

## **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

A Regular Council Meeting was held on March 26, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Alice Hall Community Center.

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 Lieutenant Matt Hillen, Fire Chief Brian Swartout, Fire Battalion Chief Ralph Velez, Utilities Director John Bostic, Public Works Director Shane LeBlanc, Building Official Bill Burgess, HR Director Sandra Amerson, Finance Director Brian Williams, Director of Planning Todd Vande Berg, IT Director Mike Panak, Airport Manager Nathan Coleman, CRA Director Gail Hamilton, Assistant Planner Rodney Corriveau, Historic Preservation Officer Audrey McGuire, Assistant City Clerk Jessica Carter and City Clerk Lori Hillman.

Alan Knight gave the Invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. Kenneth Compton moved the minutes of the March 12, 2018 Regular Meeting be approved. Seconded by Charlie Proctor. Motion passed unanimously.

### **MAYOR**

#### **Zephyrhills High School Football Proclamation**

Mayor Whitfield introduced the Zephyrhills High School football team and coach as City Clerk Lori Hillman read aloud the Zephyrhills High School Football Proclamation which was presented to Head Coach Nick Carroll by Mayor Whitfield. Mr. Carroll said he was proud of the football team players and praised them for their accomplishments. A signed football and t-shirt were presented to the Mayor.

#### **Volunteer, Civilian, and Officer of the Year**

Police Chief Derek Brewer recognized Eleanor Cooley as Volunteer of the Year, Brittany Burris as Civilian of the Year, and John Oleson as Officer of the Year for the Zephyrhills Police Department.

### **CONSENT ITEM**

#### 1. Aerocenter Lease Selection

Dr. Spina explained the City advertised for a tenant to lease the Aerocenter and received one response from Hawk Aircraft Painting. He requested Council's authorization for staff to negotiate a contract with Hawk Aircraft Painting.

Charlie Proctor moved to approve Consent Item 1. Seconded by Ken Burgess. Motion passed unanimously.

### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

#### **CITY CLERK'S REPORT**

#### 1. Accept the Canvassing of Vote

City Clerk Lori Hillman requested City Council schedule a Special Meeting to accept the canvassing of votes following the April 10<sup>th</sup> Municipal Election.

Charlie Proctor moved to approve a Special Meeting to accept the canvassing of votes on April 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the Library. Seconded by Ken Burgess. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

#### 2. SAFER Grant Application

Fire Chief Brian Swartout presented information to pursue a SAFER Grant for an additional three-to-six new firefighter/paramedic positions in an effort toward forecasting for growth occurring in the City and requested a commitment from Council to submit a SAFER Grant.

Dr. Spina stated one firefighter/paramedic position would cost the City \$65,000 a year (salary, insurance, taxes, and Florida Retirement). If the City were awarded the grant, 75% of the cost would be reimbursed the first year, 75% of the cost would be reimbursed the second year, and 35% of the cost would be reimbursed the third year. The City would be responsible for the full amount of \$390,000 a year after the initial three year period. He said while the City supports adding staff, the analysis of the proposed fire assessment fees is not complete.

Council and staff discussed the City's commitment to the SAFER grant along with fire department staffing, call volume, budget, probationary period, and number of employees requested through the SAFER grant.

Finance Director Brian Williams stated committing to six new firefighter/paramedic positions would require an increase in fire assessment fees or a millage rate increase.

Fire Battalion Chief Ralph Velez said if the City applied for three firefighter/paramedic positions one year and three firefighter/paramedic positions the following year, the City's chances of receiving the grant are slim to none. He explained funding is limited and normally awarded to the departments with the most need. If the City lays these positions off, the City will have to repay the funding.

Councilman Compton stated he is in favor of the Safer Grant. He said he read last year that the Pasco County and Hillsborough County regions had an influx of 50,000 people. He said the decision is not to proceed with the SAFER grant but look at the number of firefighter/paramedics to hire.

Councilman Smith said the modeling analysis of the proposed fire assessment fee presented by Stantec Consulting provided the ability to change criteria and he would like to see the results when payment from the grant drops off; specifically, the gap between the fire assessment fee and the cost of new employees. He is not comfortable moving forward without this information.

Dr. Spina said he has requested a ballpark figure from Stantec Consulting to assist City Council in making a decision. He said the idea of implementing a fire assessment fee was to assist the City in building a secure base for the fire department.

