CITY OF VERO BEACH, FLORIDA  
JUNE 4, 2019  5:00 P.M.  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA

The invocation was given by Pastor Kenny Pope of Calvary Chapel of Vero Beach followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Roll Call

Mayor Val Zudans, present; Vice Mayor Tony Young, present; Councilwoman Laura Moss, present; Councilmember Robbie Brackett, present and Councilmember Harry Howle, present Also Present: Monte Falls, City Manager; Stephanie Marchman, Interim City Attorney and Tammy Bursick, City Clerk

2. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular City Council Minutes – May 21, 2019

Mr. Howle made a motion to adopt the minutes. Mr. Brackett seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. Special Call City Council Minutes - May 3, 2019

Mr. Brackett made a motion to adopt the Special Call City Council minutes. Vice Mayor Young seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A. Agenda Additions, Deletions, and Adoption.

Vice Mayor Young stated that he wanted to make a Point of Order. He said on Wednesday the agenda item for 9-A) was posted for the public’s review and then on Friday the wording for the agenda item changed. He felt that it would be appropriate in light of that, that they take the opportunity to provide the public an opportunity to understand the implications of that and address those concerns at their next City Council meeting.

Mayor Zudans asked the City Attorney if the wording of an agenda item changes after Wednesday, is there any issue with it being on the agenda.

Mrs. Stephanie Marchman, Interim City Attorney, stated that she was not aware of any statutory provision that causes a problem.
Councilwoman Moss referenced the memorandum that Mrs. Marchman provided to Council this afternoon (attached to the original minutes). She said that could be uploaded to the website.

Vice Mayor Young explained there are two (2) points to this situation. The first point is under the first wording addressed it was looking at the Referendum amendment to such and the second agenda item refers to deleting that strictly speaking to the timeframe and the process. The intent for the agenda item did change from what was published on the agenda on Wednesday. He said subsequent to that this would also provide additional time for the public to review the wording that is offered by their Attorney, which was provided roughly three (3) hours ago. He felt it would be advantageous for them to hear this at their next City Council meeting and he would be happy to sponsor it, to adequately address the concerns moving forward with these properties.

Mayor Zudans commented that it was a lesser item to act within the Charter than to amend the Charter. So it is not anything of significance. It is just a pretty blatant delaying tactic.

Vice Mayor Young begged to differ with the Mayor. He said the amendment of a Charter would diminish provision of the latitude of the Council to provide the disposition of the land. He said right now they have changed for maybe an opportunity to qualify it to one (1) where it is carte blanche. So basically now under the construct that is being considered it is to provide the opportunity to sell the land, lease the land, exchange the land or outright give it away. It is a significant variation from the original wording.

Mayor Zudans stated in any event the item on the agenda for discussion is not to pass any Ordinance or do anything. It is to discuss whether or not they want their City Attorney to draft an Ordinance. There would still be two (2) more meetings when this would have to be discussed and plenty of opportunity to do that. He thinks this is just a transparent delay tactic.

Councilwoman Moss disagreed. She stated that the memorandum that the Council received just a few hours ago makes it a lot more clear about what is being requested. She thinks that the community deserves the right to examine it. If they postpone this item until the next meeting, the City Clerk would have the opportunity to upload this document as part of that agenda. She let the public know that they can always go to the City’s website for any meeting to find backup material. The City’s website is covb.org. The public can take a look at the agenda and there are hyperlinks to all types of documents for their review. She said considering the magnitude ultimately of this decision in regard to changing the status of a very important piece of property it is due diligence to allow the community the opportunity to review this information prior to a meeting.

Mayor Zudans explained that it is basically a discussion as to whether or not they want the City Attorney to do this. He said it is apparent that some of the Council don’t even want to discuss the matter. He said there is a lot of people who came to their meeting
tonight specifically for the purpose of discussing this. He said a motion can be made to change the agenda, but he would encourage the City Council members not to take the item off the agenda.

Mr. Brackett asked what was the standard policy for this in prior times. He said that they have additions and deletions to the agenda on a regular basis.

Mayor Zudans explained the item was on the agenda properly in time for the deadline. Then after speaking with the Interim City Attorney it was determined that there was no need to change the City Charter in order to have a referendum on this issue. It is already listed as to what is suppose to be done according to the City Charter so he clarified that they were just going to discuss whether or not they want to have a referendum. He said it is a lesser item than changing the City Charter. He said this particular item discussing the City Charter was already on the agenda in the proper amount of time.

Mr. Howle stated that he had no problem with discussing this item.

**Vice Mayor Young made a motion to provide additional opportunity for the public to have access to the wording that was provided subsequent to the agenda item on Wednesday and provided to the Council for review today. Councilwoman Moss seconded the motion.**

Councilwoman Moss went back to Mr. Brackett’s question and said generally what they do if there is any kind of relevant background information it would be available to the public a week before the Council meeting and not a couple of hours before the meeting. She felt the memorandum that they received from the Interim City Attorney was relevant to the discussion.

Mayor Zudans stated that the motion is to delay the agenda item and discuss it at the next meeting.

**The Clerk polled the Council and the motion failed 3-2 with Mr. Howle voting no, Mr. Brackett no, Councilwoman Moss voting yes, Vice Mayor Young yes and Mayor Zudans no.**

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

1. **Vero Beach Wine & Film Festival Weekend – June 6-9, 2019**

Mayor Zudans read and presented the Proclamation.

2. **Amateur Radio Week – June 17-23, 2019**

Mr. Howle read and presented the Proclamation.

3. **Alzheimer’s & Brain Awareness Month**
Councilwoman Moss read and presented the Proclamation.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA** (include amount of expense)

None

4. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

A) **ORDINANCES**

(Legislative)

1. An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Vero Beach, Florida; requested by RDP 12, LLC to annex property located at 1550 US Highway #1 in Tropical Park Subdivision, containing 0.47 acres more or less, pursuant to the Voluntary Annexation Provisions of Section 171.044 Florida Statutes; Providing for an Effective Date.

The City Clerk read the Ordinance by title only.

