

**CITY OF VERO BEACH, FLORIDA
APRIL 7, 2020 8:30 A.M.
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA**

A moment of silence took place.

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Brackett led the City Council and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

B. Roll Call

Mayor Tony Young, present; Vice Mayor Laura Moss, present; Councilmember Robbie Brackett, present; Councilmember Joe Graves, present and Councilmember Rey Neville, present **Also Present:** Monte Falls, City Manager; John Turner, City Attorney and Tammy Bursick, City Clerk

2. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular City Council Minutes – March 17, 2020

Vice Mayor Moss made a motion to approve the City Council minutes of March 17, 2020. Mr. Neville seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. Special Call City Council Minutes – March 23, 2020

Mr. Neville made a motion to approve the Special Call minutes of March 23, 2020. Mr. Brackett seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A. Agenda Additions, Deletions, and Adoption.

Mr. Monte Falls, City Manager, requested that the Finance Director be given some time to talk about the Fund Balance and some City leases after the update on the Coronavirus has been given.

Vice Mayor Moss made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Mr. Neville seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. Proclamations and recognitions by Council.

None

Update on COVID-19 – City Manager & Police Chief

Mr. Falls reported that they are moving forward with another week and will proceed in this mode until April 30th or until further notice. He is still having daily conference calls with the County Administrator of Indian River County and the other City Managers for the other cities located in Indian River County. They want to make sure that they are all putting out the same message for the whole County. He said that the Governor issued a stay at home order and that citizens 65 years or older and people with health conditions should remain at home. There is a list of the essential businesses needed who are allowed to remain opened. If these orders are followed then we will be able to get a better handle of how many cases that there are and hopefully they will dwindle. They closed all of the play grounds in Indian River County yesterday. He said that they would be making the use of the Boardwalk at Conn Beach for one-way traffic only. People would go north on the boardwalk and south on the sidewalk. So far there are 60 reported virus cases in Indian River County with the greatest percentage rate being between the ages of 65 to 84. He said it is important that their citizens are doing the things that they are being asked to do and abiding by the stay at home order. He said they need to continue practicing social and physical distance. People need to shop only when necessary and get what they need. Keep washing your hands often and be kind to each other.

Mr. David Currey, Police Chief, reported that the Police Department call outs have lighten up some. He said there are not as many accident calls or cases being assigned to the detective division. The School Resource Officers have been reassigned to patrol and are being used where they are needed. The boating activity has doubled in the City, especially during the weekends, but there have been no problems. The playgrounds have closed and the beaches remain quiet. The Dog Park seems to stay very busy during the morning. He said that his Officers are equipped with masks and with whatever else they need during these trying times. He has made some orders for supplies through the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and has received what he has requested. The Police Department has received thermometers in order to take their temperatures and are practicing social distancing the best way that they can. They continue to wash their hands often and use hand sanitizer. He walks around the Police Department to check on his staff and they all seem to be in good spirits. The important thing to continue doing is to educate people and inform them on what is going on, as well encouraging them to stay in compliance with the executive orders.

Mr. Falls commented that air travel in the State of Florida is down about 90%. Locally they don't have any commercial traffic coming in Vero Beach through the month of April. He said that local hotels are also aware of what they need to do with people coming to stay at their hotels that are from out of the State.

Vice Mayor Moss complimented the Police Department and how personable the officers are. She recalled she talked to an Officer while her and some friends were walking on the boardwalk. They exchanged some pleasantries and she thanked them for their service.

Chief Currey said that they are all doing the best that they can.

Mayor Young commented on the EOC and all the emergency responders that they have in the community and how they all know what their job is and they do it well. There is a collection of experienced people coming together at the EOC. He is so happy to see the community working together. He briefly went over his background and how comfortable he is being a part of the community at this time. He mentioned that he and the City Manager are giving a briefing on the Coronavirus on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. unless there is a Council meeting and then the update is given at the beginning of the meeting. As this progresses they will be there for the community. He said they will all make it through this crisis and he expressed how important the media is and he appreciated their input.

Mr. Falls commented that a lot of people are only seeing them at their meetings, but the City works as a team. He appreciates the Council sharing their ideas. He then asked Ms. Lawson if she would talk about the Fund Balance.

Ms. Cindy Lawson, Finance Director, reported that back in 2016 the City Council adopted a Fund Balance to be spent on specific needs. Then back in September the Fund Balance was updated to further set aside some of the proceeds that the City received from selling of the Electric Utilities. She passed out the “General Fund – Fund Balance Analysis as of April 2020.” The total FY 19-20 adopted General Fund operating expenditures and transfers out are \$24,846,157. The total as of September 30, 2019 was \$65,192,738. She then explained the breakout of the Fund Balance categories that were adopted per Resolution 2019-21, which she also provided a copy to the City Council. The committed Fund Balances consist of the emergency (storm) reserves, unfunded pension liability reserve, other post-employment benefits reserve and capital and infrastructure reserve amounting to \$49,629,885. The unassigned Fund Balances consist of the budget stabilization reserve, working capital and excess fund balance amounting to \$15,562,853. Ms. Lawson said that they are in a good position if there are challenges with future budget years. This City Council and previous City Councils’ have done a great job in making sure that the City remains stable.

Mayor Young commented that this was good news in regards to what Ms. Lawson just shared. He wondered how many other cities were in this good standing.

Mr. Graves heard Ms. Lawson say that the Airport was in a vulnerable state. He asked her to explain that.

Ms. Lawson said because they don’t know about the small businesses that reside at the Airport and the money that they will be bringing in she doesn’t know what shape they may be in for the future.

Mr. Graves asked Ms. Lawson what is the Airport’s operation cost.

Ms. Lawson said it is about \$3 million a year.

Mr. Neville thanked Ms. Lawson for an excellent presentation.

Mr. Falls brought up some of the City leases that they hold. He said some of the businesses will be hit harder than others. Especially restaurants and bars, which had to close. He has talked to some of the tenants that the City has who are looking for some relief and has told them that they will be taken on a case by case basis and if something needs to be changed in the lease then they will bring it before Council.

Ms. Lawson commented that the way these leases are structured is there is no risk to the City and no way would the City offer any reduction in rent. As they continue to bill everyone they can have an option if they cannot pay their rent they could be given a reprieve, but would have to eventually pay the rent. She encouraged people to keep up on their bills if they can. They will work with people in coming up with a payment plan if necessary. She said they could continue to owe rent to the City without getting evicted, however the City cannot extend credit to anyone.

Vice Mayor Moss was always in favor of helping the businesses any way that they can.

Ms. Lawson made it clear that this is not rent forgiveness. If someone can pay their rent then they are encouraged to do so instead of having a bigger hill to climb later on down the road. She said small businesses can apply for funds that may be available.

Mr. Brackett commented that he has spoken to the properties of Seaside Grill and Walking Tree and agreed that it is in their best interest to be flexible and work with them. The best thing that could happen is to get their businesses back up and running.

