

**CITY OF VERO BEACH, FLORIDA
JUNE 20, 2023 9:30 A.M.
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA**

Deacon Debra Gordon of Christ Church of Vero Beach gave the invocation.

PRESENT: John Cotugno, Mayor; Linda Moore, Vice Mayor; Tracey Zudans, Councilmember; John Carroll, excused absence; and Rey Neville, Councilmember **Also Present:** Monte Falls, City Manager; John Turner, City Attorney and Tammy Bursick, City Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Cotugno led the Council and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

B. Roll Call

The City Clerk performed the roll call.

2. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular City Council Minutes – June 6, 2023

Vice Mayor Moore made a motion to approve the June 6, 2023 Regular City Council minutes. Mr. Neville seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. Special Call/Workshop Minutes – May 17, 2023

Mr. Neville made a motion to approve the May 17, 2023 Special Call City Council minutes. Vice Mayor Moore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A. Agenda Additions, Deletions, and Adoption.

Mr. Monte Falls, City Manager, requested that an Emergency Purchase Notification for an Inspection of Tanks Project to Underwater Solutions be added to the agenda and heard under City Manager's Matters.

Mr. Neville requested that item 3-F) be pulled off of the consent agenda.

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

B. Proclamations and recognitions by Council.

3. CONSENT AGENDA (include amount of expense)

- A) Funding Request from the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Advisory Committee**
- B) Award of Bid for Sweeper Truck Acquisition to Container System & Equipment, Inc. (\$205,325.00)**
- C) Orenco Systems Inc., STEP Equipment Supply Contract 143-2022 Increase Annual Expenditure from (\$350,000 to \$600,000)**
- D) Small Government Enterprise License Agreement (\$85,200)**
- E) Reclaimed Water Study, Project No. 2023-24 (Cost \$136,111,83) Work Order No. 1 to Contract No. 148-2022**

These items were approved by City Council.

F) School Resource Officer Agreements

Mr. Neville brought up the School Resource Officer agreements because he felt that the 50/50 cost share between the City and the School Board is a budget issue. He did a little research with other cities and the cost share is all over the place. He feels that this is a budget issue and should be discussed at budget time. He requested tabling this matter and discussing it at budget time and make a decision on how much the City should be paying.

Mrs. Zudans agreed that it should be discussed at budget time and they should pull the item off of the consent agenda today. She said that this is an open negotiation with the School Board and the City of Vero Beach.

Mr. Falls commented that the School Board plans on putting this item on their July 24th agenda for approval.

Police Chief David Currey informed the Council that Sebastain and the Sherriff's Department have already signed off on the agreements. He said that St. Helen pays them a flat rate of \$42.00 an hour for a School Resource Officer and that amounts to approximately \$60,000 a year. He knows that the State provides the School Board with some money to help pay the costs for School Resource Officers at all of their schools, but he does not know how much they contribute. He said that he is researching on finding out that information.

Mrs. Zudans asked if this was an annual contract. Chief Currey said that the School Board would like to have it come before the entities every three (3) years instead of every year. Mrs. Zudans said if that occurs then it will not give the City the opportunity to change anything. Chief Currey was doing some research to see how other counties handle this throughout the State.

Mr. Falls said that they could discuss this item at budget time and also discuss having the agreement approved every year instead of every three (3) years.

Mr. Neville expressed that the Police Department is being asked to hire additional police officers this year, which will put a burden on their budget. They all need to examine everything that they can because of the financial situation that they may be facing.

Mr. Neville made a motion to withdraw item 3-F) from the consent agenda and discuss it at their budget hearings/workshop. Vice Mayor Moore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There was no one from the audience wishing to speak on the consent agenda.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A) ORDINANCES

- 1) An Ordinance of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, Amending Article 1, Section 66-2, “Solid Waste Collection Service; Amending 66-7, “Director of Solid Waste; Supervision, Rules and Regulations;” Appeal from Regulations; Amending Section 66-10, “Fees” of Chapter 66, Solid Waste, of the Code of the City of Vero Beach; Revising Rates, Fees and Charges for the Collection and Disposal of Solid Waste and Recyclable Material and Sale of Items used for Collection Purposes; Repealing Resolution 2020-26; Providing for Codification; Providing for Conflict and Severability; Providing for the Correction of Scrivener’s Errors; and Providing for an Effective Date.**

The City Clerk read the Ordinance by title only.

