

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, HELD IN THE CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 100 NORTH U.S. #1, FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, AT 6:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, **SEPTEMBER 08, 2020.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hudson called the September 08, 2020 Regular Meeting of the City Commission to order at 6:00 PM.

2. OPENING PRAYER - Reverend Ellis E. Brust, St. Andrews Episcopal Church

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Linda Hudson; Commissioner Rufus Alexander; Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson; Commissioner Thomas Perona; Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Staff Present: City Clerk Linda Cox
City Manager Nicholas Mimms
City Attorney Peter Sweeney

Commissioner Alexander was present by telephone.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Approval of Minutes from August 17, 2020 Regular Meeting

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas Perona, seconded by Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2020 Regular Meeting.

AYE: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Rufus Alexander, Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Commissioner Thomas Perona, Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Passed

6. PROCLAMATIONS

- a. Hunger Action Month Proclamation
- b. Constitution Week Proclamation being received by Linda Gallup.
- c. Suicide Prevention Awareness Month
- d. Proclamation recognizing Jeremy Pittman, Jr.

7. LETTERS TO COMMISSION

- a. Letter from Gary L. Robinson, Unit Manager, Staff Inspections/Accreditation Professional Compliance Bureau, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office commending Mr. Akeem Johnson, Accreditation Manager, for his professionalism and exceptional representation of the Fort Pierce Police Department as a member of the Florida Gulf Coast University Police Department accreditation on-site assessment team.
- b. Thank you note from Joan Friedman, Executive Director and Holly Theuns, Grants and Marketing Manager, thanking Public Works Department employees: Troy Hall, Chris Dimaiio, Michael Amelca and Jose Sanchez for removing a fallen tree so that Heathcote Botanical Gardens could reopen to the public.
- c. Letter from Hortense Spivey, Hortense/ Mills Memorial Funeral Home, thanking Fort Pierce Investigator Clark and the Police Officers, who assisted with picking up the deceased from a residence, for their professionalism and compassion shown to the family.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS NOT REQUIRING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Any person who wishes to comment on an agenda item which is not under Public Hearings on the Agenda may be heard at this time and must sign up to speak in advance. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes or less, as directed by the Mayor, as this section of the Agenda is limited to thirty minutes. The City Commission will not be able to take any official actions under Comments from the Public. Speakers will address the Mayor, Commissioners, and the Public with respect. Inappropriate language will not be tolerated.

No comments.

9. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

City Clerk Linda Cox received a request from the applicant to postpone Item 12a to the September 21, 2020, City Commission Meeting.

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas Perona, seconded by Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson to approve and set the Agenda as amended.

AYE: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Rufus Alexander, Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Commissioner Thomas Perona, Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Passed

10. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

- a. Presentation by CEO, Will Armstead, and COO, Melanie Wiles, of the partnership efforts with the Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County.

Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County (BGC) CEO Will Armstead and COO Melanie Wiles gave a presentation on their current initiatives and future objectives. Mr. Armstead expressed his gratitude to the City Commission and Staff for their efforts and support with collaborative events which has benefited the community. Ms. Wiles discussed the immediate relief given to the community through the distribution of food, meals, and essentials to families in need. BGC also conducted welfare checks and distributed valuable COVID-19 information as well as providing 24/7 emergency childcare for essential workers. BGC provided educational support for the students who have chosen virtual learning; and, through a collaborative effort with local business was able to provide jobs for 156 teens.

- b. Presentation of Arts and Culture Advisory Board's recommendation to display donated 9/11 artifacts in a display case at the River Walk Center.

Ms. Holly Theuns from the Fort Pierce Arts & Culture Advisory Board presented a recommendation to the City Commission to purchase a display case to be located at River Walk Center which will display 9/11 artifacts including items from Ground Zero and Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The City Commission gave consensus to purchase the display case.

