



**MINUTES
VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION
COVID-19 STATUS UPDATE
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020, AT 6:00 P.M.**

Pursuant to proper notice, a Roundtable City Council Meeting of the City Council of the City of Neptune Beach was held on Thursday, March 26, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. by Communications Media Technology, pursuant to Governor Executive Order Number 20-69, issued on March 20, 2020.

Attendance

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

STAFF:

City Manager Stefen Wynn
City Attorney Zach Roth
Police Chief Richard Pike
Commander Gary Snyder
Commander Michael Key
Finance Director Peter Kajokas
Deputy Public Works Director Megan George
City Clerk Catherine Ponson

**Call to
Order/Pledge of
Allegiance**

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

Status Update

Mayor Brown welcomed everyone to the first virtual City Council Roundtable meeting. She stated she wanted the citizens to have as much information as they can and to stay in touch with elected officials.

City Manager Stefen Wynn stated that the purpose of the roundtable is to give Council and residents an update on what the City has been doing in response to the COVID-19 emergency. He reviewed the executive orders from the state and local level. He added that there is a "chat" function available as the meeting progresses.

City Attorney Zachary Roth explained that the law requires an in-person quorum. Governor Executive Order 20-69, issued on March 20, 2020, essentially waived that requirement due to the state of emergency. He stressed that it does not waive the Sunshine Law and every effort will be made to meet those requirements.

Mr. Wynn stated that as of March 20, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., the beaches are closed. Walkways and trails are open in the parks, however, amenities are closed. Restaurants are open for takeout and delivery only. Vulnerable populations are encouraged to stay home and remote working has been activated.

Mayor Brown reported that Beaches Mayors, the CDC (Center for Disease Control), the health department, and the Chiefs of Police are all working together and in constant dialogue.

Chief of Police Richard Pike reported there is a daily unified command meeting with local and state health departments, and the Jacksonville EOC. They have placed extra patrols at grocery stores. City events have been cancelled through July 4th.

Council Discussion Councilor Chin thanked City staff for maintaining a decent level of service during this time. He also thanked City staff that can't work from home, such as public works and the police department. He asked Chief Pike how often he was running patrols at public spaces such as the park and the beachfront.

Chief Pike answered that the patrols were constant and the officers on duty check several times on their shift.

Councilor Messinger thanked the City Manager and staff for being proactive and responsive. He is grateful and appreciative for the leadership.

Mayor Brown thanked the Councilmembers and City staff. She also thanked City Attorney Zachary Roth. She stated everyone has played a role in keeping the public informed.

Vice Mayor Jones commended Mr. Wynn's responsiveness in seeing that the regular order of business continues.

Question Nicole de Venoge asked if there was way to do an early morning or late afternoon opening of the beach.

Mayor Brown stated that they could not take the chance of hundreds and thousands of people coming to the beach. It can't be done without control. Safety is at the top of the list. Chief Pike agreed and added that it would be difficult to enforce and works against everything being done to limit contact.

City Services/ Projects Mr. Wynn reviewed the ongoing projects that the City is working on. These include the East Coast Greenway, Beaches Town Center/Atlantic Boulevard Improvements, Stormwater Improvements east of Third Street, Park Improvements and the Florida Boulevard Culvert Improvements.

Mr. Wynn continued that the Community Vision Plan with Dover, Kohl & Partners (DKP) may have to use a virtual platform. That would help engage more residents for a longer period of time. He and Community Development Director Kristina Wright recommend moving forward with the project using this platform.

Question Pat Hazouri asked how the City would keep the citizens updated on the stormwater improvements east of Third, where are the Florida Boulevard Culvert Improvements located and how will we learn of the DKP next steps. He stated that the purpose of this meeting was to let everyone know that the stormwater improvements are still being worked on. The Florida Boulevard Culvert Improvements are next to Jarboe Park. It is the culvert that goes underneath the road. Mr. Wynn added that citizens would be kept involved in the DKP process.

Vision Plan Community Development Director Kristina Wright stated that Luiza Leite with DKP has stated that the email distribution list will be kept up to date. Ms. Wright added that the virtual platform would have a menu-based approach and would include everyone from school age children to residents in the community.

Ms. Leite explained that DKP has a lot of tools they have been working with to engage people online and they are excited to roll those out. She reported that they would have updated communication sent out that would explain how that process would work.

**Fiscal Impact
Analysis**

Ms. Wright stated that she would provide an overview of the Fiscal Impact Analysis Model that the Northeast Regional Council (NERFC) and Nassau County are allowing the City to use at no cost.

Ms. Wright pointed out that the Fiscal Impact Analysis Model is used to measure how planning decisions affect the bottom line. This will be beneficial to the City to have a thorough analysis and measurement tool to complement the Visioning and Comprehensive Planning process. The analysis is a tool that can be used in a multitude of ways to do planning either on the front end of development or as an evaluative tool. These analyses may also be helpful not only as leverage in planning and development discussions and negotiations, but also to determine how we can strengthen the resources of each department as related to the planning and development process. It can also uncover additional public sector resources.

Question

Shellie Thole questioned if there would be any announcements made on the City's Facebook page. Mr. Wynn answered that the City is on all social media platforms with the exception of Instagram and Snapchat. He also stated that the City has LinkedIn account.

Council Comments

Councilor Chin thanked City staff for all the work done during this time.

Councilor Messinger commented on what a great tool the Fiscal Impact Analysis is. He stated that it can't be underscored enough as the City starts to look at critical infrastructure and our parking program. The City can start utilizing data more efficiently. He thanked Mr. Wynn and his entire team for their work during this pandemic.

Vice Mayor Jones stated that the Fiscal Impact Analysis would be a game-changer when DKP brings options for development. He requested an example of how someone could provide input in real time during the virtual charettes.

Questions

Julie Stewart, Neptune Beach resident, asked since the beaches are closed, is it safe for groups of people to be riding bikes, walking their dogs, and running in small groups. Chief Pike answered as long as they stay six feet apart and keep moving, it should be fine.

Nicole de Venoge asked if the DKP recommendations would come out at one time or as they are realized and is there an order of priority for projects.

Ms. Leite stated there would be lots of opportunities for the public to see the recommendations as they are done. As a starter, the virtual charette would allow the work to be seen as it is being produced. They would have a draft presentation of all of the recommendations and the actual Community Vision Plan, and there would be a comment period for that draft version as well. There would be plenty of opportunities to see the recommendations in pieces while they are building the whole plan.

Ms. Leite continued that there are a couple of projects that they have been asked to look at in the short term because they are active public improvements being explored by the City of Jacksonville, Duval County. Improvements for First Street and Third Street as well as the intersection of Penman Road and Florida Boulevard are big priorities.

**Mayor
Comments**

Mayor Brown commented that we need to take care of and help one another. She added that the most important thing that we will take away from this is how well everyone did to help each other and make sure that we help to make a difference in making this virus go away as fast as we possibly could.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the virtual roundtable meeting adjourned at 7:01. p.m.


Elaine Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:


Catherine Ponson, CMC
City Clerk



Approved: 4-20-2020