Mr. Jason Jeffries, Planning and Development Director, explained that the City received a voluntary annexation application petitioning the City Council to annex a parcel of land containing 0.47 acres located at 1550 U.S. Highway #1. The site is located on the northeast side of the intersection of US Highway #1 and 15th Place. The parcel is contiguous to the current City of Vero Beach City limit boundary line to the west. Existing commercial development is adjacent to and surrounds the subject parcel. There is an existing vacant commercial building on site. The building use was a commercial Exxon gas/service Station. In addition to the voluntary annexation application, the City is processing two (2) additional applications concurrently for the site located at 1550 U.S. Highway #1 (to be heard tonight). The applicant is requesting to amend the Future Land Use map of the City’s Comprehensive Plan and amend the City’s Zoning Map for the site that will require separate action by the City Council. The parcel is currently designated C/1, Commercial/Industrial on the County’s Future Land Use Map. The land use designation allows commercial uses on the property. The proposed City future land use is C, Commercial. The parcel is currently zoned CG, General Commercial. The current zoning and land use designations allow commercial uses on the property. The proposed City future land use is C, Commercial and C-1, Highway Oriented Commercial Zoning.

Mr. Jeffries gave a Power Point Presentation (attached to the original minutes).

Mayor Zudans opened up the public hearing at 5:32 p.m.

Mr. Todd Lowery, Applicant from Redtail Design Group, was excited to bring another voluntary annexation application to the City. He cited this property as the location of an old gas station. He said they are ready to move forward on this project and have enjoyed working with the City staff, who are friendly and helpful. He said that it is like night and day working with the City compared to working with the County.
Mayor Zudans closed the public hearing at 5:33 p.m., with no one else wishing to be heard.

Mr. Howle made a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Vice Mayor Young seconded the motion and it passed 5-0 with Mr. Howle voting yes, Mr. Brackett yes, Councilwoman Moss yes, Vice Mayor Young yes, and Mayor Zudans yes.

(Legislative)
2. An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, amending the Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map by changing the Future Land Use Designation of Annexed Land from Indian River County Designation C/I, Commercial/Industrial to City of Vero Beach Designation C, Commercial for the property located at 1550 US Highway #1, containing 0.47 acres more or less; Providing for an Effective Date.

The City Clerk read the Ordinance by title only.

Mayor Zudans opened and closed the public hearing at 5:36 p.m., with no one wishing to be heard.

Mr. Howle made a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Mr. Brackett seconded the motion and it passed 5-0 with Mr. Howle voting yes, Mr. Brackett yes, Councilwoman Moss yes, Vice Mayor Young yes, and Mayor Zudans yes.

(Quasi-judicial)
3. 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 annexed land from Indian River County Designation CG, General Commercial to City of Vero Beach Designation C-1, Highway Oriented Commercial, for the property located at 1550 US Highway #1, containing 0.47 acres more or less; Providing for an Effective Date.

Mayor Zudans followed the procedures for handling a quasi-judicial hearing. He read the Ordinance by title only. He asked if there was any ex parte communications from the City Councilmembers, which there was none. He asked the City Clerk to swear in the witnesses testifying in this matter. The City Clerk swore in anyone testifying on this matter en masse. Mayor Zudans made it clear that any exhibits would need to be marked for identification and kept by the City Clerk.

Mr. Jeffries made as part of his exhibits the application he provided and the Power Point presentation. He reported that this Ordinance is to amend the zoning map to designate the parcel of land containing 0.47 acres located at 1550 US Highway #1 as C-1 Highway Oriented Commercial zoning. The site is located on the northeast side of the intersection of US Highway #1 and 15th Place. The parcel is contiguous to the current City of Vero Beach City limit boundary line to the west. Existing commercial development is adjacent
to and surrounds the subject parcel. There is an existing vacant commercial building on this site. The building use was a commercial Exxon gas/service station. The parcel is currently zoned CG, General Commercial. The current zoning and land use designations allow commercial uses on the property. The proposed City future land use is C, Commercial and C-1, Highway Oriented Commercial Zoning. The zoning map amendment is associated with the voluntary annexation application petitioning the City Council to annex this site. Staff recommends approval of this Ordinance.

Mr. Todd Lowery, Applicant from Redtail, was at tonight’s meeting to answer any questions that Council may have.

Mayor Zudans opened and closed the hearing for public comments at 5:41 p.m., with no one wishing to be heard.

Mayor Zudans followed the procedures for a quasi-judicial hearing and there was no rebuttal from either side, no argument from either side, so he asked for Council discussion.

Councilwoman Moss thanked Mr. Jeffries for bringing more business into the City.

Vice Mayor Young made a motion that based on competent substantial evidence presented and the applicable code provisions, that they adopt the Ordinance as proposed. Mr. Brackett seconded the motion and it passed 5-0 with Mr. Howle voting yes, Mr. Brackett yes, Councilwoman Moss yes, Vice Mayor Young yes, and Mayor Zudans yes.

B) RESOLUTIONS

5. CITY COUNCIL MATTERS

A) NEW BUSINESS

At this item 9-A was moved up on the agenda – “Discussion about authorizing of the City Attorney to determine the time frame and draft Ordinance (s) to allow for a voter Referendum on City Charter 5.05 (a) items (12) and (13) for the November Election.”

Mayor Zudans read a prepared statement (attached to the original minutes).

Vice Mayor Young read a prepared statement. He said what was apparent to him was that there is opportunity there. This is the most valuable land they have. But, what the Referendum question provides the City is whether or not they want to eliminate the limitations set upon the City for disposing of real estate. When he first considered this discussion, he looked at it as a decision of whether or not to remove the property from the protection of the Charter. However, in looking at the wording of the Referendum items, it states it more bluntly and clearly and that is that it would authorize the City of Vero Beach by simple majority, the authority without further approval to sell, lease, trade, or
give away the City Power Plant and Wastewater property. So, what is being proposed is that without a plan the citizens are to trust that a decision would not be made by three (3) members of the City Council that would be contrary to what the citizens would want. He said the concept was to develop a plan with community involvement, which has not been completed. The decision by the City Council was not to accept the DPZ Co-Design Firm. The RFP for the selection of a firm is still open and does not close until June 20, 2019. He said asking for the public to trust the judgement of the City Council without a plan to him makes little sense. He asked why would the residents eliminate their voice in this matter. Expediting this process was in fact not the advice of DPZ. They recognized that moving ahead at this point would put the cart before the horse. The discretion for the City should be restricted for what the plan supports; what the public wants. Recently input from the public has said unequivocally that this was a waste of time at this time. In addition, a letter from the Indian River Land Trust stated, “We understand that the response for the RFP earlier this year was not robust, but believe the use from a professional planning consultant who knows how to incorporate a wide variety of ideas would be in the best interest of the City and its citizens for a successful outcome.” He said the letter also states that an architect from New York is interested in this. Vice Mayor Young said what he is seeing from his perspective is that the planning process, for whatever reason, has been curtailed to facilitate this course of action to bring it to Referendum that would remove protections that the people of Vero Beach have chosen on this piece of property. To receive the wording this evening three (3) hours prior to this meeting fails to provide adequate time for the public to assess the implications of the language. He said the Referendum wording could be curtailed to offer an amendment means to dispose of the property. He said right now in this wording there is no constraint on what could be done with the property. He is not opposed to what the public wants; be it green space, a sailing institute, etc., which a lot of the planning and implications of them are yet to be known. To divest the public’s voice to the decisions of three (3) people to his perspective is ill advised.