- c. Monthly Financial Report for the Month Ending July 31, 2020

Director of Finance Johnna Morris provided an overview of the Monthly Financial Report for period ending July 31, 2020. Ms. Morris summarized the Fund Evaluation Report for the General, Marina, Solid Waste, Golf Course, Sunrise Theatre, and Building and Code Funds.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve request by the Fort Pierce Police Department to accept an award from the Department of Justice (DOJ) Community Oriented Policing Hiring Grant (COPS-HR) in the amount of \$1,250,000.00 to hire 10 additional officers. The Department will modify the grant, once accepted, and utilize 50% of the original award to hire 5 officers. An email from the COPS Office is included explaining that the modification will be allowed.
- b. Approve acceptance of the AARP Community Challenge Grant and Memorandum of Understanding in the amount of \$10,000 to assist residents 55 years and older in obtaining access to laptop computers or tablets to assist in navigating online benefits and to provide socialization through the RICH (Resources In Community Hope) House in the Lincoln Park neighborhood specifically and beyond.
- c. Approval of traffic equipment purchase from Econolite Group Inc. of Jacksonville, FL in the amount of \$79,400.00.
- d. Approve awarding the bid for Property & Casualty Insurance, RFP #2020-027, to the Florida League of Cities thru Florida Municipal Insurance Trust (FMIT) in the amount of \$2,092,411.00 representing a savings of \$183,276.00.
- e. Approve award of Banking Services RFP #2020-005 to Center State Bank.
- f. Approve of Florida Housing Finance Corporation Subrecipient Agreement to receive Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) allocation in the amount of \$183,812.00.

Motion was made by Commissioner Reginald Sessions, seconded by Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson to approve items 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e and 11f.

AYE: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Rufus Alexander, Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Commissioner Thomas Perona, Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Passed

12. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Any Public Comment on these Public Hearing items, if not being offered in person, should be submitted by noon on the day of the meeting using the Sworn Public Comment Form which is available on the city's website at:

<http://www.cityoffortpierce.com/DocumentCenter/View/8741/Sworn-Public-Comment-for-Public-Hearings>

- a. POSTPONED TO 9/21/2020 MEETING AT REQUEST OF APPLICANT. Quasi-Judicial Hearing - Review and approval of an application for Final Plat, submitted by Property Owner and Applicant, Lennar Homes, Inc., to subdivide approximately 23.32 acres of land for a portion of a Planned Unit Development lying in Section 7, Township 35 South, Range 40 East, City of Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County, Florida, being a replat of Tract "B-2," Bent Creek Master Plat, as recorded in Plat Book 47, Pages 9 through 14, Public Records of St. Lucie County, Florida. The property is zoned Planned Development (PD). Parcel ID: 2407-700-0026-000-2.
- b. Legislative Hearing - Ordinance 20-020 Amending Chapter 2, Police Officers Retirement/Pension Funds making appropriate changes to the Plan in order to maintain the Plan's tax qualified status. FIRST READING

City Clerk Linda Cox introduced the ordinance, read by title only, into the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-020

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA CHAPTER 2, ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE IV, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES, DIVISION 5, POLICE OFFICERS' RETIREMENT/PENSION FUNDS, SUBDIVISION II – POLICE OFFICERS' RETIREMENT TRUST FUND; BY AMENDING SECTION 2-383, ESTABLISHMENT, PURPOSE, EFFECTIVE DATE; AMENDING SECTION 2-393, REQUIRED DISTRIBUTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 2-397(d)(1), DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS THEREOF IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. FIRST READING.

City Attorney Peter Sweeney indicated that the Ordinance is being put forward at the request of the 185 Board to keep in compliance with current laws.

Mayor Hudson opened the Public Hearing. Seeing no one, Mayor Hudson closed the Public Hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas Perona, seconded by Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson to approve Ordinance No. 20-020.

