

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A Regular Council Meeting was held on February 12, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Zephyrhills Library.

President Knight called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken. Present were members Ken Burgess, Kenneth Compton, Alan Knight, Charlie Proctor, Lance Smith, and Mayor Whitfield. City Manager Steve Spina and City Attorney Matthew Maggard were also present.

Staff present: Police Chief Derek Brewer, Police Captain Reggie Roberts, Fire Chief Brian Swartout, Utilities Director John Bostic, Public Works Director Shane LeBlanc, Building Official Bill Burgess, Director of Finance Brian Williams, Director of Planning Todd Vande Berg, IT Director Mike Panak, Airport Manager Nathan Coleman, CRA Director Gail Hamilton, Lieutenant Nathan Gardner, Lieutenant Matt Hillen, Water Superintendent C. J. Funnell, Assistant City Clerk Jessica Carter, GIS Tech Kevie DeFranc and City Clerk Lori Hillman.

City employee Nathan Coleman gave the Invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. Charlie Proctor moved the minutes of the January 22, 2018 Regular Meeting be approved. Seconded by Ken Burgess. Motion passed unanimously.

Police Chief Brewer recognized and congratulated Lieutenant Nathan Gardner and Lieutenant Matt Hillen on their recent promotions. Chief Brewer explained there are two divisions within the department; Lieutenant Hillen commands the Operations Division and Lieutenant Gardner commands the Administrative Division.

CONSENT

1. Reconstruction Taxiway B and Rehabilitation Terminal Ramp
2. Reconstruction and Realignment Taxiway B

Lance Smith moved to approve the Consent Items. Seconded by Charlie Proctor.

Airport Manager Nathan Coleman stated he secured a grant in the amount of \$2.5M from the Federal Aviation Authority last year. He said these grants are additional money through the Department of Transportation in the amount of \$500,000 to reconstruct the outbound pavement area.

Councilman Smith said Mr. Coleman has a good working relationship with the grant administrators and recognized Nathan for his work at the Airport.

Motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

PUBLIC HEARING

- 1. Second Reading ORDINANCE 1350-18 – “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ZEPHYRHILLS, FLORIDA AMENDING SECTION 51.075 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES ESTABLISHING A NEW SCHEDULE OF RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE USE OF OR AVAILABILITY FOR THE USE OF POTABLE WATER, WASTEWATER (SEWER), AND RECLAIMED WATER; PROVIDING FOR REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.”**

Ordinance 1350-18 was read by title.

Spoke from the floor: Vice President Tony Hairston of Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc.

Mr. Hairston presented a brief update of the initial rate study and narrated a PowerPoint presentation focusing on capital projects to be funded over the next five years. He said \$22M will be invested into the Utility System to install new sewer and water lines, lift stations and plant upgrades per regulatory requirements in an effort to be proactive.

Dr. Spina highlighted a few of the proposed capital projects. He said operating expenses to keep the Utility System running include \$80,000 a year for chlorine and chemicals for water and lab analysis, \$120,000 a year for chlorine and chemicals for the waste water treatment plant, \$300,000 a year for electricity to keep the sewer plant and lift stations operating, and \$100,000 a year to haul sludge.

Mr. Hariston said the Utility Fund is paying the operating expenses which have gone up over time. He said the money to put back into the system is between \$300,000-to-\$400,000 after all operating expenses are paid which falls short of the amount to sustain the tens of millions of dollars the City has invested in the Utility System. He said there is over \$3.9M in impact fees funding growth related projects and growth will help everyone to spread the costs out over time to future users.

Dr. Spina said staff met with the Department of Environmental Protection to seek money involving state loans, some at no interest. He said the cost to expand the WWTP in 2008 was \$20M and some of the cost could have been paid with impact fees but the economic recession hit and the City didn't receive impact fee funding for four to five years. He said during the economic downturn, the City had to defer maintenance. Dr. Spina said Hurricane Irma opened his eyes to the importance of the proposed capital projects. He said the City did not have generators for lift stations, fallen trees knocked down electric lines and rendered a pump station out of commission. He said the City incurred flooding, there were people with no water, and City employees were running around moving generators from lift station to lift station to prevent backflow in homes.

Mr. Hairston said the typical user uses 3,000 gallons of water monthly inside the City limits and the existing bill is \$40.03. As of March 1, 2018, the bill will increase to \$43.14, an increase of \$3.11 per month. Over the next four years, the bill would have risen to \$57.01 under what was presented in July 2017. Additional funding of \$650,000 from Nestle Water will decrease the amount to \$55.84. Mr. Hairston said for \$43.00 a month citizens receive clean drinking water at pressure on demand and the waste water is sent to the waste water plant, cleaned and disposed of safely within regulations.

