

**Rescheduled due to  
Tropical Storm Colin  
on Monday, June 6, 2016**

**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

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

**Roll Call:** Present were Councilmembers Julie "Jewels" Chandler, Jeril Cohen, Pamela Gunn, Mitchell Krach, John Pietrowski; Mayor Leslie Ford Notaro, Vice Mayor Wanda Schwerer, City Manager Nancy Gonzalez, City Clerk Patricia Gentry, Finance Officer Melanie Kruszona, City Attorney Paul Marino, and Community Services Director Allen Godfrey.

**1. Approval of Agenda.**

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

**Motion passed 7-0.**

**2. Approval of May 2, 2016, City Council Meeting Minutes.**

**MOTION** was made by Vice Mayor Schwerer and seconded by Councilmember Krach to approve the May 2, 2016, City Council Meeting Minutes.

**Motion passed 7-0.**

**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)**

Belleair Beach residents spoke regarding undergrounding of utilities; that it would be "fairly simple to set up a special tax"; residents being "willing to pay whatever it takes"; that the "infrastructure has not been updated in 25, 35, 50 years, these are very old power lines"; safety and reliability of power poles, and to have it look nicer; power outages and transformers; that there are "residents who have something to offer to the City of Belleair [sic], there're technical people, there're medical people, there're people who have training, people who can contribute to making the decision about how to accomplish this for us much easier"; "why we're wasting more time on a survey ... property values are suffering"; and the political sign ordinance.

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**Consent Agenda:**

- 4. Proclamations: Proclaiming June 15, 2016, as Elder Abuse Awareness Day**

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

**Motion passed 7-0.**

**Regular Agenda:**

- 5. Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District Fire Chief Salvatore D'Angelo will discuss the Fire District's November 8, 2016, Referendum.**

Fire Chief D'Angelo spoke regarding the existing non- ad valorem fire assessment fixed flat fee and the proposed referendum question to add an ad valorem tax; capital projects – such as a station in Belleair Beach to decrease response times for EMS rescue calls; equipment replacement costs and their expected life; future discussions of basing the non- ad valorem tax rate on the square footage of a home as opposed to the taxable value of a home; Chief D'Angelo has and can provide the exact dollar amount of the tax for each home; they are now operating in the red with the additional costs of opening EMS Station 26 in Indian Shores to provide faster response times, and without the increase they could not continue to operate in the red. Station 26 would be the first to close, firefighters would be laid off, and there would be outsourcing of facility and apparatus maintenance positions.

Residents from Indian Rocks Beach spoke regarding the referendum.

Chief D'Angelo stated he had spoken with City Manager Gonzalez regarding having a quick-response vehicle stationed at City Hall for an increased level of service.

- 6. Consideration of accepting the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2015. (To be presented by Jeanine L. Bittinger, CPA, CPPT, of Davidson, Jamieson & Cristini, P.L., Certified Public Accountants)**

Ms. Bittinger participated via telephone. She began by thanking Finance Officer Kruszona, City Manager Gonzalez, and City Clerk Gentry. She advised the City had received a "clean opinion, the highest opinion they can render". She advised revenues were up; it had been a very good year with a net income positive of \$628,986, and Marina fund net income of \$25,108; the ad

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valorem was up by over \$60,000 due to the increase in property values of 6.54%, with a surplus in the General Fund of \$318,852 before the transfer to the Capital Projects fund; revenues favorably exceeded the budget by \$96,000; expenditures came in under the budgeted amount of \$1.7 million and were \$1.635, another favorable variance of \$97,000, showing that City Council had passed a very good budget and Staff adhered to it and surpassed the expectations.

**MOTION** was made by Councilmember Krach and seconded by Councilmember Pietrowski to accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2015.

**Motion passed 7-0.**

- 7. Consideration of authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Proposal with the John Scott Dailey Florida Institute of Government to conduct a survey of Belleair Beach property owners, at a cost not to exceed \$14,187.50, regarding undergrounding utilities of city-wide streets. (see backup) (Mayor Notaro)**

Mayor Notaro advised this had been discussed at a previous meeting, and the purpose of the survey was to get a sense of the entire city regarding the undergrounding project. They had looked at several organizations that provide surveys. Other municipalities had used the services of the JSDFIG and they were all very pleased with their results.

