



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

**Monday, May 20, 2019
Community Center, Immediately following
5:00PM Special City Council Meeting**

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

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

Roll Call: Present were Councilmembers Robyn Ache, Marv Behm, Dave Gattis, Jody Shirley and Rita Swope; Vice Mayor Glenn Gunn, Mayor Joseph A. Manzo, City Manager Lynn Rives, City Clerk Patricia Gentry, Finance Officer Melanie Kruszona, and Attorney Jackie Spoto Bircher.

Mayor Manzo requested to move Agenda Item number 6 "Discuss Meeting Protocol" to be discussed first. He advised that he had requested this agenda item. Agenda Item number 6 was moved without objection.

6. Discuss Meeting Protocol.

Mayor Manzo reviewed:

- Point of order can be called by any Councilmember at any time
- One person speaks at a time
- No personal attacks
- Keep on topic
- The protocol is to allow public comments at each item on the agenda

Discussion on meeting protocol was closed.

Councilmember Behm asked to add an item for discussion on undergrounding to the General Business agenda item.

Discussion on Meeting Protocol was reopened.

Vice Mayor Gunn: I would like to nail down the protocol for the Consent Agenda. Additionally, the three minutes of each "Citizens Comments" should be uninterrupted. When will the Citizen get an answer to their questions?

Councilmember Behm: Residents can also meet with the City Manager or a Councilmember at City Hall at any time.

Vice Mayor Gunn: Citizens Comments are to be directed to the entire Council. Depending on the question and the circumstance, they may get an immediate answer from the dais, or later if it requires further research or discussion. Is there a possibility to incorporate a short break into the Agenda – some of these meetings do get long. It gives us a chance to take a break and also go down and talk to the Residents.

Councilmember Swope: I believe we should ask our Community about that – the feedback I have been receiving is that the meetings are way too long as it is. They come to hear and discuss an agenda item and then it gets moved or shuffled. They're here a long time already and now we're talking about taking breaks. We might even want to look at putting an end time on our meetings instead of going on and on.

Mayor Manzo: I'm not against putting in a short break - people want to use the restroom or want to say hello to their friends in the audience. Any Councilmember can make that proposal at any time. Other towns put their Citizens Comments at the end of their meeting. We will do the Citizen Comments up front, our Citizens come first. We can make a motion to adjourn the meetings, but we will have to come back at some point to complete them.

1. Discuss Mayor's Directive to City Manager Restricting Staff's Family Members and Other Specified City Residents Visiting/Entering Staff Administrative Offices.

Discussion then moved to Agenda Item number 1 "Discuss Mayor's Directive to City Manager Restricting Staff's Family Members and Other Specified City Residents Visiting/Entering Staff Administrative Offices."

City Manager Rives: Mayor Manzo, City Clerk Gentry, and I had a robust telephone conversation about this. The personnel policy discourages it but allows it as long as it is not disruptive. I used my spouse as an example – if my spouse ever stopped in to see me. In that discussion you said that you had told me previously that no one is allowed in the administrative area and you specified "no one". This originated from when there was someone in the administrative area on the day of a meeting and you told me again that you wanted no one behind the counter in the offices. When I asked you, in order to clarify, "You're telling me my wife cannot come into my office to visit me" you said specifically "Yes that's what I'm telling you." I stated that I disagreed with you, and then you named some specified Residents and told me to put it on the work session agenda. I believe the Charter states that the City Manager has responsibility for the operations of City Hall, and I believe that as long as it's not disruptive, I don't believe that we can have direction to tell us that this person can't come in, but this person can, or tell a Resident that they can't come in here. I believe that's wrong. If the City Council wants to change that policy, then as a group – not an individual, but as a group - has to pass a resolution at a regular

council meeting stating they want no one in the administrative area. That's why I'm asking, I want to have it clarified.