Mr. Falls thanked Mr. Brackett for sharing his thoughts concerning the area businesses.

Vice Mayor Moss commented that they need to continue helping the businesses as much as they can. She said they are the foundation of the City. She reiterated that they needed to do everything that they can to help them.

Mayor Young added that Civic Associations are also under a lot of stress. They need to know that the City is here to help them if they can.

3. CONSENT AGENDA (include amount of expense)

- A) School Resource Officer Gun Safe – The School Board of Indian River County, Florida - \$1,170.00**
- B) Replace Emergency Generator at Public Works Compound – COVB Project #2019-03 – Contract #42-2020 – FDOT 445444-1-94-01 PTGA – Change Order #1 – Cost of Change Order - \$22,061.60**

Mr. Neville made a motion to adopt the consent agenda. Mr. Graves seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A) ORDINANCES

Quasi-Judicial Hearing

- 1) **An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, amending the official zoning map by changing the Zoning District Designation of property from MXD, Mixed Use, to C-1, Highway Oriented Commercial, for the property located in the 800 Block of 18th Place and 19th Street, in the Palm Addition of Vero Beach, Florida Subdivision, including the West 25 feet of Lot 5 and Lots 6,7,8 and the East 25 feet of Lot 9 and Lots 16,17,18 and 19, containing 1.31 acres more or less; Providing for an Effective Date. – Requested by the Planning and Development Director**

The City Clerk read the Ordinance by title only.

Mayor Young asked the Council if there was any ex parte communication or site visits to this property. Each Councilmember replied no. The Clerk swore in both the Planning and Development Director and the applicant speaking at today's meeting. All diagrams, photographs and other exhibits referred to during the testimony will be marked and identified and kept by the City Clerk.

Mr. Jason Jeffries, Planning and Development Director, gave a Power Point presentation (on file in the Clerk's office). He explained that this Ordinance would allow an amendment to the zoning map to rezone approximately 1.31 acres located in the 800 Block of 18th Place and 19th Street, from MXD, Mixed Use Zoning District to C-1, Highway Oriented Commercial Zoning District. The site is located west of US Highway 1 adjacent to the existing C-1, Highway Oriented Commercial zoning district to the east and across 18th Place to the south and northeast across 19th Street. It is also located approximately 245 feet from an urban principal arterial roadway. The Future Land Use Map in the City's Comprehensive Plan designates the subject site as MX, Mixed Use. This designation allows development in areas suitable for a broad mixture of residential, commercial, institutional, and supportive community services with a maximum development intensity of 2.0 floor area ratio. The Planning and Zoning Board held a public hearing on February 6, 2020, and voted 5-0 to transmit the Ordinance to the City Council for favorable consideration.

Mr. Todd Howder, of MBG Engineering, commented that Mr. Jeffries gave a very good summary. He was at today's meeting to answer any questions that Council has. He explained that they were not asking that the full property be rezoned; just a portion of the property that abuts the existing C-1, Commercial area, which fronts US 1. He showed the area on the screen of where he was referring to. He said what they are looking for is elevation for this Veterinary Clinic. He said Dr. Michael Geraghty was in the lobby if the Council had any questions that they needed to ask him. This is a two

(2) story building that is approximately 1,200 square feet. The clinic will provide 24 hour emergency care for animals, which is needed in this area. The site is going to provide a retention pond in the back of the property. The next step if the rezoning is approved will be the site plan review.

Mr. Neville asked about the buffer situation in relationship to where the apartments are located.

Mr. Howder explained that they are proposing to have a wall built in that area.

Mayor Young felt that this was a wonderful addition to this area of town.

Mr. Jeffries concluded that the application will still need to go through the site plan approval process, which the Planning and Zoning Board will review. The City's requires a 10-foot buffer around the whole property. He requested approval of the Ordinance.

Mr. Neville made a motion that based on competent substantial evidence presented to adopt the Ordinance as proposed. Mr. Brackett seconded the motion and it passed 5-0 with Mr. Neville voting yes, Mr. Graves yes, Mr. Brackett yes, Vice Mayor Moss yes, and Mayor Young yes.

Quasi-Judicial Hearing – Two Public Hearings – April 7, 2020 & April 21, 2020

- 2) An Ordinance of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, Amending the Official Zoning Map by changing the Zoning District Designation of property from R-1 and R-1A, Single-Family Residential, to P-2, Parks for property owned by the City of Vero Beach and Maintained as Charles Park, containing 10.61 acres more or less; Providing for an Effective Date. – Requested by the Planning and Development Director**

The City Clerk read the Ordinance by title only and announced that this is the first of two (2) public hearings. The second public hearing would be held on April 21, 2020.

Mayor Young asked the City Council if they have had any ex parte communications or have visited the site. The City Council answered no. The City Clerk swore in Mr. Jeffries.

Mr. Jeffries reported that this Ordinance would amend the zoning map to rezone approximately 10.61 acres located in Charles Park at 2405 15th Street, from R-1 and R-1A, Single-Family Residential Zoning District to P-2, Parks District Zoning. The request is by application from the property owner, who is the City of Vero Beach. Staff discovered that after this property went through the annexation process back in 2002, a rezoning Ordinance was never adopted to complete the process, which is why he is bringing this to Council now. The request is to rezone approximately 10.61 acres of land from R-1 and R-1A, Single Family Residential to P-2, Park District. The site is designated Park on the City's Future Land Use Map and the remaining surrounding properties are designated low density

residential on the City's and County's Future Land Use Maps. The amendment is justified based on the requirement to designate properties with zoning districts consistent with the future land use designations in the City's adopted Comprehensive Plan. Charles Park is designated with a Park Future Land Use Designation. The existing residential zoning is not considered consistent with the Park Future Land Use Destination in the City's Comprehensive Plan. The change from R-1 and R-1A Single Family Residential zoning to P, Park zoning will not significantly change the impact on levels of public service, since the subject properties are currently developed as a neighborhood Park and the City has no plans to develop cultural or community facilities on the property. The change is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning and Zoning Board heard this matter on February 6, 2020, and voted 5-0 in favor of the adoption of the Ordinance. Staff recommends approval.

Mr. Neville made a motion that based on competent substantial evidence presented that the Ordinance be granted as proposed. Mr. Graves seconded the motion and it passed 5-0 with Mr. Neville voting yes, Mr. Graves yes, Mr. Brackett yes, Vice Mayor Moss yes, and Mayor Young yes.

B) RESOLUTIONS

- 1) A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, Adopting the 2020 revised Indian River County Unified Local Mitigation Strategy; Providing for an Effective Date. – Requested by the Public Works Department**

The City Clerk read the Resolution by title only.

Mr. Falls reported that the Local Mitigation Strategy Plan is a Countywide effort to be prepared for funding opportunities from FEMA should a disaster strike Indian River County or any of its municipalities. In 1998, Indian River County and all the municipalities participated in developing a Local Mitigation Strategy. The plan is updated periodically and was last adopted by the Board of County Commissioners and municipalities in 2015. FEMA requires that the plan be reviewed and adopted every five (5) years. The Police Department was able to get a new roof and soon will have hurricane doors and windows because of the grant funding provided by this program.

