



**City Council Meeting  
City of Belleair Beach, Florida**

**Monday, February 5, 2024  
Community Center, 6:00 PM**

### **PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dave Gattis. The invocation was given by Councilmember Frank Bankard followed by a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Roll Call:** Present were Councilmembers Frank Bankard, Lloyd Roberts, and Kim Shaw Elliott; Mayor Dave Gattis; City Manager Kyle Riefler, City Attorney Randy D. Mora, and City Clerk Renee Rose

**For continuity, items are listed in agenda order although not necessarily discussed in that order.**

**1. Approval of Agenda.**

**MOTION** was made by Councilmember Bankard and seconded by Councilmember Shaw Elliott to approve the agenda

**Motion passed 4-0.**

**2. Citizens Comments. (Each speaker will be recognized once and will be limited to a (3) three-minute presentation on any subject that is not on the Agenda)**

**3. Presentation: Recognition of Deputy Robertshaw.**

Mayor Gattis presented an award to Deputy Robertshaw for his lifesaving actions on January 18, 2024.

**4. Presentation: Pinellas County Sheriff's Office.**

- **Law Enforcement monthly report**

Captain Leiner reviewed the monthly report.

Councilmember Bankard asked about the assault that recently happened on Indian Rocks Beach. Capt. Leiner said a female jogger was attacked by a transient. The jogger is okay, and they apprehended the transient. Bankard thanked the officers for their service. Councilmember Roberts asked about the vehicle theft. Capt. Leiner doesn't have the details but can follow up. Mayor Gattis asked about the car accident where the car was overturned. Capt. Leiner said the driver was under the influence and suffered minor injuries.

- **Code Enforcement monthly report**

Deputy Trump reviewed the code enforcement monthly report. He stated that enforcement has slowed recently. Unpermitted remodel enforcement has dropped to 18%. The report now shows "other enforcement" so he can document extra patrols and beach patrols.

**5. Presentation: Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District.**

Assistant Chief Higley's update included, in part:

- January Training – 710 hours of fire training, 160 hours of medical training
- Performed 127 annual fire inspections, 232 re-inspections, and 18 STR inspections
- Staff hosted a table at the city's Health and Wellness Fair
- Hosted multiple fire station tours
- District staff attended the bridge cleanup
- Thanked city staff for allowing them to use city space
- 11 calls for service in Belleair Beach

**6. City Attorney Report.**

City Attorney Randy Mora said they are halfway through the legislative session.

**7. City Manager Report.**

City Manager Kyle Riefler's update included, in part:

- Project consultants on the Gulf Blvd undergrounding project are requesting property owners to consider signing easements. If they don't approve easements, the project will go to the original request of putting switch boxes in the right-of-way.
- Council received presentation on code review project. The first review will be the February work session and will cover Chapters 10, 22, 30, and 50.
- Current auditor will present the draft ACFR in March, and then the audit committee will set criteria for the next RFP.

**8. City Clerk Report.**

**Consent Agenda**

**9. Approval of January 8, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes.**

**10. Approval of January 29, 2024, City Council Work Session Minutes.**

**MOTION** was made by Councilmember Bankard and seconded by Councilmember Shaw Elliott to approve the Consent Agenda.

**Motion passed 4-0.**

**Regular Agenda**

**11. Consideration of Appointment to the Board of Adjustment**  
**• Current Alternate Member Marc Mariano**

Ron Ciganek, Donato Dr., said Mr. Mariano has been an alternate member. It's a great fit for him to become a voting member.

**MOTION** was made by Councilmember Bankard and seconded by Councilmember Roberts to appoint Marc Mariano to full member of the Board of Adjustment.

Councilmember Bankard	Yes
Councilmember Roberts	Aye
Councilmember Shaw Elliott	Yes
Mayor Gattis	Aye

**Motion passed 4-0.**

**12. Award of Project Bid B23-01 for Street and Drainage Improvements form 9<sup>th</sup> Street to Morgan Drive (City Manager Riefler)**

City Manager Riefler said this project will wrap up the remainder of the stormwater master plan. It spans from 9<sup>th</sup> St to Morgan Dr. It will provide necessary maintenance and repair to the aging stormwater system and will consist of 26,000 sq. yds. of milling and resurfacing streets, 21,000 linear feet of curb replacement, and 1,700 linear feet of cured in place pipe lining. Harbor Contracting was the low bidder and received positive review.

John Handzuk, 22<sup>nd</sup> St., said the stormwater system was supposed to be inspected by camera to determine if new pipe was needed, but this project is not going to replace any pipe. City Manager Riefler confirmed this will be cured in place lining. Mr. Handzuk said the Citizens Advisory Committee worked hard on this and he supports it.

**MOTION** was made by Councilmember Roberts and seconded by Councilmember Shaw Elliott to award Project Bid 23-01 for Street and Drainage Improvements from 9<sup>th</sup> Street to Morgan Drive to Harbor Contracting.

