

**CITY OF VERO BEACH, FLORIDA  
APRIL 21, 2020 5:00 P.M.  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA**

The invocation was given by Reverend Kevin Nelson of St. Helen Catholic Church.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**A. Roll Call**

Mayor Tony Young, present; Vice Mayor Laura Moss, present; Councilmember Robbie Brackett, present; Councilmember Joe Graves, present and Councilmember Rey Neville, present

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Neville led the Council and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

**1. Regular City Council Minutes – April 7, 2020**

**Vice Mayor Moss made a motion to approve the April 7, 2020 minutes. Mr. Neville seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**A. Agenda Additions, Deletions, and Adoption.**

Mr. Brackett pulled item 3-D) off of the consent agenda.

Vice Mayor Moss pulled items 3-A) and 3-B) off of the consent agenda.

Mayor Young requested to make some comments concerning Ms. Alma Lee Loy when Vice Mayor Moss brings it up on the agenda under item 6A-1).

**Mr. Brackett made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Neville seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**B. Proclamations and recognitions by Council.**

**Update on COVID 19 – City Manager, Police Chief and Mr. Miles Conway**

Mayor Young commented on the update concerning the Coronavirus that he and the City Manager have been making on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He read into the record the

different emails that the City has received concerning the Coronavirus. He read each email into the record.

Mr. Monte Falls, City Manager, stated that the County is still under the Governor's Executive Order to stay safe at home. He noted that they live in an older community and it is important that the older people remain staying at home. There have been 85 confirmed cases in Indian River County. The last three (3) days the outbreak in this County has continued to decline, which is a good sign. It means that people are doing what they are supposed to do. In total there have been four (4) deaths in Indian River County. There are plenty of hospital beds at Cleveland Clinic. There are two (2) of the 36 ventilators being used right now. They all want to get things back to normal as soon as they can. The Governor has a Task Force working on this and they are following the President's three (3) phase plan in starting to open things back up in America. The County and the City municipalities continue to have conference calls. The opening of the beaches is being discussed and will probably occur next week. They are trying to do what is right and safe for everyone.

Mr. David Currey, Police Chief, reported that if it was not for the Coronavirus this week it would have been a busy week for the Police Department. It would have been the weekend for the Air Show and Downtown Friday. He reported that there have been 10 law enforcement officers that have died because of the Coronavirus. The masks, gloves, and different equipment being provided by Emergency Medical Service (EMS) has worked out very well for his department. Whatever they have needed to order they have received in a timely manner. He noted that the beaches and the boat launches were busy this weekend, as well as the Dog Park. He said over the last month the Police Department has had no issues because of the virus. People are doing their best to behave. The Police Department has been helping people with celebrating birthdays throughout the City. There is a lady that will be turning 100 years old and they will try to make her day special. He thanked all the people and organizations that have brought food to the Police Officers while they have been working during this epidemic.

Mayor Young showed a short video of Governor DeSantis talking, which was entitled "The Flattening Curve." He said that yesterday he had the opportunity to do a video for the webpage for Covid-19 to bring everyone up to date. He said that the City has worked closely with the County concerning the virus and the different updates made to the public. He said if you watched television last night the President noted that the Florida Department of Health's website should be an example for the rest of the Nation to follow. Mayor Young noted that the hub for emergency services is through the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). He reported that the EOC has a live press conference every Friday at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Brackett asked if the tennis courts and Parks would open the same time that the beaches open.

Mr. Falls felt that was probably what would happen. He will continue working with the County and the other municipalities in the area to make sure that they all open these things at the same time.

Mr. Jason Brown, County Administrator, thanked the City for their great staff and how well they have all done in coordinating and communicating through this Covid-19 epidemic. It is easier if they all work together and open everything in this County at the same time. It is easier to send that message to the public. The residents are doing what they have been asked to do and that is to stay at home. The County continues to see good results and he asked that the residents continue to keep this up.