Mayor Manzo: Mr. Rives pretty much stated that correctly. I made no directive to him. He and I discuss many things in private so as not to embarrass the City. I think this is a very big embarrassment, so did the Clearwater Police Chief that I bounced it by. This is not something that is done in offices, law firms, electronic companies, the military, the county, the sheriff's office, the division of elections, it's not done pretty much anywhere – you don't bring your spouse to work. What I said was that I don't like it. I cannot make policy for this Council, but I can bring stuff up that I see that's going wrong. The City Manager works for this Council so when I see something that is not being done right, I go out and I mention. So, we will do it in public and the Council will decide if it's something that concerns them or doesn't concern them. I found Mrs. Marino behind the counter when Patti Gentry was having a discussion with Mr. Marino and Ms. Spoto Bircher. Of course Mr. Rives can have a meeting in his office – a meeting about business. We are paying you and everyone in this building to work for the City, not to have country club, not to have a social event. When we were last week we heard employees complaining to citizens that they were going to lose their jobs because apparently, allegedly there are Councilmembers speaking about this. They're scared of their lives, they think they're going to lose their jobs and they're saying it to citizens. This is not the right image for a premier community. We talk about best practices, it's not best practice to let people roam the hallways. City of Clearwater employees are behind bulletproof glass, I don't know if we have to go to that extent, but in recent time there were two people who tried to commit suicide jumping off this bridge. These are people who have some difficulties, I don't know if they're going to come into this building, so I'm concerned about the safety of our employees. I can leap the front counter in a single bound, it's not hard to get over. No one here carries firearms, we don't have cameras, we don't have a sign-in sheet. Other places don't do this. I'm saying I don't think this is a practice that should be encouraged. If your spouse comes to visit you step out from behind the counter. So what I propose is that anyone that comes behind that counter come strictly for business, that it not be a clubhouse, that people do not bring spouses, friends, their dog, it's unacceptable. No one comes back there unless they're on City business. And if they do come back there, we should have a log sheet, because sooner or later we're going to find there's something missing. I'm very concerned about the security of our employees over here – this is for their benefit.

Councilmember Swope: The Community paid for this building and I believe the Residents should be allowed in the administrative area in a building they paid for.

Mayor Manzo: To answer the question as to June [Van Scoyoc] being in the back room – June, who is my assistant in my law practice and for me for any mayoral duties, because I don't get an office nor an assistant from City

Hall – has never been in the back room. She was in the conference room when she attended my meeting with the City Attorney. If someone comes in and wants to speak to the City Manager about the City, he can choose to have that meeting in the conference room or his office. I'm not going to get involved with who he brings in the back, but if we're talking about our vacation, our dog, or where we're going to dinner tonight – that is not City business. I'm not saying you can't take five minutes to call your wife, husband, or spouse, of course you can. But people don't get to roam the hallways, I don't like it.

Vice Mayor Gunn: The governing concept here is controlled access. There should be no expectation that someone can roam freely. I have no problem with family members who are invited in. The City Manager is charged with the daily execution of running the City and this building, so I leave it to his discretion to manage that aspect of it.

City Manager Rives: There's a misconception here. No one is running up and down the hallways – that is not happening. If my wife comes in – she is a Resident and a taxpayer and you're telling her she can't come in here. I think that's wrong. But this isn't about me, because my wife is a Resident and I feel she has every right to come in to speak to me. The point is that we're telling the City Clerk or the Finance Officer that if a family member wants to come into their office and talk to them for five minutes it's not allowed. If this was a heavy security operation such as the military, the Clearwater Police Department, the Sheriff's Office, I understand that – but I also understand that in most cities in Pinellas County you can come in as a spouse or relative to see someone. I think that's where the misunderstanding is between the Mayor and myself. I think he believes there are a lot of people running around here and there is not.

Councilmember Ache: It comes down to controlled access. I see no problem with that.

Mayor Manzo: I have never said this building is not open to the Citizens. You can't go any place you want. They let people in to walk around. Don't say people aren't roaming the halls, because I heard it from a former official who sat on this very dais. Mrs. Marino is neither a resident of this city nor a taxpayer. It's about controlling access. No one is saying you can't meet with your spouse in the conference room or the lobby. I disagree that anyone should be coming behind the counter for any reason other than official City business and they should be logged in. We don't have cameras or security, I would like to know who's coming behind the counter.