Councilwoman Moss said you don’t need a Referendum (referring to the community). She said you already are in charge and she is sorry they didn’t have the opportunity to read the backup material. She showed a copy of the memorandum that the City Council received this afternoon (attached to the original minutes). She said here is the question for you and it’s not just the Power Plant property. This is the Power Plant property and also the Water Treatment Plant property. She is going to read it right from this memorandum. Here is the question, “Do you give the above described approval...” and that is the approval to sell, lease, trade, or give away “to the City.” She said that is kind of an odd question because you already have it. You are the City. She thinks what they mean is you give it to the City Council. She said don’t give it to the City Council. Just keep it; we don’t have a plan yet. You are in charge right now. You don’t need to vote this November to be in charge. You already are. She said frankly this whole thing flies in the face of the facts. It just does, especially because now she sees that they are talking about the two (2) pieces of property. She said remember, the Power Plant property will not be available literally for years. The substation, and they have talked about this at their last meeting, Florida Power and Light (FPL) has not broken ground on that yet. It will take until at least next July; that is July, 2020, for the new substation to be built. So
right now what we affectionately call Big Blue is housing elements that need to be moved across the street after the substation is complete. Then after the substation is complete and those items have been removed then we need to disassemble that building. She said that Mr. Jim O’Connor, former City Manager, estimated that the time required to do that would be 12 to 18 months so add 12 to 18 months to July, 2020. So, nothing is going to happen anytime soon. You are not going to miss an opportunity. No one needs to worry about that. With regard to the Wastewater Treatment property, we have debt service on that until 2022, she means significant debt service until 2022/2023 and as she recalls we have a request in right now of Mr. Rob Bolton, Water and Sewer Director, to price out the cost of having a new Plant and in the meanwhile the old Plant is going to stay there for a while because we have the debt services and of course we have to have an alternative, obviously. So, that property is not going to be in play for years. She said think about this too, anything you do this year, this is an off-year Election. You will never know the will of the majority of the people in an off year because the majority of the people never vote in an off year. They just don’t. You can look at the facts, the percent turnout. She knows that Mayor Zudans walked to thousands of houses and knocked on thousands of doors in 2017 when he ran for office and he was the top vote getter, which she saluted him for that. But, as the top vote getter he received 1,508 votes. Well, registered voters that year were 11,782. The turnout was less than 25%, so he had less than 25% turnout. She said actually we just saw it ourselves because we had two (2) Elections within four (4) months. She said last November, November, 2018, we had a 65% turnout and when we did the redo or replay, whatever you want to call it, it was down to 23% turnout. If you want to ask a really important question and you truly want to know the will of the people, the majority, you will never find out in an off year. You just won’t, it’s impossible. Thank you.

Mr. Howle said so you shouldn’t make any decisions or have any Referendums unless it is a Presidential Election year. He asked Councilwoman Moss if that is what she is trying to say.

Councilwoman Moss said 2020; she would expect a pretty good turnout in 2020. She said we can check with Mrs. Leslie Swan, Supervisor of Elections, on that. She said that she is not an Election specialist, but if you track it and by the way, she (Mrs. Swan) has a wonderful website, www.ircgov.com, and she shows, and I love bar charts, she shows bar charts from 1990 forward, what the turnout is and the difference (trends: off-years vs. years with major races) is amazing.

Mayor Zudans asked Mr. Howle if he had any comments on this issue.

Mr. Howle answered no. He said that he just doesn’t think they should predicate decisions no matter what they are on the fact that it is in season, off season, a Presidential Election, a General Election, etc. He said people are going to turn out or not turn out, but you can’t stop the business of the City just because it is an off year.

Mayor Zudans made a motion to instruct the City Attorney to draft two (2) ordinances - one to allow for a voter referendum on city charter 5.05(a) item 12 and
the other ordinance for city charter 5.05(a) item 13. Mr. Brackett seconded the motion.

Mayor Zudans opened public comment on this item at 6:05 p.m.

Mr. James Carr said that he is not in favor of doing this.

Mr. Dick Winger said that he is in support of having a charrette. That is what people are expecting and what was promised. He said they used the word streamlining, but what they are talking about is streamlining the public out of the process and giving the decision to three (3) people on the City Council. He said that he was elected three (3) times on the City Council and if he was sitting up there now he would not trust himself. He said he would not give away his authority to any three (3) people over the most valuable land on the Treasure Coast. He does not trust the City Council. The City Council purchased the Dodgertown Golf Course for too high a price, they paid too much for the South Marina, they have wanted to put a brewery in the Riverhouse, they wrongly sold the Post Office, and they put Leisure Square at risk. He said that he doesn’t trust the five (5) Councilmembers or any three (3) of them ever. He said this is trying to bushwhack the public. They have something that came forward three (3) hours ago and they are trying to make that into something and move forward. He said the public doesn’t know what that states. He said that he doesn’t think they can change the agenda after it has been closed and change the rules as they go along. He said that is bush-league and he is embarrassed.