Mayor Young mentioned the people that have come and talked on his weekly update that is being aired on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He said this Thursday they will have a Representative from the Veterans Council come and speak. Then on next Tuesday he will ask Mr. Tad Stone, Fire Chief, to give an update. This Council is structured to give the City Manager the responsibility to handle these kind of situations and that will continue to be done as they move forward.

Vice Mayor Moss read the letter that the Council received from Mr. George Hart of Mulligans Restaurant (attached to the original minutes).

Mr. Graves commented on how nice it is to see people out walking, biking, and getting exercise, but still not congregating. He believes that the leaders understand the business issues that they have and are looking at them as a whole. He is happy that the City reached out and coordinated with the County. If there are businesses that shut down they are very sympathetic to that. They are just doing what they are being dictated to do by the Governor. If their citizens continue to practice implementing the stay at home practice they have been doing then within the next few weeks they City will be up and running.

Mayor Young added if someone wants to find some valuable information concerning the virus they can go to [Floridadisaster.org](http://Floridadisaster.org).

Dr. Miles Conway presented Council with some handouts, which he discussed. He passed out a 30-page report that has gone to the Governor's office and numerous other people (please see attached).

Mayor Young asked the City Attorney to review the paperwork presented to them by Dr. Conway and report back to the Council.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA** (include amount of expense)
  - A) **Agreement for Consent to Sublease between the City of Vero Beach, Two Ridges, LLC, and Friends After Diagnosis, Inc.**
  - B) **Agreement for Consent to Sublease between the City of Vero Beach, Two Ridges, LLC, and Schofield Aviation**

Vice Mayor Moss commented that her question is for both items 3-A) and 3-B). She said in the memorandum under *Weaknesses*: it states “The Airport will not be making any additional revenue off a sublease agreement.” This is noted in both items 3-A) and 3-B) as opposed to 3-C), which states under *Weaknesses*: “None perceived” and that this lease continues to contribute to the Airport revenue stream. She recalled that last summer they had an issue with subleasing, having to do with the Dog Park and they said at that time that they would be very cautious about subleases because they can get into trouble with them. She was wondering with regard to these two (2) leases and she was not requesting that any change occur it is only to discuss the principle, her question was why do they have these sublease agreements that not only put them in jeopardy with losing control as they did with the Dog Park last year, but that also jeopardizes any additional revenue that they may receive.

Mr. Falls explained these are existing subleases and there will not be any additional revenue because the subleases already exist. He said the overlying tenant was changed from Bridgeton to Two Ridges and they will receive the same amount of money that they were getting before.

Vice Mayor Moss stated that going forward in principle having to do with subleases they stated at the time they were dealing with the Dog Park issue that they would be more cautious when it comes to subleasing.

Mr. Turner recalled that they were going to make certain that the subleases were going to be subject to written consent of the Council before they become effective so that the City’s interest is protected.

Mr. Brackett clarified it was from that date forward. He said they can’t go back and change everyone’s leases that they already have.

Vice Mayor Moss commented that she did not have any concerns about these leases, which she considered to be grandfathered in, but wanted to make sure that for the future any new subleases have to come before Council.

Mr. Falls clarified that they were receiving the same amount of money, just not any additional sublease money.

**Vice Mayor Moss made a motion to approve the agreement for consent to sublease between the City, Two Ridges, LLC, and Friends After Diagnosis, Inc. and approval of the agreement for consent to sublease between the City, Two Ridges, LLC, and Schofield Aviation. Mr. Graves seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**C) Lease Renewal Agreement between City of Vero Beach and Ferrellgas, L.P.**

**Mr. Brackett made a motion to approve the lease agreement between the City of Vero Beach and Ferrellgas. Mr. Neville seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**D) Renewal of Contract 1721, Bid 070-16 Water and Sewer Laboratory Services Provider – Flowers Chemical Laboratories, Inc. – Estimated Expenditure - \$120,000**

Mr. Brackett noted that it states in the memorandum that the contract contains a clause allowing two (2) one (1) year renewal periods with the written consent of both parties. Flowers Chemical Laboratories, Inc. has agreed to renew for the final one (1) year term with a 6% price increase. Then it says that last year for these services they were in the amount of \$99,515 and this year they anticipate expenditures to be \$120,000. He guessed that this was not a fixed rate contract.

