ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE COMMITTEE (EDZC) MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2020 10:00 A.M.
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA

A G E N D A

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A) June 15, 2020

3. **NEW BUSINESS**

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

A) Update on the Lighting Project
B) Cameras in Pocahontas Park – (Discussed at the June 15th meeting)

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

This is a Public Meeting. If a person decides to appeal a decision made by the Committee with respect to any reviewable material considered at such meeting, he or she will need a record of the proceedings made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Anyone who needs a special accommodation for this meeting may contact the City's Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Coordinator at 978-4920 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE COMMITTEE (EDZC) MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020 10:00 A.M.
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA

PRESENT: Chairman Joseph Cataldo, Members: Garry Rooney and Alternate Member #2, Linda Moore **Also Present:** City Attorney John Turner and Heather McCarty, Records Retention Specialist

Excused Absences: Jessica Hawkins, Terry Torres and Mike Williams
Unexcused Absence: Bob DelVecchio

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) March 16, 2020

Mr. Rooney made a motion to approve the March 16, 2020 minutes. Mrs. Moore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. NEW BUSINESS

None

4. OLD BUSINESS

A) Staff to discuss the Lighting Project Approved in the Master Plan and where they are concerning the upcoming Budget Year

Mr. Jason Jeffries, Planning and Development Director, explained that last year they did their budget as a separate process and this year, they are trying to make it a part of the City's overall budget process so that when the City adopts their budget in September, theirs will be part of that approval. He said they are requesting a motion from the Committee for their recommendation on the Budget presented (on file in the City Clerk's office). He went over the proposed Five Year Capital Plan. He explained that the best case scenario is that they will only be through design this fiscal year and those funds will roll over to the upcoming fiscal year so they can complete the project then. Also in fiscal year 20/21, there is $104,500 for the sidewalk improvements, as planned. He added that he put back in the five (5) year plan as presented to them last year for a point of reference.

Mr. Rooney asked if a specific project they recommended had been approved by City Council and is being worked on. Mr. Jeffries explained that last year they budgeted $83,500 for lighting to be done this fiscal year and staff has started working on it after City Council's approval. Going forward, they are trying to do it this way and have it be a part of the City's budget every year to get approved in September.

Mrs. Moore asked about the amount of funds they will receive this year. Mr. Jeffries said for the current fiscal year, $88,600 appears to be good number and next year, $90,728 is a projection and is subject to change.

Mrs. Danessa Chambers, Assistant City Engineer, said that they had a lighting contractor come out who had volunteered to do a photometric study at no cost to the City but they have not had any luck getting them out there to do the study. She explained that timelines haven't been met and that they might have to solicit bids and have that study included as part of a design process. She said they do want to get started regardless so they might have to pay for one (1).

Mrs. Moore asked about the cost of a study. Mrs. Chambers said that it may be challenging to fund a study solely the way their funding works, but if they were to include it as part of the design, they could include it all as one (1). She thinks they should move forward, but wanted to know how they felt.

The Committee agreed they should get it moving.

Mr. Cataldo asked what the sidewalk improvements entail. He asked if they were going to make the sidewalks wider. Mrs. Chambers said she believes that the way they are in the right-of-way that they couldn't be wider, but they would have to look at that in more detail.

Mr. Rooney asked if they would just be grinding down uneven spots. Mrs. Chambers said the City has an inspector that does that full time, so that is already something that occurs in that area. This would be more like full replacements and reconstruction at the same time as installing more lighting.

Mr. Jeffries said the project this year was on a street that didn't need sidewalks. This next year, the project is on 14th Avenue between 18th and 19th Street where the sidewalks have never been replaced. The block to the north was called the Model Block, where the City replaced all the sidewalks. They are going to do their best to match that look. Also, they have gotten complaints that the curb is fairly high. This will be the time to reconstruct all those sidewalks and put the new lighting in.

Mrs. Moore made a motion to approve the budget for fiscal year 20/21. Mr. Rooney seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B) Discussion of Parking in Downtown

Mr. Cataldo said the big project that may not require any money is the parking situation. He said they keep looking at what do they need downtown to help the businesses economically and pedestrian friendly streetscapes and lighting are critical as well as sidewalks. He said at the last meeting he talked about the concept of a grant for property owners for lighting. He talked about if they could grant the funds to the property owners who would then pay the maintenance and upkeep, it would be a way to improve lighting without on-going costs. He said that any more lighting would be great. He brought up the never-ending battle for more parking, which is the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Complete Streets program.

Mr. Rooney agreed with him on the SR60 corridor and what needs to happen to make it better, but he thinks this Committee has been told it is not going to happen. He thinks it would be better use of energies of outside groups to bring it to Council, but not from this group. He thinks it is doable, but just from a different forum.

Mrs. Moore asked Mr. Jeffries if there has been any movement on approaching FDOT about SR60 and Complete Streets. Mr. Jeffries said they determined it was not in the five (5) year plan. He said it is better to do that in conjunction with resurfacing. He explained that FDOT now has a whole process where they send out a questionnaire on Complete Streets and ask for the local City's input.

Mr. Cataldo asked if they received a questionnaire today, what would be the response.

Mr. Jeffries said they identified that they have had the issues they have talked about. He said their questionnaire is also about what is in the Comprehensive Plan. He said there is still some language about it in the Comprehensive Plan but there had been more specific language about SR 60 and Complete Streets. He said if the City wanted to pursue it, it would be more ideal to have more specific language in it. He added that it is still a couple years away before initiating that process.

Mr. Matt Mitts, Public Works Director, said the concept has been out there for a while. The latest direction they have is not to pursue it. He said it doesn't make any sense to do this project outside of the repaving schedule. He said the condition of the road is okay now, but when it deteriorates, it will be put on their schedule. He said the FDOT didn't have any conceptual disapproval of it; they just wanted the City to officially say this is what they want when this project is redesigned. He said two (2) to three (3) years ahead of that repaving project, they will inform the City that this project is on their schedule and ask if the City has any comments. He added that the FDOT has not identified the project within the five (5) year window yet.

Mrs. Moore asked when FDOT does reach out to them, does the public get to know about it and give input. Mr. Mitts explained that FDOT first goes to the City and that is the opportunity to let them know what they are proposing be done to the road. During the design, FDOT does have an official public outreach portion where they come in after they have the preliminary design information and present it to the public. He gave the example of the A1A project and the sidewalks, which showed they are good about reaching out to the public and changing the plans based on that. He said it is still a ways out which is why there hasn't been any initiative on it yet.

Mr. Cataldo asked about his comment that the direction has been that they are not interested in it. Mr. Mitts said they have no direction to send a letter to FDOT that says they are interested in this project and to incorporate it in their design. There are also funds that would be expended for traffic studies that have an expiration date on them so if they were going to do that work now, they would have to do it again closer to the project. Mrs. Moore asked if they could use the Kimley-Horn study. Mr. Mitts said they could, but it would need to be updated within a certain window of the project.

Mr. Rooney brought up the homeless problems at the Park. Mr. Cataldo said they were asking the Chief about what could be done. Mr. Rooney asked about earmarking funds for law enforcement and cameras.

Mrs. Moore said they had Chief Currey here about a year ago and they talked about cameras in the Park, but for some reason it wasn't practical. Mr. Mitts said that he was not familiar with that.

Mrs. Moore said if he wanted that, could they use their funds to pay for cameras for the Park.

Mr. Mitts said he would have to do some research on that and get back to them.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

6. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

/hm