

CITY OF BELLEAIR BLUFFS
COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
2747 Sunset Blvd, Belleair Bluffs, FL 33770
Monday June 19, 2017

The Belleair Bluffs City Commission held a meeting Monday, June 19, 2017. The following answered roll call: Mayor Arbutine, Commissioners J. Barkley, J. Nazario, T. Shimkus, S. Sofer, Attorney Daigneault, City Clerk Debra Sullivan and Andy Tess financial director. Largo Fire Chief Willis and PCSO Sgt. Waugh were also in attendance. The invocation was led by Attorney Daigneault.

GUEST SPEAKER – Brad Miller CEO PSTA and Joe Barkley PSTA Representative

Commissioner Joe Barkley updated the Commission on his status with the PSTA, who he has been a Representative of since 2012. Commissioner Barkley stated PSTA has added electric diesel buses to reduce pollution and costs. PSTA will add two new all electric buses to reduce emissions and reduce cost. They have also added 8 small buses on the North county routes.

Commissioner Barkley introduced Brad Miller CEO PSTA. Mr. Brad Miller stated PSTA is looking at ways to be innovative including contracting with Uber to provide discount fares to bus stops or free Uber rides for third shift workers in addition to weekly discount passes for low income riders. PSTA is also looking at hybrid/electric technology. PSTA hosts Transit Center Town halls to reach out to community.

Commissioner Sofer asked how to get information on late night Uber program. Mr. Miller stated that residents could go to PSTA.net or to any Transit Center to obtain discounted bus pass and sign up for the program.

Mayor Arbutine asked where TBARTA has been. Mr. Miller stated that TBARTA still exists but never really took off due to lack of legislative funding. This legislative session approved redefining of TBARTA Board reducing its scope from 7 counties to 5 counties.

Commissioner Nazario requests that all commissioners ride PSTA prior to voting on any PSTA legislation. Arthur Carey spoke on the lack of bus stops.

Commissioner Sofer noted that there are 4 stops in Belleair Bluffs

GUEST SPEAKER – Larry Ahern Florida State Representative of District 66

Commissioner Sofer introduced Representative Larry Ahern.

Representative Ahern spoke about regaining the public's trust by requiring lobbyists to register, increasing ban on lobbying by former members from 2 years to 6 years, banning texting during legislative sessions and having a zero tolerance policy on sexual harassment. He spoke on changes in the laws on "stand your ground" cases and increasing choice on schools in addition to reforming death penalty.

Commissioner Sofer asked whether Representative Ahern stood by the Speakers' statement that he can rule better than small cities. Representative Ahern stated that he needed the context of the statement but that he would disagree.

Discussion between Representative Ahern and audience ensued for several minutes regarding homeowner's insurance.

PROCLAMATION ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY JUNE 15, 2017

Consensus was given to allow Mayor Arbutine to execute the Proclamation.

Commissioner Sofer motioned to accept the May 8, May 15, and April 24, 2017 meeting minutes which was seconded by Commissioner Nazario with amendments to the May 15 meeting minutes noting the absence of Commissioner Nazario.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Mayor –Discussions are on the agenda.

PCSO – Sgt. Waugh reported on the events, noting 3 arrests, 5 crashes, 165 warnings and citations.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Willis reported on elevated but consistent call volume and budgetary issues with the county as well as homestead exemption impact on the county and each municipality.

Public Works Department - Commissioner Barkley reported on Del Rio repair complete. The new fire station is looking great and Largo may be ahead of schedule. D. Sullivan spoke on details of Del Rio repair.

Administration/Finance – Commissioner Sofer reported on the Legislative Policy Committee for Florida League of Cities. D. Sullivan stated she is on the Finance, Taxation and Personnel Committee for the fifth year. D. Sullivan reported on several city issues including the summer newsletter in the Griffin publication, playground grant requesting residents complete survey, recycle grant, security camera installation, website update and plumbing issue resolved.

D. Sullivan reported the FIRST PUBLIC HEARING is Thursday, September 7, 2017 6:00PM and the FINAL PUBLIC HEARING is Monday, September 18, 2017 6:00PM

Commissioner Barkley motioned to keep the millage rate at 5.3500 which was seconded by Commissioner Nazario. All approved.

