



**MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020, 6:00 P.M.**

Pursuant to proper notice, a Regular City Council Meeting of the City Council of the City of Neptune Beach was held on Monday, May 4, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., by Communications Media Technology, pursuant to Governor Executive Order Number 20-69, issued on March 20, 2020 and extended by Governor Executive Order Number 20-112, issued on April 29, 2020.

Attendance:**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mayor Elaine Brown
Vice Mayor Fred Jones
Councilor Kerry Chin
Councilor Scott Wiley
Councilor Josh Messinger

STAFF:

City Manager Stefen Wynn
City Attorney Zachary Roth
Police Chief Richard Pike
Public Works Director Leon Smith
Deputy Public Works Director Megan George
Community Development Director Kristina Wright
Senior Center Director Leslie Lyne
Grant and Resiliency Coordinator Colin Moore
City Clerk Catherine Ponson

Call to Order/Roll Call

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes

Made by Wiley, seconded by Messinger.

MOTION:

**TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:
April 20, 2020, Regular Virtual City Council Meeting**

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: 5- Chin, Messinger, Wiley, Jones, and Brown.
Noes: 0

MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Report

City Manager Wynn reported the following:

- Executive Order 20-112, issued on April 29, 2020, includes Phase 1, Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step Plan for Florida's recovery. This includes restaurants being open with 25% occupancy. Beaches are also open with no time restrictions but only for essential activities.

- An Integrated Fixed Film Activated Sludge (IFAS) Repair and Cleaning took place at Public Works. The debris that was collected filled a 20-yard dumpster. This work was done in-house.
- The Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements are underway. An RFQ process was conducted and the firm of J. Collins Engineering and Associates was chosen.
- The A1A Drainage Project is on schedule for completion in the Fall of 2020.

Community
Development
Report

Community Development Director Kristina Wright gave an update on the Virtual Design Charette Series for the Community Vision Plan. She reviewed the phases of the plan and outlined the next steps and benchmarks, which included a draft of the Vision Plan in June and final presentation in July. The Comprehensive Plan update should be completed in December of this year. The third phase will involve the creation of a new Land Development Code, which will be in 2021. She added there could still be opportunities added for public participation.

Police Chief
Report

Police Chief Richard Pike reported that the daily unified command meetings are still taking place with the Emergency Operations Center and stakeholders present. They are given updates on COVID-19 cases. Testing lots are open to everyone. He reported there was a large number of people at the Beaches Town Center over the weekend. There are extra officers assigned to help out. They have also received a shipment of Personal Protection Equipment.

AWARDS / PRESENTATIONS / RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

TPO Presentation

Denise Bunnewith, Planning Director, North Florida Transportation Organization, reviewed the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Fiscal Years 2020/2021 through 2024/2025. The TIP identifies all publicly funded highway, transit and aviation projects within the North Florida TPO area which includes Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns Counties.

PUBLIC COMMENT / NONE

VARIANCES / SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS / DEVELOPMENT ORDERS / NONE

ORDINANCES / NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Emergency Rules
(Dogs on the
Beach)

Emergency Rules Regarding COVID-19 (Suspending Code Section 6-31(a)(2)), Dogs on the Beach. Mayor Brown stated that the beach would go back to standard dog regulations as the beach is now open at all hours. Dogs must still be on a leash and are only allowed from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Made by Chin, seconded by Jones.

MOTION:

TO RESCIND THE EMERGENCY ORDERS ALLOWING DOGS ON THE BEACH WHEN BEACH IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: 5-Messinger, Wiley, Chin, Jones, and Brown.

Noes: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution 2020-02, FDOT Maintenance Agreement

Resolution No. 2020-02, Authorizing City Manager to Execute and Deliver FDOT Maintenance Agreement for Atlantic Boulevard from the east end of the ICW Bridge to Florida Boulevard. City Manager Wynn explained that this is a renewal of an agreement with FDOT and the City for maintenance of rights-of-way from the ICW bridge up to Florida Boulevard on Atlantic Boulevard. The renewal is for three years. The pricing has been increased by 15%.

Made by Jones, seconded by Wiley.