Mrs. Lamar Nortargiacomo said that it gets more and more intimidating to be up here speaking. She said it is no wonder why so many people don’t want to come up here because certain members of the City Council have maligned, ridiculed, and mocked publicly people who have a different opinion, which is very unprofessional. She said it is abusive and has no place in a civil society and yet they get constantly reminded of their civil obligation to be civil when they come up here. She said we are civil, but some of the Councilmembers are not and that is abusive power. She thought they were asking the wrong questions. It is not do the citizens of Vero Beach want to remove these multi-million dollar pieces of property from the City Charter. She asked whose idea was it to put it up for a vote. She asked did the taxpayers within the City approach the City Council and ask them to remove this public land from the protection of the City Charter. She said it is just ridiculous. She said you guys would be great snake oil salesmen. It is crazy. She asked if this multi-million 35 acre riverfront property at the west end of the 17th Street Bridge, known as “Three Corners” is removed from the protection of the City Charter with its restrictions on height density and population density, who decides how that property that belongs to the taxpayers of the City is going to be developed. She questioned would it be zoning, developers, City Council. She said that when she was a wayward teen she got frustrated when her parents wouldn’t let her go somewhere and she would say “you don’t trust me” and her parents would say “your trust has to be earned.” She said you guys (the City Council) have not earned our trust. She said they tried to hire the Vose Law Firm, whose specialty is extracting valuable land from city charters. They have tried to hire a founding father of new urbanism, which is not in line with what the
The citizens of Vero Beach want, to help design the property. She said the citizens want our bedroom community and new urbanism deprives this. She said you guys have not earned our trust and have way too much power, in her opinion, to try to put this for a Referendum in November. She said that directly violates the will of the people and yet they are so smooth with their words that people will believe them.

Mr. Howle asked Ms. Nortargiacomo if she pays City taxes.

Mrs. Nortargiacomo said that she lives one (1) mile outside the City and the City and the County operate as one. She said everything the City Council does affects her because the City is the hub of everything that happens in the County.

Mayor Zudans said that he would like to correct a couple of things that were said that were inaccurate. He said the public has asked many times what the City is doing and have expressed to him personally on many occasions what they want. He has also written publically on this issue multiple times and received a lot of feedback saying that is exactly what they want. He said they want to have river walks, green space, paddleboard rentals, etc. He said as to removing all the restrictions on height and density, that is factually incorrect. That is in different areas of the Charter and would still be intact. He said as to the statement that they tried to hire the Vose Law Firm, they did not get a single vote from anyone on the City Council. Nothing said doing it would remove restrictions. He said there were two (2) City Councilmembers who did vote to go through the charrette process, but the majority of the City Council did not agree.

Vice Mayor Young said the decision by the City Council was to not hire DPZ. It was not to not have charrettes. He said they need to be clear on that.

Ms. Nancy Richards said that she has lived in the City since 1972 and lives close to the property under discussion. She said that she has been in real estate for over 34 years so she has been a part of the growth. She asked why would there be any need to rush this along if the land is not prepared yet.

Mayor Zudans said FPL is already building the equipment for the substation and have set up the space where they will be building it. The last he heard it was before July and heard more recently that it was even sooner than that. Therefore, despite what is being said here it would be very quickly available. He said they are not going to spend money doing traffic studies, etc., if they don’t know they have a long term lease so the process is overlapped to some extent. The timing on the Water and Sewer site, the bonds are going to come up in about three (3) years, but they have been told by the Finance Department that this can be something that will be moving along more quickly. He said the idea is that both properties are going to be part of a comprehensive plan, which is why they have to include both properties when discussing this. We have a track record where these things sit vacant, such as the Dodgertown Golf Course that sat there vacant for 14 years that did nothing of value for the City. It is also beneficial financially to the future economic health of our City having a long-term lease where they are getting annual payments in that it is an offset to the tax basin so instead of raising taxes the City can
provide the same or higher level of services without going to the taxpayers for the money. He said every year they delay that they are putting the burden for the local government on to the taxpayers as opposed to having a revenue stream for the City so it is costing them money to delay. He said that he is not saying that they should rush this or anything. He said even if they go through a process like this, they have to go through zoning changes, which has to go before the public; the proposals are all going to come before the public. He said they cannot do any of these things without going before the public. There is an element of trust. He said do you elect people you trust who are going to make the right decision. He explained if they receive 10 proposals, is the City Council going to be wise enough to pick the one that is the best. He said in some ways he agrees with about 90% of what Mr. Winger said. He thinks the City has made some really bad decisions in the past. He said there is an element of trust and there is an element of risk. He said it is very clear to him from talking to enough people what the public wants and it is almost the same thing across the board. They want a destination; a place to go. He felt it was going to be very clear to the next City Council what the public wants. He believes that this is the best type of government. It is the type of government where the people are given the choice. He said if they do a Referendum, that doesn’t mean the Referendum is going to pass. What it is saying is that the public has the right to decide. Do they want to give the public the right to vote on whether to proceed at a more streamline pace or do they not want to give that right to the citizens. He felt it is elites to say the public is not capable of making the correct decision. He said that would be the City Council saying that they would vote no on this and therefore they are not going to let the public decide this question. He feels it is the right of the public to decide whether they want to move forward.

Councilwoman Moss said that she is looking at Ms. Richard’s face and she looks more confused now than when she came up to speak. She said you have the right. Right now all of you have the right. You don’t need to vote in November to get the right; you already have the right to the property. If you live in the City, that’s your land. You own it, you have the right to it.

Vice Mayor Young said the other point is that the City Council has been provided by some individuals who have a great deal of understanding for our community and a great deal of love for our community and that wisdom that was shared with this City Council was that there is no need to proceed expeditiously in this manner.

Ms. Richards said what she heard is that there is more of a rush because there is a budget problem; that there is a lack of funds to be able to pay for certain things.

Councilwoman Moss said there is not a budget problem. She asked Mayor Zudans if he is saying there is a budget problem.

Mayor Zudans answered no.
Ms. Richards said she could not imagine that 18,000 people wouldn’t be willing to donate more tax money to keep the Parks going rather than rush this along and have a situation where it is set in stone.

Councilwoman Moss said that she wanted to say one (1) thing about revenue streams because they have already addressed this tonight with the property they annexed and in that information for that decision was the amount of taxes that they would pay and it was $800 for ad valorem taxes and the concern was would that cover what the City would have to pay to service that property and yes, it will be a wash. This information is in the backup materials and anyone can take a look at it. It is on the City’s website www.covb.org. She said it is always interesting to her because this is a term that is thrown around a lot, “well, we have to develop it because we are going to have this big revenue stream.” She said that they just had that a piece of property here tonight annexed into the City. She congratulated the applicant stating that she is thrilled, but it is not a huge revenue stream.

Ms. Cathy Anderson said that she has lived in Vero Beach for 19 years. This is the first time, although she attends meetings regularly, that she has approached the dais. She asked that they reconsider this. She said if they feel that those in the past have made bad decisions, she would suggest that they are on the verge of making one as well. She said some of the Councilmembers promised her in the last Election things that she is not seeing happen. She asked that they please not pass the option of voting on this Referendum in November in the off year. She agrees with what Councilwoman Moss and Vice Mayor Young said. The points they made were valid. She asked that they not vote for this Referendum to be placed on the ballot in November.