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE 2017-01 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLEAIR BLUFFS IMPOSING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSING ORGANIZATIONS AND MEDICAL MARIJUANA TREATMENT CENTERS WITHIN THE CITY OF BELLEAIR BLUFFS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY (180) DAYS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, ON FINAL READING.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sofer to approve Ordinance 2017-01 on final reading which was seconded by Commissioner Shimkus.

Roll Call: AYE: Arbutine, Barkley, Nazario, Shimkus, Sofer Nay: None

ORDINANCE 2017-02 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLEAIR BLUFFS, FLORIDA INCREASING THE PUBLIC SERVICE TAX TO TEN PERCENT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barkley to approve ordinance 2017-02 on final reading which was seconded by Commissioner Nazario.

Mayor Arbutine noted 100% of new tax will apply to street repair.

Comments:

Mr. Lawton spoke about the utility tax increase and timing of advertising of meetings and budgets, recommended the addition of a Finance and Planning Board.

Mr. Jenkins asked the Commission to be mindful of the amount of senior citizens on a fixed income when they vote on tax increases.

Mr. Ewart thanked Commission and spoke on expanding website and social media presence as well as open lines of communication, provide financial forecast.

Ms. Bruzese requested the commission provide master plan of the city.

Ms. Rusinowski spoke against the utility tax.

Ms. Kavanagh spoke against the utility tax.

Mr. Carey spoke against the utility tax.

Mr. Eggelston spoke against the utility tax.

Ms. Reinhart spoke against the utility tax.

Commissioner Sofer has not changed her opinion of this, noting communications from residents, higher property values bringing in more revenue and she would like to find another way to find revenue.

Commissioner Shimkus hasn't changed her opinion since last meeting. She doesn't want to impose on the residents and raise the costs. She says the roads need to be fixed, but doesn't see the urgency at this time and wants to wait another year.

Commissioner Barkley said that it is their duty to protect all the residents. This will take a lot of money and the funds need to be saved for these projects. The funds will be allocated to infrastructure. The residents and visitors expect a certain level of excellence in this city which the Commission is obligated to provide.

Mayor Arbutine spoke on the hiring of office staff and the search for a Public Works Director. He welcomed the idea for a Budget and Finance Board and emphasized the need for open communication with the residents.

Roll Call: AYE: Barkley, Nazario, Arbutine Nay: Shimkus, Sofer

NEW BUSINESS

Approval to execute the Interlocal Agreement between Pinellas County and Belleair Bluffs to extend the Infrastructure Sales Surtax agreement from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2029.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barkley and seconded by Commissioner Nazario to execute the Interlocal Agreement.

Roll Call: AYE: Nazario, Arbutine, Sofer, Barkley, Shimkus Nay: None

Per Resolution 2012-08 Approval of Commission Attendees to the 2017 Florida League of Cities Annual Conference

A motion was made by Commissioner Barkley and seconded by Commissioner Nazario to approve attendance at the 2017 FLOC Annual Conference.

Roll Call: AYE: Arbutine, Sofer, Barkley, Shimkus, Nazario Nay: None

Appointment of Voting Delegate at the 2017 Florida League of Cities Annual Conference

Commissioner Sofer nominated Commissioner Shimkus.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barkley and seconded by Commissioner Nazario to appoint Commissioner Shimkus as the voting delegate at the 2017 FLOC Annual Conference.

Roll Call: AYE: Sofer, Barkley, Shimkus, Nazario, Arbutine Nay: None

Authorize letter of support for the two concept plans that have been developed for West Bay Drive improvements

A motion was made by Commissioner Sofer and seconded by Commissioner Shimkus to approve a letter of support for two concept plans.

Roll Call: AYE: Barkley, Shimkus, Nazario, Arbutine, Sofer Nay: None

OLD BUSINESS

Sign Code Update – The revised ordinance was received in a timely manner from Attorney Brinton. D. Sullivan will meet with Attorney Trask later this week.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

D. Sullivan discussed budget reserves and capital improvement plan which details the city's plan for the next five years.

Commissioner Nazario suggested a summary of the city's road improvement plan to be provided to the residents in an easy-to-read manner.

Commissioner Sofer thanked the residents for their comments in all city matters.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra S. Sullivan

Debra S. Sullivan, MMC