Mr. Falls explained that the main reason for this Ordinance was to address a problem that occurred after the City sold their electric utilities. It has to do with the master meter and master account for some of their customers within the City limits. The change will reduce administrative burdens related to collecting payments from non-utility customers within single-family, multi-family, or commercial subdivisions and developments. The Ordinance also includes updates to incidental charges to keep up with increased costs.

Mr. Neville had some concerns with \$10.00 being charged in the event a vehicle is parked and preventing Solid Waste from getting to a dumpster. He asked if they were comfortable with that.

Mr. Matt Mitts, Public Works Director, explained that there needs to be a fee imposed to recoup their costs.

Mr. Neville recently had an incident where he had to call the Solid Waste Department concerning getting his garbage picked up. He spoke with Melinda at Solid Waste and she

was very helpful. He commented on what a jewel she is and that this is one of the wonderful services that the City offers.

Vice Mayor Moore made a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Mrs. Zudans seconded the motion.

Mayor Cotugno opened and closed the public hearing at 9:47 a.m., with no one wishing to be heard.

On a roll call vote the motion passed 4-0 with Mr. Neville voting yes, Mrs. Zudans yes, Vice Mayor Moore yes, and Mayor Cotugno yes.

B) RESOLUTIONS

- 1) A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, establishing Rates and Charges for the use of the Vero Beach Regional Airport by Airlines; Providing for Corrections of Scrivener’s Errors; Providing for an Effective Date.**

The City Clerk read the Resolution by title only.

Mr. Falls reported that these changes are needed because of their new airline service, Breeze Airways. This Resolution enables the Airport to fully recapture the expenses associated with supporting Breeze Airways operations, as well as any other airlines that desire to utilize the Airport’s airline facilities in the future.

Mr. Neville asked if they have gotten the luggage problem resolved.

Mr. Todd Scher, Airport Director, commented that it has been a slow process. He said that their consultant is finishing the design for the baggage system and it should go out to bid within the next six (6) to eight (8) months.

Vice Mayor Moore made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Mrs. Zudans seconded the motion.

Mayor Cotugno opened and closed the public hearing at 9:51 a.m., with no one wishing to be heard.

On a roll call vote the motion passed 4-0 with Mr. Neville voting yes, Mrs. Zudans yes, Vice Mayor Moore yes, and Mayor Cotugno yes.

- 2) A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, Authorizing the City to enter into a Federal Grant Agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration for a Project entitled “Taxiway B Rehabilitation – Design”; Providing for an Effective Date.**

The City Clerk read the Resolution by title only.

Mr. Falls reported that Airport paved areas are assessed by Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) every two (2) years and graded on a scale of 1-100 referred to as the Pavement Condition Index. In the most recent pavement evaluation study, Taxiway B at the Vero Beach Regional Airport was assigned a Pavement Condition Index of 59, which is on the lower end of “Fair” category on the scale. The Airport coordinated with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to receive grant funding for the design portion of the Taxiway B Rehabilitation project. The project is being funded at 90% by the FAA grant, 5% by the FDOT grant and 5% by Airport matching funds.

Vice Mayor Moore made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Mr. Neville seconded the motion.

Mayor Cotugno opened and closed the public hearing at 9:52 a.m., with no one wishing to be heard.

On a roll call vote the motion passed 4-0 with Mr. Neville voting yes, Mrs. Zudans yes, Vice Mayor Moore yes, and Mayor Cotugno yes.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT (3-minute time limit)

Mrs. Barbara Ruddy commented that she is thrilled with the cleanup project that is taking place on 14th Avenue. It will serve as a model for the United States. She wrote a letter to the editor in TC Palm and indicated that it is costing the Source about \$200 a day to provide this service. She asked the public to contribute to this worthy cause. She handed the Source a check for \$1,000 personally from her contributing to this cause and thanked them for their efforts.

Mr. Falls added that since they have started the cleanup work downtown he has received a lot of positive comments from the public.

