

**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rob Baldwin, followed by a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Roll Call:** Present were Councilmembers Jeril Cohen, Pamela Gunn, John Pietrowski, and Wanda Schwerer; Mayor Rob Baldwin, Vice Mayor Leslie Ford Notaro, City Manager Nancy Gonzalez, City Clerk Patricia Gentry, Finance Officer Melanie Kruszona, and City Attorney Paul Marino. Councilmember Mitchell Krach in at 5:40pm.

**1. Approval of Agenda.**

**MOTION** was made by Councilmember Pietrowski and seconded by Councilmember Cohen to approve the Agenda.

**Motion passed 6-0.**

**2. Approval of December 7, 2015, City Council Meeting Minutes.**

**MOTION** was made by Councilmember Schwerer and seconded by Councilmember Pietrowski to approve the December 7, 2015, City Council Meeting Minutes.

**Motion passed 6-0.**

**3. 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)**

Mr. Marvin Behm, Louisa Drive, spoke regarding traffic on Gulf Boulevard.

**Regular Agenda:**

**4. Update on rental of Community Center. (City Manager) (City Clerk)**

City Manager Gonzalez stated that sixteen weddings had been booked for 2016.

Mayor Baldwin advised he realized the amount of effort that everyone on staff puts into the rental and that he appreciated all that they do. He stated the original idea when the building was built was to have a multipurpose room for use by the Residents. The original City Hall was rented to Residents only. The decision was made to open the new building to the public, and he believed that most of the people who use the facility are not Residents. City

Clerk Gentry stated that of the 22 events in 2015, only 3 were Residents. Mayor Baldwin pointed out that all of the use the facility is getting is causing wear and tear. Therefore, he wanted to bring it back to Council, open it for discussion and see if everyone on Council was still of the same opinion, as when it was originally started there were different people on Council.

Discussion followed regarding increasing the rental price of the venue; increasing the amount of the damage deposit; instituting a cleaning fee; requiring the Licensee to pay for security; researching competitive rates again; what the total expenditures were as opposed to the net revenue; and that the volume of bookings may not equal revenue.

City Manager Gonzalez advised that she, City Clerk Gentry, and Community Services Director Godfrey would meet, review costs, and bring to Council in February.

**5. Continued discussion on undergrounding of utilities citywide.**

City Manager Gonzalez stated the next three items were items that Community Services Director Godfrey was to discuss. [He had left earlier due to illness] She advised he had met with Duke Energy and was to meet with Bright House Networks and Verizon, and would bring information to the February meeting.

City Attorney Marino advised he had provided copies of AGOs on special assessments which essentially say to make sure that every single Resident is made fully aware of the overall cost and their own individual costs, and if the costs are to be amortized over a period of years. This must be done by hard copy communication to the Residents.

Mayor Baldwin advised progress was being made and further discussion would follow at the next meeting when Mr. Godfrey was present.

**6. Update on additional parking at Morgan Park. (Community Services Director)**

City Manager Gonzalez stated that Deuell Engineering had been working on a plan to have a total of 30 parking spaces. Mr. Godfrey would give an update in February.

**7. Update on Bayside Park Improvements. (Community Services Director)**

City Manager Gonzalez advised that Copley Design Associates would bring three concepts to the Park and Recreation Board in February, and that should be brought before Council in March.

**8. Mayor and Council Comments.**

Councilmember Pietrowski wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilmember Gunn had no further comments.

Councilmember Schwerer stated that the crown of the Bismarck palm at the 19th Street pedestrian crossing appeared to be dying. City Manager Gonzalez stated that had been discussed and they were working on it. Councilmember Schwerer wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilmember Krach wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Vice Mayor Notaro advised that she and City Manager Gonzalez had attended a Pinellas County meeting regarding the 2017 Beach Nourishment. She stated Property Appraiser Pam Dubov had attended and it was a good meeting overall.

Mayor Baldwin requested that if payment had not been received for the diesel oil spill on Wedgewood Drive by the end of 30-day due date, that City Manager Gonzalez reach out to Mr. Orr and ask what his intentions were. The three options suggested by City Attorney Marino may have to be revisited if payment is not made.

Mayor Baldwin stated the other issue was the traffic on Gulf Boulevard. He stated it had been horrendous over the holiday, possibly due in part to the Outback Bowl. It had taken 20 minutes to get from his home to the Causeway. He felt that it is becoming hazardous and will only become worse. It has become very frustrating and he was open to suggestions, including talking to the City of Clearwater regarding the traffic coming from Clearwater and Sand Key. City Attorney Marino suggested having a County "toll booth at the bottom of the bridge on our side" as there had been in the past, with no charge for residents or workers. Discussion regarding a toll booth followed. Mayor Baldwin requested that someone from the County attend the next meeting. City Manager Gonzalez advised she had been speaking with the County regarding the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) and they are working on Gulf Boulevard between Clearwater and St Pete Beach. [ITS is the state-of-the-art, multi-modal transportation system that enables people and goods to move more safely and efficiently; includes computerized traffic signal systems that automatically adjust to maximize traffic flow; and electronic message signs and highway advisory radio messages that warn travelers of blockages or slowdowns] She stated that Pinellas County and the engineering firm who did the pedestrian crosswalks would be at the March BIG-C meeting for discussion and to provide a timeline for that project. Mayor Baldwin stated that the problem with the ITS system is that the City is at the end of the system so the pacing of the traffic would make it worse in the City. There has been more development than the infrastructure can support.

**9. City Attorney Comments.**

City Attorney Marino advised he would not be at the February meeting.

**10. City Manager Comments.**

City Manager Gonzalez stated all were welcome at the BIG-C meeting where the ITS would be discussed; and gave a short review of a rental property that Community Improvement Officer White had been working with.

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION** was made by Councilmember Pietrowski to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion passed 7-0.**

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Date Approved

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rob Baldwin, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Patricia A. Gentry, CMC, City Clerk