AYE: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Rufus Alexander, Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Commissioner Thomas Perona, Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Passed

- c. Legislative Hearing - Ordinance 20-021 - extending the territorial limits of the City of Fort Pierce, to include a 1.50 acre unaddressed parcel abutting 3280 South 25th Street in Fort Pierce, Florida. SECOND READING

City Clerk Linda Cox introduced the ordinance, read by title only, into the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-021

AN ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE TERRITORIAL LIMITS OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, TO INCLUDE A 1.50 ACRE UNADDRESSED PARCEL ABUTTING 3280 SOUTH 25TH STREET IN FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA AND SHOWN ON EXHIBIT A; DIRECTING THE ST. LUCIE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER TO ASSESS SAID PROPERTY AND PLACE IT ON THE CITY TAX ROLLS AS OF JANUARY 1, 2021; DIRECTING THE ST. LUCIE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR TO COLLECT TAXES ON THE HEREIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY; ESTABLISHING THE ZONING DESIGNATION; ESTABLISHING THE LAND USE DESIGNATION; DIRECTING FILING OF THE ORDINANCE WITH THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY; DIRECTING REVISION OF THE CHARTER BOUNDARY ARTICLE TO BE FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND SUBMITTED TO THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. SECOND READING.

Mayor Hudson opened the Public Hearing. Seeing no one, Mayor Hudson closed the Public Hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Reginald Sessions to approve Ordinance No. 20-021.

AYE: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Rufus Alexander, Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Commissioner Thomas Perona, Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Passed

- d. Legislative Hearing - Ordinance 20-022 - Amending Chapter 103, Article IX, Section 103-343 - Clean and Safe Community Initiative. FIRST READING

City Clerk Linda Cox introduced the ordinance, read by title only, into the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-022

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA; AMENDING CHAPTER 103, ARTICLE IX, SECTION 103-343 "CLEAN AND SAFE COMMUNITY INITIATIVE"; PROVIDING FOR A SUNSET PROVISION; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS THEREOF IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. FIRST READING

City Manager Nick Mimms introduced the proposed ordinance amendment for the Clean and Safe Community Initiative (CSI). This item was presented and discussed at a budget workshop by Code Compliance Manager Peggy Arriaz. Ms. Arriaz provided an overview of the CSI proposed Ordinance including the history, activities, revenue, and expenses and included before and after photos of projects completed by the City or property owners. The CSI program funds the abatement of unsafe structures and the abatement of nuisance conditions. Staff recommends approval of the Ordinance Amendment to provide for a change in the sunset date to September 30, 2023 to allow for the goals to be met. The proposed amendment includes three parts: Part 1 is text amendment; Part II itemizes items considered integral and do not need additional approval; and, Part III itemizes items considered peripheral and must receive City Commission approval.

Mayor Hudson opened the Public Hearing. Seeing no one, Mayor Hudson closed the Public Hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rufus Alexander, Mayor Hudson passed the gavel to Commissioner Perona, and seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 20-022.

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AYE: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Rufus Alexander

NAY: Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Commissioner Thomas Perona, Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Failed

Mayor Hudson reclaimed the gavel.

Motion was made by Commissioner Thomas Perona, seconded by Commissioner Reginald Sessions to approve Ordinance 20-022 with the removal of Section III.

AYE: Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Commissioner Thomas Perona, Commissioner Reginald Sessions

NAY: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Rufus Alexander
Passed

13. CITY COMMISSION

- a. Resolution 20-R40 appointing members to the Police Community Advisory Board.

City Clerk Linda Cox introduced Resolution 20-R40, read by title only, into the record.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-R40

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, CERTIFYING THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion was made by Commissioner Reginald Sessions, seconded by Commissioner Thomas Perona to approve Resolution 20-R40 with the addition that Mr. Edwards remains on the Police Community Advisory Committee.

AYE: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Rufus Alexander, Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Commissioner Thomas Perona, Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Passed

- b. Resolution 20-R41 accepting returns for the August 18, 2020 primary election.

City Clerk Linda Cox introduced Resolution 20-R41, read by title only, into the record.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-R41

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE RETURNS OF THE PRIMARY ELECTION HELD ON AUGUST 18, 2020, AS PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Thomas Perona to approve Resolution 20-R41.

AYE: Mayor Linda Hudson, Commissioner Rufus Alexander, Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Commissioner Thomas Perona, Commissioner Reginald Sessions

Passed

- c. Submittal of applications for consideration for appointment to the Fort Pierce Utilities Board filling an at-large position.