### **PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### 3. Historic Facade Improvement Grant

Historic Preservation Officer Audrey McGuire presented a historic facade improvement matching grant reimbursement in the amount of \$5,000 for a property located at 5435 10<sup>th</sup> Street known as the "Green Dutch Cottage." Mr. and Mrs. Velasquez have replaced everything from the floor joists to the structural system and the Historic Preservation Board and staff recommend Council approve reimbursement.

Ken Burgess moved to approve Business Item 3. Seconded by Lance Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

#### 4. Hidden River Final Plat, Phase One B

Director of Planning Todd Vande Berg stated the Final Plat for Hidden River Subdivision Phase One B is located immediately south of Emerald Pointe RV Park and extends south to the Hillsborough River. He said the final plat has been reviewed by the City's surveyor of record along with staff to ensure compliance. Staff recommends approval of the Final Plat for the Hidden River Subdivision Phase One B subject to continuing compliance.

Lance Smith moved to approve Business Item 4. Seconded by Kenneth Compton. Motion passed unanimously.

#### 5. Land Development Code Update – Light Industrial Setbacks

Planning Director Todd Vande Berg said there is a table (7.01.01) in the City's Land Development Code that outlines individual zoning district setbacks. Each site that is developed entails three levels of setbacks; front, side, and rear which are regulated by the Florida Land Development Regulations and the City's zoning ordinance to prevent structures from being built

too close together. Mr. Vande Berg proposed three modifications to the light industrial zone: 1). Modify the current front, side and rear setbacks currently 50 feet to a front setback of 20 feet and a side and rear setback of 10 feet; 2). Correct a Scribner's error in footnote #19 from C# to C3; and 3). Reduce the required landscape buffering of the interior lots from 10 feet to 5 feet. Staff and the Planning Commission recommend approval.

Lance Smith moved to approve Business Item 5. Seconded by Kenneth Compton. Motion passed unanimously.

**MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Mayor Whitfield congratulated the Zephyrhills High School football players and coaches and recognized Main Street volunteers for their efforts in pulling off a great Founder's Day event.

**CITY MANAGER ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Dr. Spina said Police Chief Brewer and Public Works Director Shane LeBlanc will meet with the Pasco County School Board on March 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss school safety; specifically, transportation issues at West Zephyrhills and Woodland Elementary schools which could impact the City in terms of signage and street crossings. Planning Director Todd Vande Berg will meet with Pasco County staff on March 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss the traffic signal at Geiger Road and Eiland Blvd. He said a green tea design traffic light may be installed at Silver Oaks Blvd. if paid for by the City. Mr. Vande berg will bring back design ideas and potential costs.

Dr. Spina announced Governor Scott passed the state's budget for fiscal year 2019 and the City of Zephyrhills will receive \$1M for the Sarah Vande Berg Tennis Center, \$5.9M for upgrades at the municipal airport, and \$750,000 for a road alignments study for S.R. 56.

Dr. Spina said \$140,000 was budgeted to replace the air conditioning system at the police department. The City went out to bid and two proposals were received in the neighborhood of \$250,000. Staff will bring back information for a short and long-term solution.

**CITY ATTORNEY ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Attorney Maggard said he received a proposed Interlocal Agreement from the Pasco County School Board transferring Hercules Park to the City and he looks forward to finalizing the agreement.

**CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS** – Council Vice President Smith said the Main Street Founder's Day Parade was a great event and recognized everyone who participated.

Councilman Compton recognized Dr. Spina for working with Representative Burgess and Senator Simpson to obtain \$7.5M.

Councilman Burgess is excited about the funding of upcoming projects and echoed Councilman Compton's comments and said this is a testament to our representation in Tallahassee. He said when the football team is doing well, the general morale of the school improves.

Councilman Proctor thanked Fire Chief Swartout for his SAFER Grant presentation. He thanked Representative Burgess, Senator Simpson and most importantly Governor Scott for not vetoing the \$7.5M funding. He said Representative Burgess is doing a phenomenal job.

Council President Knight said his tenure as President will be coming to an end and he is proud of City Council for the progress made and thanked Dr. Spina for his leadership.

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

Mr. Earle introduced himself as Citizen of the Year and Grand Marshal. He shared a picture with City Council along with everyone in attendance of he and his daughter waiving from the lead car in the Founder's Day Parade.

Meeting adjourned 7:13 p.m.