Mr. Falls said that was correct. This is for the commercial testing needed to collect samples and conduct analytical tests for their water treatment and Mr. Bolton is just projecting what it might be. He said in 2016 the initial three (3) year contract was bid and awarded to Flowers Chemical Laboratories and now they have agreed to renew for the final one (1) year term with a 6% price increase. So this is the first price increase that they have asked for in over four (4) years.

Mr. Brackett asked Mr. Falls if he was comfortable with this number.

Mr. Falls said yes. He said that the company will only be paid for the actual tests that they do.

**Mr. Brackett made a motion to approve the renewal of the contract with Flowers Chemical Laboratories, Inc. Mr. Neville seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**4. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**A) ORDINANCES**

**Quasi-Judicial Hearing**

- 1) 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.

Mayor Young conducted the hearing of this Ordinance as a quasi-judicial hearing. The City Council disclosed that they did not have any ex parte communication. The City Clerk swore in the only applicant, Mr. Jason Jeffries, Planning and Development Director and the exhibits will be kept by the City Clerk.

Mr. Jason Jeffries, Planning and Development Director, was sworn in. He gave a Power Point presentation (on file in the Clerk's office as an exhibit). He reported that this Ordinance is to amend the zoning map to rezone approximately 10.61 acres located in Charles Park at 2405 15<sup>th</sup> Street, from R-1 to R-1A, Single-Family Residential Zoning District to P-2, Parks District Zoning. The request is by application from the property owner, which is the City of Vero Beach. The Future Land Use Map (FLUM) in the City's Comprehensive Plan designates the subject site as P, Park designation. The P, Park designation allows development in areas suitable for active and passive parks and recreation facilities including clubs, and cultural and civic activities with a maximum development intensity of 0.4 floor ratio (FAR). The Planning and Zoning Board held a public hearing on February 6, 2020 and voted 5-0 in favor of the Ordinance.

**Mr. Graves made a motion that based on competent substantial evidence presented and the applicable Code provisions that they grant the application and 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**

- 2) **An Ordinance of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, amending the Official Zoning Map by changing the Zoning District Designation of Annexed Property from Indian River County Designation RS-6, Single-Family Residential, to City of Vero Beach Designation P-2, Parks, for property owned by the City of Vero Beach, annexed into the City in 2003, and maintained as Charles Park, containing 3.83 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 conducted the hearing of this Ordinance as a quasi-judicial hearing. The City Council disclosed that they did not have any ex parte communication. The City Clerk swore in the only applicant, Mr. Jason Jeffries, Planning and Development Director and the exhibits will be kept by the City Clerk.

Mr. Jason Jeffries, Planning and Development Director, was sworn in. He gave a Power Point presentation (on file in the City Clerk's office as an exhibit). This Ordinance will amend the zoning map to designate the parcel of land containing 3.83 acres located in Charles Park as P-2, Parks District Zoning. The property was annexed into the City in 2003. During the annexation process, the City is required to change the Future Land Use Map and Zoning District designations for the annexed properties from Indian River County designations to City designations. The Future Land Use designation was approved on November 18, 2003. However, the City Council never adopted City of Vero Beach zoning designation for these properties, which is why this Ordinance is before them tonight. The request is to rezone approximately 3.83 acres of land from RS-6, Single-Family Residential

to City of Vero Beach Zoning designation, P-2, Parks District. The site currently is undeveloped public property. The parcel is zoned RS-6, Single Family Residential. The designated City future land use is P, Park and the proposed City zoning is P-2, Parks District Zoning. The Planning and Zoning Board held a public hearing on this Ordinance on February 6, 2020 and voted 5-0 in favor of it.