Mrs. Phyllis Frey read a prepared statement.

Mr. Jay Miller said the City Council should have all five (5) votes the same. The voters have chosen them to speak for all of us. He does not live in the City, but has been here since 1949. He knows the City Council has made some good decisions and some bad decisions, but their job is to take care of the voters who voted for them. He would like to see rather than the votes being 3-2 all the time to be 5-0. He thanked the City Council for being here for the people of the City of Vero Beach. He said that although he does not live in the City, he does a lot of things in the City that he enjoys. He felt that the City Council should have a 5-0 vote for everything that is done.

Mr. Ken Daige said that he is hoping tonight that there is not support to put this on the ballot in November. They have heard enough tonight that the people don’t want it, there is no plan, and there is a lot at risk. He said these properties are protected in the City Charter. He wanted people to realize that once property comes out of the Charter all bets are off. Once these properties come out of the Charter they can come in and they pretty much get what they want when they want. He said the people have not had a chance to look at a plan, which is kind of what they were told so rushing this is not too cool. He said in November, 2014, the City Election included a ballot Referendum question, which the Referendum’s purpose was to reinforce the protection of the City Charter for certain
City owned lands. The former Power Plant land and the current Wastewater Treatment Plant land were voted into the City Charter protection in 2007. Those two (2) parcels were reinforced with City Charter protections in 2014 by a wide margin of over 4,000 voters. He said that is a lot of votes, more than for any other Referendum issue or candidate and more than for the electric acquisition. He said their greenspace is super important to the public. He said we would like to see it open and would like to see things happen there, but we want to be part of the planning process. If the City Council chooses to do this, they are just rushing this along. It was his understanding that there was some fresh information on the ballot question or some other things that were not on the agenda as far as backup and the public didn’t have a chance to see it. He hoped there was no support to put this on the ballot in November. The people who he spoke with are not ready yet. He asked why rush this along.

Mr. Brian Heady said if you want a Referendum, have a Referendum. If you have three (3) votes you are wasting time, go ahead and vote for it. As far as being an off year, if someone cares enough about the City let them get off their duff and come out and vote in an off year. He gets off his butt and comes to meetings all the time because he cares about the City. He said one of the Councilmembers said to let the developers decide. He agreed. He said unless the public wants to join together and contribute a lot of money to develop the property then what they need to do is let a developer decide. As far as who to sell the property to, he said to give it back to the Indians. He said they probably had some government agency steal it in the first place so give it back to the Indians. He is not saying that in jest. He means it; give it back to the Indians. He said to let the Indians come here and build a casino. That will bring some income into the City. As far as the trains are concerned, this incredible waste of money trying to stop a train that they are never going to stop is insanity. If they want to do anything, give them some land that the City has and let them build a train station and make it a stop, which will end all the nonsense about how fast the trains are going through town because the trains can’t come through fast if they are stopped. He said to let the developer decide what they want to do with the building and not saddle the taxpayers. He said we don’t want anyone other than a developer to remove the building. He said if they look at the Old Diesel Plant building they will see that sometimes developers have good ideas on what to do with old buildings.

Mr. Bill Fish said that he is against rushing this. He said when he was on the City Council there was tremendous pressure to do something with the property before they even sold the Plant. He said everyone had their eyes on it, which bothers him because there is a lot of money kicking around here that would love to be spent to emphasize what they want. He said to rush this does not smell right. He said it doesn’t smell right that they are talking to builders and it smells worse that they are trying to speed it up. He knows that the financial pressure for that piece of land is tremendous.

Mrs. Linda Hillman said that she has to remark on Mr. Howle’s comment to Mrs. Nortargiacomo about living outside the City limits when she does believe that he voted for our City Manager, who in fact lives outside the City limits, and he stated that Mr. Falls would do a great job because he loves this City. She believes that Mrs.
Nortargiacomo loves the City too. She believes that every single one (1) of us who are here loves this City. She recalled that at the closing of the utility sale to FPL the Mayor did question the FPL representative about removing the substation and they did say it would take three (3) years to build and remove the substation. She does not believe that in 2020 they are going to clear that land.

Mr. Howle said that he spoke with FPL and their target is between May and June of 2020.

Mrs. Hillman felt that Mr. Howle owes the citizens, especially Mrs. Nortargiacomo, an apology for his remark.

Mr. Howle said that he just wanted to know if she paid City taxes, that’s all.

Mrs. Hillman said Mrs. Nortargiacomo pays taxes to Indian River County, we all do and we all love this City.

Mayor Zudans wanted to make it clear that you don’t have to live in the City to make public comments. It is open to everybody. He said that he thinks it is useful to know whether or not they are a citizen of the City just to put it into context.

Mrs. Hillman said the City Manager does not live in the City and he cares.

Mayor Zudans agreed. He said that he defended Mr. Falls when the issue was brought up about his living location. He personally wants this to be something that everyone in this community wants. He wants people from outside the community to come to this great destination that we have built in our City. There is nothing wrong with asking someone if they are a City resident or not when they are making a public comment.

Mrs. Hillman believes that this City Council owes the citizens the respect that they want the citizens to give them.

Mayor Zudans said that is reasonable.

Mrs. Hillman continued stating that appearing on public radio criticizing the people who come to the dais because they are the same old crowd …

Mayor Zudans said that he has never used those words.

Mrs. Hillman said that she did not say the Mayor and she was not referring to him. She said the people who come here love this City and that is why they come to the dais continually to voice their opinion.

Mayor Zudans said we appreciate all public input, both inside and outside the City.
Mrs. Hillman said that she appreciates everything the City Councilmembers do for the City.

Mr. Bob McCabe said that he lives in the City. He thinks this Referendum is incredibly premature. He thinks it is a rush to judgement and it puts the cart before the horse. He thinks a Referendum should only be considered after a process is completed to obtain the view of all the voters in Vero Beach and the surrounding area. Our constituency is a lot broader than just the voters in the City. He said they need a detailed developed plan before they ask anyone to vote on it. To just advocate their responsibility and rights in a Referendum like this is not appropriate in his view. He said the Referendum should comprehend the detailed plan and that is the plan that should be put before the people in a Referendum so that they can vote on the specifics of it. In his view and as a member of the Centennial Committee, it has taken the actions of a lot of people over the last 100 years to build the Vero Beach they all know and love. He said to rush into this Referendum to delegate to the City Council the future use of this property is grossly ill-conceived at best.

