



MINUTES
WORKSHOP CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 17, 2017, 6:00 P.M.
CITY HALL, 116 FIRST STREET
NEPTUNE BEACH, FLORIDA

Pursuant to proper notice a Workshop Meeting of the City Council of the City of Neptune Beach was held at 6:00 pm on July 17, 2017 in the City Hall Council Chambers, 116 First Street, Neptune Beach, Florida.

Attendance

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Elaine Brown
Vice Mayor Scott Wiley
Councilor Rory Diamond
Councilor Richard Arthur
Councilor Fred Jones
City Manager Andrew Hyatt
City Attorney Patrick Krechowski
City Clerk Catherine Ponson

STAFF:

Chief of Police Richard Pike
Director of Public Works Leon Smith
Finance Director Steve Ramsey
Senior Activity Director Leslie Lyne
IT Administrator David Hargrove

Order Call/Roll
Call/Pledge

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilor Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AWARDS / PRESENTATIONS / RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Police Chief Richard Pike commended Commander Michael Key for his completion of training at the FBI National Academy.

Commander Michael Key gave an overview of his experience at the 268th FBI National Academy. He reported this is a 12-week training course held in Quantico, Virginia. He added it is designed to enhance and broaden previously obtained skills and management styles. He thanked Chief Pike, City Manager Hyatt and the City Council for supporting his participation at the Academy.

Swearing in of
Commander
Key and
Commander
Snyder

Mayor Brown administered the Oath of Office to Commander Michael Key and Commander Gary Snyder.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Hyatt reported the following:

- New signs, posts, and streetlights have been installed in the Town Center.
- Milling of Seagate Avenue will begin in preparation for the paving project.

- FEMA reimbursement is expected.
- The ribbon cutting at the Hopkins Street Dune Walkover is scheduled for Wednesday, July 19, 2017, at 9:00 a.m.
- The Second Jarboe Park Master Planning Session will be held on Wednesday, July 26, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., at the Beaches Branch Library.
- The Florida League of Cities Annual Conference will be held on August 17—18, 2017, in Orlando.
- Steve Ramsey, Finance Director, announced his retirement effective November 17, 2017.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/NONE

PROPOSED ORDINANCES/NONE

CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS/NONE

ISSUE DEVELOPMENT

Hopkins Street
Speed Hump
Request

Hopkins Street Speed Hump Request

Mayor Brown explained that the citizens of Hopkins Street are requesting two speed humps. Police Chief Pike is encouraging one speed hump for the time being.

Councilor Jones stated that he supports one hump. He added there are other types of traffic calming mechanisms such as chicanes, striping, and lane-width reduction, that are more effective long term. He added that as these speed hump requests are received, the City should explore other alternatives.

Councilor Diamond stated he is in support of one speed hump.

Vice Mayor Wiley commented he had spoken with some of the citizens of Hopkins Street and was informed there are children on both ends of the street. He added the reasons given were valid and he supports two humps.

Councilor Arthur stated he supports one speed hump on Hopkins Street and would like to explore the other options discussed by Councilor Jones.

Mayor Brown commented that safety for children is important but supports one speed hump.

CONSENSUS: **MOVE TO THE AUGUST 7, 2017 AGENDA.**

ISSUE DEVELOPMENT

Jarboe Park
Master Plan

Jarboe Park Master Plan

Councilor Arthur explained he would like to obtain a general consensus on the major design elements and what might be included in the first phase of the project.

The first item discussed was the large field/greenspace area. Councilor Arthur stated he supports the field as designed.

Vice Mayor Wiley commented he had some concerns with the size. He added it could be reduced to make room for other equipment.

Councilor Diamond stated he agreed with Vice Mayor Wiley and added if the courts needed to be moved he was in support.

Councilor Arthur continued the discussion with parking on 5th Street. Vice Mayor Wiley stated the parking did not need to go as far as on the design.

Mayor Brown stated that the old City Hall should be preserved. She would like it moved and have it be a monument to the City. She added she supports the field size, parking on 5th Street, and moving the courts as Ms. Verna Griffin suggested.

Councilor Arthur stated he supports keeping the Girl Scout Building as a functional gathering space and remodel it or rebuild it.