**Mr. Graves made a motion that based on competent substantial evidence presented and the applicable Code provisions that they grant the application and adopt the Ordinance as proposed. 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.**

**Quasi-Judicial Hearing**

- 3) **An Ordinance of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, amending the Official Zoning Map to correct the Zoning District Designation from R-1A, Single-Family Residential to RM-10, Multiple-Family Residential District for properties located at 905, 909, 911 Pirate Cove Lane and 1505 Coral Avenue, Lots 7-10, Block 7, The Ocean Corporation Subdivision, containing 0.9552 acre 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 conducted the hearing of this Ordinance as a quasi-judicial hearing. The City Council disclosed that they did not have any ex-parte communication. The City Clerk swore in the only applicant, Mr. Jason Jeffries, Planning and Development Director and the exhibits will be kept by the City Clerk.

Mr. Jason Jeffries, Planning and Development Director, was sworn in. He gave a Power Point presentation (on file as an exhibit). This Ordinance will amend the zoning map to correct the zoning for approximately 0.9552 acre, located at 905, 909, 911 Pirate Cove Lane and 1505 Coral Avenue, from R-1A, Single-Family Residential Zoning District to RM-10, Multiple-Family Residential Zoning District. A review of the City's Official Zoning Map showed an error in the zoning classification for the properties. The Official Zoning Map currently zones these properties as R-1A (Single-Family Residential). A review of the City records reveal that the properties were zoned RM-10 (Multi-Family Residential) and were never formally rezoned to R-1A. The Official Zoning Map dated April 18, 1978 has these properties zoned R-2A Medium High Density Multiple Family Residential. There have been no hearings held to rezone these properties from RM-10 to R-1A. A zoning hearing is required to correct the map, which is what they are doing tonight. The site is located east of US Highway A1A. The Future Land Use Map (FLUM) in the City's Comprehensive Plan designates the site as RH, Residential High. The RM-10 zoning district is listed as one of the appropriate districts under the RH, Residential High designation. The RH, Residential High designation allows development in areas suitable for single-family, duplex and multi-family residential with a maximum development density of 15 dwelling units per acre and intensity of 0.5 floor area ratio (FAR). The

Planning and Zoning Board conducted a public hearing on February 6, 2020 and voted 5-0 in favor of the Ordinance.

**Mr. Graves made a motion that based on competent substantial evidence presented and the applicable Code provisions that they grant the application and 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.**

- 4) 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.

Mr. Falls reported that the purpose of this budget amendment is to appropriate funds in FY 19-20 for a new Solid Waste rear end loader to replace a vehicle, which was totaled in a November 2019, accident. The City will receive \$122,342 in insurance proceeds to offset the \$225,000 cost of the new vehicle. The truck was originally scheduled to be replaced in FY 23-24 as part of the Adopted Five Year Capital Improvement plan. The Solid Waste Fund has sufficient Fund Balance in FY 19-20 to absorb the net \$103,000 expense of this vehicle replacement, and the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan will be adjusted accordingly during this year's budget adoption process. He went on to compliment the drivers of this dump truck and their heroic efforts.

Mr. Graves said that was worthy of an accommodation. Mr. Falls said that he is working on it.

Ms. Cindy Lawson, Finance Director, did not have anything to add other than the truck replacement will be purchased now instead of in a few years.

**Mr. Graves made a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Vice Mayor Moss 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**

### **5. PUBLIC COMMENT (3-minute time limit)**

The Clerk read the comments made by the public into the record (all are attached to the original minutes).

### **6. CITY COUNCIL MATTERS**

**A) NEW BUSINESS**

**1) A Tribute to Alma Lee Loy and her Legacy, City Council, Staff, and Community comments. Historical photo of Ms. Loy's "for a better tomorrow" sign attached.**

**Requested by Vice Mayor Laura Moss**

Vice Mayor Moss commented that she put this item on the agenda because the "First Lady" warrants this formal acknowledgment. Her intention was that the Mayor should speak first in respect for his position and she would like to comment after that. Then she invited the rest of the Council and staff to comment if they wished to do so.

Mayor Young showed a video that was done during last year's Centennial event capturing the legacy of Alma Lee. Her birthday was on June 10th, which is the day that Vero Beach was incorporated. There was a celebration on that day, but Alma Lee did not want it to be about her.

