



MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024, 6:00 P.M.
NEPTUNE BEACH CITY HALL
116 FIRST STREET
NEPTUNE BEACH, FLORIDA 32266

Pursuant to proper notice, a Special City Council Meeting of the City Council of the City of Neptune Beach was held on Monday, July 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., at Neptune Beach City Hall, 116 First Street, Neptune Beach, Florida 32266.

Attendance:**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mayor Elaine Brown
Vice Mayor Kerry Chin
Councilor Lauren Key
Councilor Nia Livingston(*absent*)
Councilor Josh Messinger(*via CMT*)

STAFF:

City Manager Richard Pike
City Attorney Zachary Roth
Chief of Police Michael Key
Public Works Director Deryle Calhoun
Parks and Sustainability Director Colin Moore
Community Development Director Heather Whitmore
City Clerk Catherine Ponson

**Call to Order/Roll
Call/Pledge**

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Neptune Trident
Award**

Mayor Brown presented the Neptune Trident Award to Mr. John Jolly. Mr. Jolly has served on the Code Enforcement Board, City Council and Police Officers' Retirement Fund Board. Mr. Jolly also served as Vice Mayor from 2013-2015.

**P24-04 108
Orange Street**

Mayor Brown stated that this agenda item was deferred.

**Milling and Paving
Streets**

Milling and Paving of Portions of Kings Road and Myrtle, Lemon, Magnolia, and Bay Streets. Public Works Director Deryle Calhoun stated this agenda item had been deferred at the June 3, 2024, Council meeting due to concerns regarding adding asphalt to Midway Street. He stated that since then Midway Street had been repaired and had some of the damage along that roadway improved.

Mr. Calhoun explained that other paving opportunities had been looked at and based on a contractor-graded list, alternatives to Midway were identified. This includes portions of Kings Road and Myrtle, Lemon, Magnolia, and Bay Streets. Paving on Myrtle will also address localized flooding at Myrtle and 2nd.

Made by Key, seconded by Chin.

MOTION:

**TO AWARD THE PAVING OF THE IDENTIFIED STREETS TO KUDZU
3 TRUCKING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$150,955.47**

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: 4-Key, Messinger, Chin, and Brown

Noes: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Water Tower
Fencing

Approval of Water Tower Property Fencing Replacement. Mr. Calhoun explained this is to replace the approximately 30-year old fence around the water tower. Bids were solicited in May 2024 and five responses were received. Armstrong Fence Company was the most responsive. The lowest bidder did not submit all of the required information.

Vice Mayor Chin questioned why Armstrong Fence Company had put N/A by some of the items on the table in the RFP and others had filled them in.

Mr. Calhoun answered there was probably not a line item for those items. Armstrong Fence Company did provide a typical quote sheet. He added that the main verbiage of the bid form states that "The selected bidder shall furnish, unless otherwise noted, all necessary permits, labor, equipment, materials and incidentals necessary for a functional and complete system ready for intended use."

Councilor Messinger commented that even though Armstrong Fence Company is the second to lowest bidder, the quality of work they have done in the City is solid. For continuity, there is value in keeping with Armstrong Fence Company

Made by Chin, seconded by Key and Messinger.

MOTION: TO AWARD THE WATER TOWER PROPERTY FENCING REPLACEMENT TO ARMSTRONG FENCE COMPANY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30, 835.20.

Roll Call Vote:

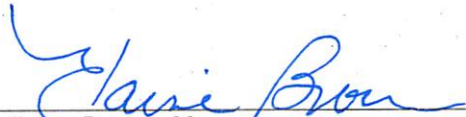
Ayes: 4-Messinger, Key, Chin, and Brown

Noes: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Special Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.


Elaine Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:


Catherine Ponson, CMC
City Clerk



Approved: 09/03/2024



MINUTES
WORKSHOP CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024, 6:15 P.M.
NEPTUNE BEACH CITY HALL
116 FIRST STREET
NEPTUNE BEACH, FLORIDA 32266

Pursuant to proper notice, a Workshop City Council Meeting of the City Council of the City of Neptune Beach was held on Monday, July 15, 2024, at 6:15 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 116 First Street, Neptune Beach, Florida, 32266

Attendance**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mayor Elaine Brown
Vice Mayor Kerry Chin
Councilor Lauren Key
Councilor Nia Livingston (*absent*)
Councilor Josh Messinger (*via CMT*)

STAFF:

