

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A Regular Council Meeting was held on September 25, 2017 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: Interim Police Chief Derek Brewer, Police Captain Reggie Roberts, 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, Main Street Coordinator Anna Stutzrien, and City Clerk Lori Hillman.

Reverend Dale Miller from the Church of the Living Word gave the Invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. Charlie Proctor moved the minutes of the September 18, 2017 Special Meeting be approved. Seconded by Ken Burgess. Motion passed unanimously.

MAYOR

City Manager Evaluation Report

Mayor Whitfield introduced Human Resources Director Sandra Amerson who presented the results of the City Manager's Evaluation. The overall City Council evaluation of the City Manager was 4.62 out of a possible 5.

City Scholarships

Councilman Ken Burgess introduced April Simons, Zephyrhills High School College and Career Counselor, who answered questions and concerns relating to scholarships sponsored by the City of Zephyrhills. Ms. Simons provided Council with a scholarship application and scholarship descriptions. She stated in order for students to receive scholarship funds, they must show proof of enrollment and the monies are sent directly to the institution, not the student.

CONSENT ITEM

1. Hidden River Subdivider's Agreement

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

BUSINESS ITEMS PUBLIC HEARING

1. Second Reading ORDINANCE No. 1329-17 – “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ZEPHYRHILLS, FLORIDA AMENDING THE CITY OF ZEPHYRHILLS CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 30, “BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS,” REPEALING SECTIONS 30.010 THROUGH 30.016 AND SECTIONS 30.060 THROUGH 30.063; CREATING SECTIONS 30.080 THROUGH 30.087 WHICH ESTABLISHES THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, CODE ENFORCEMENT, AND APPEALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.”

Ordinance No. 1329-17 was read by title. A public hearing was held and there were no comments from the audience. Charlie Proctor moved Ordinance No. 1329-17 be passed on the second reading. Seconded by Ken Burgess. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Second Reading Ordinance No. 1330-17 – “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ZEPHYRHILLS, FLORIDA, LEVYING THE MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 FOR THE CITY OF ZEPHYRHILLS.”

Ordinance No. 1330-17 was read by title. A public hearing was held and there were no comments from the audience.

Finance Director Brian Williams stated the proposed millage rate has been set at 6.35 mills, a 3.49% increase in the rollback rate of 6.1358 mills. He said the total budget is sixty-three million, three hundred and eighty-one thousand, two hundred and fifty-nine dollars.

Kenneth Compton moved Ordinance No. 1330-17 be passed on the second reading. Seconded by Lance Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Second Reading Ordinance No. 1331-17 – “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ZEPHYRHILLS, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE 2017-2018 FISCAL YEAR.”

Ordinance No. 1331-17 was read by title. A public hearing was held and there were no comments from the audience. Ken Burgess moved Ordinance No. 1331-17 be passed on the second reading. Seconded by Charlie Proctor. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Second Reading Ordinance No. 1333-17 – “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 No. 1333-17 was read by title. A public hearing was held and there were no comments from the audience.

Dr. Spina said the 25% increase for residents outside the City limits is applied to the base rate and the consumption rate. He explained the initial water and sewer utility rates shall be adjusted January 1, 2018 and shall increase thereafter annually on October 1st of each year beginning October 1, 2018 at the rate of 4% for water and 8% for sewer for a total of five increases with the last increase on October 1, 2021.

Charlie Proctor moved Ordinance No. 1333-17 be passed on the second reading. Seconded by Kenneth Compton. Motion passed unanimously.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

5. Zephyrhills Economic Summit

Dr. Spina said the Zephyrhills Economic Summit is planned for Wednesday, October 4th, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Scotland Yard Golf & Country Club. He said the purpose of the summit is to improve the economic climate in Zephyrhills and will focus on the medical community. He said Dr. Paul Hughes, a founding member of Florida Medical Clinic, will be a guest speaker along with Planning Director Todd Vande Berg and CRA Director Gail Hamilton who will speak on their sphere of local government. Dr. Stephen Neely, Professor of Research Methods at USF, will release the results of the survey he conducted locally by speaking with a wide range of medical professionals.