Vice Mayor Moss commented that she had the privilege and the pleasure to know Ms. Loy in a way that frankly no one else in the room does and that is as a woman in politics. She thought about the title that she had been given, which is "First Lady" and not to take away from it in the least because she absolutely was the first lady. She said as they know generally the first lady is the companion to the person in power in office. That was not Ms. Loy, she was in power. She was a political powerhouse and a true pioneer. She was the first woman to be elected to the County Commission back in 1968. Just that single act was such a huge accomplishment. The County Commission was formed in 1925 and she was the first woman to be elected to the County Commission. Since that time there have been only eight (8) women on the County Commission. That is a gigantic accomplishment and a true political powerhouse. Vice Mayor Moss said in thinking about Ms. Loy, because she did have the opportunity to work with her on the Dodgertown property and protecting open space, which was important to the community; she was trying to come up with one (1) word that would describe Ms. Loy and actually it rhymes with her last name. She asked if there was anyone that wanted to take a guess at what it is. It is the word "Joy." If she had to sum it up in one (1) word she would say "Joy." She said it could be looked at in both ways. The joy that she took in the community, the delight that she took in the community as was shown in the video. She took huge pleasure in this place and she gave joy. It was both ways. It was back and forth. She was a joy to work with and she is so glad that she did have the opportunity to work with her, especially at the very end on the Steering Committee. When you think about it, this is a 90-year old woman with all these many accomplishments who could have stopped at any point along the way, she already had enough accomplishments. She had the accomplishments covered for 10 lifetimes, but she was on the Steering Committee for the Power Plant property and at 90-years old is actively engaged in the future of this community. That is how much she loved it. She was important to everyone.

Mr. Brackett commented that growing up in Vero Beach, he could not remember a time when he didn't know Alma Lee. He has a picture of her in her store at Christmas time

sitting on Santa's lap. It amazed him how she never forgot anyone's name. It meant a lot to him that Alma Lee supported him as a candidate for City Council. He talked about her being a business partner with his father.

Mr. Graves commented that he met Alma Lee when he was a child. His father was the Pastor of First Baptist where Alma Lee was a member. He will never forget her favorite saying "Hello Darling." Every individual that Alma Lee came into contact meant something to her. He said that Alma Lee had a lot to do with him running for City Council. She helped him make up his mind. She will be sorely missed. The last Committee that she was appointed to as his appointee was the Steering Committee.

Mr. Neville commented that he spoke with Alma Lee on telephone when he was thinking about running for City Council and they had a lovely conversation. He encouraged everyone to read the testimonials that have been provided regarding Alma Lee. He said that Alma Lee could be a friend, but also frank about whatever passion she was discussing at the time.

Mrs. Bursick commented that she was amazed on how Alma Lee never forgot anyone's name or birthday. Alma Lee always said that she had the gift from God to remember those things.

Mayor Young reported that there will be a Memorial service for Alma Lee at First Baptist after the Covid-19 has quieted down.

- 2) 2020 US Census**
  - a) 2020 Census form**
  - b) PSA video (2020 census.gov): What is the 2020 census? (30 seconds)**
  - c) PSA video (2020census.gov): Is my 2020 census data safe? (30 seconds)**
  - d) PSA video (2020 census.gov): How do I take the 2020 census? (30 seconds)**
- Requested by Vice Mayor Laura Moss, Vice Chair of the Indian River County Census 2020 Committee**

Vice Mayor Moss encouraged the community if they have not filled out their Census forms to please do so. She said they don't want to have to have people going door to door reminding them to sign their form. She showed three (3) short PSA videos concerning the 2020 Census.

## **B) OLD BUSINESS**

- 1) Forming a City of Vero Beach Stormwater Utility – Requested by Councilmember Joe Graves**

Mr. Graves pulled this item off of the agenda and asked the Clerk to put it on the May 5<sup>th</sup> City Council agenda.

