



Town of Belleair

901 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
Belleair, FL 33756

Meeting Minutes Town Commission

Tuesday, August 20, 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 was called to order at 6:02 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.

[19-0219](#)

Variance for 313 Woodlawn Ave

JP Murphy-Town Manager-Provided details of request; Planning and Zoning unanimously approved with conditions of continuing use of previously approved setbacks, use of uniform height color and material, conform with all town codes, existing 4ft picket fence must be removed; should be in accordance with the new fence code.

Town clerk swore in applicant.

Lester Mandelker-Applicant-313 Woodlawn Ave. - Discussed request; would like to extend height from a 4ft to a 6ft fence.

No outstanding code concerns.

Commissioner Shelly moved approval of the variance request for 313 Woodlawn Ave. and amend to include everything listed in the summary. Seconded by Commissioner Wilkinson.

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

[19-0194](#)

First Reading of Ordinance 526-Amending Solid Waste Rates

Mr. Murphy stated need to increase revenue to meet rising cost of recycling; discussed recycling costs and defined enterprise funds; need to raise solid waste fees 5%; two

additional clauses seeking to add language clarifies special pickups and condos using individual level service but currently charged multifamily rate.

Lil Cromer-Resident-Spoke on recycling; questioned County involvement.

Discussion ensued regarding recycling.

Commissioner Shelly moved approval of Ordinance 525, amending solid waste rates on first reading. 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.)

None to be heard.

CONSENT AGENDA

[19-0220](#)

Approval of August 6, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Shelly moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Rettstatt.

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

GENERAL AGENDA

Commissioner Kurey made a statement regarding recent accusations regarding votes made by him related to the Pelican Golf Club; no voting conflicts regarding Pelican Golf voting found by Town Attorney, and was further confirmed by Florida Ethics Commission that no voting conflict exists; stated he has a sworn duty to the residents of Belleair and has not, nor ever will, breach that duty.

Mr. Murphy briefly commented on Commissioner Kurey's statement; full disclosure was provided to the town attorney and himself, as well as the Commission on Ethics; in addition every commissioner prior to the first reading provided their disclosure of ex parte communications prior to phase 4 and prior to all of the votes; notice that the Florida Commission on Ethics had been contacted was presented specifically by David Ottinger and himself at meeting; spoke regarding each commissioner; only commissioner found to have a voting conflict was Deputy Mayor Rettstatt.

Ms. Cromer-Resident - Asked Town Attorney what can be done if misinformation is printed.

David Ottinger-Town Attorney- Stated that publications have duty to investigate and not publish false information otherwise legal action could happen.

[19-0218](#)

Discussion of Refinancing of Bond Series

Mr. Murphy stated rates are at record lows; ability to refinance current debt potentially saving \$400,000; CIP in need of additional funding; potential to borrow, contractually must be done on October 1st; discussed bond refinance scenario; financial advisors.

Mayor Katica commented on need for roadway and water system upgrades; supports Finance Board recommendation for refinancing.

Dan Hartshorne-Finance Board Member-Rates at all time low; provided Finance Board findings

Benjamin Damsker-Resident-Commented on extending out as far as possible to have rate locked in if there is not prepayment penalty.

Tom Olson-Finance Board Chairman-Finance Board concerned with term, rate, and no or lessened prepayment penalties; able to call an emergency board meeting if commission is interested in proceeding.

Commissioner Shelly stated he was fine with 12 million total loan amount for 20 years; Mayor Katica would like to borrow amount that maintains current payment.

Mr. Murphy discussed 20 year term at 2.5% for 12 million; discussed phone conference with the Florida League of Cities loan council; continued to discussion various scenarios to refinance; to select financial advisor.

Commissioner Shelly moved to have the Town Manager select a financial advisor not to exceed \$35,000.00. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Rettstatt.

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

[19-0221](#)

Continued Budget Discussion and Staffing Level Analysis

Mr. Murphy discussed current staffing levels.

Mr. Olson provided Finance Board commentary; commends staff and supports budget; Mr. Murphy stated FEMA money expected soon.

Estelle DeMuesy-Resident-questioned if more staffing should be added to parks; Mr Murphy stated currently at highest level of Parks staff.

Deputy Mayor Rettstatt commented on areas to reduce spending; beautifying parks; raising ticket prices.

Commissioner Shelly commented on FEMA reimbursement; Mr. Murphy and Mr. Massol commented on reimbursement rate at 90%.

Discussions on concerts and calculating scenarios.

19-0217

Discussion of Appraisals of Ahlf Properties

Mr. Murphy commented on appraiser findings; reviewed various lots; questioned if subdivision should be allowed; discussion regarding restrictions/obligations to place on property; land use density.

Dan Hartshorne-Commented on dock area and mangrove preservation.

Mr. Murphy stated commission acceptable zoning up to R1; all offers will be entertained; allow to sell separately; drive easement on lot 4, driveway to lot 12; blind escrow; merit of offers; final appraisal submitted to the Town.

Nancy Hartshorne-Resident-questioned sale process; Mr. Murphy discussed process; entertaining offers; public noticed.

Tyler Murtle-Non resident-questioned information available today; Mr. Murphy stated no numbers as of yet until development potential is identified.

Rick Feinberg-resident-questioned bidding war potential; Mr. Murphy commented; offer flexibility; rolling basis.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Murphy stated ADA suit to be settled; pothole on Cypress will be paved; proposed agenda distributed, Commission consensus to continue.

Discussion of honoring Gloria Burton's passing; discussion placed on the agenda.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Nothing to report.

MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORT/BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Kurey-commented staff on budget session; Property appraiser at Finance board meeting.

Commissioner Shelly-Park and Tree board did not meet; Historic Preservation board will meet on August 27th; Largo Fire Chief will provide report after budget sessions.

Mayor Katica had nothing to report.

Deputy Mayor Rettstatt-Commented on the Sip and slide event.

Commissioner Wilkinson-Nothing to report.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned in due form at 7:16 PM.

Commissioner Wilkinson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Rettstatt.

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

TOWN CLERK

APPROVED:

MAYOR