

CITY OF PALM BAY, FLORIDA

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING 2020-11

Held on Wednesday, the 8th day of April 2020, at the City Hall Council Chambers, 120 Malabar Road, SE, Palm Bay, Florida.

This meeting was properly noticed pursuant to law; the minutes are on file in the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Palm Bay, Florida.

The meeting was called to order at the hour of 6:18 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

MAYOR:	William Capote	Present
DEPUTY MAYOR:	Kenny Johnson	Present
COUNCILMEMBER:	Harry Santiago, Jr.	Present
COUNCILMEMBER:	Jeff Bailey	Present
COUNCILMEMBER:	Brian Anderson	Present
CITY MANAGER:	Lisa Morrell	Present
CITY ATTORNEY:	Patricia Smith	Present
DEPUTY CITY CLERK:	Terri Lefler	Present

PUBLIC COMMENTS/RESPONSES: (Non-agenda Items Only)

There were no public comments.

BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of possible ordinance changes related to COVID-19. (Councilman Bailey)

Mr. Bailey wanted to modify the Code of Ordinances to make it more friendly towards urban farming. He had very serious concerns about the possible economic downturn as a result of the virus outbreak. He wanted to ensure there was as much locally produced food as possible in case there were any shortages or interruptions. Mr. Bailey said that residents were able to have their own gardens, but it took planning and effort. He felt it may be difficult to manage a community-based garden, but he was hopeful that residents would become more interested. He suggested that if an ordinance was in place, staff could provide information or brochures in order to get the message out to the residents. He felt that Council needed to act quickly.

Mr. Santiago mentioned the ONE Community Program, and which flourished into the Community Gardening Program. He agreed with Councilman Bailey as far as self-

sustaining as long as it did not conflict with the regulations of Single-Family Residential zoning. He said that although Council was able to enact an ordinance that permitted four (4) chickens in Single-Family Residential zoning, there were a lot of concerns at that time.

Mayor Capote said a resident pushed for the community garden at Nemo Circle then he moved out of the area and the garden was no longer properly maintained. Mayor Capote expressed concern about the complaints that may be received regarding noise from the roosters, maintenance of the coops, odors, etc. He suggested that Councilman Bailey review the past discussions when the ordinance regarding the chickens was proposed and had no issue with reviewing any language brought forward. He added that the item would have to be presented to the Planning and Zoning Board (P&Z).

Mr. Anderson felt the item should be considered by P&Z when there were no longer any social distancing and capacity requirements. He encouraged parents to teach their children that produce did not come in packages at the store. He said that chickens were a necessity, but if not taken care of properly, it could invite rodents and pests that the neighbors would be subjected to as well. Mr. Anderson supported Councilman Bailey's request to bring suggested changes to Council.

Mr. Anderson asked that "Council Reports" be placed on the next agenda. Council concurred.

Mr. Johnson supported Councilman Bailey's request. He added that if a community garden was proposed, long-term maintenance would have to be a topic of discussion.

Mr. Bailey said that if there was a food shortage, community gardens and personal gardens would be difficult to police. He felt that protein was the biggest issue facing residents. He said that four (4) hens would only produce enough eggs for two (2) people and he wanted the people to have as many options as possible, including goats. Mr. Bailey asked for the proposal to be heard by P&Z as soon as possible and would discuss same with the City Manager.

Mr. Bailey asked that everyone start thinking about the budgetary effects of this pandemic on the City. He wanted to have conversations about being better prepared, fiscally, moving forward. He felt that revenues would be decreased next year, and the City should only fulfill its essential needs. Mayor Capote said that Council needed to be aware of its decisions regarding future budgets and how employees would be affected.

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ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at the hour of 6:44 p.m.

William Capote, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Terri J. Lefler, DEPUTY CITY CLERK