Mr. Neville noted that on page 3-7 that stormwater drainage was listed twice and when the first stormwater drainage is listed there is not an "x" in the box for the City of Vero Beach and then when stormwater drainage is listed again the box has an "x" for the City of Vero Beach. Mr. Falls said that he would look into getting that corrected. Mr. Neville then referred to page 3-15 where it indicates that the City administers an ongoing stormwater inspection and maintenance program of the drainage ditches, catch basins, and culverts that comprise the City's stormwater system. He asked if that was being done. Mr. Falls said that this inspection occurs at least twice a year.

Mr. Neville commented that what is missing from that document is the school system. Mr. Falls said he would mention that to the Representative for this area who serves on the Committee.

Mr. Neville made a motion to approve the Resolution. Mr. Brackett seconded the motion and it passed 5-0 with Mr. Neville voting yes, Mr. Graves yes, Mr. Brackett yes, Vice Mayor Moss yes, and Mayor Young yes.

- 2) **A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, Authorizing the Execution and Acceptance of a Federally-Funded Subaward and Grant Agreement between the City of Vero Beach and the State of Florida Division of Emergency Management for Hurricane Dorian (FEMA -4468-DR-FL); Delegating to the City Manager the Authority to Execute the Agreement and act as the City's authorized Agent for Performance of the Agreement; Providing for an Effective Date. – Requested by the City Manager**

The City Clerk read the Resolution by title only.

Mr. Falls reported that back in early 2019, Hurricane Dorian impacted the City of Vero Beach. On October 21, 2019, there was a Federal Major Disaster declaration that makes the City eligible for Federal and State public assistance funding to reimburse a share of the project costs associated with the storm. The Federal cost share is 75% and the State cost share is 12.5%, leaving the City with a 12.5% match. He recommended that Council approve the Resolution authorizing an execution and acceptance of the Federally-Funded Subaward and Grant Agreement for Hurricane Dorian and authorize him to execute the agreement and act as the City's authorized agent for performance of the agreement.

Mr. Brackett made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Mr. Neville seconded the motion and it passed 5-0 with Mr. Neville voting yes, Mr. Graves yes, Mr. Brackett yes, Vice Mayor Moss yes and Mayor Young yes.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT (3-minute time limit)

The City Clerk read an email that the Council received from Ms. Helene Caseltine, Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Director, concerning assistance be given during the pandemic (attached to the original minutes)

6. CITY COUNCIL MATTERS

A) NEW BUSINESS

- 1) **Supporting local businesses. County and community comment.
Please Note: The COVID-19 Updates tab on covb.org offers links (screenshot attached) to information on financial aid to businesses. – Requested by Vice Mayor Laura Moss**

Vice Mayor Moss commented that there was an interesting article this weekend in the Wall Street Journal that had to do with the fact that social communication uses the same area of the brain as eating. She explained if you fast for a day the brain is the same as if you are in social isolation for a day. She said that people actually do nourish each other more than they probably ever realized and not just scientifically, but socially. She said that she just started wearing a mask. She is not sick and feels great and has no underlying conditions. It seems to her in the beginning when this started people were afraid if you were wearing a mask and now people seem to be afraid if you are not wearing a mask. She just wants everyone to feel as comfortable as they can during this very trying period of time. She thanked Ms. Judith Auburn who made these masks and has been making them for weeks now and giving them away. She is a local designer and has customized all of the masks. Hers has musical notes on it because she hopes everything she says will be music to their ears. They have to be so careful with businesses because they tend to think of it as a video that they can put on pause and then some how you are going to hit play again and it is all going to be the same. She said for businesses it is not like that. It is highly unlikely it will go back to being the same. These are very trying times for these businesses and also for the non-profit organizations. To the extent possible please support them. The City Clerk compiled a list of the different restaurants that are open for takeout and perhaps they could put this list on the website. She wanted to know what Council thought about that idea and if they had other ideas along that line. She said that Mr. Brackett's support of local businesses gave her this idea.

Mr. Brackett commented that he was having a conversation with the local newspaper trying to get them to write an article and in the beginning he did not have a whole lot of success. Eventually they gave in and he sent an email to a journalist that was doing an article for the whole Treasure Coast area. His list consisted of about 30 different restaurants that they verified were open in order to support the local restaurants.

Vice Mayor Moss commented that she has a list of several pages of different restaurants that are offering take out. In support of these restaurants she would suggest that they add it to the website to help promote the local restaurants unless someone has an objection. She said it is not advertising. It would just be a line listing saying the restaurants are doing this. She said it is a point of information.

Mayor Young agreed that it was important to promote this. He said they are all in this together.

Mr. Neville had no problem putting this list on the website as long as it is kept current.

Mr. Graves asked if there was an issue with promoting private businesses on the website.

Mr. John Turner, City Attorney, felt that under the circumstances it would be acceptable so long as there are not any exclusions from any of the businesses that want to add themselves to the list. It is not lending their name to any of the businesses as far as

promoting them. It is just making it available to the public so they can quickly access what businesses are open.

It was the consensus of the Council to put this list on the website.

Mayor Young commented on what voluminous information they have on their website concerning COVID-19. He encouraged everyone to look at it.

The City Clerk reported that they just received an email from Ms. Helene Caseltine who said that the Chamber of Commerce has a list of the local restaurants that are offering take out service. She invited the City to link on to the Chamber's website for this information. The Council agreed with doing that.

- 2) **2020 Census**
 - a) **2020 Census Form**
 - b) **Suggestions for promoting the census. Census Day memorandum attached. – Requested by Vice Mayor Laura Moss, Vice Chair of the Indian River County Census 2020 Committee**

Vice Mayor Moss reminded the community to fill out their census form on line if they haven't already. She has not received anything saying that people will be knocking on doors if they haven't filled out the form. There is a sample form on the City's website. She showed a picture of Mr. Jaybird Miller on the day he filled out his form, which was April 1st Census Day. She encouraged everyone to complete their forms.

B) OLD BUSINESS

7. PUBLIC NOTICE ITEMS FOR FUTURE PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing will be held on April 21, 2020 at 5:00 P.M.

- A) **An Ordinance of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, related to the Budget for the City of Vero Beach, Florida, for the period beginning October 1, 2019 and ending September 30, 2020; Providing and Establishing Revisions to said Budget based on Revised Revenue and Expenditure Estimates; Providing for an Effective Date. – Requested by the Finance Director**

The City Clerk read the Ordinance by title only and reported that the public hearing would be heard on April 21, 2020.

8. CITY CLERK MATTERS

A) Airport Commission Appointment

Mrs. Bursick reported that Mrs. Barbara Drndak has resigned from the Airport Commission. Mrs. Mary Wood currently serves as Alternate #1 and would like to remain in that position. If this is done, Mr. John Calcagno who currently serves as Alternate #2

would like to be moved up to a full member. This would leave an open position for Alternate #2. The applications that the City has on file are from Mr. Carlos Halcomb, Mr. Philip Canal, and Mr. Robert Lucas. Council had no problem moving Mr. Calcagno up to a full member.