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Melonie Monson said she is excited about the summit and feels it will be worthwhile for everyone. She said State Representative Danny Burgess, Pasco County Commissioner Ron Oakley, and Florida Hospital Zephyrhills’ Chief Executive Officer Amanda Maggard will be speaking.

6. Fee Workshop

Dr. Spina asked Council to schedule a Workshop to tie in with the CRA Meeting on October 23rd to review fees. He said City departments charge a variety of fees in their daily performance of providing services to City residents such as public record request fees, cemetery fees, Alice Hall rental fees, Airport venue fees, land development service fees, building permit and connection fees, fire inspection fees, airport user fees, and transportation impact fees.

7. Police Chief Recommendation

Dr. Spina said in the course of doing his job, the appointment of a Police Chief is one of the most important decisions he makes. He said following the interviews of six (6) applicants, he recommends City Council hire Derek Brewer to serve as Police Chief effective September 25, 2017. He said the City Charter, Section 35.01 requires, “The City Manager shall appoint the Police Chief with approval by a simple majority of the City Council.”

Councilman Burgess said there are times in his position as a Councilman that call for difficult decisions and it is imperative that he give due diligence to research, ask questions and listen attentively to all resident in order to make the best decision for the City of Zephyrhills. He said this is one of those difficult decisions. He said given our current society, the next Police Chief will face challenges not faced by previous administrations. He said the Police Chief will need access to a multitude of resources and a willingness to embrace them. He thought it an opportune time to look at the situation from a new philosophy and perspective. He said before the Super Bowl the Bucs had a great team, they had great players, they had a great coach and they were doing great things. It took a fresh look, a different face to bring them to the top. He said he is and always will be a steadfast supporter of the Zephyrhills Police Department. He asked everyone to understand that the path of least resistance is a easy road to walk but his decisions are never made on personalities, promises or politics. He said he will be respectful and supportive of Council's ultimate decision and hopes that all will be understanding and respectful of his decision.

Spoke from the floor in support of Derek Brewer for Zephyrhills Police Chief:

Amy Chappell – 4206 Coats Road – Zephyrhills, Florida
Lorenzo Limoges – 36036 Shady Bluff Loop – Zephyrhills, Florida
Reggie Roberts – 6118 8th Street – Zephyrhills, Florida
Mikey McPhee – 6739 Bluff Meadow Court – Wesley Chapel, Florida
Council Vice President Lance Smith – 5344 9th Street – Zephyrhills, Florida
Steven Chimeri – 6118 8th Street – Zephyrhills, Florida

Lance Smith moved to appoint Derek Brewer as Police Chief. Seconded by Charlie Proctor. Motion passed 4 to 1. Ken Burgess was opposed.

Dr. Spina said Derek Brewer will be sworn in at the October 9th Council meeting but his appointment to Police Chief is official tonight.

MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS - Mayor Whitfield congratulated Police Chief Brewer and said he knows he has a lot of ideas ready to implement.

CITY MANAGER ANNOUNCEMENTS - NONE

CITY ATTORNEY ANNOUNCEMENTS - NONE

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS – Councilman Proctor congratulated Police Chief Brewer.

Councilman Burgess said one of the best conversations he had during the Police Chief process was with Derek Brewer himself during a long, very honest and open meeting. He told Mr. Brewer if he was chosen as Police Chief he would support him 110%. He congratulated Police Chief Brewer and said this is his time and it's going to be challenging.

Councilman Compton congratulated Police Chief Brewer. He complimented Dr. Spina and city staff for their efforts during Hurricane Irma.

Council Vice President Smith congratulated Police Chief Brewer. He also noted the City of Zephyrhills has a wide variety of ethnic restaurants and encouraged everyone to eat locally and support local businesses.

Council President Knight congratulated Police Chief Brewer. He requested Code Enforcement be added to the next agenda to present an update. He said he will miss the next meeting as he will be attending his son-in-law's retirement from the U.S. Air Force after 25 years of service.

Meeting adjourned 7:20 p.m.