



City of Crescent City

3 North Summit Street
Crescent City, Florida 32112-2599

City Hall: (386) 698-2525
Police: (386) 698-1211
Fire: (386) 698-1212
Gas Dept: (386) 698-1486
Water Dept: (386) 698-2525
FAX: (386) 698-3467

MINUTES

City Commission Regular Meeting

February 8, 2018 - 6:00 p.m.

Present. Mayor Brett Peterson; Commissioner Harry Banks; Commissioner Marcus Hardy; Commissioner Barbara Scholl; Commissioner Judy West; Patrick Kennedy, City Manager and Jay Asbury, City Attorney.

The regular meeting of the City Commission was held February 8, 2018 at City Hall. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Brett Peterson.

Student of the Month. February Student of the Month from Middleton Burney Elementary School was Roberto Cruz.

Approval of Minutes. Motion by Commissioner West, second by Commissioner Scholl, to approve the Minutes of the City Commission Meeting of January 11, 2018. Motion passed - all ayes.

NEW BUSINESS

Tree Committee Appointments. Lisa Devitto, Lisa Demcie and Jim Spicer have volunteered to serve on the Trees and Gardens Board. Staff recommends approval and looks forward to their assistance.

Motion by Commissioner West, second by Commissioner Scholl, to approve the Trees and Gardens Board. Motion passed - all ayes.

Recommendations for Trees at Corner of Central and Summit and on North Side of City Hall. Patrick Kennedy reported that both the tree at the traffic light and next to City Hall have dropped limbs recently and requested Certified Arborist James Suckow to assess the health of both trees. Mr. Suckow believes that both trees can be saved by an aggressive type of structural pruning to remove over-extended weight. He also recommends soil amendments and insecticide in the large hollow. His estimate would be \$4,000 or \$8,000 to remove both trees.

Patrick Kennedy suggested funding this from the tree budget once the project has been put out to bid to Certified Arborists. Mayor Peterson would like to investigate the cost of a City-wide tree maintenance program. Patrick Kennedy suggested researching any available grants to fund an inventory and tree survey.

All agreed on the desire to save the trees but tabled further discussion until bids could be reviewed.

Selection of Engineering Firm for CEI Services on Walnut Street. Patrick Kennedy suggested tabling this item for CEI Services (Construction Engineering Inspection Services). FDOT requires CEI to be completed by a firm other than the designer of the project. Solicitation for CEI Services resulted in only one response and the FDOT Grant requires at least three bids. There is no decision to be made at this time.

Award Construction Contract for Walnut Street Paving Project. Patrick Kennedy reported that there was no change in BRC's prequalification with DOT. As agreed last month, the contract will now be awarded to the second low bidder, Halifax Paving.

Resolution 18-02 A Resolution authorizing the execution and submission of a grant application with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) under the MSCOP Grant Program for the resurfacing of Central Avenue. Patrick Kennedy explained that this is an attempt to secure additional FDOT Grant funding for Central Avenue. This is the same program that is being utilized to pave Walnut Street. Clemmons Lane and Bay Street will be done through a CDBG Grant. This grant was unsuccessfully applied for last year. The project

estimate is approximately \$800,000 and staff recommends submitting an application again this year even though the grant program has limited funds.

Commissioner Hardy suggested splitting the project into two parts and prioritizing by need. Patrick Kennedy will ask if this would weaken our application. The application is not due until March 30th and a decision can be determined at the next Commission meeting.

Mayor Peterson asked if storm water improvements were still being considered for Central Avenue. Patrick Kennedy responded that if the paving project is approved, a grant could be sought from the Water Management District for storm water improvements. This would multiply the impact of both projects and could create a more appealing application.

Motion by Commissioner Scholl, second by Commissioner West, to accept and approve Resolution 18-02 as submitted. Roll call vote - all ayes.

Proclamation 18-03 Problem Gambling Awareness Month. Mayor Peterson read Proclamation 18-03 aloud proclaiming March 2018 as Problem Gambling Month to support awareness, make known available treatment and promote the statewide helpline, 1-888-Admit-It.

Motion by Commissioner Banks, second by Commissioner Hardy, to accept and approve Proclamation 18-03 as presented. Motion passed - all ayes.

Lift Putnam! – Jim Padgett. Mr. Padgett began his presentation by stating that this program has been in place for 2 years and is an independent organization working with the School Board. They are a 501(c)3 funded by tax-deductible donations used to aid needy children who cannot afford the program. At this point, the program cost is shared by the state and parents. This program is structured for 4 year olds only and provides transportation, 2 meals per day and kindergarten readiness. At this time, Lift Putnam! Is requesting a donation of \$3,000 to fund 2 children for the "Full Day – Full Year" program. The ultimate goal is to fund by an endowment which can be sought after proving support from both the public sector and private donations.

After additional discussion on the program, Mayor Peterson asked for clarification on remaining funds in the Donation budget. Finance Director Debbi Peacock informed the Commission that there was \$1,000 remaining.

Motion by Commissioner Scholl, second by Commissioner Banks, to donate \$1,000 to Lift Putnam!. Roll call vote – Commissioner Banks, aye; Commissioner Hardy, aye; Commissioner West, aye; Commissioner Scholl, aye; Mayor Peterson, no. Motion passed by a vote of 4 to 1.

Ordinance Regarding Adult Entertainment – Jay Asbury. Attorney Asbury reported that Florida statute 847.0134 requires adult entertainment style businesses to maintain a 2500 feet distance from schools unless the municipality approves the location and grants a permit. He then presented a draft ordinance that was worked on in conjunction with the county approximately 15 years ago.