Vice Mayor Moss recommended that Mr. Carlos Halcomb be appointed to the Airport Commission. He is a retired United States Air Force Colonel, a NASA Pilot for the Kennedy Space Center, he worked at the City of Vero Beach Airport as the Airport Administrative Manager and he did consulting work for Mach Performance Consulting. He has a commercial pilot's license, he serves on the Veterans Council of Indian River County, and is the Vice President for the Military's Officer's Association of Indian River County. His references included Mr. Eric Menger, Mr. Todd Scher, Ms. Laura Moss, and Mr. Monte Falls and he comes highly recommended. She can vouch for him personally and feels that he would do a great job and be a real asset to the Airport Commission and the City of Vero Beach.

Mayor Young felt that they had three (3) very capable candidates.

Mr. Brackett wanted to consider Mr. Robert Lucas for the position. He has been a resident of the area for over 38 years, has a pilot's license, and owns a couple of different businesses in town. He (Mr. Lucas) supports various charities in town and sits on the Board of Directors for the local Air Show. He is also well liked by the different tenants at the Airport.

Mayor Young brought up Mr. Philip Canal who also has a wealth of experience.

Vice Mayor Moss agreed that all three (3) of the applicants are very good candidates. She did think that Mr. Carlos Halcomb was the most experienced and most appropriate for this position.

Vice Mayor Moss made a motion to appoint Mr. Carlos Halcomb to the Airport Commission. Mr. Neville seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-2 with Mr. Brackett and Mr. Graves voting no.

**9. CITY MANAGER MATTERS (include amount of expense)
(Staff/Consultant special reports and information items)**

A) County Bulk Waste Water Treatment Alternative

Mr. Falls reported that City Council voted to proceed with the design of a new Water Reclamation Facility at the Water Treatment Plant property off of Aviation Boulevard. City Council also directed staff to prepare a preliminary estimate of constructing transmission mains to and from the Indian River County West and Central Wastewater Treatment Plants with an agreement for Bulk Wastewater Treatment as an alternative. Mr. Rob Bolton, Water and Sewer Director, met with Mr. Vincent Burke, Utility Director for the County, to discuss the means and methods for having the City transmit domestic waste

to the County facilities and receive reclaimed water after treatment. He presented Council with the report. The conclusion is that the report addresses the preliminary cost estimate for the piping and pump stations to transfer wastewater to the County facilities and return reclaimed water to the City facilities (\$84,851,000) versus the construction of a new 5.0 million gallon per day Biological Nutrient Reduction/Membrane Bioreactor Water Reclamation Plant at the Airport (\$58,360,000). If the City Council wishes to continue discussions with the County, a study of the County facilities would have to be performed to determine their condition, reclaimed water quality and regulatory impacts of the additional wastewater flows, and future regulatory issues required by the new Senate Bill 712. In addition, further discussions would need to take place to determine the cost to treat the wastewater on a bulk treatment arrangement versus the cost to operate the new water reclamation plant. The City Council asked that the Utilities Commission receive a copy of the report and email their comments to the City Clerk. Comments received were from Mrs. Jane Burton, Chairwoman of the Utilities Commission, Mr. Bob Auwaerter, Vice Chairman of the Utilities Commission, Mr. Mark Mucher, Utilities Commission member and Mr. John Cotugno, Utilities Commission member (letters attached to the original minutes). Mr. Falls said that he was looking for direction from the Council today on how they would like staff to proceed.

Mr. Neville asked if they would receive more grants if they coordinated with the County.

Mr. Falls explained that any facility could receive grants.

Mr. Rob Bolton, Water and Sewer Director, thought that it might be more favorable in getting grants for a new facility, which is the position that they will be taking. He will be bringing back to Council a Power Point presentation that shows the two (2) pieces of legislation that took place this year and how it will affect the City of Vero Beach as a whole and not just for water and sewer.

Vice Mayor Moss brought up the comments that they received from the Utilities Commission. Mrs. Jane Burton, Chairwoman of the Utilities Commission, commented that with regards to the County's facility, they are discharging its final effluent when necessary through the Indian River Farms District discharge system, which does not meet Senate Bill 712 requirements. She said if they were to deal with the County they would be paying for that kind of upgrade to their system.

Mr. Bolton said that it looks like in Senate Bill 712 what Mrs. Burton is talking about will have an effect on the County's ultimate discharge.

Vice Mayor Moss said then the choice comes to do they pay to do their own system or do they pay to upgrade the County's system. It sounds like the County system will require an upgrade.

Mr. Bolton agreed that if they continue down the path of going with the County then they would need to evaluate their system and see how it will be effected by this new legislation.

Mr. Falls stated that the purpose of this study was to look at the economics of having their own system or going with the County. It was not a gauge of one (1) system being better than the other. The comments just read by Vice Mayor Moss are Mrs. Jane Burton's comments and hers only. If they would elect to go with the County they would have to comply with all of the permits. They just have the benefit if they do it themselves to getting a new system that meets all of the current permit and requirements. This has nothing to do with the County not being in compliance according to new permits.

Vice Mayor Moss did not take it that way (referring to Mrs. Burton's comments).

Mr. Falls just wanted to be clear to the public that this is not a decision that they are making regarding whose system might be better. They are looking at what is best for their citizens and the most economical way to do it.

Mr. Brackett asked if this report was given to the County.

Mr. Falls explained that Mr. Bolton worked with the County's Utility Director (Mr. Vincent Burke) on the report. Mr. Burke had the opportunity to review the report and make comments on it.

Mr. Bolton said that he incorporated some of the comments made by Mr. Burke into the report.

Mayor Young commented that there are 120 pages that he had to go through. He asked Mr. Bolton what the most salient points are.

Mr. Bolton stated that the cost is the driving factor that they are looking at right now. They will spend a whole lot more money to do a piping project that puts them again at risk. They would be sending all of their wastewater to a western plant and there could be a failure in that pipe line and at that point they would be dumping right into the canal with no way to shut it off. Then there would be cost associated with almost treating 20% of the wastewater at the Airport site in the first place because they have to remove any type of sand that would clog the line. He said this aspect would need to be looked at and a treatment agreement would have to be negotiated with the County as to how much is it going to be per gallon to treat.

Vice Mayor Moss asked if the County's capacity came up during any of his conversations. She didn't know where they were with the Sebastian annexation lawsuit. She thought that was a game changer in terms of capacity.

Mr. Bolton explained that the capacity at the County's west plant and their central Plant is that they would be eating up a lot of that capacity so it would force them into expanding their west Plant immediately.