Mr. Matt Haynes, Executive Director for MainStreet, commented that he is working with the different Rotaries in Indian River County to come together to make some modifications to the Rotary Fountain located near the Heritage Center. It looks like they are in favor of making the area a garden instead of a fountain.

Mrs. Linda Hillman realized that the Council would be speaking about the Twin Pairs and the downtown area later on in their meeting. She asked if they could speak with FDOT about possibly putting a light or stop sign at 16th Street and Route 60 near ABC Printing. She said that her husband was hit on his bike in May near that intersection. He was in the bike lane and hit by a car and thankfully there were witnesses that came forward. She said that he had some bruised ribs and is doing well. She knows this area has been troublesome. She asked Council to give this some consideration because this area is so dangerous.

Mrs. Zudans commented that the resurfacing project will not start for another two (2) years and she would like to see some of these safety measures looked at before then.

Mr. Falls reiterated what FDOT has said is that they would do those things when they are doing the resurfacing project. One of the things was the speed reduction. He said the speed reduction will take place when the project is being done. He said that they can revisit the crosswalk at this intersection with FDOT.

6. CITY COUNCIL MATTERS

A) NEW BUSINESS

B) OLD BUSINESS

7. PUBLIC NOTICE ITEMS FOR FUTURE PUBLIC HEARING

- A) An Ordinance of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, Amending the Vero Beach Firefighter Relief and Pension Fund; Amending Section 58.81 of the City Code to Revise the Allocation Formula for the Defined Contribution Share Plan Funded by available Premium Tax Revenue under Florida Statutes Section 175.351; Providing for Codification; Providing for Conflict and Severability; and Providing for an Effective Date.**

The City Clerk read the Ordinance by title only and announced that the public hearing on this Ordinance would be held on July 11, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

8. CITY CLERK MATTERS

A) Appointments to Commission/Boards

MARINE COMMISSION

Mrs. Tammy Bursick, City Clerk, commented that there is an alternate position open on the Marine Commission and Mr. Justin Beard would like to be appointed to that position.

Vice Mayor Moore made a motion to appoint Mr. Justin Beard to the Marine Commission. Mr. Neville seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

POLICE PENSION BOARD

Mrs. Bursick reported that the Police Pension Board recently reelected Mrs. Ann Thompson to serve as the 5th Trustee on the Police Pension Board. She respectfully requested that the City Council ratify this appointment.

Mr. Neville made a motion to ratify the appointment of Mrs. Ann Thompson to the Police Pension Board. Vice Mayor Moore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

TREE AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Mrs. Bursick explained that the Tree and Beautification Commission has two (2) full positions open on the Commission. Ms. Liz Diaz, a County resident, would like to serve as a full member in one of those positions.

Council asked the Clerk to put this on hold for the time being to see if they could receive some more applications from City residents.

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

Mr. Falls introduced Mr. Steven Dionne, who is the City's new Finance Director.

**A) SR 60 Lane Repurposing Evaluation Update, WO No. 2 to 146-2022
Phase II Notice to Proceed (PW Project #2023-08) Phase II Cost \$114,380**

Mr. Falls reported that the City Council authorized them to move forward with the first part of the Twin Pairs study to see if there was adequate capacity left in the roadway. He said that Mr. Brian Good from Kimley-Horn and Associates will be giving a presentation and then Council will need to let staff know how they want to proceed. But, first there have been some discussions on how this might impact downtown and as to whether all of their Councilmembers will be allowed to participate in the vote. They have looked at the State law and Mr. Turner will report on their findings.

