

CITY OF PALM BAY, FLORIDA

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING 2020-18

Held on Thursday, the 14th day of May 2020, at the City Hall Council Chambers, 120 Malabar Road, SE, Palm Bay, Florida.

This virtual 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 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

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

CITY STAFF: Present was Suzanne Sherman, Deputy City Manager.

Pursuant to Section 286.011, Florida Statutes, and Executive Order 20-69, this public meeting was conducted via communications media technology (teleconference/video conference).

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

1. Tom Rebman, resident, asked Council to stop trespassing homeless. He said that the homeless were not being offered services and felt the catalyst for the trespassing violations were Code Compliance letters. He added that Council would be considering an agenda item for COVID relief monies and asked that some of those funds be dedicated to poor families that had yet to receive unemployment and need assistance. He asked Council for a motion to stop trespassing the homeless until the pandemic was over.

2. John Moore, resident, worked with the homeless camps. He had seen an influx from Melbourne as those camps were being trespassed, there was nowhere to place them, and affordable housing was needed. He said that better services were a necessity.

Mayor Capote said there was direction from Council at a previous meeting that no homeless would be trespassed prior to April 30th. Mrs. Morrell advised that a couple of individuals were removed from a business location at the request of the owner, offered services, but were not trespassed. There was a residential lot with two individuals that were not removed as the owner was sympathetic, allowed them to remain onsite, and services were being provided through the Brevard Homeless Coalition. Mrs. Morrell explained the process when a call was received by a property owner. She would ask the Chief of Police to provide an update at the June 4th Regular Council Meeting. She said there was no action at tonight's meeting regarding funding for businesses and residents, but it would be considered at the May 21st meeting.

BUSINESS:

1. Resolution 2020-22, amending Resolution 2020-09, as amended, extending the State of Local Emergency as declared by Legislative Order D-2020-01.

The City Attorney read the resolution in caption only.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Johnson, seconded by Mr. Santiago, to adopt Resolution 2020-22. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Capote, Yea; Deputy Mayor Johnson, Yea; Councilman Santiago, Yea; Councilman Anderson, Yea.

2. Discussion of assistance to businesses and residents affected by COVID-19.

Staff Recommendation: Acknowledge Outdoor Dining Guidelines and approve a temporary waiver to small businesses of penalties for delinquent Business Tax Receipts through December 31, 2020, a temporary waiver of building permit fees for projects valued at \$50,000 or less from June 1 thru September 30, 2020, and the Code Compliance Amnesty Program from June 1 thru December 31, 2020.

Bill Battin, resident, provided a virtual comment. He did not agree with a complete waiver for the Business Tax Receipts (BTR) and suggested that payments be deferred to a later date. He said that many people were probably going through hardships but still paid their Code fines. He asked why residents should be able to get a break now when they were not offered this program before.

Motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Santiago, to acknowledge the Outdoor Dining Guidelines, approve the temporary waivers and the Code Compliance Amnesty Program as requested.

Mr. Anderson said this was a start but did not feel it would help those most affected. He looked forward to discussing the assistance that would be provided to the businesses and residents at the next meeting.

Mr. Santiago asked how the Building Division operations would be affected. Mrs. Morrell said that staff compared inspections from last year and this year and there was the potential loss of approximately \$265,000. However, the Building Division budget was healthy with a \$5 million Fund Balance. Mr. Santiago wanted to make sure there were enough reserves to get through the pandemic.

Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Capote, Yea; Deputy Mayor Johnson, Yea; Councilman Santiago, Yea; Councilman Anderson, Yea.

3. Resolution 2020-23, amending Resolution 2019-34, as amended, adopting rates, charges, and fees, for Fiscal Year 2019-2020, pursuant to the Code of Ordinances, Title XVII, Land Development Code. (Councilman Bailey)

Due to the absence of Councilman Bailey, Council concurred to table the item to the next meeting.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Johnson, seconded by Mr. Santiago, to table the item to May 21, 2020. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Capote, Yea; Deputy Mayor Johnson, Yea; Councilman Santiago, Yea; Councilman Anderson, Yea.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at the hour of 6:24 p.m.

William Capote, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Terese M. Jones, CITY CLERK