## **7. PUBLIC NOTICE ITEMS FOR FUTURE PUBLIC HEARING**

None

## **8. CITY CLERK MATTERS**

Mrs. Bursick commented that starting in the month of May some of the City's Boards and Commissions will start meeting again. If a member does not want to attend the meeting in person they will provide capabilities for them to use either GoToMeeting or teleconferencing so the member will still be able to participate in the meeting. She also mentioned the different openings that the City currently has on some of their Boards and Commissions.

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

Mr. Falls reported that at their May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting he will be asking the Council to talk about their budget priorities. He also answered Mr. Neville's question concerning water testing that was discussed earlier in the meeting under the consent agenda.

Mr. Graves asked Mr. Falls to give them an update on Elite Airways.

Mr. Falls reported that he has talked with Elite Airways and their attorney and there may be some movement for them to pay the City what they owe them. He said staff is currently working with a specialty attorney that deals with FAA issues and there may be a path where Elite Airways could continue servicing Vero Beach, but not under the agreement that the City had. If anything else comes up it will be brought to a future City Council meeting.

Mr. Graves stated that he thinks that with what is going on with Elite Airways if they get the money owed and there may be a provision where they can take off and land and use their facilities that is a lot of progress. The one thing that concerns him is that the City back in 2016, voted to bring Elite Airways into Vero Beach and spent about a half-million dollars in order to do this to accommodate commercial air service. He said once Elite Airways leaves and before they lose their TSA and ability to have commercial air he would like to see the City considering moving into an Airport Authority. This would require engaging the County in becoming a partner. There would need to be serious negotiations to see whether or not the County is interested. If they are going to have air service to Vero Beach Regional Airport it cannot rest on the shoulders of 16,000 taxpayers. It is a regional asset, it is a regional benefit and something that can only be accomplished if the County is willing to work with them and help fund this adventure. If the County is willing to consider this option then they would form some type of Task Force to actually look and see if it is viable to bring another airline service to Vero Beach. He does not know what the financials for Elite Airways were or what the issue was when they first came here, but an airline that would be more attractive is one that has the financial ability to operate and pay for the services that the City provides. He is willing at his own personal expense to do what he needs to do to seek that out if that is even a possibility. He knows they have a little bit of time with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) regulations and then they

would need to get with their State Representatives (Mrs. Erin Grall and Mrs. Debbie Mayfield) and get this legislation changed. He has done some research and determined that a lot of states do not have this 10,000 enplanement rule. This would give them some strategy moving forward and looking to see if there are other options. He said had they not spent the \$500,000, he would say they cannot have commercial air service on the backs of 16,000 taxpayers. However, since the service has been provided it is hard to take that away because some people were using the service and were dependent on it. He wanted to see some type of strategy for them to evaluate whether or not it is viable and possible for air service to continue into the Vero Beach Airport prior to losing TSA and all of the things they have put into place and spent money on to attract and have air service here.

Mayor Young commented that in looking at the situation, the time, energy and investment in their Airport is paramount. The liability that is being spoken of is something that the residents of Vero Beach cannot absorb by themselves. A strategy is something that would be important because the informal feedback is that it is not a situation that they could afford. If a Task Force was made available then other constituents in the community could have a voice in the dialogue as well and he thinks that is important. Without that he does not see a shift in the necessary revenues to make it viable.

Mr. Graves commented that if the City had not spent the money they could say it is not a viable option, but the money has been spent. It is a regional impact on 16,000 taxpayers.

Vice Mayor Moss commented that is what we (Councilman Neville and herself) were saying when the vote was taken at the last City Council meeting. She couldn't agree more. The City has already made investments regarding Elite Airways and the Airport and they might as well try to optimize that. They need to go forward with negotiations with not only Elite Airways, but also they should approach the County Commission. It is a missed opportunity if that doesn't happen. They need to work together on this and maybe they are in a better position to do that now that Mr. Falls has been working so closely with the County on the Coronavirus. As far as they know it is going very well in Tallahassee, thanks to Senator Mayfield and Representative Grall in terms of the legal hurdles that they have to jump in order to maintain the grant funding, which is critical to the Airport. She thinks if they keep pressing onward they can make the pieces of this puzzle fall into place.