Mr. Graves felt that this was getting outside of the purview of what they asked the City Manager to do. He said that Council was in favor of a City owned Wastewater Treatment

Plant and Mr. Brackett brought up comparing the cost and that is what Council asked Mr. Falls to do. He asked Mr. Falls if that is what he presented. Mr. Falls said yes. Mr. Graves said to him it is a no brainer. It would be \$27 million more to go with the County versus pursuing their own Plant. That is the information requested by Mr. Brackett before they move forward. It is not fair to be asking Mr. Bolton questions that he was not asked to be prepared for.

Vice Mayor Moss asked Ms. Lawson if she has seen Mr. Auwaerter's letter. He had some questions in regards to the Council spending \$50 million plus on a project that will impact utility customers for the next 30 years. There were some questions on capital costs and operational costs to construct the facility, etc.

Ms. Lawson reported that a consultant that they have used before will be doing a financial analysis looking at two (2) things. Once they decide they are going to build their own Plant and they had an idea of the costs and cash flow needed for doing it over the next few years they will be looking at the best way to borrow money to achieve a couple of things. They will want to match it to the useful life of the assets and still achieve the lowest possible interest rates and issuance costs in order to minimize the impact. She was just waiting to find out what Council wanted to do in order to move forward. She will be coming back to Council when the analysis of which way to go has been completed.

Mr. Falls asked Council for a decision as to whether or not they want to partner with the County or to go it alone and move forward with building their own Plant at the estimated cost of \$58 million.

Mr. Graves made a motion to move forward that the City of Vero Beach alone will construct their own Water Treatment Plant based on these numbers that have been presented to Council. Mr. Brackett seconded the motion.

Mayor Young read a letter into the record from Dr. Faherty (attached to the original minutes).

Vice Mayor Moss thanked the Utilities Commission for their comments and to everyone who participated.

Mr. Turner stated that this question of whether to partner with the County or whether to proceed further through their own efforts has been on the agenda previously and the matter has been discussed and public input has been accepted and this has been heard before the Utilities Commission. This matter has been thoroughly vetted and discussed. He just wanted to make sure everyone understood that this is not a new item that had not been considered and thoroughly analyzed and presented at a public forum.

The motion passed unanimously.

B) Status of Emergency Orders and Extensions

This item was heard earlier in the meeting.

10. CITY ATTORNEY MATTERS

A) Affirm Notice of ending Elite Airways use of Airport Property

Mr. Turner noted that the President of Elite Airways was at today's meeting and will have an opportunity to speak. He briefly gave the background of where they are today with Elite Airways. He said Elite Airways and the City entered into a new license agreement for the Airline at the beginning of January this year. The required documents were signed by both parties. There was an annual pay user fee for the privilege of operating at the Airport. He came to the City Council at their March 5th meeting and informed them that Elite Airways had not paid their annual fee and was in arrears in the amount \$34,921.24, as well as the monthly rent for the office space that they use at the Airport. This discussion was what to do with these past due amounts. Staff forwarded a notice of violation to Elite Airways advising them that they were in violation of the use agreement and unless arrangements were made within 15-days the use agreement would be terminated. At the March 17th City Council meeting he came to City Council informing them that the time was about to expire to the 15-day requirement and staff wanted City Council's input on how to proceed. At that time City Council discussed terminating the use agreement after the 15-day period had expired or allowing Elite Airways to wrap up its operations honoring its commitments to their customers. Council gave direction to staff and the City Attorney to give 60-days written notice to Elite Airways, LLC to end the use agreement entered into on January 6, 2020. Elite Airways was required to make certain payments under the use and lease agreements, but has failed to make any payments to date and is in arrears in the approximate amount of \$34,921.24. They were given in the letter until May 26, 2020 to vacate. He put this item on the City Council agenda for today so Council could either ratify actions taken at their March 17th meeting or to get input as to additional considerations. The current circumstances are such that the President of Elite Airways contacted his office last week and advised him that they were interested in pursuing and applying for relief under the CARE Act that had been recently approved by Congress and signed by the President. It will take some time to get the paperwork together, as well as determining what funds will be available for airlines. He said that he was told that Elite Airways was pursuing that avenue and perhaps City Council would consider it and whether or not to proceed with the termination for convenience for the 15-day breach. Mr. Turner passed out to Council an invoice (attached to the original minutes) showing that the current balance owed by Elite Airways is \$34,921.24 as of April 1, 2020. It will increase to \$36,559.03 on May 1, 2020. At this point Elite Airways has not paid this amount to the City. It is his understanding that Elite Airways is not using the office space and it has been vacated. Elite Airways has given notice that it is not going to have passenger service to the City of Vero Beach Airport for the month of April. He wanted to get from the City Council if they wanted to ratify the 60-day termination for convenience or any other action that Council deems appropriate at this time.

Vice Mayor Moss commented that this has been a bumpy ride and that doesn't necessarily mean that they have to end it. She wanted to hear from the CEO.

Mr. John Pearsall, President of Elite Airways, commented that Elite Airways is a unique air carrier in that it holds the same certificate of public convenience and necessity that has been vetted by the US Department of Transportation and any other airline. But from a financial standpoint and a management standpoint they have been vetted every way possible. As part of this when they go into a City pair announcement such as Vero Beach to New York, which they have been doing for over three (3) years now it is always been their responsibility as having a holding certificate of public convenience and necessity that they take care of their customers and support the airports between those two (2) locations. Unfortunately, in this particular case they have had a very good relationship up until they got into this new agreement. At the time of the agreement it was increased substantially and they are not opposed to the fact it went up over 300%. However, there was a misunderstanding about the annual fee. He brought up to the City Manager that they would appreciate being able to pay the fee on a monthly basis (license fee), because basically they are being asked to pay for a whole year in advance and there was a 60-day out where they could just be terminated. One of the offices that they did have at the Airport was in a mold remediation issue for most of the winter and spring so they did not use the space. These are things that they should have sat down and talked about, which was not done. Elite Airlines intent is to stay here for a long term basis and they would love to continue servicing New York and Portland, Maine from Vero Beach. It has been very successful and passenger loads are high. As Council saw at the turnout of people that showed up a couple of meetings ago Elite Airways has substantial support by the citizens and it is their convenience that Elite Airways operates. As part of their Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) certificate they have to continue to serve city pairs as much as possible. He requested that Council consider allowing Elite Airways to stay. He thinks they are important to Vero Beach and have been very supportive of Vero Beach. They have taken care of a lot of charities and have always been a good partner if they ask any of the people here in the community. The airline is a small airline with about 16 aircrafts and are right now facing one (1) of the largest challenges they have ever had. There are 240 people that rely on this airline for employment and a large number of them are in Indian River County and a large number of them are in Brevard County. He proposed that they work out an agreement to continue to serve their passengers and employees. For the month of April he made the decision to terminate service and there was a lot of feedback from constituents here in Vero Beach. They did not want people being brought to Vero Beach from New Your, which he understood. A lot of people have changed their flights to May from June and the actual route has been scheduled until the end of the year. He would like to be able to service these people and it is important to the Department of Transportation as a part of the CARE Act to continue to service this route. At the same time it is important to their customers that they continue to service this route. He said that the Airport is a great asset, unfortunately it just needs to be set up fee wise to help the City pay the bill. In his conversations with the City Manager he proposed a corporate aircraft be serviced with a landing fee. He said that Elite Airways will pay a landing fee. He said for the business jets that come into the Vero Beach Airport they are missing that revenue stream from landing fees. When they were initially talking about the shortfalls of the cause of enplanements by Elite Airways getting up with the combination of corporate jets over 10,000, he thinks the number was around \$900,000. They figured by having a landing fee