Mr. Peter Robinson said to approve to put this Referendum to be placed on the ballot they are going to get abused because everyone is going to be against it. Then there is going to be an Election to replace Mr. Howle and this whole thing is going to be about this Referendum. He said they should be talking about doing something. When someone gets a real plan, the system will work. He said if it is a good enough plan it will be approved by the people, but when you want to shrink it to three (3) votes of the City Council then people are going to vote against them.

Mr. Ken Grudens, Executive Director of the Indian River Land Trust, said that he does not live in the City limits, but the Land Trust does have an office in the City and they also own about 250 acres of Lagoon front land in the City. He said while their Organization is focused on conservation lands, the Board of Directors has discussed this topic twice in the past two (2) Board meetings. They have a passion for the City to take this to an RFP process and a planning charrette to get the input of the public on what the best use of the property is within the Charter itself and to not see it leave the Charter as it sits now. They are not taking a position on what happens on the property, but do believe that this property is best kept within the Charter and the public realm and not given to the private sector. He agrees with many of the people that spoke tonight that it would not be wise to go to Referendum at this time and to work on a public process.

Mr. Joe Montgomery said that he lives in the City and has been in commercial real estate for 30 years. He said there is a lot of risk in any development and thinks it is always wise that they move very carefully and cautiously. He said Vero Beach is a special place and that property is a tremendous asset to this community. He felt its redevelopment in many ways could possibly define or have a marque identity so it needs to be done very carefully, thoughtfully, and slow.

Mayor Zudans closed public comment on this item at 6:53 p.m., with no one else wishing to be heard.
Mr. Brackett said that he has not spoken on this item at all tonight and yet at least three (3) or four (4) people came to the podium and decided how he is going to vote. He said that he has a lot of the same ideas about what should happen with this property that the stakeholders and citizens do; waterfront dining, public access, waterfront activities, etc.; some of the same ideas that Mayor Zudans has. Where they differ is that he doesn’t like the process they are going down. He thinks it should go back to public workshops. He did vote against DPZ, but it wasn’t because he didn’t like the process. It was because he didn’t like the company at the time. He does not believe it is a choice that says if they don’t vote in favor of a public forum that they are against the citizens. He thinks they are trying to bring the citizens in to be more involved. He said that he is not for moving in this direction and there are at least two (2) people who knew that because they came to his office and spoke with him. He said the process they go down in doing these things are that they need to work together. They need to come together more as a community and City and work together through this process. He said that he believes in this property and what they can do over there, even if it means having a Special Call meeting where they sit down as a group and make a decision. He thinks there is a lot of issues having the Ordinance done this way, with one (1) being they do not know who is going be on the City Council next year; who he would be giving his power to as a citizen. He thinks they can work together. He said that he gave his word during his campaign that he wouldn’t go down this road and he came to this meeting prepared to uphold that.

Mr. Howle echoed what Mr. Brackett has said. He thinks it is funny to have individuals who have decided for him how he is going to vote. He felt there were a lot of people who spoke tonight who would rather that they had not had this discussion tonight whereas he did want to have this discussion because he didn’t have an opinion on it. He also thinks that pushing this to a Referendum is too soon. He said they had an RFP and had two (2) Planners come in, which turned into a circus. He does believe this property needs to be planned properly and to have charrettes. He said even after that they will have to have a Referendum. He said that he doesn’t know how to get to that point, but doesn’t think they could plan it on their own in-house, that they have to have professional help. He then referred to the Postal Annex property where the decision made by the City Council 14 or 15 years ago the property is still vacant today. That is where he doesn’t want to see this go. He said they need to have something where they can bring people together and attract people from other towns to come and enjoy what they have to offer. If they get the right plan put together and they take that to Referendum and make it happen it can really become a nice place for everyone to enjoy.

Mayor Zudans said the reality is they did an RFP for the planning process and received two (2) responses, one (1) from Ft. Pierce and one (1) from an International Firm. The question is what are they going to do. He thinks that people who are opposed to change or opposed to progress tend to always win because there is always resistance. He said if they don’t want the public to decide what path to go down then what do they propose they do to actually do something good for the citizens and do what they are asking for on that piece of property.
Mr. Brackett said that he is not opposed to change and has been a part of change, such as the redevelopment of Downtown. He said that he voted against a company. He said his whole intention was to go back and review this and to get additional information. He said that he is fully prepared to put this on the next agenda and discuss this again. He said they had two (2) bids that were dramatically different in price. He said if there is more than 10 or 12 percent difference there is an issue. He said that he is passionate about this and so are the citizens and they want to have their input. He said that he knows we are not a true democracy. He said a lot of people voted for him and they did it with confidence that he would serve them and make decisions and he intends to do that to the best of his ability. But, there are topics that are passionate in this community that the citizens want to have input on and he thinks they deserve it and this is one of those topics. He said that he is fully open to reengaging the process of the RFP and if it means putting this on the next agenda, he is for it.

Mayor Zudans asked Mr. Brackett if he is saying that he wants to revisit the two (2) firms or that he wants to start the process again in trying to get more people to respond.

Mr. Brackett said that he wants to put it back on the agenda to revisit it.

Mayor Zudans questioned for a potential decision on one (1) of the two (2) firms.

Mr. Brackett said they have until the 25th of June to do it and the meeting is on June 18th.

**Mayor Zudans withdrew his motion.**

Mayor Zudans said the conclusion of this is that the RFP that is still outstanding will be put on their next agenda for discussion under Old Business.

Councilwoman Moss asked Mr. Jeffries or Mr. Falls if they recall what month the RFP went out. She thinks she remembers what was said at the time was that everyone was very busy and that was the reason they only received two (2) responses. She is wondering how long ago that was and if perhaps circumstances or the context has changed.

Mr. Falls said the City put out the RFP to make a presentation to the City Council in April. He thought what they said was one of the reasons that they may have received so few responses was because the economy is booming. He said this is a huge project for us, but not a huge project for the people that do this. He said that was just speculation as to why they might not have received any more proposals than what they received.

Vice Mayor Young said they had two (2) firms respond to to put out another RFP to solicit additional firms he felt would be very prudent. His concern is that they have other interest in a letter that they received from Mr. Johnson (on file in the City Clerk’s office) and he wouldn’t want to exclude him so maybe there are more people who are interested.

Mr. Falls noted that staff is comfortable with either firm.
Councilwoman Moss said the City received two (2) unsolicited letters. She asked would it be appropriate to invite them to their next meeting since this will be on their agenda.