The Fort Pierce Utilities Board appointment of an at-large position will be revisited at the next City Commission Meeting. Commissioner Perona indicated that this is a very important appointment and suggested that the City consider doing in-person and public interviews much like what was done to hire the City Attorney. After discussion, consensus was that they would each rank their top three candidates at the September 14 special meeting, followed by in-person interviews of the top ranked 4 to 6 candidates then public interviews. Mr. Sweeney confirmed that the existing member serves until the seat is filled so we don't have to worry about going beyond the term expiration date of September 30.

- d. Submittal of applications to serve on the Communitywide Council

The Communitywide Council board appointment will be revisited at the September 21, 2020 meeting.

- e. Submittal of applications to fill a vacancy on the Board of Examiners of Contractors.

The Board of Examiners of Contractors board appointment will be revisited at the September 21, 2020 meeting.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Any person who wishes to comment on any subject may be heard at this time. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes or less, as directed by the Mayor, as this section of the Agenda is limited to thirty minutes. The City Commission will not be able to take any official actions under Comments from the Public. Speakers will address the Mayor, Commissioners, and the Public with respect. Inappropriate language will not be tolerated.

Ipyana Abayomi
George Collins
Susan Parry

15. COMMENTS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Nick Mimms addressed some issues raised by the public.

Regarding Moore's Creek, Mr. Mimms stated that an inspection will be made at Linear Park and if there is a need for improvement to the landscape maintenance or the maintenance of the banks it will be addressed. Regarding the Savannah Road RFP, that is scheduled for an update at the September 14, 2020 Conference Agenda meeting. The Citrus Avenue bridge project is ready to move forward with the construction starting in October. The construction will be an eight-month process and there will be lane closures with the possibility of temporary full closures. Bids went out today for re-surfacing. The bids are due the last week of September.

City Attorney Peter Sweeney had no updates.

City Clerk Linda Cox had no updates.

- a. Reports

16. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Alexander is concerned that money is not being spent on improvements fairly city-wide.

Commissioner Perona saw an article on September 04, 2020 regarding Chuck's Seafood and the old Fire Station which may be potentially sold by the County. The County may be looking to build a combined use facility. The City of Fort Pierce should be able to participate because we will be dealing with the impact. Please take the pandemic seriously.

Commissioner Sessions appreciates Commissioner Perona sharing his experience with COVID-19 and would like to thank the City Manager and Fort Pierce Police Department for helping with the COVID-19 Allied Testing. Commissioner Sessions urges citizens to get tested and follow the medical recommendations. Commissioner Sessions would like the maintenance of Moore's Creek to be part of the regular City maintenance. Commissioner Sessions would like a workshop to follow up on his presentation regarding social issues.

Commissioner Johnson followed up on what Commissioner Sessions was discussing. The City Commission received an email from Kelly Lang of Alleghany who would like to coordinate a regional

community meeting. Commissioner Johnson thought that the social issues were to be discussed at a Conference Agenda which followed the presentation. Commissioner Johnson would support having a workshop to discuss the community social issues and the police department. Commissioner Johnson is also concerned with the litter around the city including Moore's Creek. Commissioner Johnson would like a discussion regarding making a positive change with Pinewood Park and addressing the homeless. Perhaps staff could investigate the history and historic value of this park.

Mayor Hudson gave an update that FPUA is working directly with every customer in jeopardy of having their power shut off. There will be a virtual ceremony in honor of 9/11 and feature the wreath laying at the Cee Cee Ross Lyles memorial statue.

City Manager Nick Mimms followed up with concerns raised and discussed by the Commissioners. Mr. Mimms will work with the Commissioners to identify three specific items to be discussed at a future workshop.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Immediately following adjournment, please move toward the doors and exit the chambers. This allows for the safe and courteous exit of all persons, and those on the dais. Conversations after the meeting should be held outside of chambers, in the foyer or elsewhere, but not in the commission chambers where lights will be out as soon as the chambers are empty.

Mayor Linda Hudson adjourned the meeting at **9:34 PM**.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR COMMISSIONER