Mr. Hairston said the City is in the rehabilitation portion of their utility life cycle, resetting rates to put money back in the system. He said in comparison with other local municipal water and waste water providers, the City is the second lowest. In 2022, barring any new regulatory issues, the City will be well positioned for the future.

Dr. Spina said if money is not invested into the Utility System, the City could experience a similar situation that occurred in Flint where the system was not maintained and the people could not drink the water. He said this is a health and safety issue as well as an economic issue.

A public hearing was held and the following citizens spoke from the floor:

Brian Bergjans – 6821 Lum Drive – Zephyrhills, Florida 33542

Mr. Bergjans said he is a registered voter, Marine Corp. veteran and a senior. He said while a price increase may seem small to some people, if you are a retiree on social security, every raise is big. He said when Valleydale has a water break, the City responds and fixes the break quickly and Valleydale responds and pays the bill quickly. He said the price increase is unfair to Valleydale residents. He said a rate increase is unfair to seniors and unfair to a park where the City doesn't accept responsibility for the water and sewer lines. He said Valleydale residents are citizens of the City and asked Council to make good decisions for the citizens of the City.

Marie Garfinkel – 9514 Score Card Way – Dade City, Florida 33525

Ms. Garfinkel said she lives outside Zephyrhills but receives services from the City. She said her initial rate is higher than the rates listed in the analysis. She said most of the citizens in the area consist of senior citizens on fixed budgets and asked Council not to increase the rates.

Devin Alexander – 38955 C Avenue – Zephyrhills, Florida 33542

Mr. Alexander said he is a registered voter in the City. He said when the Flint crisis was taking place, he was in Michigan and remembers he and his classmates taking water to local schools. He said he is glad to see the City being proactive and addressing the issue. He said he understandings rate increase notices were sent out, some folks received the notices late, and

some folks said they never received a notice. He said the City has to improve their communication. He said as leaders, Council must go to the people to make sure they are aware of issues when they are being proposed. He asked Council to exhaust every communication channel in the future for a smoother implementation. He thanked Council for being proactive.

Melonie Monson – 5920 Newberry Street – Zephyrhills, Florida 33542

Ms. Monson said she lives in the City and is the only income in her family and understands what it is like to live on a budget. She understands that an increase is always difficult but loves it when she turns on her water and it's good, clean, safe drinking water. She said she is also appreciative that when she flushes the toilet it is not going to come back. She said she recognizes improvements are necessary and is appreciative of all that the Council and Mayor do for the City.

Council President Knight closed the public hearing.

Lance Smith said he appreciates everyone who spoke from the floor and everyone in attendance. He said the City has historically had low rates. He said he does not like increases but he is willing to pay \$3.11 a month to be able to turn on his faucet and have running water. He said he appreciates everyone on a fixed income; however, everyone has to pay their way as we move forward.

Councilman Compton said it has always been important to him that the City be efficient and he has placed a high priority on millage and water rates. He said in order to keep the Utility System working properly, he is inclined to vote in favor of the rate increase.

Councilman Proctor said he owns a car wash and the last thing he wants to do is raise the water rates. He said the City has to maintain the infrastructure so when we turn on the water, we get good quality water. He said he does not want to raise rates on retirees but it is an unfortunate necessity.

Councilman Burgess said he appreciates everyone in attendance. He said there have been a lot of valid points made and they have not fallen on deaf ears. He said we are all residents of the City who will have to pay the rate increase. He said he believes the City has a good blend of being proactive and fixing things as they go. He said he would be inclined to do what is best for the citizens in the long run. He said he has never had one issue with water in the City and would be inclined to vote in favor of the rate increase.

Kenneth Compton moved to approve Ordinance 1350-18. Seconded by Ken Burgess. Motion passed unanimously on the second reading.

BREAK: 6:58 p.m. to 7:03 p.m.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

2. Design Build Team Recommendation for Sarah Vande Berg Tennis Center

Dr. Spina said the City requested proposals for a Design Build Team to provide architectural and construction services for the Sarah Vande Berg Tennis Center. The evaluation committee comprising Todd Vande Berg, Pascal Collard, Tom Rodgers, Kevie Defranc and Shane Leblanc reviewed three written responses. He said interviews and presentations were made by each Design Build Team and based on the information listed in the written responses and information presented at the interviews, the committee rankings were 1.) J.O. Delotto & Sons, 2.) A.D. Morgan, and 3.) Ryman Construction of Florida. If Council concurs, he requested City Council direct the City Manager and City Attorney to meet with J.O. Delotto & Sons to begin negotiations.