Discussion followed regarding the time frame; that the survey would be sent to every household in the City; that the area of the City that each response came from would be disclosed in the results; there were comments from residents who believe the survey is necessary and residents who believe the survey is not necessary; and comments regarding undergrounding the utilities on Gulf Boulevard.

Councilmember Krach advised that the survey was a stepping stone to see if it made sense for the City Council to front funds for the project whether it were for the whole City or just for a certain area. It was important that there would not be the appearance that any Councilmember would be voting for or against the project to benefit themselves. If it were determined from the survey that the consensus of the entire City was to not move forward with the project, that would not preclude areas that did want to from doing a special tax area, with further consideration of the legal fees involved in that.

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**MOTION** was made by Vice Mayor Schwerer and seconded by Councilmember Cohen to authorize the City Manager to enter into a Proposal with the John Scott Dailey Florida Institute of Government to conduct a survey of Belleair Beach property owners, at a cost not to exceed \$14,187.50, regarding undergrounding utilities of city-wide streets.

Councilmember Gunn	Aye
Councilmember Krach	No
Councilmember Pietrowski	No
Councilmember Chandler	Aye
Councilmember Cohen	Aye
Vice Mayor Schwerer	Aye
Mayor Notaro	Aye

**Motion passed 5-2.**

**8. Update on Code Enforcement. (Community Improvement Officer)**

Community Improvement Officer White gave an update on illegal short-term rentals, contractor compliance, silt fences, stop-work orders, parking on lawns, and boat parking citations. He advised that he and City Manager Gonzalez had discussed increased fines for repeat violations - from parking tickets to code violations. Mr. White stated that PCSO Deputy Scott Vaughan has been very helpful with violations when Mr. White is off duty.

Mayor Notaro advised that she and City Attorney Marino had discussed restructuring the Code Enforcement Officer position to a Town Marshall position with the power to issue citations. Mr. Marino advised that Mr. White still retained his law enforcement certifications since retiring from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office.

City Attorney Marino asked for a consensus to draft an ordinance to send to the Criminal Justice Standards & Training Commission for their review outlining the parameters of the position. Council agreed.

**9. Mayor and Council Comments.**

Councilmember Chandler inquired about signage at City Hall announcing meetings. Community Services Director Godfrey advised that a digital sign from Suncoast LED Displays ranged from \$11,664 to \$14,000 based on the number of pixels in the display, which could be proposed in the new budget. There was possibility of a grant based on usage of the sign for emergency management announcing sandbags, road closures, etc.

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Councilmember Krach thanked Finance Officer Kruszona for her work.

Councilmember Gunn had no further comments.

Councilmember Pietrowski had no further comments.

Vice Mayor Schwerer thanked Finance Officer Kruszona for her work on the CAFR. She advised the BIG-C was requesting support for their Resolution on water-borne transportation.

Councilmember Pietrowski stated landscapers were beginning to park in the center turn lane of Gulf Boulevard again.

Mayor Notaro stated she had attended the 10-week Pinellas County Citizen University with visits to the various departments of the County, such as the public works department, the solid waste department, the tourism department – all very interesting and she highly recommended it to everyone. She stated she had attended the Board of County Commissioner's meeting and there had been discussion that a portion of the bed tax money would be spent on beach nourishment.

Councilmember Cohen left the meeting at 7:12pm

**10. City Attorney Comments.**

City Attorney Marino advised he had submitted a request for an opinion to the Commission on Ethics regarding whether councilmembers could vote on the undergrounding of utilities *in their area*, and he would advise when he had received an answer. He stated that he had sent a letter to the attorney for Mr. David Orr of Offshore Fueling and had not yet received a reply.

Mr. Marino advised he would not be at the July Council meeting.

**11. City Manager Comments.**

City Manager Gonzalez thanked Finance Officer Kruszona for her work on the CAFR. She advised that Staff had been working on the budget and Council would receive copies at the July Council meeting, and would then have a week to review it before the first budget workshop. She stated that Community Services Director Godfrey would be giving updates on Bayside Park, the mast arms, and Morgan Park parking at the July meeting.

Mayor Notaro stated that there is a BP Settlement Public Input Form on the Pinellas County BOCC website.

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

**Thursday, June 9, 2016  
Community Center, 5:30 P.M.**

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**ADJOURN**

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

**Motion passed 6-0.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leslie Ford Notaro, Mayor

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