Councilmember Roberts said the city will benefit from this project. Councilmember Bankard didn't support it last month, but will support this month and he thanked Councilmember Shaw Elliott for the idea of a study.

Councilmember Bankard	Yes
Councilmember Roberts	Aye
Councilmember Shaw Elliott	Yes
Mayor Gattis	Aye

**Motion passed 4-0.**

- 13. Consideration of Ordinance 24-01, An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Belleair Beach Amending Chapter 2 – “Administration”, Article II – “City Council” Division 1 – “Generally”, To Create Section 2-31 Of The City’s Code Of Ordinances, Entitled “Compensation Of Council” To Establish An Annual Salary For Members Of The City Council And Guidelines Governing Reimbursement; Providing For The Implementation Of Administrative Actions; Providing For Codification; Providing For Severability; And Providing An Effective Date. (First Reading) (Mayor Gattis)**

City Attorney Mora read Ordinance 24-01 by Title only. This ordinance was produced in response to consensus at the work session and was drafted based on the discussion, but as this is first reading, it can be revised. The numbers are \$350 per month for the mayor and \$250 per month for individual council members. This ordinance does not explicitly provide for reimbursed expenses directly associated with the office, such as preparation of financial disclosure forms. If council intends to provide that, it will need to be made explicit.

**MOTION** was made by Councilmember Roberts and seconded by Councilmember Shaw Elliott to adopt Ordinance 24-01.

Councilmember Roberts said if a minimal salary would assist any citizens with costs associated financial disclosure forms and help them run for a council seat, he supports it. Councilmember Shaw Elliott agreed. She said it’s an honor to serve. They are trying to find a way to fill the council and eliminate barriers. Councilmember Bankard is against this but will work with council. It’s an honor to serve. This is a great community because there is a lot of volunteerism. He will support today knowing it can be repealed by the next council. Mayor Gattis brought this to council because they only have four council members. It’s the lowest salary in Pinellas County. It’s an appreciation pay.

Councilmember Bankard	Yes
Councilmember Roberts	Aye
Councilmember Shaw Elliott	Yes
Mayor Gattis	Aye

**Motion passed 4-0.**

- 14. Authorization to Execute a PO with Gemini Engineering and Sciences, Inc. for the Investigation and Design of a Stormwater Pump System (City Manager Riefler)**

City Manager Riefler said Gemini Engineering provided a scope of services for the design of a pump station based on discussions from the work session. The timeline provided is one to two months, and then they will bring a presentation to council.

Marv Behm, Louisa Dr., said they have a few incidents a year. This is not cost effective.

John Handzuk, 22<sup>nd</sup> St., said they are all surrounded by water, but the south end is lower. They have check valves. This isn't in the budget. The pumps aren't the right choice if everything else is working properly. The rain gutters at Bayshore and 22<sup>nd</sup> are too small to accept the amount of rain.

**MOTION** was made by Councilmember Bankard and seconded by Councilmember Shaw Elliott to authorize the City Manager to execute a PO with Gemini Engineering and Sciences, Inc. for the investigation and design of a stormwater pump system in the vicinity of 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Harbor Drive.

Councilmember Bankard said the issue with the south end is that the water doesn't go down until the tide goes below 2.5 ft. Emergency equipment can't get down the street. The water can be vacated through pumps. The 7<sup>th</sup> Street check valves are too low and don't open until it's down to 2.3 ft. The water accumulates. Councilmember Shaw Elliott supports this. It's a feasibility study. It's their fiduciary duty to evaluate reasonable measures, and that's what the study will do. Councilmember Roberts said when they spend money to support the city, they need to ask if it supports a majority of the citizens and how much money. If it doesn't support a majority but it's a small amount, then the city can take on the expense, but if it's a large amount and only supports a small portion of the city, they need to make smart decisions. They don't know what the cost will be, so that's the need for a feasibility study. There are multiple ways to pay for the fix that may not use city money. Mayor Gattis stated the only way any items pass currently is with a minimum of 4 votes, based on the current city charter. The feasibility study was required to pass the stormwater project. This doesn't commit the city to spending money on pumps, only that they will do a feasibility study.

Councilmember Bankard	Yes
Councilmember Roberts	Aye
Councilmember Shaw Elliott	Yes
Mayor Gattis	Aye

**Motion passed 4-0.**

**15. Consideration for Public Works Pay Increase (City Manager Riefler)**

City Manager Riefler summarized the pay study information gathered by the Community Services Administrator. The city has two positions, Service Worker III – Crew Lead and Service Worker II. Riefler provided an average and recommendation for each of the positions. Two employees have not yet put in a year of service, he recommends they stay at starting salary.

The Service Worker III employee has been in the position over a year, and an adjustment is recommended. Riefler recommends increasing the hourly wage for Service Worker III from \$21 to \$24.68 an hour and the Service Worker II starting wage from \$18 to \$20 an hour starting with the current pay period.