Director of Planning Todd Vande Berg stated each company was given the opportunity to share information about their team consisting of a general contractor, architect and final design. He said the committee had three strong candidates with solid team members in all the three disciplines and good tennis contractors who were certified tennis court builders. He said J.O. Delotto & Sons stood out by including the Tennis Design Studio on their team who are

known for their nationally award winning tennis centers. The owner, David Lasota, has been designing tennis facilities for 30 years and was involved with the main tennis center in Orlando, the USTA National Headquarters, the largest tennis facility in the country with 100 courts, the Arthur Ashe facility in Philadelphia, is on the USTA Grant Application Board, and has received multiple awards..

Mr. Vande Berg said he was contacted by Mayor Whitfield prior to the meeting who noticed the tallying of the scores for the rankings was inaccurate. He said scores were re-tallied and there is no change in the rankings although, the point spread between the number 1 and number 2 teams increased from 7 to 45 points.

Spoke from the floor: Pascal Collard – President of Tennis Pro Florida, LLC

Mr. Collard said he has visited the J.O. Delotto court sites in Orlando and Philadelphia.

Lance Smith moved to approve staff's recommendation of J.O. Delotto & Sons for the Design Construction of the Sarah Vande Berg Tennis Center. Seconded by Kenneth Compton. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Request to Sell Alcohol (Beer) at Captain Jeffries Festival, Venue at the Airport

Dr. Spina said the noon Rotary Club is joining with Main Street Zephyrhills to expand the Founders Day event to a 2-day weekend. Main Street will coordinate events downtown on March 10th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a 5K and 10K race preceding the event. The Captain Jeffries Festival will be held at the venue at the Airport on Sunday, March 11th from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with live music, vendors, and beer and wine sales. Rotary is requesting Council approve the sale of alcohol.

Ken Burgess moved to approve Business Item 3. Seconded by Charlie Proctor. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Police Personnel Changes

Dr. Spina said this is an ongoing program within the department to continue improving the department.

Spoke from the floor: City of Zephyrhills Police Captain Roberts

Captain Roberts said the addition of a Forensics Investigator is the next step toward the department's progression. Captain Roberts narrated a PowerPoint presentation which covered an overview of the department, agency investigations, crime scenes, Pasco County Sheriff's Office change in Forensics protocol, ZPD Progression Plan, Pasco County Agencies with and without Forensics, duties of a Forensics Investigator, and a proposal to hire an experienced Forensics Investigator.

Captain Roberts said currently, if a scene in Zephyrhills requires forensics, the Pasco County Sheriff's Office Forensics Unit is requested and all evidence collected and packaged is stored with the Sheriff's Office. He said ZPD officers travel to and from the Sheriff's Office to collect and drop off evidence for trial, as needed. He said there is a collaboration with the Pasco County Sheriff's Forensics Unit and ZPD to present a joint case to the State Attorney's Office.

Captain Roberts said recently, the Pasco County Sheriff's Office has changed their protocol in the Forensics Unit. The Sheriff's Office has notified all cities within the county that if the Sheriff's Office Forensics Unit is requested, the Sheriff's Office is going to work the case within their department.

Captain Roberts said the immediate impact on major crime investigations by employing a Forensics Investigator is huge. He said the Forensics Investigator would be able to provide in-house officer training, ease the pressure in the evidence room, and the department would have an in-house forensics expert.

Captain Roberts proposed hiring an experienced Forensics Investigator in lieu of filling the vacant Police Officer position. He said the officer paygrade is 119 at \$43,261.76 and a Forensics Investigator is Paygrade of 112 at \$30,745.32.

Charlie Proctor moved to approve Business Item 4. Seconded by Ken Burgess. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Deed Property to Nestle Company (Zephyrhills Bottled Water)

Dr. Spina asked Council to consider deeding a strip of property from the City of Zephyrhills to Zephyrhills Bottled Water. He said Nestle purchased property on Alston Avenue to use as a loading area and a survey revealed that a strip of land measuring 16' by 620' owned by the City separates the two parcels. Nestle has surveyed the 16' x 620' strip of property and created a legal description and requests the City of Zephyrhills quit claim a deed of the land to Nestle.