that money could easily be recouped and everyone would be happy. He reiterated that Elite Airways would like to continue to serve and they will clear up their bill. He requested that as long as they have a 60-day out that they pull back the requirement to terminate the contract and that they allow Elite Airways to continue to operate. He said regardless of the CARE Act funds, Elite Airways will take care of its bill here. He can assure them of that. It is important to them whether they vote to kick them out or allow them to stay, to let them service the citizens of Vero Beach and Indian River County. He said when they looked at the amount of reservations that they get, 85% of them came from Vero Beach zip codes. He said not Indian River County zip codes, or Ft. Pierce, they come from Vero Beach. Even though Vero Beach is a small City there is a big appetite to want the New York service. With the current pandemic situation going on Elite Airways is safer to fly then have to take a connection flight. It is their plan to restart service on May 1st and hopefully they can sit down and work this out with Council and come to a conclusion that allows them to keep operating.

Vice Mayor Moss thanked Mr. Pearsall for halting the flights for April and being socially responsible. She asked if this current health care crises continues would he halt the airline services for May.

Mr. Pearsall said yes. He said if the curve doesn't flatten out like the experts are saying they will look at postponing flights in May.

Vice Mayor Moss commented that this has been a bumpy ride lately, but she knows in the past that Elite Airways has been a good partner and it took the Airport Director a long time and a lot of work in order to bring an airline here. There had not been an airline in Vero Beach for at least 20 years. She agreed that this is a business and an amenity that many people support and enjoy. She is not clear where the confusion came in. She asked the City Attorney what the contract says. She asked is this an annual payment and is that where the confusion lies.

Mr. Pearsall answered yes. He said when they signed the agreement they realized it was an annual fee, but thought that it was broken up month by month.

Mr. Graves asked Mr. Pearsall why there has been no effort made to make any payment.

Mr. Pearsall said because they were told to make the whole payment or don't make a payment.

Mr. Graves asked who said that.

Mr. Pearsall could not quote who it was.

Mr. Graves asked Mr. Falls if he said that.

Mr. Falls explained they just talked about how much was outstanding.

Mr. Brackett understood that came up in March and they are talking about back in January before they had those conversations.

Mr. Graves commented that it seems to him that there should have been some effort to clarify this at that time or at the beginning of the contract. He was sure that Mr. Pearsall had lawyers look over the contract.

Mr. Pearsall stated that he had discussed this with the City Manager who told him at the time that they would have to take it back to City Council.

Mr. Falls said that is because the way the contract is written is that it requires an annual payment. He said there are two (2) components. One is the monthly rent and the other is the annual payment.

Mr. Graves asked if they have received any payments. Mr. Turner said no.

Mr. Pearsall said that the office space was not used by staff.

Mr. Graves said whether the space is used or not it is a part of the lease.

Mayor Young commented that the commercial aviation element has a consequence and right now that consequence, which is significant puts the Airport at risk unless there are changes made that they haven't even gotten into lately. As they are looking at the implications for the future for the City of Vero Beach he is looking at record to date and there is a great deal of concern by the members of the Airport the implications resulting from the agreement of the commercial services that they have now. He was here and he appreciates the outturn and support for providing a convenience, but the word convenience has to be understood. He looks to the future and the implications of the budget and the City as a whole and he has reached out as has many of the other Council members to ask for assistance for support of the Airport. The response was "you own it, you got the money." He said that is unfortunate. He is an aviator and he has passion for aviation, but his responsibility as a Councilmember is to look at the long term implications. He sensed that the Airport had no trouble paying its expenses until a commercial enterprise was put in place. He said the social status of having a commercial aviation is wonderful, but the underline cost associated with that for the City is detrimental. There were some financial matters that should have been cleared up earlier and were not.

Vice Mayor Moss asked Mr. Turner if there was a way to leave this open to being rectified financially today.

Mr. Turner stated that from their point of view if they realized that the financial obligations would be taken care of then perhaps some arrangement could be made and acceptable to Council. He has not had those directions at this point. He needs some direction from Council as to is this something that they want him to do to see what is going to be available and when. He has not seen any financial records for Elite Airways and they are not entitled to it under the agreement. They do not know their financial conditions, but they know it is

tough now and difficult for airlines. However, as a City they have to look out for their finances as a priority. If Council wants him to engage in those discussions and have some kind of a timeline that is within their discretion he would be happy to pursue that.

Mayor Young asked if as of May 26th the operations are terminated. Mr. Turner answered yes.

Mayor Young asked the Council if they want to implement a date earlier than May 26th.

Mr. Neville asked Mr. Pearsall if he has provided any kind of written communication to the City since the signing of the contract.

Mr. Pearsall commented that there has been terrible communication.

Mr. Neville asked Mr. Pearsall if he has offered any concrete proposals to the City.

Mr. Pearsall explained that they will take care of their arrears to the City within 30-days. However, it is important to them and important for the public to understand that they are not going away. He said with all the drama concerning the original agreement and all the press stories that doesn't help anyone's business. They do ask because their schedule is out until January 1st that they be allowed to operate until January 1st. He said by that time they would love to work with the City to come up with a method to make up for that shortfall so the City doesn't have to worry about the Airport. He reiterated that there is an easy way to do this.

Mr. Graves asked what their legal options are. He understands that there was a 15-day demand that was sent.

Mr. Turner explained that they have not waived the 15-day notice. It is up to the City Council on how to handle this matter at this point. The 15-day notice has not been cured and it is a violation and stands. They have not received any funds from Elite Airways to date.

Mr. Brackett commented that he didn't know if anyone on the Council went out to bat as much as he did in trying to get help concerning the enplanements. He spend a lot of time working on that matter. He worked with Mr. Charlie Sembler, Senator Mayfield, and the County Commissioners that were up in Tallahassee at the time. He said that this "hurts." He recalled there were a lot of quotes made from Elite Airways on how the City blindsided them and a lot of negative comments made against the City. The truth is a lot of the companies that reside at the Airport at this time do not think that Elite Airways is a good neighbor. The City Council has a long term obligation to make sure that the Airport is viable and self-sustaining and recently that is not the case. They need to focus on the long term convenience because a lot of the residents using Elite Airways were also County residents. They have to protect the citizens of Vero Beach. The City Council has an obligation to them. They worked hard to resolve this and everyone was happy and then nothing happened.

