



MINUTES
WORKSHOP CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2017
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 on Monday, October 16, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., 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

STAFF:

Chief of Police Richard Pike
Director of Public Works Leon Smith
Finance Director Steve Ramsey
Deputy City Manager Amanda Askew
Commander Gary Snyder

Order Call/Pledge

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

AWARDS / PRESENTATIONS / RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Mayor Brown recognized former Mayor Harriet Pruette in attendance and wished her a happy birthday.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Hyatt reported the following:

- The Safe Streets Forum would be held on Thursday, October 26, 2017, at 10:30 a.m. at City Hall;
- The City Attorney and City Manager Evaluation Forms are due by October 30, 2017;
- The East Coast Greenway Trail Dedication would be held on Wednesday, October 18, 2017, at 4:30 p.m., at the bridge on Florida Boulevard, close to Camellia Terrace.
- The Beaches Town Center Halloween Parade would be held on Saturday, October 21, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.

Mayor Brown announced that Item #5B, (the proposed ordinance amending Chapter 27, Unified Land Development Regulations, Article XV, Advertising), is being deferred and will go back to the Land Use and Parks Committee and the Community Development Board for review.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kerry Chin, 227A Margaret Street, Neptune Beach, spoke regarding Item #5B, the proposed changes to the sign ordinance. He questioned the changes and added that Neptune Beach would become unsightly. He requested Council stand firm and respect the goal of the Comprehensive Plan and the Code of Ordinances.

Harriet Pruette, 217½ Margaret Street, Neptune Beach, stated several people have worked hard to keep out blight in Neptune Beach. She requested Council leave the sign ordinance alone and preserve the community against overly large signs. She also asked the Council to consider letting the community know they can put their Christmas trees on the west side of the dunes to help restore the dunes.

Terrance Freeman, 800 W. Monroe Street, Jacksonville, spoke regarding PACE funding, which provides low cost, long-term financing for homeowners for energy efficiency and hurricane protection upgrades.

Jim Moore, 401 McCollum Circle, Neptune Beach, spoke regarding the sign ordinance changes. He stated he had questions about the increase in height. He added that Neptune Beach is a relaxed place to live and would like to keep it that way.

Lynda Padrta, 1113 First Street, Neptune Beach, spoke regarding the sign ordinance changes. She stated she had concerns about the sign size and height. She requested the agendas for the committee meetings be posted.

PROPOSED ORDINANCES

Chapter 14,
Camping
Prohibited,
Exceptions

Proposed Ordinance: An Ordinance of the City of Neptune Beach, Florida, Amending Chapter 14, Offenses; Section 14-7, Camping Prohibited, Exceptions, and Providing an Effective Date.

Chief Pike stated the change would allow officers to make an arrest if necessary.

CONSENSUS: **TO MOVE ORDINANCE NO. 2017-26 TO FIRST READ.**

ISSUE DEVELOPMENT

Pete's Bar
Thanksgiving
Event,
November 24th,
2017

Pete's Bar Thanksgiving event – November 23rd

City Manager Hyatt explained the annual event is scheduled for November 23rd and is seeking Council approval to move forward.

CONSENSUS: **TO MOVE TO THE NOVEMBER 6, 2017 CONSENT AGENDA.**

COUNCIL COMMENT

Vice Mayor Wiley inquired about installing a fence to encourage people to use the new Hopkins Street walkover and not damage the dunes.

Councilor Arthur commented that it would be helpful to the Community Development Board to know why changes are presented to them from the Council. He added that the

CDB should be made aware of whatever the problem is and how it should be resolved.

Councilor Jones reminded everyone of the Safe Streets Summit to be held in Jacksonville on Wednesday, October 25, 2017, and then the Safe Streets Forum to be held in Neptune Beach on Thursday, October 26, 2017. He also announced that there is a survey at North Florida Travel Survey located at www.northfloridatravelsurvey.com which helps determine future projects.


Councilor Diamond stated that he does not want new signs. He added that he would like Council to have all of the options for the five signs that exist now. He stated that as the way the current Code is written, those signs will remain. He further explained that there should be a middle ground for those existing signs and give the property owners the right to advertise those businesses.

Councilor Diamond also stated his concerns regarding the dunes. He suggested working with Jacksonville Beach and Atlantic Beach to get the dunes restored.


Mayor Brown agreed with Councilor Diamond and encouraged everyone to go and visit the new Hopkins Street dune walkover.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the workshop meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.


Elaine Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:


Catherine Ponson, City Clerk

Approved: 11-6-17