Public Works Director Shane LeBlanc said the strip of land is a non-conforming parcel.

Lance Smith moved to approve Business Item 5. Seconded by Charlie Proctor. Motion passed unanimously.

ZEPHYRHILLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

8th Annual Pigz in Z'Hills BBQ & Blues

Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Melonie Monson said the 8th Annual BBQ and Blues event recruited 260 volunteers and drew 12,600 plus attendees this year. Survey results showed 51% were local, 29% were regional, and 20% were from out of state. There were 37 planes that flew into the Airport for the event.

Ms. Monson invited the Mayor and Councilmen to the Chamber's Pay It Forward dinner on Thursday, February 22nd from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Silverado. She said the Chamber will be giving back to the community and celebrating sponsors who helped make the event possible. She said the event had fly overs all day long from Sky Dive City which was entertaining along with six top notch bands.

Spoke from the floor: Warren Earle – 3822 Florida Ranch Blvd. – Zephyrhills, Florida 33541

Mr. Earle introduced himself as Citizen of the Year and said his title will be gone soon so he has to use it up. He said two weeks ago 46 ceramic LOVE icon's were distributed to show the City is one big happy, loving family. He said if somebody goes into the Police Chief's office and thinks he is going to get hung, he is going to see love on his desk and know he is in the right place, he came to the right City. Mr. Earle referred to a card and penny he left for the Mayor and Councilmen and explained they were all given a penny in honor of Lincoln's 112th Birthday.

Mr. Earle said he was touched by the passionate plea by Police Captain Roberts during his presentation and donated \$1,000 seed money for the Forensics Unit.

MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS – Mayor Whitfield congratulated Chief Brewer, Captain Roberts and the police department staff. He congratulated Chamber Executive Director Melonie Monson and Chamber President Dr. Stovall for a great event and said the City is moving forward in a positive direction.

CITY MANAGER ANNOUNCEMENTS – Dr. Spina shared a survey depicting the land swap with the AMVETS from the January 22nd meeting for Council review. He said the Neighborhood Cleanup was Saturday, February 10th in the area south of South Avenue (Moore's First Addition) to C Avenue from 8th Street to the railroad tracks. He said 140 cubic yards of debris was collected; five appliances, 22 TV's and electronics, 29 tires, and six drive up drop-offs. He said the Neighborhood Cleanup is part of the Code Enforcement Task Force, everybody working together. Dr. Spina recognized Councilman Compton for his article in the Free Press and shared with him the number of employees who have come forward to convey their respect for Councilman Compton's demeanor and professionalism and to say how much they will miss him.

CITY ATTORNEY ANNOUNCEMENTS – Attorney Maggard said he and his wife took their

twins out to the BBQ and Blues for their first public event. He said he created memories as it was his daughter's first festival. He and his wife enjoyed getting out of the house for the event and having lunch.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS – Councilman Proctor congratulated Chief Brewer for proving Council made the right decision in hiring him as Police Chief. He said he has hit the ground running with his team behind him and they are moving this great City forward. He said he is honored to live Zephyrhills.

Councilman Burgess said a couple weeks ago a couple councilmen and staff, Dade City representatives, Chamber representatives, and local business people traveled to Tallahassee to meet with state legislatures. He said he believes the community coming together as one sends a positive message to our legislatures. He said the trip was productive and positive. He suggested naming the venue that everyone keeps referring to as the Airport Venue.

Councilman Compton congratulated the Zephyrhills Police Department on the Forensics Investigator position. He said he is happy to see the two promotions to lieutenant and said both men started as patrolmen. He congratulated the Chamber for a great event. He said Dr. Spina knows a lot of people and knows how to make things happen and said it was a great opportunity in Tallahassee to see Dr. Spina in action with Senator Simpson and Representative Burgess who were very receptive to him.

Council Vice President Smith congratulated the Chamber for a great event. He thanked Councilmen and staff for the trip to Tallahassee because he believes it makes a difference. He said he wasn't able to attend this year. He congratulated Chief Brewer and Captain Roberts for a great job and told them to keep pushing the City forward. He said Councilman Compton has four more meetings and he will be missed.

Council President Knight congratulated Chief Brewer, Captain Roberts, and Melonie Monson. He said meeting after meeting after meeting we praise different people but there are two people that are very special people that we take for granted. He thanked Ms. Hillman and Jessica for all they do behind the scenes.

Meeting adjourned 8:01