Councilor Diamond questioned if the number of restrooms would change.

Chief Pike explained from a public safety issue, there should only be one restroom closer to the entrance to the park. He also suggested closing the park at night.

Mayor Brown stated she supports one well-maintained restroom.

Councilor Arthur stated his support for one main restroom in the sports area and added there would also be a restroom in the remodeled gathering area with limited hours.

Vice Mayor Wiley commented the Girl Scouts should be contacted regarding the plans for the building.

Councilor Arthur continued with the parking on Bay Street issue. Mayor Brown replied she supported that element.

Councilor Arthur asked Chief Pike if he agreed with the parking on Florida Boulevard. Chief Pike responded that it is the fourth busiest street in Neptune Beach and there were concerns based on the previous design.

Mayor Brown commented she had concerns as Florida Boulevard is very busy and it would get congested.

Vice Mayor Wiley questioned if there was room for off-street parking and maintain the drainage ditch.

Deputy City Manager Askew explained that some type of reinforcement could be done to the ditch. However, parallel parking would not encroach on the ditch as much.

Councilor Arthur stated there could be parallel parking as long as there is no further risk to traffic and there are no issues with the drainage ditch.

Vice Mayor Wiley suggested an engineer analyze the parking in relation to the drainage ditch.

Vice Mayor Wiley stated he had concerns regarding the reshaping the ponds and the approval of the St. Johns Water Management District.

Councilor Arthur explained the ponds are designed to be larger.

Mayor Brown stated she supports the reshaping of the ponds.

Councilor Diamond agreed with Vice Mayor Wiley as far as the environmental issue and he does support the reshaping to make better use of the water.

Councilor Arthur stated he supports the mound/berm with the direct line of sight between the two playgrounds.

Vice Mayor Wiley questioned the height and use of the berm. Councilor Arthur confirmed that it was now at 11 feet and would be used as seating and active playspace. Vice Mayor Wiley added he does not support the berm.

Councilor Jones stated his support as it is a unique and a great use of the space.

Councilor Diamond commented he would not support the berm if it split the view of the two playgrounds and questioned the ease of maintenance.

Mayor Brown stated she supports the berm and had concerns with the visibility of the playground areas.

City Attorney Patrick Krechowski commented that the steepest slope of the berm from the top to the bottom is facing the pond and from a risk management perspective that should be addressed.

Mayor Brown stated that would be at the top of the list of the engineering stage of the project.

Councilor Arthur and Mayor Brown stated their support of the two playgrounds being separated and would like to add shade sails.

Vice Mayor Wiley added he would support more equipment for the playgrounds.

Councilor Arthur continued by stating he supports the bandshell for the middle of the pond but would like a more creative use for the splash pad area.

The consensus of the Council was to develop another use for the proposed splash pad and labyrinth areas.

Vice Mayor Wiley suggested the proposed bridges be well-designed and wide enough for more than one person to use. He added walkaround path improvements should be included in the first phase.

Councilor Arthur concluded the discussion by stating these ideas would be further considered at the July 26 meeting at the Beaches Branch Library.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Verna Griffin, 229 Lora Street, Neptune Beach, thanked each of the Council Members for meeting with her and addressing the sand problem at Jarboe Park.

Leslie Lyne, 501 Hopkins Street, Neptune Beach, spoke regarding the speed hump request on Hopkins Street.

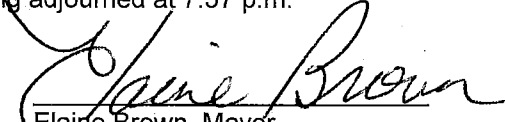
COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Arthur requested that the City request the aerial spraying for mosquitos cease until the EPA study is completed. He also added there is not sufficient notice given for the spraying.

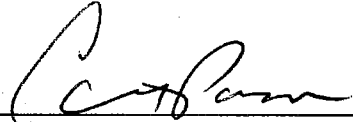
Councilor Jones commented there is a bike sharing service now located in Neptune Beach. He added this is gaining popularity and should be monitored.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.


Elaine Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:


Catherine Ponson, City Clerk

Approved: 8/7/17