John Handzuk, 22<sup>nd</sup> St., said this isn't budgeted and asked where this will come from within the budget. City Manager Riefler said a full year would have been \$18,000, but the city is a third of the way into the fiscal year, resulting in a \$12,000 increase. They can approve a budget amendment or wait and see if that will be necessary.

**MOTION** was made by Councilmember Roberts and seconded by Councilmember Bankard to increase hour wage for Service Worker III – Crew Leader from \$21.00 to \$24.68 and Service Worker II from \$18.00 to \$20.00 effective January 28, 2024.

Councilmember Roberts brought this forward because the city has had difficulty filling vacancies. With such a small crew, if someone is sick or on vacation, there are tasks that can't be done. The position being vacant for a long time had a lot to do with salary. Mayor Gattis said he wouldn't want someone to leave for a neighboring community and supports this measure.

Councilmember Bankard	Yes
Councilmember Roberts	Aye
Councilmember Shaw Elliott	Yes
Mayor Gattis	Aye

**Motion passed 4-0.**

Mayor Gattis said the council greatly appreciates the staff's hard work.

**16. Consideration of a salary increase for the City Manager and a Second Addendum to Employment Agreement for the Services of Kyle Riefler as City Manager of the City of Belleair Beach. (City Attorney Mora)**

City Attorney Mora said this was done in response to discussion held at the last work session. He drafted a second addendum with blanks, because there was not a substantive discussion about the figure.

**MOTION** was made by Councilmember Bankard and seconded by Councilmember Roberts to approve the Second Addendum to Employment Agreement for the Services of Kyle Riefler as City Manager of the City of Belleair Beach.

Councilmember Bankard suggested an annual salary of \$138,000 based on the salary survey provided by City Clerk Rose. Indian Shores is offering an interim manager \$136,490. Belleair Beach originally budgeted \$180,000 for the position.

Councilmember Shaw Elliott called a point of order and asked if discussions about the manager's salary are to be held in public. City Attorney Mora confirmed, stating that because it's an official act of the governing body those discussions happen in the open.

Councilmember Shaw Elliott noted it's a large increase in a single amount and negotiations took place when the position was initially filled that were agreeable. She supports an increase, but questions the amount. Councilmember Roberts wanted to see the experience of the existing city managers in neighboring communities. Additional information would help them understand where this salary should be. Shaw Elliott said it's an 18% increase. Roberts said the salary was agreed upon in the contract, but they were willing to pay a much higher salary to another candidate. There is money in the budget. Mayor Gattis said 18% is a large pay increase. He would support a 10% increase, or \$126,500.

Mayor Gattis directed City Attorney Mora to insert an annual salary of \$126,500. Mora stated the contract has a placeholder for an effective date for that amount. Gattis said it should be effective immediately.

Councilmember Bankard	Yes
Councilmember Roberts	Aye
Councilmember Shaw Elliott	Yes
Mayor Gattis	Aye

**Motion passed 4-0.**

**17. Authorization for Sole Source Purchase of a Wapro Wastop 24 Inch Valve for Street and Drainage Improvements Project B23-01 (City Manager Riefler)**

City Manager Riefler summarized the request for purchase, stating that this pump is the same as ones previously installed throughout the city. This one will be used at Bayside Park for Cedar and Spruce Streets.

**MOTION** was made by Councilmember Bankard and seconded by Councilmember Shaw Elliott to authorize the sole source purchase of a Wapro Wastop 24" Valve from Wapro, Inc. for Street and Drainage Improvement Project B23-01

**Motion passed 4-0.**

**18. Authorization to Purchase an Exmark Lazer Z E 48" Mower (City Manager Riefler)**

City Manager Riefler said this purchase is off a state contract. The mower is part of the capital equipment replacement plan. This mower has great reviews. The state contract provides a 20% discount from MSRP.

**MOTION** was made by Councilmember Shaw Elliott and seconded by Councilmember Roberts to authorize the City Manager to purchase an Exmark Lazer Z E 48" mower from Choo Choo Lawn Equipment, Inc. in the amount of \$10,852.04.

Discussion followed regarding the state contract and a vote was taken.

**Motion passed 4-0.**

**19. Unfinished Business.**

None

**20. City Council Comments.**

Councilmember Shaw Elliott said they've accomplished a great deal tonight, and she thanked council for their cooperation. She congratulated Deputy Robertshaw.

Councilmember Bankard reminded everyone that traffic will be increasing soon with spring break.

Councilmember Roberts said hurricane season is coming up and he hopes the storm drainage project can get started quickly.

Mayor Gattis thanked everyone who came to the meeting or watched from home. He thanked the council for staying on. He appreciates their patience and ability to remain calm in disagreement. He believes they have one of the best councils in the county.

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION** was made by Councilmember Bankard and seconded by Councilmember Roberts to adjourn at 7:29pm.

**Motion passed 4-0.**

March 4, 2024  
Date Approved

APPROVED: Dave Gattis  
Dave Gattis, Mayor

ATTEST: [Signature]  
City Clerk