Councilmember Shirley: I think it should be restricted access. I believe you should leave it to the employee's discretion as to who they allow in their office. Clearly, they're not going to give someone access who shouldn't have access. I think we have faith in our Staff to have respect for their positions and job. I leave it to City Manager Rives to have a procedure in place and that all doors and accesses be locked and have a sign-in sheet.

Councilmember Behm: If there is a legal discussion, it should be in the conference room or someone's office.

City Manager Rives: I don't have a problem with a sign-in sheet, and there is a policy in place regarding visitors.

Councilmember Gattis: Now that this topic has been brought to light I would like to give City Manager Rives a chance to make necessary corrections. If security is such an issue, why aren't we doing something about adding cameras.

City Manager Rives: We're getting an assessment on that and we have a panic button. Other than people coming in to get a beach sticker or bridge walkers using the restroom, we have very few people coming in the building. When most people come in the building, they are here to speak to someone specific. What I would say to the procedure would be – I will have a log-in sheet and they will be escorted into the area if need be. There are a lot of times that I just deal with people at the counter.

Councilmember Shirley: As long as we have a policy in place and we're doing something to protect our staff – that's what it comes down to.

Councilmember Behm: There was an incident about a year ago when Vice Mayor Gunn and I were here. A person came in who had been in the water, somewhat of a dangerous situation. The PCSO came and escorted them out. City Manger Rives is looking at a camera system and maybe some kind of glass protection to keep people from jumping over would be a good way to go in the future. Cameras would be good during weddings on the weekends.

Ms. Kathleen Klaeser, 106 21st Street, spoke regarding employees as responsible adults managing their time and visitors; and restricting access to people who are determined to be legitimate, violent threats.

Ms. Barb Colucci, 104 9th Street, spoke regarding security in the private sector not applying to this small city; that the City of New Port Richey is considering discontinuing their security officer; and does this City have money in the budget for such a security person.

Ms. Leslie Notaro, 2300 Gulf Boulevard, spoke regarding the agenda item directive of restricting "other specified City Residents" and asked if Council intended to specify City Residents who aren't allowed back there.

Mayor Manzo: With Council's permission I would like to answer this question. I didn't write this agenda item, I simply said we shouldn't have people wandering the halls behind a secure area. No one, no one, goes back there unless you're on official City business. Everyone is welcome in the public areas.

here and discuss any more regarding family members coming in – I think the sign-in sheet’s good, let’s if we could, move on to the next Agenda item just like some of our Community members are wanting us to do.

Mayor Manzo to Councilmember Swope: I’m going to call Point of Order. You don’t dictate this meeting, I run this meeting. So, you can make your comment, but you can’t tell me how to run the meeting. Thank you. This will be a follow-up item for the Fall in terms of the revision of the personnel manual and in the meantime, we have some immediate changes that we discussed tonight.

2. Discuss 13th Street Crosswalk.

Councilmember Shirley: I’m not in favor of removing crosswalks, but that landscaped median and crosswalk is causing a lot of our traffic issues on Gulf Boulevard. My suggestion is to take a look at it to help eliminate the traffic backup.

Vice Mayor Gunn: We could take out the island but leave the crosswalk and the pedestrian lights.

Councilmember Shirley: Coming out of the beach access you can only turn south, which also causes backup.

Discussion followed. The Town of Belleair Shore would have to be consulted.

Mayor Manzo and City Manager Rives will be meeting with Mr. Tom Washburn of Pinellas County Transportation.

Mayor Manzo called for a recess at 7:06pm.

The meeting reconvened at 7:11pm.

3. Discuss Holiday Decorations.

City Manager Rives: What is Council’s preference on the Holiday banners, and would you like to have banners on Gulf Boulevard during the rest of the year. It would be 40 banners at approximately \$65.00 each for a total of \$2,500.00. We have been paying a vendor \$6,000.00 a year for holiday decorations. We can purchase lights for the Community Center and Staff can install everything throughout the City to save money. It was agreed to purchase the double-sided red and green holiday banners and the City welcome banners.

4. Discuss Quarterly Budget Update.

Mayor Manzo received a suggestion from a Resident to have a full budget report quarterly and an abbreviated report each month in between. Council

and the Residents will still receive the full packet, but the oral report will be the shorter version.