Mr. John Turner, City Attorney, explained that this is an item that they have been discussing and it has been raised in a few places and he thought they should address it. He said under the Florida Statutes/Ethic Codes there are specific provisions that apply to possible conflicts on voting interests by elected officials. Elected officials are prohibited from voting on a matter in which they would have some financial interest or benefits as a result. The issue is how this is determined. The Florida Statute in question provides that no municipal officer shall vote upon any measure which would endure to his or her special gain or loss. The Statue defines what private gain or loss means. To determine if the special private gain or loss exists you must consider four (4) matters. He said they are the size of the class effected by the vote, the nature of the interest involved, the degree to the interest of all members that are effected by the vote and the degree in which the official receives a greater benefit or harm compared to other members of the class. These are the guiding principles to determine if there is an economic gain. He reviewed the facts of this particular case and the particular Councilmember involved. The facts are that this Councilmember owns a restaurant business in the downtown commercial district, which has been defined by the Planning Director. It includes a big area downtown, specifically south of 19th Place. He said that 19th Place is one of the Twin Pairs in the East direction that is currently three (3) lanes. The proposal being considered is a reduction of three (3) lanes to two (2) lanes at that location. The business in question is over 150 feet south of 19th Place. In an area, south of 19th Place, there are approximately 10 other restaurants and 10 business retail locations and quite a few business offices. It is hard to say one (1)

particular business owner is going to have a special benefit or impact as a result of this action. He questioned how would you determine it or make an assessment of this benefit. He said that is an issue that is very difficult to determine. When they reduce the lanes from three (3) to two (2) lanes there will not be any additional parking added. It will just be a lane reduction. He can't see where this would be a conflict for this Councilmember to participate in discussion and vote on this particular matter. He has discussed this with their outside counsel and he agrees with their assessment that there would not be a voting conflict and to proceed. He also contacted the Ethics Commission and spoke to an attorney that is fairly new to his position who had some questions about this and was not sure. If they wanted to get a written opinion from the Ethics Commission on this it would take approximately 30-days until they receive one. After reviewing this he does not feel there is a voting conflict and the Councilmember can vote on the matter.

Mr. Brian Good, Consultant with Kimley-Horn & Associates, stated that approximately 90-days ago Council authorized them to proceed with a lane repurposing study to focus on the traffic capacity on the structures that exist today and to modify the structures to accommodate a revision as it exists today. He gave a Power Point presentation (attached to the original minutes).

Mr. Neville commented that eventually they will have 26th Street expanded, which he knows is not part of the study, but feels it will reduce the impact of traffic.

Mr. Good explained that based upon the model that was done they noticed an uptick of traffic on 26th Street.

Mrs. Zudans commented that his analysis would not take into consideration any parking change, etc., if they were to redo downtown during the master plan revitalization.

Mr. Good explained that FDOT gives a designation classification and the designation for Route 60 within downtown can accommodate and permit on-street parking. He said when he provided a study back in 2011/2012 on this same project, at that time there was a proposal to take the westbound traffic from four (4) lanes to two (2) lanes with on-street parking on both sides. What they are contemplating now is they are no longer advocating for the parking on the north side of the westbound lane near the Smoke Shop. In the revised evaluation they are contemplating parking within the inside of State Road 60/Twin Pairs.

Mr. Neville asked what would happen if they signalized 16th Avenue and also on the other side 19th Place going east.

Mr. Good explained this is a State Road so the State would have to authorize the signalization, which would probably be an uphill battle because of the spacing between 14th Avenue and 16th Avenue. He said they probably would not get a lot of support from the State to do this unless there has been a long history of accidents at that intersection. He said the storefront for ABC Printing sticks so far out that you basically have to go over the westbound lane to get clear sight, which has been one of the problems at that intersection. He knows in the past staff has asked if there was a potential for a crosswalk at this location.

Vice Mayor Moore asked if FDOT would consider it if the zoning was increased in the downtown area and more people were living downtown, which means there would be more pedestrians downtown. She wondered if that would determine a greater need for signalization in this area.

Mr. Good thought it would. He recommended if Council wanted to see a signal there they should look at it on a basis of historical accidents that have occurred in the area.

Mayor Cotugno asked Mr. Good why he began the projections in 2015 and not 2020. He also had some questions on why Mr. Good made his projections based on the information that he received from the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

Mr. Good explained the reason he uses 2015 is because that is a model that the MPO uses. It is a based model that they can compare against until 2045. They are looking at two identified periods of time. From a roadway capacity standpoint you don't want to spend time and money in developing your own transportation model and not use what MPO has provided because that is what they do day in and day out. He said with intersections they use 2023 because they are physically able to go out and do a traffic count. However it will never be 100% accurate. It might be a little bit high or a little bit low. What they really want from a transportation study is whether or not it is in the ballpark.

