



City of Gulfport Florida

City Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Gulfport City Council was held on Tuesday, June 4, 2019; in the City Hall, City Council Chambers, located at 2401 - 53rd Street South, Gulfport, Florida.

Samuel Henderson, Mayor, called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Councilmember Michael Fridovich followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present were: Councilmembers Christine Brown, Michael Fridovich and Daniel Liedtke; Vice Mayor Paul Ray; Mayor Samuel Henderson; City Manager James E. O'Reilly, City Attorney Andrew Salzman and City Clerk Lesley DeMuth.

Presentations:

Michael Taylor, Principal Planner, reviewed and answered question from council on the proposed FEMA Flood Maps. Council discussed providing a courtesy notice to residences in the AE Zone split where V Zone construction standards will be required if notice was not provided by Pinellas County Government.

1. Public Comment.

Mayor Henderson recognized Margo Rose who requested money be budgeted to re-sod the small dog park.

Brandon Reilly, 20th Avenue S., suggested artificial turf be used in the large dog park, a dog wash station and he provided information on his artificial turf construction company.

Allen Yergovich, Governor Elect of the Florida District of Kiwanis International, spoke of their desire to start a Kiwanis Club in Gulfport. He introduced Jim Gillies, Statewide Membership Chairperson who was also present.

Mike Krauss, 5309 9th Avenue S., questioned why he has to pay sewer charges on water usage.

Karen Love, 23rd Avenue S., spoke on the Pride March, approaching the church on 22nd Avenue for use by the Senior Center, Pinellas County's hurricane guide; asking the city request or open a pet friendly shelter, and was happy to hear the Mayor's comments regarding scaling back events, especially two-day events.

2. City Manager Report. City Manager O'Reilly reported:

- The city is in the process of re-sodding the large dog park and will make arrangements to see what is needed to re-sod the small dog park; pointing out council talked about using artificial turf and declined moving forward with that;
- Due to the city's issues with treatment and costs associated with it, the city has not endorsed water usage tied to irrigation meters and there is an ongoing

debate within the community to charge only for what goes in the sewer; advising Ms. Hannafin will follow up with the speaker;

- It will be in an extreme environment that Gulfport Elementary and/or Boca Ciega High School will be open as shelters and regarding the city opening a pet friendly shelter, said we are too small to have a shelter in place. Mayor Henderson advised the city did inquire about designating one of the two schools as a pet friendly shelter and was told this was not an option. Councilmember Fridovich questioned why the Disston school property is not used; and
- Boca Ciega Yacht Club has donated \$1,000 towards the July 4, fireworks.

3. City Attorney Report. No Report

4. City Clerk Report. No Report

5. Consent:

- 5.a Consider approval of the Council Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2019, May 13, 2019 and May 21, 2019.
- 5.b Resolution No. 2019-27: A resolution of the City of Gulfport, Florida, correcting a scrivener's error within Resolution No. 2019-24, Section 2; and providing for an effective date.
- 5.c Resolution No. 2019-28: A resolution of the City of Gulfport, Florida, authorizing the city manager to renew the Managed Services Agreement with Extensys, Inc.; and providing for an effective date.

City Clerk DeMuth read the Consent Agenda.

Motion by Councilmember Brown, second by Councilmember Fridovich to approve the Consent Agenda.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ACCLAMATION

6. Ordinances: None

7. Resolutions:

- 7.a Resolution No. 2019-29: A resolution of the City of Gulfport, Florida, authorizing the city manager to continue respective agreements with Cardno Engineering and Lewis, Longman and Walker, PA for engineering and legal professional services for pending litigation; providing for a budget amendment; and providing for an effective date.

City Clerk DeMuth read Resolution No. 2019-29 by title.

City Manager O'Reilly explained the Resolution.

Mayor Henderson opened public discussion. Neither hearing nor seeing anyone who wished to speak, Mayor Henderson closed public discussion.

Motion by Councilmember Fridovich, second by Councilmember Ray to approve Resolution No. 2019-29.

Roll Call: Councilmember Fridovich Yes
Vice Mayor Ray Yes
Councilmember Liedtke Yes
Councilmember Brown Yes
Mayor Henderson Yes

Motion Carried

8. Discussion – 2019/2020 Budget

City Manager O'Reilly provided a document to council on the city's property values increasing 9.28% and the Waterfront Redevelopment Districts property values increasing 12.8%. He recommended the millage rate be maintained at 4.039 for the eighth consecutive year and spoke on redevelopment within the community, personal service costs, a presentation at the next meeting on utility rates, health insurance costs, and a proposed 3.7% COLA to those individuals not covered by collective bargaining agreements. City Manager O'Reilly pointed out that 6.5 million annually is spent on police and fire services and in response to a question, no member of council was in favor of looking at an alternate service provider. City Manager O'Reilly advised the budget information provided is a broad forecast, and it is still a fluid document until the formal proposed budget is presented, as required, to council by July 15.

City Manager O'Reilly reviewed Council's requested budget considerations:

Mayor Henderson: Consideration of adoption of revised development regulations within the Waterfront Redevelopment Area with a focus on building scale; Consideration of event approval process. Request multiple day events to be approved on an individual basis. Consideration of the number of events approved and the related impact on residents and City support services; That City Council have the ability to request those City based organizations renting and/or occupying real City property and/or receiving below market rent as a subsidy; subsequently allowing the City Council to appoint a member to their respective Executive Board of Directors; and Creative Form Bicycle Racks and Equipment in concert with the City's Osgood Point Trail extension.

Councilmember Brown: Casino Bathrooms (Inside) renovation; and Chase Park Pavilion.

