



Fort Myers Beach Management & Planning Session

Council Chambers
2525 Estero Blvd.
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Minutes

Thursday, May 6, 2021

9:00 AM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

FINAL

I. CALL TO ORDER

Members present: Mayor Murphy, Vice Mayor Hosafros, Council Member Allers, Council Member Atterholt and Council Member Veach.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Lee County Department of Transportation (LDOT) Project Manager Rob Phelan stated that most of the Estero Blvd. construction should be finished by the end of the year. He discussed ongoing construction and the timeline for the remainder of the project. Kaye Molnar, President of Cella Molnar & Associates, indicated that they were working on finalizing an overview of the project.

A. Preliminary budget discussion of headcount and equipment

FY 2021 budget and preliminary discussion for planning of FY22 budget including service priorities.

Town Manager Hernstadt reported that personnel and equipment would be stable. He encouraged Council Members to submit items for the add-on list so they could be priced out under the current millage rate. He noted that the gas tax went down during the pandemic. Interim Finance Director Craig Steinhoff added that he thought there might be misclassifications between the general fund and the gas tax fund. He stated that he would follow up and report back. Council Member Atterholt questioned the number under stormwater. Interim Director Steinhoff replied that he would investigate and report back. He indicated they preliminarily expected an increase in revenue from assessed valuations. Town Manager Hernstadt felt there would be an increase of approximately 2-3%.

Interim Director Steinhoff anticipated a final draft of the audit by the end of the month. Town Manager Hernstadt explained the delay.

Vice Mayor Hosafros requested a revamp of the shade tree program to encourage homeowners to plant shade trees on their property. She received consensus to discuss the program. Council Member Veach received consensus to add the workforce housing initiative to a future M&P Session.

Council Member Atterholt proposed adding two deputies for community policing at the cost of \$112,644.71 per deputy if the Town determined that there was a need. He suggested it could be a pilot program for a year. He received support to add it to a future M&P Session. Council Member Allers stated that the PSC was working on details and recommendations for Town Council regarding the need for community policing. He suggested that they be proactive and discuss adding a line item for lighting at a future M&P Session. Mayor Murphy commented that they should wait to get the numbers from the lighting consultant and bids before deciding which way they wanted to proceed.

B. Discussion regarding Upland Service(s) Options

Discussion regarding Upland Service(s) Options.

Town Manager Hernstadt indicated that they were investigating potential locations with assistance from Coastal Engineering. He reported that Moss Marine was not interested in being the upland service provider at this time. He noted they were looking at county-owned land on San Carlos Island, canals around Town Hall, and temporary trailers under the bridge. The public right-of-way on Virginia Ave. was being researched for limitations. Vice Mayor Hosafros stated that the AAC (Anchorage Advisory Committee) researched Virginia Ave. and residents did not want a business on their street. Council Member Veach discussed the advantages of using the canal behind Town Hall and expanding the building to add storage. He noted that boaters could use the amenities at Bay Oaks. Town Attorney Herin, Jr. reminded Council Members that no new public restrooms were allowed unless they were replacements. Mayor Murphy noted that their options seemed to be limited to San Carlos Island and under the bridge. Town Manager Hernstadt brought up a proposal from a property owner. Vice Mayor Hosafros found the condo proposal difficult to understand due to the conflict with public restrooms. Town Attorney Herin, Jr. discussed ownership of the bottom of the canal behind Town Hall. He noted a corporation claimed ownership of the bottom of the canal and users would have to pay them a fee to build and maintain a dock. Council Member Allers stated that a property owner on Tropical Shores Way spent over \$20,000.00 in legal fees to gain access to keep their dock.

C. HOA Beach Accesses

Update of maintaining HOA Beach Accesses

Town Manager Hernstadt reported that they would send letters to the HOAs regarding their responsibility to maintain the accesses and whether they would turn their beach access over to the Town. Vice Mayor Hosafros noted changes to some HOA ownerships and described encroachment by one. She stated that the Sandpiper Village HOA no longer existed. Town Manager Hernstadt will report back after receiving information from the HOAs. He noted that Communications Coordinator Jennifer Dexter would disseminate the information. Town Attorney Herin, Jr. stated he would do preliminary research concerning legal aspects. Council Member Allers supported Town Manager Hernstadt's approach. Town Manager Hernstadt stated that staff would mark the newly discovered Town-owned beach access and notify neighbors of the Town's position. Council Member Veach suggested that the access on Anchorage be researched. Town Attorney Herin, Jr. agreed.

D. Rodent & Iguana Control

Rodent & Iguana Control

Council Member Veach described the process of trapping iguanas on Marco Island. He noted that property owners contacted the town to remove the iguanas. Town Manager Hernstadt questioned how Council Members wanted to proceed. Council Member Atterholt questioned whether surrounding communities had a rat removal program. Town Manager Hernstadt replied that they could contact firms to help with both issues. Vice Mayor Hosafros suggested adding \$20,000.00 to the budget to help remove iguanas. She noted that they did not have as many feral cats anymore.

Council Member Allers was not comfortable with the Town getting involved in elimination services. Mayor Murphy suggested targeting rat nests in infested neighborhoods. Town Manager Hernstadt agreed that they could send letters to properties where rats were out of control. He noted that Coordinator Dexter released information regarding the issue. Council Member Veach suggested listing vegetation that attracted rats and iguanas. Council Member Atterholt suggested that Environmental Services Project Manager Chadd Chustz investigate rat policies in neighboring communities. Vice Mayor Hosafros agreed.

IV. AGENDA MANAGEMENT

A. May 2021 Agenda Management

Add the workforce housing initiative to an M&P.

Add a discussion about the community policing concept to an M&P for discussion and include a location for the Outreach Center.

Council Member Atterholt requested adding a discussion about informing the community which projects required permits.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Minutes adopted, June 7, 2021; Motion by Vice Mayor Hosafros and seconded by Council Member Veach. Passed 5-0.



Amy Baker, Town Clerk