



**City Council Work Session
City of Belleair Beach, Florida**

**Monday, July 24, 2023
Community Center, 6:00pm**

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

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

Roll Call: Present were Councilmembers Belinda Livingstone, Leslie Notaro, Lloyd Roberts, and Mike Zabel; Mayor Dave Gattis, Vice Mayor Jody Shirley, City Manager Kyle Riefler, City Clerk Patricia Gentry, and City Attorney Randy D. Mora. Councilmember Frank Bankard was unable to attend.

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

Mayor Gattis stated that due to recent events, especially on social media, and a lot of confusion and disinformation concerning the proposal of possibly purchasing a boat for code enforcement, that City Manager Riefler has asked to add an agenda item to present information on a boat and its use.

0. Discussion of the Boat Purchase.

City Manager Riefler advised he would like to go over the timeline of events of the proposal for a boat, and the uses for a boat. He stated, in part:

- At the June 19th budget workshop it was suggested to start a savings account for a boat to address the inshore issues that come up
- Following research of government contracts, a five-year savings program was put in the budget for consideration at the next budget workshop
- At the following budget workshop a faster timeline to purchase the boat was considered, and after further research using the same GSA specifications to go out for bid, it was determined that there are vendors that can offer a similar boat immediately for approximately \$70,000.00
- The boat acquisition will allow the City to perform and address maintenance issues in the Intracoastal Waterway and Clearwater

Harbor that are unable to be addressed with the current small john boat:

- Stormwater outfalls - one of the major components of maintenance is the struggle to get access to the stormwater outfalls. We maintain 46 outfalls throughout the City that are on a monthly inspection and clean-out schedule. To be able to get in the water and reach the check valves to clean them out we have to get permission from each homeowner to access their private property. With a boat we could access the outfalls and also do inspections to prevent oyster buildup that contributes to street flooding, instead of just waiting for signs of problems
- Buoy maintenance - there are 16 buoys on the beach side and 14 buoys on the Clearwater Harbor side that require continual maintenance. Preventative maintenance by the City would reduce the need to hire divers for some repairs. We would also be able to do sign installation and replacement on the buoys
- Visually checking the condition of seawalls, docks, and boat lifts - there would be less chance of floating debris in the waterways, especially after a storm event
- Monitoring the south island behind the Community Center - it attracts a lot of people on weekends and has accumulated tables, chairs, trash, and debris. A makeshift flagpole had been erected and was displaying political signs - this could not be removed by the current john boat
- Objects in the water - emergency calls regarding concerns for damage to boats and docks due to trees that have fallen in the water, or contractor's loose pilings or materials floating
- Fish from Red Tide - fish are not only on the beach, they also float in the channels. The City would be able to provide faster cleanup of the decaying fish to reduce the odor throughout the City
- Underwater debris - concrete and other sunken debris can be located and marked to prevent damage to boats and motors
- Derelict vessels - the City could contribute to the PCSO monitoring of vessels, to prevent such incidents as a loose boat floating into the bridge again
- Proposed boat usage of two routine biweekly patrols per month plus maintenance issues and projects

City Manager Riefler reviewed the pros and cons of renting a boat, in part:

- Timely accessibility to a rental boat
- Having a suitable model of boat available that would be required
- Liability

City Manager Riefler reviewed the statistics of taxable values and comparative maintenance costs, in part:

- The 350 Clearwater Harbor waterfront homes make up roughly 45 percent of all single-family homes
- The taxable value of single-family homes on the water makes up about 63% of the total taxable value of single-family homes. They make up about 44% of the total City's taxable value
- The total homesteaded taxable value of the waterfront homes actually makes up about 64% which is almost half the single-family owned population that is living on the water
- These waterfront homes are a significant portion of the taxable value that comes to the City
- The coastline of the City is 7.5 miles and our Clearwater Harbor waterfront makes up 6.65 of those miles. In comparison we have 7.25 miles of City streets that we maintain and 2.8 miles of stormwater utility pipes
- For comparison, we budget a savings plan of fifty thousand dollars for a tractor for beach raking four to five times a year

Mayor Gattis thanked City Manager Riefler for the very detailed information and recommended that anyone who contacted City Manager Riefler could also listen to the recording of this meeting.

1. Discussion of Consideration to Reduce the City Council from Seven Members to Five Members. (Mayor Gattis)

Consensus of Council: Yes - move forward to reduce the City Council from seven members to five members.

2. Discussion of Consideration of Extending Councilmember Terms From Three Years to Four Years. (Mayor Gattis)

Consensus of Council: Yes - move forward to extending Councilmember terms from three years to four years.

3. Discussion of Increasing Term Limits From Two Terms to Three Terms. (Mayor Gattis)

Council: Five Councilmembers agreed, Councilmember Notaro and Vice Mayor Shirley were opposed.

4. Discussion of Aligning Our Election Cycles With General and Mid-Term Elections. (Mayor Gattis)

Consensus of Council: City Attorney Mora will draft a timeline of the process to put these measures to the voters.

5. Discussion of Marina Rental Policies. (Councilmember Zabel)

Break from 7:24pm to 7:30pm.

Consensus of Council: Councilmember Zabel will make the changes suggested and send to City Manager Riefler.

6. Discussion of Sandbag Station Proposal. (Councilmember Zabel)

Consensus of Council: Consideration of a second sandbag station with volunteer workers.

7. General Business.

None.

ADJOURN

MOTION was made by Councilmember Notaro and duly seconded to adjourn at 8:17pm.

Motion passed 6-0.

Date Approved

APPROVED: _____
Dave Gattis, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Patricia A. Gentry, City Clerk