MOTION: TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2020-02, AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER FDOT MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT FOR ATLANTIC BOULEVARD FROM THE EAST END OF THE ICW BRIDGE TO FLORIDA BOULEVARD

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: 5-Wiley, Chin, Messinger, Jones, and Brown.

Noes: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Neptune Beach Senior Activity Center

Neptune Beach Senior Activity Center. Mayor Brown explained there is a lot to talk about regarding the Senior Center and suggested discussing it at a workshop. Mr. Wynn updated the Council by reporting that the landlord for the current location at 450 Atlantic Boulevard has requested the \$3,000 rent payment for May. Mr. Wynn also recommended having this discussion at the workshop in two weeks. He stated that the goal would be to vacate the building and store everything until the Center can reopen. The executive orders in place limit senior activity. Until those are removed, we should vacate that area and look at a short-term solution.

Councilor Wiley suggested that discussion should be held between the landlord, Alan Dickinson, and the City before the workshop. He also proposed finding out what kind of timeframe there is for the opening of Senior Centers based on the phases for reopening Florida.

Senior Center Director Leslie Lyne stated she is looking forward to letting her members know when and where they are going to open. She thanked Alan Dickinson for being so gracious to have had the Senior Center use his facility.

CONSENSUS: MOVE THIS DISCUSSION FORWARD TO THE MAY 18, 2020, COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Resolution No. 2020-03, Approve Selection for RFQ, 19-02, Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion

Resolution No. 2020-03, Approve Selection for RFQ 19-02, Wastewater Treatment Plan Expansion Services. City Attorney Zachary Roth explained that Council would need to approve the recommendation of the selection committee for RFQ 19-02, Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion.

Mr. Roth confirmed Vice Mayor Jones' inquiry that this would be to award RFQ 19-02 to J. Collins Associates pursuant to the recommendation of the committee. It is not allocating any specific number as that has been handled through the budgeting process.

Mr. Roth continued that there were two parties that responded to the RFQ. The committee, consisting of the Public Works Director, Deputy Public Works Director and City Engineer, reviewed them and made a selection. Councilor Messinger requested those documents be sent to him for his review.

Made by Chin, seconded by Jones.

MOTION: **TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2020-03, AWARDED RFQ 19-02 TO J. COLLINS AND ASSOCIATES, LLC**

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: 5-Chin, Messinger, Wiley, Jones, and Brown.

Noes: 0

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comment

Sharon Jachem, 1716 Strand Street, Neptune Beach, spoke regarding the protocol for responding to residents or business people who contact a member of Council or administrative staff. She also addressed the issue of natural gas lines in Neptune Beach.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Messinger commented that he wanted to touch on the building department and specifically looking at bringing in a building inspector back in-house. The firm the City has hired is on a month-to-month contract and their fees have risen by over 50% since we started using their services. He added they are not doing their job adequately. He stated this is a good opportunity to bring this back in-house.

Councilor Messinger mentioned that the gas line item had been brought up in the past and with stormwater improvements taking place this would be a good opportunity to look at this issue. He thanked Mayor Brown for the meetings with Chief Pike, Mr. Wynn, and City staff for their hard work during this time.

Vice Mayor Jones also thanked the Mayor and staff that is engaged in the process of getting information to the public. He also asked about the demolition of 1229 Forest Oaks. Mr. Roth answered that he had been in contact with the owner's attorney and he had reached out to his client. The same day, the owner reached out to Code Enforcement.

Vice Mayor Jones added that the lot split had been granted and it is now a matter of public safety.

Councilor Wiley asked if there was a diagram for the proposal of the intersection of Atlantic Boulevard and Third Street. Mr. Wynn stated that there had not been anything decided and FDOT was waiting on public input.

Councilor Chin commented that he noticed that the beach accesses are getting heavily planted in such a way that the corner of visibility is being obstructed. There are also fire hydrants that are totally obstructed with vegetation. He is hoping that moving forward this can be looked at.

Mayor Brown closed with asking everyone to continue doing what they are being asked by the Governor and Mayor Curry. There is still a lot of danger out there and please be thoughtful and help one another.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.


Elaine Brown, Mayor

Attest:


Catherine Ponson, CMC
City Clerk

Approved: 6-1-2020