5. Discuss Emergency Planning.

Mayor Manzo: City Council has received the Emergency Management Plan for their review. June and I talked to the County about CERT training, but no one has come forward yet, so I'm not sure what the interest is yet.

City Manager Rives: We are doing some updates to the Plan which Council will receive sometime in June. City Staff just completed a training exercise at the EOC. We are updating the debris management contract and the PSFRD agreement. We will need City Council's contact information to be able to reach them after an event.

Discussion followed regarding after-event contact for Residents and availability of City Staff to Residents; using the Community Center as a comfort station for Residents again as was done following the last event; a generator to operate the Community Center; specifics as to the Community Center's role following an event; email for interest in input for ideas; all City Council comments back to City Manager Rives by May 31, 2019; and there will be a Hurricane Preparedness open house on June 20, 2019.

7. General Business.

Councilmember Ache: On the NextDoor app, Citizens are upset that the PCSO is targeting speeders instead of patrolling and they feel there have been more community issues because of that. We should all be watching the NextDoor app as that is where Residents express their opinions and we can address them at meetings or work sessions.

Mayor Manzo: No one on this Council has ever instructed the PCSO to back off their enforcement of the law, nor would they if asked. We have asked them to target the areas that have been of concern – speeding, running stop signs, parking violations at the easements, drinking and dogs on the beaches. They are not doing these things to the exclusion of their other duties.

City Manager Rives: We have the results of the survey with the top items Residents want that I would like to touch on and we can discuss in detail later:

Priorities in the City:

- Stormwater
- Traffic Congestion
- Street Curbs
- Code Compliance

Events:

- Picnics and Holiday celebrations
- Outdoor events
- They do not want to volunteer
- They do not want to be sponsors

Ratings for City Staff and the PCSO were good.

We need to try to expand our email list. We will be discussing the City picnic at the Park and Recreation Board meeting tomorrow.

8. Underground Utilities. (Requested by Councilmember Behm)

Councilmember Behm: We have funds remaining from the BEI Project. There will be enough funds to underground from Bayshore Drive to Gulf Boulevard.

City Manager Rives: The funds are in the Utility Consultants contingency of the existing contract. I will be speaking with Duke regarding the conduit and there is money in the contingency for at least the conduit. I expect a credit from Duke Energy of approximately \$50,000.00 which could pay for the connection. If it comes together, I would ask for a quick, 10-minute Special Meeting for approval. There is a BEI citizen's group I meet with each month. They would have to determine if that is how the funds would be used.

Councilmember Behm: Mr. Mark Goldman of the citizens group was here to state the group would like that to go forward if it did not exceed the budget. Unfortunately, he is no longer here.

Mayor Manzo: Yes, we would just need to hear from him.

Attorney Spoto Bircher: We will need to redo the sign ordinance, I don't think it's a rush, apparently a lot of cities have waited because it's such a tough area and will be very time consuming. The other item is the parking restrictions. We will draft to make an additional exception to allow citizens to get a temporary parking permit for up to two hours for anywhere in the City. I feel strongly about the question of constitutionality and have discussed it with the Alachua County City Attorney. They have a First Amendment expert draft all of their city ordinances on anything First Amendment oriented.

Mayor Manzo: I think that the ordinance is too restrictive. This is a matter for a future work session. I think we have a minor problem, not a major problem. City Attorney Marino's recommendation is to hold back on enforcement of the sign ordinance.

Attorney Spoto Bircher: I want to take my time on this, on how to change the sign ordinance to fit this City.

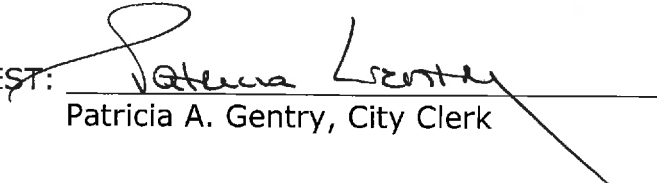
ADJOURN

MOTION was made by Councilmember Shirley and seconded by Councilmember Behm to adjourn at 8:12pm.

Motion passed 7-0.

July 1, 2019
Date Approved

APPROVED: 
Joseph A. Manzo, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Patricia A. Gentry, City Clerk