City Manager Richard Pike
City Attorney Zachary Roth
Chief of Police Michael Key
Public Works Director Deryle Calhoun
Parks and Sustainability Director Colin Moore
Community Development Director Heather Whitmore
City Clerk Catherine Ponson

**Call to
Order/Roll Call**

Mayor Brown called the workshop meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT**Public
Comment**

Alison Ronzon, 221 South Street, Neptune Beach, spoke regarding historic preservation in Neptune Beach. She stated that the Historic Preservation Subcommittee and the Community Development Board have been working hard to amend the variance process for homes deemed as historical. The proposal has been written with the best interest of Neptune Beach residents in mind and it has been well received by those residents. They want owners to be encouraged to preserve what we have so that we don't lose the history of our town. The issue of preservation is very important to residents. However, while we continue to wait for this proposal to move through City Council, she is afraid we are continuing to lose the character of our City.

ISSUE DEVELOPMENT**COLA Increase
for Police
Retirees**

Sergeant Dustin Kamppi, Chairman of the Neptune Beach Police Officers' Retirement Fund Board, read a prepared statement regarding the background of the police retiree increase. He reported that the most recent increase was a one-time only 13th check in 2016. Sergeant Kamppi introduced Douglas Lozen, EA, MAAA, Senior Consulting Actuary, with Foster and Foster, Actuaries and Consultants, who are the administrators of the Neptune Beach Police Officers' Retirement Fund.

Mr. Lozen explained the types of COLAs. There are ad hoc COLAs, which is a one-time increase and automatic COLAs, which is a recurring increase. The goal of a COLA is to minimize the impact of inflation on the buying power of retirement benefits. He presented the proposed COLA for retirees effective October 1, 2024. The proposal is those who retire on and after October 1, 2024, would receive an automatic annual one-percent increase for life. Those who retire prior to October 1, 2020, would receive a one-time increase of two percent for each full year of retirement, up to a maximum of 10 percent.

Mr. Lozen also presented the sources of funding. He added that the current members would increase their contributions from eight percent to nine percent. He also pointed out that the City has over \$700,000 in prepaid contributions to assist with plan funding.

Mr. Lozen advised the next steps would be an ordinance approved by Council and the submission of an actuarial impact statement.

Councilor Key expressed that it is the City's duty and right to take care of public safety officers, past, present and future. She supports this and it is long overdue.

Councilor Messinger stated that the proposal is reasonable in the fact that there has not been a proper raise or adjustment in some time. The timing is right. He would like to see what we could do to slowly increasing the City's contributions so when the funds do run out, there is not such an abrasive change from a contribution standpoint.

Mr. Lozen reported an accrual had been submitted to the finance department of projections for that purpose.

Vice Mayor Chin agreed with Councilor Messinger in planning ahead to make sure when the prepaid contributions run out, there is accountability for future increases.

Mayor Brown stated she looks forward to the next steps and thanked Mr. Lozen for his presentation.

Retirement Board Trustee Leona Sheddian stated that to keep up with inflation, a three percent COLA is needed. The only way to do that without a shock to the budget is to automatically give a quarter percent every year until a cap of three percent is reached. Each year, Council can intervene if there is a problem with financing.

Mayor Brown stated she looks forward to the next steps and thanked Mr. Lozen for his presentation.

City Attorney
Position
Discussion

City Attorney Position Discussion. City Attorney Zachary Roth reported that three responses were received for the City Attorney position by the July 10, 2024, deadline. He reported that the submissions were from Ian Brown, Clayton Knowles, and Vose Law Firm. He added that given the variety of applicants, he is recommending come and present at the August 19, 2024, Council Workshop.

Mayor Brown requested a one-on-one meeting with each of them and to also present at the August 19 workshop. She also mentioned if Councilmembers wanted to meet one-on-one, which could be set up.

Vice Mayor Chin stated it was instructive to get three different applicants with a range where you see small, medium, and large firms. This is a way to compare and think about what this Council is looking for and would be a good fit.

Councilor Key commented she would like more of a roundtable-type interview and discussion process. If Councilmembers wanted to meet one-on-one, they could do that as well.

Councilor Messinger expressed he would be open to a roundtable-style event. He would want time to discuss with Mr. Roth the appropriate next steps. He would also like to discuss how Mr. Roth and the Ansbacher Firm would support the transition with the selection.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Adjournment

There being no further business, the workshop meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.


Elaine Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:


Catherine Ponson, CMC
City Clerk



Approved: 09/03/2024