Any ordinance restrictions for a specific business must have a legislative study with findings of increased crime, danger to citizens or minors being directly affected. Attorney Asbury suggested that an ordinance restricting adult entertainment style businesses within 500 feet of any church might be an option but would need to be researched.

Patrick Kennedy responded that the north end of the city has a large amount of commercial zoned property with no schools or churches.

After discussion it was agreed to review perimeter lines around schools and churches, confirm if Pre-K centers are qualified as schools and report back.

Police Chief's Law Enforcement Report with Q&A. Chief Damiano reported in the last month there were 59 investigations with 52 closed. 103 traffic stops resulted in 46 citations and 103 written warnings, 1 DUI arrest and 1 notice to appear for possession of 6.0 grams of marijuana.

There was a check forgery at Palmera's resulting in charges forwarded to the state; a suspect with a gun on Rocket Lane was identified and charges forwarded to the state; a vehicle burglary was reported on Lakeview Avenue and the search continues for the suspects; stolen mail packages were reported at N. Prospect Street with

no suspects at this time and there was a call regarding neglected goats who were rescued by concerned citizens and charges were filed for animal neglect.

In a comparison to last year, violent offenses are down, domestic violent offenses have increased and total arrests have increased.

Two new police vehicles are being retrofitted and delivery is expected in the next week to 10 days.

Police Community Outreach Report. Chief Damiano presented the Chief's Club annual report. It is a private 501(c)3 non-profit program with many corporate sponsors and in-kind partners. The objective is to increase youth participation in quality of life programs in the Crescent City area and to increase youth access to events and programs for quality of life development.

A Safety Bulletin highlighting "Seven Rules That Can Enhance Home Security" will be sent in this month's utility bills.

Code Enforcement Report. Pamela Taylor reported that there are 11 year-to-date cases, all remain open. Several before-and-after photos were shown.

She also pointed out that undomesticated animals are not allowed in the city.

Mayor Peterson reported that he was contacted regarding the abandoned goats in the city and called the CCPD. Mayor reminded all that the Police Department is not only for emergencies. CCPD can be reached at 386-698-1211 for non-emergency matters 24/7.

Pamela Taylor reported that a Code Enforcement Fine for 714 Bay Street which was reduced by the Commissioners in August remains unpaid. The property owners have asked if the amount was still acceptable. All Commissioners agreed the amount of \$1,555.65 would be acceptable only if payment was made within 10 days of this meeting.

City Commission Comments and Questions. Mayor Peterson asked for an update on the tennis court at Eva Lyon Park. Patrick Kennedy replied that the nets were unbolted and noted that soccer has put too much pressure on the court. As previously discussed, an alternate site is being sought for court style soccer. Public Works has repaired the nets and the court is frequently being used by tennis and pickleball players.

Patrick Kennedy also reported that the Fletcher Park sidewalk has been completed. Work began on the shoreline, but the contractors hired failed to complete the project. New estimates are being sought. The Lake Stella hedges have been trimmed and the concrete base for the Catfish sculpture at Eva Lyon is completed.

Preliminary information regarding the fiber network indicated a preliminary price of approximately \$4 million to bring services in from north to south. Mayor Peterson requested a five person committee be formed, chaired by Commissioner Hardy, to follow progress and report to the Commission. Mayor Peterson also offered to sit on the committee along with three citizens. All were in agreement.

Commissioner Scholl asked if the on-line utility billing was up and running. Patrick Kennedy replied that the system is operational but a few bugs in the system still need to be ironed out.

Commissioner Banks initiated discussion on fire protection services and costs. Patrick Kennedy responded that he has recently been in contact with County Administrator Terry Suggs to review our inter-local agreement which includes the Fire Service Tax. Information will be compiled for review in advance of the new budget.

Commissioner Scholl asked if the delinquent utility accounts are average. Patrick Kennedy responded that delinquent accounts are average and figures represent a total of amounts since 2011.

Commissioner Hardy asked for an update on the city dock on Central. Patrick Kennedy reported that he was told the County was in the process of getting bids.

Visitor and Citizen Communications. Kelvin Haire, representing the Crescent City Rotary Club requested permission to use Eva Lyon Park for the 40th annual Catfish Festival, April 6th & 7th. Setup will begin April 3rd and clean up after the event will be completed the following Monday. Also requested was the closure of South Main Street from Central to Lemon Avenue on Friday night when the festival begins.

Motion by Commissioner Banks, second by Commissioner West, to approve the use of Eva Lyon Park and the closure of South Main Street for the Rotary Club's Catfish Festival. Motion passed - all ayes.

Kelvin Haire offered to donate the insecticide needed for the heritage tree with the hollow that was discussed.

Patrick Kennedy said that Kelvin Haire of Crescent City Termite & Pest Control currently donates 2 of the 4 needed ant sprays at Eva Lyon Park and charges chemical costs only for the remainder of the parks.

Diane Sykes, 304 Chestnut Street announced that the Concerned Citizens of South Putnam County will be having an event this Saturday from 2 – 5 p.m. at the Women's Civic Center. The "Dark Days of Dozier" will be presented by a former Crescent City resident.

There being no further business and no other visitor or citizen communication, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

APPROVED this 8th day of March, 2018.



Brett W. Peterson, Mayor



Patrick Kennedy, City Manager