vertolli, District 1 Commissioner; and Candidate Holly Bobrowski-District 2 Commissioner.

4. Public Comments & Announcements

Mayor Fouraker opened for public comment.

There being no public comment, Mayor Fouraker closed the public comment section.

5. Consent Items

- a. At-Large Appointment of Tree Advisory Board Members

Comm Partin moved to approve the consent items as presented.

Vice Mayor Lowell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously at 6:0.

6. Unfinished Business – There were no Unfinished Business items to present.

7. New Business

- a. Approval to Submit RFP 24-02 Landscape Maintenance for Bid

City Manager Rudometkin presented RFP 24-02 for Council consideration. He noted that the contract with the current vendor, Trimac, had been terminated due to poor performance. Mr. Price noted they were consistently understaffed and not fulfilling their obligation in many areas.

Comm Bobrowksi asked for clarification on why the Windsor Place Ponds are the only ones mowed by the City. Public Works Director Phil Price said that the ponds in Windsor Place were not deeded to the HOA upon annexation and are owned by the City. The City Council asked if the department was staffed to accommodate the additional work. Mr. Price said the City staff will take care of all the mowing sites until a vendor has been selected.

Vice Mayor Lowell moved to have staff move forward with RFP 24-02 for Landscape Services. Jason Carson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously at 6:0.

b. **Review and Discuss Centennial Survey Results**

City Manager Rudometkin presented the Survey Monkey results for the Centennial logo and slogan. He provided the top two logos and slogans from the survey for ease of reference. He recommends approval of the logo and slogan that received the top vote, including the logo with the heron and the Celebrate Belle Isle slogan.

Comm Bobrowksi said that after reading some of the remarks, she asked if the Council would like to add 1924-2024 to the Centennial logo. Mr. Rudometkin said that, in his opinion, it should remain as presented.

After discussion, Comm Bobrowksi moved to approve the Logo with the Heron and the Celebrate Belle Isle slogan for the Centennial celebration.

Comm Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously at 6:0.

8. Attorney's Report – No report.

9. City Manager's Report

City Manager Rudometkin said the Easter Event was well-attended. He added that he is working on grant information, a work plan (issues log), and a Comp Plan and Vision Plan initiative that will be presented at the April 16th meeting.

a. Chief's Report

Chief Grimm gave PD Stats 177 citations, 162 warnings, 6 DUIs, 69 reports, eight trespasses, and 45 marine citations. Officer Bausch and Officer Shaffer are the designated Marine Patrol officers; however, a few are certified if needed. Spring Break was busy and went without any incidents. School traffic patterns changed, and there was not much of an effect. He attended the Chief's training, which was very informative, and thanked the Council for their support.

Comm Partin asked about Golf cart traffic for pick-up and drop-off at the school. Chief Grimm said it was discontinued because it may be a safety hazard and may be revisited after the spring break. Chief Grimm said the traffic pattern will change during the construction phases.

b. Public Works Report

Phil Price reported that the staff will continue with the sidewalk project. He further noted that a large portion of the stormwater lining project has been accomplished, and staff will continue to work on funding the smaller piped areas. Mr. Price reported that the OC repair on the lift station will take approximately four months to complete. The County is communicating with the City and providing updates.

c. Planner Report - Comp Plan Update

City Manager Rudometkin gave an update on the Comp Plan initiative. He noted that he would provide an in-depth report when the planner returns from vacation on April 16th.

Comm Smith said it is important for the city's future that this Comp Plan is executed correctly. He noted a few required steps in the process. He asked if the city had responded to the missed reporting deadline and who would write the septic-to-sewer report. Mr. Rudometkin said the staff had recently submitted a letter in response and that he believed the consultant would be writing the report. Comm Smith also asked who would be writing the Goals, Objectives, and Policies for the vision of the City for Council review. Mr. Rudometkin said he would research answers to the questions before the meeting on April 16th.

Comm Smith said someone in the City must work with them hand-in-hand to ensure they capture the city's needs. Mr. Rudometkin said the consultants will create a report incorporating the feedback from staff and present it to staff for review.

10. Mayor's Report

- Mayor Fouraker said he was invited to the City staff meeting and covered a few subjects, i.e., Comp Plan, ARPA Funds, and Budget. He noted that starting budget meetings/workshops is important because they are tied to the Council's (GOP's) goals.
- The Easter event was a nice event, and congratulated the Committee for their efforts.
- Mayor Fouraker said he attended the meeting scheduled by Comm Uribe re Noise. Comm Lowell reported that they addressed traffic and noise. They gave STATs on crime and how they manage the quadrants. She believes they understand the issues, which is a work in progress. They impressed upon calling the non-emergency number for calls unless there is an imminent threat because they are short-staffed and may have a delay in response.

Mayor Fouraker said he received feedback and said they would have liked to see the Belle Isle PD present. Chief Grimm said this is an Orange County initiative and will work with them. Mayor Fouraker spoke on the limitations of their Dispatch and opened for Council discussion later. Chief Grimm said that it was brought up during the Chief's meeting and that he would like to have discussions in the future.

11. Commissioners Report

- Comm Lowell announced the Recycling Event on Saturday, April 6th. She further noted that summer is around the corner, and donations of water and Gatorade are welcomed at the Police Department.
- Comm Smith asked for an update on the additional items requested by the Council at the last meeting and asked how he can add them to the agenda for discussion. Mr. Rudometkin said he did not have the time to provide the information and will have it available at the next meeting on April 16th.

Mayor Fouraker said an issues log could be added to the packet but was fearful that it would take up a lot of the meeting time. If the Council wants to discuss an item, it can be addressed. Comm Smith said yes; however, if it is not on the agenda, the Council cannot discuss it.

- Comm Partin asked if the staff will move forward with a workshop once a month; if we do, it would be a good time to discuss the issues log. City Manager Rudometkin said that, unless otherwise decided, we may have limited workshops due to budget discussion.

12. Adjournment

With no further business, Mayor Fouraker called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was unanimously approved at 8:15 pm.