Mr. Graves stated that his position on Elite Airways has not changed. They have proved to be a bad partner. But, it is not to say that this couldn't work with a good partner. The only way they are going to find out if a good partner exists is for them to have a strategy in place and pursue it. He felt that this Council owes it to the citizens of the community to do everything that they possibly can so they see that the City is just not sitting there cutting off air service. It is a business decision because of Elite Airways and their failure to pay. He doesn't hear anyone saying that they are opposed to air service if they have the right scenario with the right partner and the right carrier. He wanted to see them exhaust that effort.

Vice Mayor Moss was not sure that she understood Mr. Graves's position. She asked if Elite Airways pays the amount due are they able to continue negotiating with the City.

Mr. Turner commented that he has had tentative discussions that he would like to bring to Council's attention at their May 5<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

Vice Mayor Moss said that is fine with her.

Mr. Brackett commented that Mr. Graves was trying to find out the best possible way to find out how something will work. He said hopefully they can learn from their mistakes. He felt that there were mistakes made on both sides. He has not changed his position concerning Elite Airways in that they were not the right partner. He said that he doesn't know if something else could work down the road. A couple of County Commissioners have made comments that they are not interested and he did not know if they could get three (3) County Commissioners interested.

Vice Mayor Moss stated that the County Commission will change.

Mr. Brackett continued by saying he did not have the answer to all of the questions, but he is always a proponent of turning over the rock to see what happens. He does not like the old adage "we have always done it that way."

Vice Mayor Moss expressed what a big job it is to bring an airline to Vero Beach. She said that Mr. Menger worked very hard for a long time to get Elite Airways here. She said it didn't just happen. She wanted them to be mindful of that.

Mr. Neville commented that the thing that he fears is that they will lose control and turn this Airport into a bustling 200,000 enplanement situation that they can't control if they don't have the majority vote on what is being envisioned. It happens to be the citizens of Vero Beach who would be the most effected by those take offs and landings. He said by controlling this very carefully would be the right way moving forward. He thinks that it is a good idea to find a partner that seems to be more reliable than this one. But, he feels they need to control the amount of traffic that comes in and out of the Airport.

Mr. Graves stated that he would just like a group of people to explore this and then present the Council with the facts and then they could make a collective decision on it.

Mr. Falls commented that if it is Council's consensus that he start some informal talks with the County Administrator he would be happy to do so. He wanted everyone to understand that running an airport is a different kind of business. It is the kind of business that if it makes a profit the City does not benefit from that profit. The profit has to go back into the Airport Fund. However, if it makes a loss then the City has to contribute towards the loss. But, that is not to say that the Airport is not a huge asset to the community. He said if you look at all the fixed base operators at the Airport there are a lot of jobs provided and a huge amount of dollars being turned over to the community and it is a huge benefit. But, this huge benefit goes outside the City boundaries and they need to be all aware of that. The Airport is an economic generator with having Piper there and Girard Equipment now leasing a building at the Airport.

## **10. CITY ATTORNEY MATTERS**

Mr. Graves commented that sometime back he asked the City Attorney for his opinion on bed taxes.

Mr. Turner said that he thought that matter was going to be discussed at a future workshop, but he would be happy to provide an opinion.

Mr. Graves asked for the status of the Panhandler Ordinance.

Mr. Turner explained this was another item that was going to be discussed at a future workshop. He is ready to proceed, just needs some recommendations from Council.

Mr. Brackett asked Mr. Turner to take a look at the email that was sent to the City Clerk by Mr. Mark Mucher. Mr. Turner said that he would be happy to look at it.

