



Town of Belleair

901 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
Belleair, FL 33756

Meeting Minutes Town Commission

Tuesday, September 3, 2019

6:00 PM

Town Hall

Welcome. We are glad to have you join us. If you wish to speak, please wait to be recognized, then step to the podium and state your name and address. We also ask that you please turn-off all cell phones.

Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM with Mayor Gary H. Katica presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMISSIONER ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Mayor Gary H. Katica
Deputy Mayor Karla Rettstatt
Commissioner Michael Wilkinson
Commissioner Tom Shelly
Commissioner Tom Kurey

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS

Persons are advised that, if they decide to appeal any decision made at this meeting/hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and, for such purposes, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

[19-0230](#)

First Budget Hearing - Approval of Tentative Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2019-2020

JP Murphy-Town Manager-Stated statutory requirement to set millage and budget for first reading; the second and final hearing will be on the 17th. A full budget presentation to be made then voting on individual items; staff is recommending holding the rate steady at 6.500 mills; explained breakdown of mills.

Stefan Massol Director of Support Services-Discussed budget calendar; property values have allowed for maintaining same millage rate of 6.5; discussed Truth and Millage process; discussed general fund revenues and expenditures; Mr. Murphy discussed major revenue changes.

Peter Kyres-Resident-Questioned special duty police increase; Mr. Murphy stated additional increase to revenue.

Mr. Murphy continued presentation; reviewed Town department budgets; discussed general fund expenditures.

Rick Allison-Director of Parks, Recreation and Public Works-Discussed changes to concerts; reduced expenditures; implementing a tiered ticket plan and non-resident prices to increase revenues; addressed questions from commissioners relating to event insurance and scheduling of concerts.

Susan Usilton-Resident-Questioned resident vs non-resident attendance; commented on speeding.

It was the consensus of the commission to continue all three concerts, then evaluate next year.

Mr. Allison provided overview of block parties; Recreation Board seeking ways to engage the community; pilot program is to have two events; provided costs.

Deputy Mayor Rettstatt commented on utilizing parks instead of streets; discussion ensued regarding utilizing parks for the block parties; consensus of commission to leave item in budget to test this year.

Mr. Murphy finalized presentation by discussing the enterprise funds; solid waste; water department and projects.

Tom Olson-Finance Board Chairman-Commented on Finance Board discussions and unanimous approval; thanked staff.

Deputy Mayor Rettstatt move tentative approval of Resolution 2019-15 adopting the millage rate of 6.5, provided that 6.5 is greater than the rolled-back rate of 6.2169 by 4.55%. Seconded by Commissioner Shelly.

Aye: 5 - Mayor Katica, Deputy Mayor Rettstatt, Commissioner Wilkinson, Commissioner Shelly, and Commissioner Kurey

[19-0231](#)

First Budget Hearing - Approval of Tentative Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Town Budget

Mr Murphy stated that a very high level discussion of the budget had already been given, that it would be appropriate to open discussions for questions from the commission or others or to make changes.

No additional discussion, changes or public comments.

Commissioner Shelly moved approval of the tentative Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Town Budget. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Rettstatt.

Aye: 5 - Mayor Katica, Deputy Mayor Rettstatt, Commissioner Wilkinson, Commissioner Shelly, and Commissioner Kurey

CITIZENS COMMENTS

(Discussion of items not on the agenda. Each speaker will be allowed 3 minutes to speak.)

Estelle DeMuesy-Resident-Made a statement regarding dissatisfaction with decisions; perception of voting conflicts; transparency; Sunshine law; terminating town attorney.

Dan Hartshorne-Resident-Commented on Tampa Bay Times article; unsatisfied with town attorney.

Mr. Olson - Resident-Spoke on conflict of interest; unsatisfied with town attorney.

Nancy Hartshorne-Resident-Commented on seeking a solution soon.

Jerry Collman-Resident-Discussed concerns regarding rumors related to golf course plans and maintenance; spoke on news article.

Chris Green-Resident-Commented in support of Deputy Mayor Rettstatt and Commissioner Kurey.

Kathy Gaston-Resident-Spoke on fertilizer on golf course, seeking prior notice to residents in future before fertilizing. Mr. Murphy stated he was meeting with Lee McKay to discuss communication with residents.

Lissa Dexter-Resident-Commented on lack of communication with residents and town meetings; mentioned receiving post card regarding meeting. Mr. Murphy provided the various communication methods to residents; open to additional input.

Ms. DeMuesy-Spoke on announcing upcoming agenda items ahead of time.

Tom DuPont-Resident-Spoke regarding positive changes in the RPD; support of commission; spoke in dissatisfaction with newspaper article.

Mr. Olson commented on article; requested firing of town attorney; provided his reasons to fire attorney.

Gayle Grady-Resident-Spoke in support of commissioners and staff; upset with news article.

Clint Sly-Resident-Dissatisfied with news article; commended commission.

Karen Elison-Resident-Spoke on need to see resolve to situation; stopping negativity.

Ms. Hartshorne-Spoke to crowd regarding meeting attendance.

Mr. Hartshorne-Questioned authorization of an attorney email/letter sent to a resident.

David Ottinger-Town Attorney-Provided a statement regarding Mr. Harshorne's question.

Mr. Hartshorne-Commented on ethics opinion.

Mr. Sly-Commented on real estate expertise and property values.

Mayor Katica-Made a statement regarding perception; feels article was derogatory.