Mr. Graves stated that the City invested a lot of money to have Elite Airways come to Vero Beach. He said he heard Mr. Pearsall say that the fees went up 350%, but that was to just get the fees at market value because in the beginning the fees were cut at a reduced rate to try to get Elite Airways here. Then he hears their Finance Director saying that their Airport is vulnerable because of the situation that they are currently in. He said the Airport Commission reviewed the lease and had some serious concerns about it and voted unanimously to not renew the contract. He agreed that Mr. Brackett was very strong in coming up with some solutions to the enplanements. Then they signed a new lease agreement and not one (1) dollar has been paid to the City on what is owed. If Elite Airways is not paying their fees then the taxpayers are shouldering the burden for their business, which is not fair to the community.

Mr. Pearsall apologized for not paying the fees. He did bring this up to the City Manager who advised him to speak with the City Council about this. He agreed that they should have paid something, but it seemed to be a contentious situation. The City did put money into the Airport for Elite Airways, but Elite Airways also spent an enormous amount of money to bring the service into the City.

Mr. Graves asked what the money was spent on.

Mr. Pearsall said they spent it on personnel, on new aircraft, etc.

Mr. Graves said that the money was spent on things that benefited his business.

Mr. Pearsall said that it benefited the citizens of the community. He said regardless of what happens at today's meeting Elite Airways will pay the bill. They took enormous risk to come to Vero Beach. He said no one had ever had a commute to New York from Vero Beach and he made the decision to do it and it was a smart decision and turned out to be a homerun. He said that he listened to the people that live in this community on what their needs were and he does not know why they would want to throw that away.

Mr. Neville asked Mr. Pearsall if he brought a check with him today.

Mr. Pearsall said that he did not, but could wire them a check today.

Mr. Neville told Mr. Pearsall that he has not communicated with the City at all. He has received all these notices for overdue bills, which he has ignored. He does not know what that means. The Council is trying to read Mr. Pearsall's intent and it is not possible to read it because he is mute on the question.

Mr. Pearsall explained that he was at today's meeting to resolve the issue.

Mr. Falls commented that this comes down to a decision on what the Council wants to do regarding policy. They have heard from Mr. Pearsall that he is ready today to wire a check to cover the outstanding balance. So it is a question if they want to continue down that

road. Vice Mayor Moss said that what she was hearing Mr. Falls say was that this would be a second or even third chance for Elite Airways. Mr. Falls continued by saying that this is a Council policy decision.

Mayor Young stated that the consensus that he has heard is that the direction that they are proceeding in at this point is that as of May 27th that the commercial air services will be terminated.

Mr. Graves made a motion that consideration be given for the 15-day demand that was ignored. Mr. Brackett seconded the motion.

Mr. Brackett commented that his concern with this is if things should change by May 1st they still have residents that purchased airline tickets and he doesn't want to inconvenience them. That was his only concern with the motion.

Mayor Young said that he would be surprised if the situation changes and the airlines would start flying again any time soon.

Vice Mayor Moss asked the City Attorney what does this mean.

Mr. Turner explained the 15-day option would have expired already and if there is a declaration that the use agreement terminated effective approximately March 21st or March 22nd and that is what he thinks Mr. Graves is alluding to in his motion. That operations would no longer continue by Elite Airways at the City of Vero Beach Airport. The other option would be to continue with the termination date of May 26th so that airline operations and passenger ticketing can be completed by that time.

Mayor Young asked Mr. Pearsall in regards to his operation if the City implements the 15-day motion versus the May 26th date what implications does he have.

Mr. Pearsall said that it would be furloughing employees and then telling his customers that there is no longer service in Vero Beach and going through the refund process. They also have one (1) other requirement and that is to go to the Florida Department of Transportation and go down that route. He said they are basically telling their constituents that they can't have a service and from the Federal level there may be an issue there.

Vice Mayor Moss understands and agrees that the Council is very disappointed in the relationship they have had with Elite Airways for the last few months. She thinks that it is a shame that it has come to this. She doesn't know the details and why it did and with that being said it was ironic in a way because they just spent a good portion of the meeting talking about supporting local businesses during this period of time. She thinks that it will be difficult to replace Elite Airways and for some people it is more than just a convenience. There are letters from people who under ordinary circumstances get medical treatment and use Elite Airways for transportation back and forth for their medical treatment. So it is not always simply for the matter of convenience. It could be a lifesaving service for some people. She was speaking only for herself, but if Elite Airways was to pay today and

continue to be socially responsible with halting flights during a pandemic, she would be willing to consider giving them a third chance.

Mr. Neville stated that his proposal would be that the 60-day notice that they voted on would be a termination of the contract and that still carries. He said to put discussion of Elite Airways on their next agenda and see if they have paid by then. He suggested that Elite Airways spend less time talking to the press and more time talking to the City. He feels their relationship is manageable and thinks they probably could go forward. There needs to be some performance on Elite Airways part to respect the issues that they are confronted with. He knows that Elite Airways has plenty of their own issues and the City also has plenty of issues. The City would like to be a cooperative partner, but it takes two (2) to do that.

Mr. Pearsall commented that the press are hound dogs and relentless and continuously keep after him. He has directed all of their calls through their press person now. He apologizes if anything was taken out of context and now their press person handles all of the calls. He said that he wants to work with the City and there is no reason that they can't work this out and solve the issue together to keep the service and at the same token not have a financial impact to the City.

Mr. Graves pointed out that services were already cancelled through the month of April. Each of the Councilmembers have been elected to be fiscally responsible and voted to do fiscally the right thing. He said if they look at the long term viability here and that is an Airport owned by an 11 square foot City that perhaps commercial service is not something that the City of Vero Beach should be engaged in. There is a cost to the City over and beyond the fees for the police protection that has to take place. They have an Airport Commission to review these issues and who have the expertise to understand these costs and they were given a unanimous decision from the Airport Commission not to renew the lease. He said they got lucky because FDOT gave them a little bit of time on the matching grants, but he thinks it is inevitable that the service will not continue and it is time to put an end to this. They have spent a lot of time talking about this and it is time to move on.

Mr. Neville disagreed. He does not think that it is necessarily inevitable. He said that they have relationships in Tallahassee that they can in fact compensate for making some revisions to the number of enplanements that are required and the numbers that can accommodate a small operation like Elite Airways. He said not necessarily getting all the way up to what Gainesville does is where they can make a go of it with 200,000 enplanements. He said providing they have a reasonable partner, he is inclined to letting Elite Airways go until the next meeting and if their bills have been paid then they should continue letting them move forward and working with the enplanements. He said there is a motion on the floor and he called the question.

The motion passed 3-2 with Mr. Neville voting no, Mr. Graves yes, Mr. Brackett yes, Vice Mayor Moss no, and Mayor Young yes.

Mr. Pearsall commented that they have an excellent Airport Director and Assistant Airport Director. They had the insight to bring Elite Airways to Vero Beach. He thanked them for all of their efforts. He said that they know how to run an Airport. He is sorry that they have to take the action that they do. He really thinks that it is a mistake.