## **11. COUNCILMEMBER MATTERS**

### **A. Mayor Young's Matters**

Mayor Young recalled at the last Council meeting he proposed an opportunity to recognize unsung heroes. He felt the consensus was that it was a good idea and wanted it to be informal. What he has done is in the day to day efforts for addressing the pandemic one of the individuals that he thought was very worthy of being recognized was with the Cleveland Clinic. It was not a surprise when he made contact with the Cleveland Clinic. They were overwhelmingly in affirmation of this. Subsequent to that the individual that he wanted to address or recognize said let's not make this about me, but the people that made it happen. So the construct changed from an individual to a collective unsung hero. He asked Council to look in their network on recognizing some unsung heroes that have made the Covid-19 response effective. The second question is his intent is to recognize the unsung hero now as opposed to waiting until the virus has dissipated. The unsung hero that he would like to recognize is the Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital for their effective response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Then if Council supports it he would like to have recognition placed on the City's website. He said that 32963 and Vero Flash both support recognizing an unsung hero. He asked Council if they would support moving forward with the unsung hero recognition.

Vice Mayor Moss commented that she wants to do it informally and has a story to tell of an anonymous unsung hero. There was a lady that she knows who is 80 years old and left her hat on the boardwalk. She went back to the boardwalk and her hat had blown off in the sand. Chivalry is not dead here. A gentleman saw her looking at the hat and asked if it was hers and would she like him to get it. He then jumps over the railing and retrieves the hat for her. She was so grateful and asked him what she could do for him. He commented to her *"ma'am I have not impressed a woman in years."* He just was happy to do that for her.

Mr. Brackett liked the unsung hero idea. He said if a Councilmember comes up with a name they can let the Mayor's office know and they can get their name out there.

Mr. Neville agreed that was a great idea.

Mayor Young added that a Press Release could be done and provided to 32963 and Vero Flash.

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

**B. Vice Mayor Moss's Matters**

Vice Mayor Moss commented that being on the Board of Directors for the Veterans Council is very near and dear to her heart. She has been reading Veteran's Voice for the last year or so and is more aware of their issues. It came to her attention that Military Nurses came official in April of 1947. Meaning that professional nurses did not receive rank and equal pay until 1947 when an act of congress finally legislated permanent commissioned rank. She said nurses have served their country since the American Revolution. This goes way back in our history as a Nation. During World War II there were 57,000 nurses serving and during that time nurses were temporarily given commissions with rank no higher than second lieutenant, but their stellar achievement led to the Army and Navy Nurses Act and they finally achieved permanent rank status. Vice Mayor Moss thought that this was an important time to honor Military Nurses and all nurses especially with the Coronavirus pandemic. The efforts of all nurses and doctors and other personnel are appreciated and they honor them, especially these woman who have served their country since its inception.

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

**C. Councilmember Brackett's Matters**

Mr. Brackett commented that his hat is off to the general public during this Covid-19 epidemic. The residents need to be recognized for doing what they are supposed to do and he thanked them.

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

**D. Councilmember Joe Graves's Matters**

Mr. Graves commented that he is very proud of their City employees, Mr. Falls and the Police Department on how they have been handling the Covid-19 pandemic. His son-in-law started residency in Atlanta so he knows what the Police Department goes through every day. It has to be tough going into people's homes and interacting with the public all day long. He knows that they all agree that they need to do everything that they are doing

in a safe manner and remain calm. He commended everyone that has been involved and thanked them for getting the necessary information out to the public.

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

**E. Councilmember Rey Neville's Matters**

Mr. Neville commented that a nomination for some unsung heroes could be moms and dads who have stayed at home with their children. He wished everyone the best. Also, for the people wanting to get on the beach, to please hang on for just a little while.

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

Mayor Young commented that he looked at the virus cases for Indian River County and 53% of them affected are people under the age of 55. He said that the City wants to get businesses open and they want the beaches open. But, as they move forward they need to remember that they would regret it the rest of their life if through their lack of knowledge that they were an individual who has the virus and gives it to the person next to them. If you are the patient who has given the diagnosis that you are Covid-19 positive and start having respiratory issues then you are removed from society and will be isolated. The caregivers that come to you are in a face mask and protected by suits. Mayor Young said that he could not think of a lonelier predicament than to have that happen to anyone. He knows that they have to move forward and open up society, but he urged everyone to manage this wisely and ultimately they will get through this virus pandemic without a doubt and the next hurdle will be to rebuild and recover their economy.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

/tb