Mr. Kyres-Suggested a full investigation by ethics commission to finalize issue.

Molly DuPont Schaffer-Resident-Commented on unnecessary controversy; suggested working with Town Manager to handle Nextdoor statements.

CONSENT AGENDA

[19-0228](#)

Approval of August 8, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes and August 20, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Deputy Mayor Rettstatt moved approval of the consent agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Shelly.

Aye: 5 - Mayor Katica, Deputy Mayor Rettstatt, Commissioner Wilkinson, Commissioner Shelly, and Commissioner Kurey

GENERAL AGENDA

Commissioner Kurey made a statement regarding real estate transaction; willing to discuss with any resident that is concerned; actions were done based on legal advice received from attorney and ethics commission.

Deputy Mayor Rettstatt discussed her employment date and voting record; sought opinion for clarification; went to the Commission on Ethics.

19-0232**Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Contact Renewal**

Rick Doyle-Chief of Police-Provided overview of contract renewal; 4.9% increase overall; seeking approval for renewal.

Deputy Mayor Rettstatt moved approval of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Contract Renewal. Seconded by Commissioner Wilkinson.

Aye: 5 - Mayor Katica, Deputy Mayor Rettstatt, Commissioner Wilkinson, Commissioner Shelly, and Commissioner Kurey

19-0215**Resolution 2019-14 - Adding 901 Ponce de Leon Boulevard to the Historic Registry**

Commissioner Shelly stated there was unanimous support of the Historic Preservation Board to add the Town Hall to the list of Historic Properties.

Mr. Murphy read resolution by title; amending list by resolution.

Commissioner Shelly moved approval of Resolution 2019-14 - Adding 901 Ponce de Leon Boulevard to the Historic Registry. Seconded by Commissioner Wilkinson.

Aye: 5 - Mayor Katica, Deputy Mayor Rettstatt, Commissioner Wilkinson, Commissioner Shelly, and Commissioner Kurey

19-0235**Resolution 2019-17 - Declaring State of Emergency**

Mr. Murphy provided background; ratification of mayoral declaration; will sunset on Thursday.

Commissioner Shelly moved approval of Resolution 2019-17 - Declaring State of Emergency as amended. Seconded by Commissioner Wilkinson.

Aye: 5 - Mayor Katica, Deputy Mayor Rettstatt, Commissioner Wilkinson, Commissioner Shelly, and Commissioner Kurey

19-0233**Resolution 2019-18 - Appointing Planning and Zoning Board Member**

Mr. Murphy stated Joe Namey was the nominated Planning and Zoning Board member.

Commissioner Shelly moved approval of Joseph Namey as the new Planning and Zoning Board member. Seconded by Commissioner Wilkinson.

Aye: 5 - Mayor Katica, Deputy Mayor Rettstatt, Commissioner Wilkinson, Commissioner Shelly, and Commissioner Kurey

[19-0234](#)

Resolution 2019-19 Establishing an LPGA Ad Hoc Committee

Mr. Murphy stated a citizen advisory committee will be formed to advise on the event; provided procedures on appointing members; named members.

Peter Kyres -Resident-Commented on selection of members; would like to participate.

Mr. Murphy discussed role of members.

Commissioner Wilkinson suggested to add Mr. Kyres as a member; consensus to amend.

Discussion ensued regard have 6 members; voting could result in tie vote.

Commissioner Shelly asked Jerald Collman if he would be interested in serving on the committee; Mr. Collman agreed; was added as 7th member.

Deputy Mayor Rettstatt amended motion for approval of the LPGA Ad Hoc Committee and to add the two members. Seconded by Commissioner Shelly.

Aye: 5 - Mayor Katica, Deputy Mayor Rettstatt, Commissioner Wilkinson, Commissioner Shelly, and Commissioner Kurey

[19-0227](#)

Discussion of Honoring Gloria Burton

Mr. Murphy provided brief overview of options to honor Mrs. Burton.

Deputy Mayor Rettstatt suggested making Pinellas Park, a park of distinction, to honor residents that have made large contributions; could honor Mrs. Burton with a tree as well; consensus of commission.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Doyle-Provided comments regarding hurricane; dedication of officers.

Mr. Murphy stated that Chief Doyle was a first responder to an accident; providing CPR to a woman; saved her life due to his quick action.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Murphy discussed alternative to sandbags; announced employee of the month; public works event; active shooter training upcoming for staff; hazardous waste pick-up is at Largo High School; announced upcoming meeting items.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Ottinger commented on his service; asks if any commissioners have concerns regarding citizen comments to please contact him.

Commented to Mr. Hartshorne and Mr. Olson directly.

MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORT/BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Katica spoke on greatness of town.

Commissioner Wilkinson-spoke favorably of town, representatives and residents;

always available.

Deputy Mayor Rettstatt-Echoed previous comments; kudos to Town Manager for securing debris site.

Commissioner Shelly-Commended town staff for early storm prep and communications; thanked staff.

Commissioner Kurey-45 day extension for attempted refinancing with BB&T; ability to investigate additional options if necessary; again requests citizens to approach him with any concerns.

OTHER BUSINESS

No further business.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned in due form at 8:09 PM.

Commissioner Wilkinson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Shelly.

Aye: 5 - Mayor Katica, Deputy Mayor Rettstatt, Commissioner Wilkinson, Commissioner Shelly, and Commissioner Kurey

TOWN CLERK

APPROVED:

MAYOR