Mr. Falls felt if they were going to entertain additional proposals that they would have to go out for a new RFP.

Councilwoman Moss said there are other parties who are interested, they are not limited to the two (2) parties is the point she is trying to make. She said maybe she didn’t say that clearly enough. There are more than two (2) parties who are interested so she doesn’t know how they can involve other parities who have expressed an interest. She asked what is the mechanism.

Mayor Zudans said the mechanism would be that as they discuss the RFP at their next meeting and she is not satisfied with one (1) of the two (2) options that participated in the RFP then she would make the argument that there are other people out there and they should not approve either one (1).

Mr. Howle said either they decide on one (1) of the two (2) they have or put out another RFP.

Mayor Zudans said they will put this on the agenda for their next meeting under Old Business that they revisit the RFP.

B) OLD BUSINESS

6. PUBLIC NOTICE ITEMS FOR FUTURE PUBLIC HEARING

7. CITY CLERK MATTERS

A) Appointment to the Finance Commission

Mrs. Bursick reported that there is an alternate position open on the Finance Commission. The City received an application from Ms. Jan Williams who is interested in serving on the Finance Commission. There are no other applications on file.

Vice Mayor Young made a motion to appoint Ms. Jan Williams to the Finance Commission. Councilwoman Moss seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

   None

9. CITY ATTORNEY MATTERS
A) Discussion about authorizing of the city attorney to determine the time frame and draft ordinance(s) to allow for a voter referendum on city charter 5.05(a) items (12) and (13) for the November election

This item was moved up on the agenda.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT (3-minute time limit)

Mr. Arthur Economy stated that on March 19th the City Council unanimously authorized Coastal Tech to move forward on the Marina renovation plans. As a result of this Coastal Tech moved forward without an environmental and traffic impact study. The community agrees that the Marina needs to be renovated, but not just by Council or the Marine Commission’s opinion. He said that Coastal Tech did not seek input from any other community member or group to understand those that will be most affected. On May 30, 2019, Coastal Tech presented to the Marine Commission various conceptual plans and options. The Marine Commission chose the plan that grossly exceeded the present Marina print without consideration of the remediation to our communities, Parks, and Lagoon. This plan calls for paving and removing green space in different Chartered protected Park areas. This is not in the best interest of the adjacent communities or this City. The Marine Commission unanimously accepted a concept plan to present to City Council that is over-reaching in design and can further impact their Lagoon’s health, traffic safety, Park space and the quality of life in the central beach area. The consequences of Council authorizing an unrestricted scope of work to Coastal Tech has allowed for spending of tax dollars to move forward on project planning with disrespect in regard to the community, environment, safety liabilities and the City Charter. On March 19, 2019, he pleaded with Council to limit the tasks in Coastal Tech’s scope of work in community involvement. This plea went unanswered. The central beach community will not tolerate this behavior by Council or the Marine Commission. They are uniting to protect their rights to public safety, quiet and safe neighborhoods and control over all of their Charter protected lands. This on-going behavior is undermining the trust that the community has in their leaders.

Mayor Zudans clarified that the Marine Commission is an advisory body that has no legal authority to make any decisions. He said that the City has many advisory committees and the City Council asks them to look at certain things and then they will come and make their presentation to the Council, as well as the consultant that they hired. That does not mean that is what the City Council is going to do. He appreciated that Mr. Economy was watching what is being done and reporting to the City Council, but he does not want the public to think that there has been some decision made without the Council’s input.

Mr. Economy understood that. He said the problem is that they authorized funds to be paid, which could have been restricted if the scope of work was refrained or scaled to community involvement and other issues.

Mayor Zudans explained that the Council agreed to the price for this in advance and the consultant did come up with multiple proposals, all of which he expects to see.
Mr. Economy commented that this creates a lot of confusion; it creates a lot of distrust and prevents things from going forward in a productive way. He said if people were involved in the beginning to address the issues then a lot of the problems could have been solved. There are issues in their community now such as speeding and traffic issues and they are trying to get a handle on these things and need to be addressed now and not later.

Mayor Zudans explained that when Council approved Coastal Tech to do the engineering study it was to look and see what the current status was and to come up with the proposals. He reassured Mr. Economy that just because the Marine Commission recommends a proposal that they are only an advisory commission. The Council will be reviewing all the proposals, but they do respect what the Marine Commission thinks because they are the people who have a lot of expertise conserving marinas. This is not a done deal and the Marine Commission does not have the authority to make decisions on behalf of the City.

Mr. Economy felt if they were directed with more restraints from the beginning it would have been better. He said that Coastal Tech reviewed plans from the past and the community has changed and for them to look at that material without a directive is not productive.

Mr. Falls reported that the process that they are going to go through is having two (2) public meetings up front. He said one (1) is the Marine Commission and one (1) is the City Council meeting to present the conceptual alternatives. He said the Council will then decide, which alternative they like the best and will direct the consultant to go back and develop the Master Plan and then there will be a third public input meeting. He said the public is being involved and the consultant is doing the work that he is being asked to do through the RFP process.

Mrs. Phyllis Frey stated that the consultant for the Municipal Marina presented a Master Plan to the Marine Commission and they chose concept number three (3), which the Marine Commission will want the Council to also choose (she read a prepared statement). She was not in support of concept number three (3).

Mrs. Linda Hillman asked if there were any term limits on members sitting on their Commissions and if not should there be.

Mrs. Bursick explained that after four (4) years the terms of the Commission members comes up and they can ask the City Council to reappoint them for another four (4) years. There is no term limit as far as how long they can serve on a Commission.

Mayor Zudans added that sometimes it is difficult to fill the positions that they have on the different Commissions. He asked the City Clerk to go over what positions they presently have open on their City Boards/Commissions.

11. COUNCILMEMBER MATTERS
A. Mayor Val Zudans’s Matters

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

Mayor Zudans reported that he and Mr. Falls met with the Source concerning the homeless issues that they have in the community. He said there are a lot of different organizations doing things to help the homeless, if they want to be helped. They were told that some of the panhandlers are not even homeless. He said if the public has the opportunity to give money to please give it to the organizations and not the homeless people themselves. This will hold them accountable. The Source is doing some excellent things. They provide a culinary program where the homeless are being taught to become Chefs and are getting jobs and are no longer homeless. He reiterated to the public to not give money to the panhandlers on the street. He said some of these people do not want anything to do with the Source, because there are rules they would have to follow and they would have to work. This is not a problem that will be solved overnight. The Police Department continues to have a presence where the homeless population congregates and will keep working on the problem.

