



City Council Meeting  
City of Belleair Beach, Florida

Monday, March 4, 2024  
Community Center, 6:00 PM

### **PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

Councilmember Lloyd Roberts joined the meeting late. Due to a lack of quorum, the meeting was not able to begin until all members were seated. The meeting was called to order at 6:16pm by Mayor Dave Gattis. The invocation was given by Councilmember Lloyd Roberts 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 Roberts 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)**

Randy Lebedz, 13<sup>th</sup> St., said a friend visiting him received a parking citation. He questioned the inconsistent size of the 'no parking' signs on his and other streets.

**3. Presentation: Recognition of Chief Davidson.**

Mayor Gattis presented an award to Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue Chief Jeffrey Davidson for his lifesaving actions on January 18, 2024.

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

Chief Davidson's report included, in part:

- 15 calls for service in February
- Moving forward with the land purchase on the north end of Indian Rocks Beach, which will better serve Belleair Beach. The station will house an advanced life support fire suppression engine with three firefighter paramedics
- Obtained a transport capable rescue unit from the county
- Awarding a contract to build a fire station and emergency operations center on the mainland to be completed by August 2025
- Purchased a jet ski with a rescue sled funded by donations

- Fire department staff participated in the January causeway clean up and plan to participate in future events
- Planning a hurricane expo with the city
- Staff completed 860 hours of firefighter and EMS training

Councilmember Elliott asked what a transport capable rescue vehicle is. Chief Davidson said it's an ambulance capable of transport to the hospital and summarized the first responder process in Pinellas County. Councilmember Roberts asked if the land being purchased has a facility on it. Davidson said no, it's a portion of vacant land. They will build using the same contractor building the facility on the mainland. Mayor Gattis asked what moving the firehouse the new location will do for response time for Belleair Beach. Davidson said the average response time will be 2-4 minutes.

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

- **Law Enforcement monthly report**

Corporal Deerman shared that two people were arrested on misdemeanors within the city. Deputies have been doing direct patrols as requested by the city. They conducted 118 traffic stops and issued 26 parking citations in January. There were two traffic crashes.

Councilmember Bankard noted the citizen comment about sign inconsistencies and asked if parking signs should meet regulations. Cpl. Deerman said all roadway signage does have FDOT regulations. The city would be responsible for changing the sign if it doesn't meet regulations. Councilmember Elliott asked about enforcement of pedestrian crossings. Deerman said they've recently conducted traffic initiatives for pedestrian crosswalks for violations of pedestrians and motorists. It was mostly educational. Deputies are sitting near the crosswalks to observe and provide more enforcement. Mayor Gattis suggested watching pedestrians as well. Deerman said they are equally enforcing violations with pedestrians and motorists. Gattis asked about motorcycles that use excessive speed on shoulders and weave in between cars. Deerman said they have a difficult time stopping them and will call in to inform other deputies in the area or track them by helicopter. Enforcement still happens.

- **Code Enforcement monthly report**

Deputy Trump reviewed the code enforcement monthly report. Violations are down. There were 33 entries across a variation of ordinances. He advised residents to make sure they use licensed contractors and receive written contracts.

**6. City Attorney Report.**

City Attorney Randy Mora said this should be the last week of the legislative session. He will provide an end of session report. Council has begun the land development code review. Mora will monitor election results closely and provide an update on next steps post-election.

Councilmember Bankard asked about the short-term rental law being discussed. Attorney Mora said it preserves the language in codes for any restriction adopted before June 2011. The city's LDC governing duration and frequency predate 2011. Mayor Gattis asked about a possible amendment exempting those currently serving from Form 6. Mora is unaware of it but will look into it.

**7. City Manager Report.**

City Manager Kyle Riefler responded to the comment by Mr. Lebedz that they downsized the signs in 2018, but he will check the requirements. He reminded residents that they can request on-street parking for special events.

Riefler's updates included, in part:

- Gulf Blvd undergrounding continues with easement work on the north side
- Stormwater project will start on March 18
- Code review project will continue this month with Chapter 94
- Draft audit will be reviewed by audit committee later this month
- New website launched last week
- Interviewing for Administrative Assistant – the position is advertised at \$18/hr. Riefler asked for consensus to raise it to \$20/hr. Consensus was achieved.
- Hurricane Expo is April 3 from 6:30-8:30pm

Councilmember Roberts asked about the plan for the stormwater project regarding which streets will be started first. Manager Riefler said they haven't had a preconstruction meeting yet, but the contractor is agreeable to what the city needs. If they receive the stormwater study in time, the 9<sup>th</sup> Street area is crucial before the storm season. The contractor will be using door hangers and interacting directly with residents. Councilmember Elliott asked if the study can be presented at the next work session. Mayor Gattis said it may not be complete, but they should receive the study when complete and look at it on their own time. Gattis asked about the causeway bridge lane closures. Riefler will request more information from the county.

#### **8. City Clerk Report.**

#### **Consent Agenda**

#### **9. Approval of February 5, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes.**

#### **10. Approval of February 27, 2024, City Council Work Session Minutes.**

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

**Motion passed 4-0.**

#### **Public Hearing–Second Reading and Final Hearing on Proposed Ordinances**

#### **11. 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. (Second Reading) (City Attorney Mora)**

City Attorney Mora read Ordinance 24-01 by Title only.

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

Councilmember Roberts said they've discussed the benefit of this change to drive interest in serving the city. It's a minimal amount. Mayor Gattis noted this ordinance won't impact current council members.

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

**Motion passed 4-0.****12. Unfinished Business.**

None

**13. City Council Comments.**

Councilmember Bankard appreciated council for the stormwater study. Flooding affects residents in the southern end of the city. Many residents are frustrated over the 50% rule. Home values aren't accurate.

Councilmember Roberts noted the four amendments up for vote on March 19. He recommends residents take the time to read the items. If anyone has any questions, they can contact anyone on council. He will be going door to door to talk to residents about the amendments. It's an important set of changes being proposed.

Councilmember Elliott is privileged to live in Belleair Beach. Because it's a coastal community, she is interested in environmental issues and will be looking closely at the stormwater improvement project. She's attending a meeting reporting on St. Petersburg's stormwater improvement project and will bring back information. Elliott said they are losing another set of neighbors because of the 50% rule. The owners are constrained by the rule. Mayor Gattis said if they move forward in reducing the rule to one year, it won't solve all the problems, but will provide a more manageable timeline.

Mayor Gattis shared: "Four charter amendments on the ballot address the recent intrusive legislation designed to keep good candidates out of local government. I, and countless others, believe that local government is best run by the people who live within its boundaries. Tallahassee preemptions and overregulation tear away at the thread of our unique, friendly, and beautiful community. As residents of Belleair Beach, it's up to us to demonstrate that only we know what's best for our community. These amendments will reduce the number of council members and send a clear message to Tallahassee that we are a strong community willing to adapt to protect our island way of life. On March 19, please join me in voting yes for amendments 1 through 4."

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION** was made by Councilmember Bankard and seconded by Councilmember Elliott to adjourn at 7:23pm.

**Motion passed 4-0.**

April 8, 2024  
Date Approved

APPROVED:

Dave Gattis  
Dave Gattis, Mayor

ATTEST: [Signature]  
City Clerk