



MINUTES
WORKSHOP CITY COUNCIL MEETING
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024, 7:16 P.M.
NEPTUNE BEACH CITY HALL
116 FIRST STREET
NEPTUNE BEACH, FLORIDA 32266

Pursuant to proper notice, a Workshop City Council Meeting of the City Council of the City of Neptune Beach was held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 7:16 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 116 First Street, Neptune Beach, Florida, 32266

Attendance**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mayor Elaine Brown
 Vice Mayor Kerry Chin
 Councilor Lauren Key
 Councilor Nia Livingston
 Councilor Josh Messinger

STAFF:

City Manager Richard Pike
 City Attorney Zachary Roth
 Police Chief Michael Key
 Public Works Director Deryle Calhoun
 Parks and Sustainability Director Colin Moore
 City Clerk Catherine Ponson

**Call to
Order/Roll Call**

Mayor Brown called the workshop meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES**Parks Update**

Parks and Sustainability Director Colin Moore reported that the pickleball and tennis courts would be undergoing maintenance and repairs. All of the work is under warranty. Information regarding the times and dates for closing the courts would be published on social media and the City website.

Mr. Moore advised that the schedule for the parks crew at Public Works has been modified to include eight-hour shifts, seven days a week. The restrooms at Jarboe Park will be checked every two hours. The IT department has developed a QR code that links to an online form for issues such as water fountain and restroom issues. The City will also be looking at more vandal-proof type fixtures.

**Police Chief
Report**

Chief of Police Michael Key announced the promotion of Elaine Dean to Services Division Supervisor. Ms. Dean began employment at Neptune Beach as an Emergency Communications Officer in February, 2021. She oversees the Communications Center as well as the communication accreditation. He also announced the promotion of Commander Liam Toal. His swearing in would be later this week.

**Vice Mayor
Remarks**

Vice Mayor Chin commented that Scott Dudley with the Florida League of Cities spoke at a recent Beaches Watch meeting. Mr. Dudley talked about the erosion of Home Rule by the state legislature. There are a number of amendments to already-passed legislation in

play this session. The Council has written letters in opposition to legislation in the past. He would like to put something together that states opposition to anything that harms our Home Rule or would damage the character of our municipality. Vice Mayor Chin requested we also need more clarity on some of the issues from the legislature.

Councilor Messinger stated that it is scary how the legislature is whittling away at every aspect. It seems like it is negative, such as the tree ordinance and e-bikes.

ISSUE DEVELOPMENT

Beaches Green Market

Beaches Green Market. Jessica Meyer, Market Manager, and Kira Mauro, Community Garden Manager and Master Gardener with Beaches Green Market, presented a proposal to bring the Beaches Green Market back to Jarboe Park. The Beaches Green Market had previously been in Jarboe Park and would like to return.

Ms. Meyer reviewed the proposal for returning to Jarboe Park. They are requesting space allotted for setup of up to 30 vendors, use of city-owned parking for vendor vehicles, an exclusive partnership agreement, exclusive use of the west side of Jarboe Park on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 3 p.m., signage, electric hookups, social media event sharing, seating/dining areas, restroom accessibility and 50 parking spaces required for shopper parking. The shopper parking was previously with the neighboring commercial building. They are requesting if that parking is unavailable, would the City allow parking along Florida Boulevard.

Councilor Key questioned if this would be under the City Manager's authority and not have to come before Council. She thinks this is something the City Manager can work out with DIG Local Network.

City Attorney Zachary Roth stated that the Code is not that specific. This is not something that is definitely the purview of the Council. There is no legal reason that this couldn't be decided by the City Manager.

Vice Mayor Chin agreed with Councilor Key but there may be items that are potentially costly that may come back to Council. He suggested the City Manager get with each council member for feedback and the scope of what we are looking at.

Councilor Messinger pointed out that previously the Beaches Green Market had an agreement with the commercial building next door for the parking spaces as no one is in those offices on Saturdays. The parking spaces were already there. He agreed that the finer points can be negotiated by the City Manager and he supports the Beaches Green Market's return.

Councilor Livingston expressed she had concerns about some of the costs and what is being required. She asked what is different from the last time they had the market in Jarboe Park?

Ms. Meyer stated that there were weekly vendors that require power on site. The power would be needed in order to support food truck that need to consider cooling and heating.

Councilor Livingston expressed she would like to see some cost-sharing included as well as the confirmation of the agreement of the parking spaces before approving the return to Jarboe Park.

Mayor Brown requested being involved as the City Manager moves forward with the drafting of the contract as she also had questions.

Ms. Mauro added that the market in Jarboe Park has always been a primarily pedestrian and cyclist market. They did not always use the parking spots for shoppers. They do require parking for the vendors.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment Chuck McCue, 1908 3rd Street, Neptune Beach, questioned who is Beaches Green Market and if they are a nonprofit or for-profit organization? He asked does the City want to bring in an operation that takes away from local businesses? He would also like to see verification if the farmer is actually producing what is being sold and state where it is from.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Comments Councilor Messinger commented that if we are able to take some of our Police Officer resources and better police e-bikes because we have a good camera system in place to deter speeders at school, this would amplify the amount our officers are able to do. He pointed out there has not been a vendor selected for the cameras. There is no percentage or fixed cost identified. There are many options available and none have a direct cost. He added that he has no doubt that one will be chosen that brings the most benefit from a safety and financial perspective to the community

Councilor Messinger expressed that while Council waived the bidding procedures [for the City Hall refresh], four bids were received and evaluated.

Councilor Key commented that there are police officers at every school in Neptune Beach during those hours and it is still not deterring speeders.

Chief Key reported that he and the previous Police Chief initiated a program in 2016 that if a Police Officer is not on a call, then the Police Officer is at a school during those hours. There are not enough officers. When officers are present, people slow down, but they cannot always be there.

Councilor Key stated she thinks it is great for parks to have vendors and markets. She supports them and they bring wonderful sense of community.

Adjournment There being no further business, the workshop meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.


Elaine Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:


Catherine Ponson, CMC
City Clerk

Approved: 03-04-2024