Mayor Zudans reminded the public to attend the Vero Wine and Food Festival Event being held at Majestic Theater this Thursday. He also mentioned that the Florida Eye Institute is a proud sponsor of the Vero Beach Centennial Celebration entitled My 2020 Experience. People are encouraged to share their favorite photos in a monthly contest and a winning photo is selected each month.

B. Vice Mayor’s Tony Young’s Matters

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

1) Mr. Doug Carlson to talk about Mosquito control.

Mr. Doug Carlson gave a Power Point presentation on the Indian River Mosquito Control District (attached to the original minutes).

Vice Mayor Young expressed his appreciation for the City’s support in making Memorial Day so special this year. He thanked DIGG Gardens for donating the Centennial Tree that was dedicated on May 26th. He also thanked the inner faith groups and Riverside Theater for planning the Family Day for Founders Day that was also held on May 26th at Riverside Theater. On Thursday it will be “D” Day and should be observed. He mentioned for the public that the City is aware of the Oak Trees that have been trimmed at MacWilliam Park.

C. Councilmember Laura Moss’s Matters

Sponsored presentation items by the public (10-minute time limit)
1) Affordable Housing – Sadowski State and Local Housing Trust Fund

Councilwoman Moss stated that Florida has the third largest homeless population in the country. She said people in need of affordable housing often are referred to as one pay check away from being homeless. So it is very important that they shore this up in order to prevent an increase in homelessness. She said the reason why she put this on the agenda today is because she is the City’s Representative to the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, which is an Advisory Board to Indian River County. She is optimistic that they may finally be tackling this problem and she will tell them why. The Committee met once in 2017 and they didn’t meet at all in 2018 and in 2019 they are now on their third meeting. They met in February, in April and they have a meeting coming up on Wednesday, June 19th at 9:30 a.m. in the County Administration Building. That meeting is open to the public and public comment is welcome, so she invites the community to attend. She said affordable housing is viewed as those households who spend 30% or more of their household gross income on housing. Those households spending more than 30% and are categorized as “cost burdened.” She said those households spending more than 50% are categorized as “severely cost burdened.” Specifically this evening she will be referring to the Sadowski State and Local Housing Trust Fund. This has been a very contentious issue for a number of years now. It was created in 1992 by the State of Florida as a dedicated pool of money for State and Local Affordable Housing programs. The money comes from a stamp tax on real estate documents. It is actually named after Mr. Bill Sadowski who was a former Department of Community Affairs Secretary who died in a plane crash in 1992 at the age of 48. He was very passionate about Florida and affordable homes. The problem is since that time and actually for quite some time now, beginning in 2001 and 2002 the State Legislature began raiding the Sadowski Trust Fund to the extent that it is estimated that $2.2 billion since that time, which was meant for affordable housing initiatives has been swept into the general revenues of the State. So this particular year what has happened is $115 million has been set aside (withdrawn) from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and used for counties affected by hurricanes. She said not that, that is important and the money is probably needed, but the money should come from somewhere else. This has been going on for so many years now. She said that $85 million is being split on the rest of the State between two (2) programs. She said one (1) is called “SAIL” (State Apartment Incentive Loan), which is gap financing for developers to build rental units that lower wage families can afford. The other part of that $85 million is going to what is referred to as “Ship,” which stands for State Housing Initiative Partnership. It offers counties, such as ours, flexibility in determining how the money gets spent depending on community needs. For example they can make needed home repairs, retrofit a house for a disabled person or they can bolster a first time buyer’s down payment if it is a low income issue. The problem with sweeping this money ($125 million into general revenue this year) away from affordable housing especially for over such a long period of time, since the turn of the century this has been happening, it not only harms the individuals involved, and many of those people are women, working women who make just enough money that they don’t qualify for certain programs and she has been contacted by some of them and she has heard stories about older women living out of their cars and it is not only women, but these are some of the stories that she has heard. The other problem to her is that it
harms all of them because what they are doing is causing people to lose faith in government. She said there is no trust in this Trust Fund. If they are taking the money designated for a purpose and not spending it on that purpose for almost 20 years that is horrific. It is a huge misuse of public trust and she thinks it should be sacred and not allowed. She said what she has done as part of being on this Committee is she received an email requesting that the City Council make a request for a line-item veto by the Governor because the Legislature voted to raid this fund. She wrote a letter, which she read (attached to the original minutes). She is sending the letter and she can send it just with her signature if the rest of the Council does not want to sign it. She is sorry that they did not have time to read it in advance. She would have put it on the agenda, but she did not know if the Governor had already moved on this and then it would have been too late to send the letter. She asked the Council to sign the letter or not sign the letter as they see fit. If they would like additional materials she has a number of articles from the media that she collected just to try to understand this matter better. She said even though she has been on this Committee since 2017 there have been so few meetings, she is the process of educating herself on this.

Councilwoman Moss complimented the Vero Beach Lifeguard Association on setting a new record in May with 88,280 visitors. She said they handled 24 medical calls in which three (3) were serious enough that the patients had to be transported to the hospital. In addition, they rescued a person from a rip current, which brings the total number of rip current rescues to nine (9) this year. She recalled that Council voted last year at the budget workshop to extend the lifeguards hours and that has happened. The lifeguards have extended their hours and they are on duty from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. during the summer.

Councilwoman Moss offered her condolences to the family of Mr. Ken Puttick. He was a very well respected and successful member of their community. She attended his funeral last week and she especially expressed her condolences to Mrs. Tiffney Justice, who is a member of their School Board. She said the service was beautiful and it is a hard thing to go through. She lost her father at the same age that Mrs. Justice is and he was the same age that her father was and it is a difficult thing. To end on an uplifting note she wanted to say Happy Father’s Day to all the Fathers out there. She said your girls always love you and your boys also do. She said maybe the boys tell them less, but they always love you. She wished everyone a Happy Father’s Day.

**D. Councilmember Robert Brackett’s Matters**

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

**E. Councilmember Harry Howle’s Matters**

Mr. Howle reported on the letter that he recently wrote that appeared in the Letters to the Editor section of TC Palm concerning the homeless. He commented that he just got back from a trip to Kentucky this afternoon.
Sponsored presentation items by the public (10-minute time limit)

12. ADJOURNMENT

Tonight’s meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

/tb