Councilmember Liedtke: History Museum Artifact Preservation System; Wood Ibis Park Lighting (the addition of 5-7 Black Sanibel Lights); Short-Term Rental Enforcement and the Senior Center set aside. City Manager O'Reilly addressed the PYCC Culvert Phase II reduction in Legislative Appropriation and he and Councilmember Liedtke addressed the possibility of an open swale solution with a treatment element; advising the city engineers are developing a cost estimate.

City Manager O'Reilly advised the budget did not include the three paramedic positions at this time; funding is anticipated from Pinellas County and he would like to suspend discussion of the breakwater park at the Boca Ciega Yacht Club area and the associated living shoreline; not funding the project at this time.

City Manager O'Reilly asked if council had questions:

In response to questions by Councilmember Fridovich, City Manager O'Reilly said that benches and a shade cover for Tomlinson Park are included and the handicapped access mat for the beach has been ordered and the city is waiting on delivery.

Councilmember Fridovich questioned if all police officers will be required to wear body cameras and Police Chief Vincent came forward and advised that right now they are not, but with the addition of additional cameras this might change; this is something that will be discussed with the officers and supervisors before any changes are made to the policy.

Mayor Henderson opened public discussion.

Mayor Henderson recognized Ms. Thanos who spoke in supported of proposed additional lighting for Wood Ibis Park.

Albert Risemberg, 19th Avenue S., suggested continuing the sidewalk from the skate park to the beach pavilions. City Manager O'Reilly advised the city has looked at this in the past and there are issue with the drainage/swales.

Neither hearing nor seeing anyone else who wished to speak, Mayor Henderson closed public discussion.

Councilmember Liedtke requested an improvement to the pole system for the four main beach volleyball courts.

Councilmember Liedtke said council has talked about the city manager's compensation and he would like to propose an increase in the retirement contribution vs. a straight salary increase. Mayor Henderson said instead of additional compensation beyond the COLA; noting that Charter Employees, City Manager and City Clerk, would be included in the pay increases that the general employees will get, an increase in pay would be toward his retirement fund. City Manager O'Reilly said he would be fine with an increase in that contribution and asked to have an opportunity in his contract to actuate his severance package on notice to council. Councilmember Liedtke recommended moving the annual retirement contribution from 15% to 20%. In response to questions by Councilmember Brown, City Manager O'Reilly advised the additional 5% retirement contribution would amount to roughly \$7,000 and explained he would like the ability, at the time he elects to retire or resign, to activate his severance package on notice to council, instead of requiring council to fire him. No objections were heard from council. City Manager O'Reilly said he would bring back a resolution.

Councilmember Brown reviewed a city manager salary survey which she prepared and provided to council.

City Manager O'Reilly advised council they will be receiving the water/sewer/stormwater rate analysis at their next meeting and it is anticipated there will be an 8% increase in water and sewer; pointing out there was no increase last year. He also advised the city has to address certain items to maintain compliance with the consent order, the city is seeing success with the sewer lateral replacement program and the city will have issues related to litigation.

Councilmember Ray asked if the city has plans to replenish the funds for the lateral lines program to which City Manager O'Reilly said not at this time; this was a requirement of the consent order.

Councilmember Brown felt people did not realize how much work the city is doing on sewers.

Mayor Henderson asked City Manager O'Reilly for an explanation on the rationale behind adjusting the unreserved general fund balance from 25% to 16% which he provided and deferred to Ms. Hannafin, Finance Director, who spoke on the Government Finance Officers Association suggested two months' of operating expenses as best business practices. In response to a question by Mayor Henderson on what needs to be done to make the change, City Manager O'Reilly advised Staff will bring forth a resolution for council's consideration prior to the budget adoption.

Mayor Henderson advised he was fine doing the breakwater park at a later date and asked Councilmember Liedtke what he had in mind for vacation rental enforcement. Councilmember Liedtke said he did not know if it was a good idea to increase enforcement without first addressing the area currently allowed for vacation rentals. He spoke on how the city maps are drawn and moving the area they are allowed to 31st Avenue; reaching out to the neighborhood on how they would feel about that. Mayor Henderson said before enforcement is increased, his concern would be that it is complaint driven right now and he did not know if it was an important enough crime to go looking for. City Manager clarified the idea is to expand the area within the WRD south of 31st Avenue South from Beach to 58th Street; advising Staff can prepare a white paper on the impact of the proposed idea.

9. Council Comments/Informational Reports

Vice Mayor Ray reported on his attendance at the first day of swimming lessons, the Pride Flag raising event, the grand reopening of the Historical Society building, the upcoming Pulse remembrance; requesting the use of a sound system and inviting the Mayor to say a few word, to which he advised he would be in DC with Library Director Mather to receive the National Medal for the library, and the VOG (vertical oyster gardens) assembly; requesting the use of the Trolley for transportation to and from Tampa Bay Watch. City Manager O'Reilly advised the city will have to ask PSTA permission to use the trolley, and if not he felt other transportation options could be made through the use of the city's recreation bus or a GEMS vehicle.

Councilmember Liedtke reported he was reappointed to the Florida League of Cities Transportation and Intergovernmental Relations Policy Committee and will be attending their upcoming meeting in Orlando and Councilmember Brown will again be serving on the Municipal Administration Policy Committee.

Councilmember Brown reported on the city's hurricane conference and spoke on hurricane preparedness.

Mayor Henderson reported on the Pride Flag raising and Pride March and that he will be in DC with David Mather and Susan Gore for the presentation of the library award.

Councilmember Brown announced the ribbon cutting for Dunkin Donuts will be Saturday morning and spoke on her attendance at a Veterans Expo.

Mayor Henderson provided a reminder to not forget about pets during the hot weather.

10. Adjournment.

Motion by Councilmember Brown, second by Councilmember Fridovich to adjourn.

Date Approved: _____

Samuel Henderson, Mayor

Lesley DeMuth, City Clerk