B) Discuss Case - John Doe vs City of Vero Beach

Mr. Turner brought up discussion of the John Doe vs City of Vero Beach case. He said that the action that is filed in Circuit Court under the style of the John Doe vs City of Vero Beach in which it was the subject matter of an Executive Session a couple of weeks ago in which they had outside counsel present. He is asking for direction from Council to proceed with the settlement discussion that was made in the Executive Session. He did not disclose what those conditions were.

Vice Mayor Moss asked if they were allowed to ask him if anything has changed.

Mr. Turner explained there has been an interruption of communication between the parties due to the corona virus.

Vice Mayor stated that she was not in favor of settling.

Mr. Turner thanked the Council for their direction in this matter.

11. COUNCILMEMBER MATTERS

A. Mayor Young's Matters

1) Unsung Hero

Mayor Young commented that as they got into the middle of this Coronavirus scenario he wanted to take the opportunity and do what they did for the Centennial and that is to reach out to the community and ask for their support. He did reach out and spoke with Mrs. Kelly Sartain and Council has been provided with a memo that basically states that there is an opportunity where they have a committee that will identify an unsung hero that has positively impacted their community. Then provide that as a way for Council to support positive action within their community. The original objective would be to provide the City with an article highlighting the individual and then Council would provide a focal point between social media and other platforms to showcase this person or business. He felt that this was something that allows the community to realize the phenomenal work that is going on around them, which is happening in a multitude of ways. What he is hoping to have is input from the Council so that he can recommend that the committee moves forward with this and recognizes those individuals.

Mr. Graves asked who was behind this.

Mayor Young said that it was Mrs. Kelly Sartain and she would be the lead on moving forward.

Mr. Graves stated that for personal reasons he could not support working with Mrs. Kelly Sartain. He could not get behind that at all.

Mr. Brackett asked if it was an organization or just Mrs. Sartain herself.

Mayor Young explained that it would be a committee of volunteers that would put together a narrative that would be provided to the City highlighting individuals or businesses that have positively impacted this community.

Mr. Brackett was trying to find out if this was a non-profit organization, which has a Board of Directors or just a group of people getting together to work on this project. He wondered if there was an alternative motive for doing it.

Mayor Young explained it was simply an offer to assist in the community to recognize people.

Mr. Graves stated that he is all for recognizing people in the community, but there is an issue here with him personally. He does not want to go on record and state all the issues that have involved Mrs. Sartain and his family, but it has been very hurtful and he cannot participate in this. He is in favor of identifying unsung heroes in the community and highlighting them, but he was not sure that they needed Mrs. Sartain heading that up.

Mr. Neville felt the comment about is it an organization and does it have a Board of Directors was appropriate. He said if they are not a formally organized entity that has management controls and things of that sort he thinks that they need to be careful.

Mr. Turner asked the Mayor if there was a policy on such organizations.

Mayor Young was not aware of one.

Vice Mayor Moss commented that Council could just recognize unsung heroes under their own Council matters. She gave them one example. She was at Publix a few weeks ago and there was an individual whose shift was over and it must have been a very tiring day, but even though her shift was over she said to her colleagues I can't leave you like this. She was going to stay and continue working. Vice Mayor Moss said that is an unsung hero and she was sorry that she did not know this lady's name.

Mr. Graves suggested establishing a nomination process. He agreed with Vice Mayor Moss's comment about the cashiers at Publix. He recognizes the hard work that they do and how much they are being exposed to people coming in the grocery store. His son-in-law is in residency at Emory in Atlanta and is working countless hours so this is an issue that hits home. He thinks there are a lot of people in this community who have stepped up

to the plate and should be recognized. He thinks that it is important to recognize people, but he does not feel that they need to have a committee heading it up.

Mayor Young said that what he was hearing was that they would like to recognize unsung heroes. He said to simplify matters they could have Councilmembers bring individuals that they want to identify and provide the names to Mrs. Bursick.

Mrs. Bursick added that they have done this in the past and she will pull out the forms that they used.

Sponsored presentation items by the public (10-minute time limit)

B. Vice Mayor Moss's Matters

Vice Mayor Moss commented that these were trying times. She wished everyone in the community that they may have peace and joy in their homes for Easter and Passover.

1) Frank Spino at Gallery 14 by appointment. Postcard attached. (Information Purposes only)

Sponsored presentation items by the public (10-minute time limit)

At this time, Mayor Young read into the record a letter that Council received from Frances Purvey (attached to the original minutes).

Mr. Graves commented that the Council did receive a copy of the email and he was personally aware of the email before any vote was taken.

Vice Mayor Moss agreed that no one needs to worry that Council does see everything in advance. She said there are no secrets.

C. Councilmember Brackett's Matters

Mr. Brackett encouraged the public to continue to support their local restaurants. He knows that some of the restaurants will probably not make it and knows of at least one (1) that has permanently closed their doors. He hoped that everyone would support them as much as they could. He knows that the City will have a link on their website to the Chamber of Commerce that has a complete list of the restaurants that are currently open for take out. He encouraged everyone to continue following the Governor's order and stay safe so they can get their businesses open as soon as possible.

Sponsored presentation items by the public (10-minute time limit)

D. Councilmember Joe Graves's Matters

Mr. Graves commented that it is times like these that makes him appreciate that he is a citizen of Vero Beach. It is these times that people rally around each other and support their local restaurants. He tries to eat at one (1) of their local restaurants a couple of times a week. He is impressed with the Federal government and the leadership that they have provided through these trying times. He is thankful for the City Manager and the work that he does. He is always sending the Council emails at all different times, so it shows that he works a lot. He has seen some comments from people saying “where is the Mayor.” He said that the comments are not fair because people don’t understand the structure of the City. The City Manager runs the day to day operations and the Mayor handles the ceremonial duties. Their website is very informative on the latest information on the Coronavirus and the medical professionals in this area are doing great. The testing for the results for the virus continue coming in much quicker than before. The policies that the City Manager has had to put in place have been good decisions. He knows that closing their beaches was the responsible thing to do even though he would love for them to be open. He said if they continue doing these things then they will get past this. He appreciates being able to serve on this City Council.

Sponsored presentation items by the public (10-minute time limit)

E. Councilmember Rey Neville’s Matters

Mr. Neville commented that the older population needs to be careful concerning this virus, which is why he was wearing a mask at today’s meeting.

Sponsored presentation items by the public (10-minute time limit)

Mayor Young commented that their Nation has shown their true colors in this crises. They come from a community where they have hurricanes so they know how to deal with a crises. He is enjoying having his grandchildren with him and watching through the latest technology how their classes take place. He knows it is a challenge for people that want to get outside, but they need to continue following the orders that have been given.

Mr. Graves commented that his father is a minister and he just wanted the public to know that Alma Lee Loy has been put into hospice. He said that she means so much to this City and he asked everyone to keep her in their prayers.

Mr. Falls thanked the City Council for their support and confidence.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Today’s meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

/tb