Mr. Neville asked how well did their projects workout in the earlier study that was done (2012).

Mr. Good explained in 2012 they represented the study from a capacity and said that there was adequate capacity in the downtown network to contemplate the lane repurposing and now in 2023, he is sharing the same news with them.

Vice Mayor Moore asked if Council agrees with doing the rest of the study, what does that entail.

Mr. Good stated that it would include accident assessments, crash study assessments, two (2) public workshops, a presentation to MPO and a final presentation to Council.

Mrs. Zudans commented in talking about the revitalization of the master plan will there be a traffic study that will need to happen when doing this.

Mr. Good thought they would have an updated element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Mrs. Zudans asked if they would have to pay more money to do a rezoning and traffic study when they do the master plan for downtown. Mr. Good answered yes.

Mayor Cotugno asked why this couldn't be used for the traffic study for the master plan.

Mr. Good expressed the whole purpose of the study and then what the Planning Director's role is.

Mayor Cotugno said so what he is hearing is that it depends on what the Planning Director defines what this can be used for. Mr. Good would default to staff as to what it could be used for. Mayor Cotugno said that Mr. Good could not default to staff when making one statement and then another statement to a Councilmember. He said if that was going to happen then Mr. Good's original answer should have been defaulted to staff.

Mr. Good expressed that he was not familiar with the land use changes that are being contemplated for downtown. He went over what he was asked to include in the study concerning the downtown zoning district.

Mayor Cotugno told him that is not how he answered the question. Mr. Good said that was his intention.

Mr. Neville felt this was unfair to Mr. Good because he did not come to the meeting this morning to answer questions like the one that was just posed to him. He came here to give the information that relates to State Road 60 and he thanked Mr. Good for an outstanding presentation.

Mr. Falls questioned if it would be safe to say once they determine what the scope would be for any traffic analysis that might be required in the downtown master plan that the data and report that Mr. Good prepared would be complimentary.

Mr. Good said without a doubt and his data is valid for a year.

Vice Mayor Moore said they would not be doing an additional study, but just adding to this study the additional points needed for the downtown vitalization.

Mr. Falls said that is not a question for Mr. Good. He said they need to determine the scope needed for the downtown study. He said if they do it within the next year this data would still be valid. He said this matter needs to move forward at a certain pace to meet FDOT schedule for the upcoming project that will be done regardless of what decision that they make. He said FDOT wants to know from the City what does the City want them to do while they are in the process of resurfacing the road.

Mr. Neville made a motion to proceed with the continued study on the Twin Pairs so they can present it to FDOT in a timely matter. Vice Mayor Moore seconded the motion.

Mr. Tim Poppell read a prepared statement and was not in favor of reducing the lanes. He suggested purchasing a parking lot to give people a place to park.

Ms. Vicky Gould commented that she did not think that downtown has grown at all because of the Twin Pairs. She believes they all want to make downtown a more walkable and safe

place. Also, a place where people can gather and having a highway run right through downtown does not allow that.

Mr. Ken Daige commented that this matter (Twin Pairs) has been talked about forever. All their vision projects have talked about that something needs to be done with the Twin Pairs for the downtown area. He hopes this City Council has the will to move forward. Where ABC Printing is located there are safety issues that need to be looked at and FDOT needs to be made aware of this. He said it is the time for this elected body to do something and move forward on this.

Mayor Cotugno closed public comments at 11:04 a.m.

Mrs. Zudans stated that she has talked to a lot of City and County residents and feels that they are putting the cart before the horse. She said previous Councils' have approved traffic calming and safety measures that could be implemented very quickly. She thinks that not taking into consideration traffic issues that will happen in the downtown area and the surrounding neighborhoods at the same time is terrible. There is going to be an increase in population, there is going to be an increase in traffic and to make these changes now without taking into consideration the increase in population in the County will be detrimental to their taxpaying City residents. She said a better idea is to move forward with traffic calming and the things that the previous City Council approved. It will be 20 years until the next resurfacing is done by FDOT and at that time they will have an actual and better idea of what the traffic is and by then hopefully the downtown master plan will have happened and they will see whether or not there is collateral damage to the outside neighborhoods surrounding this area. They also need to take into consideration the speed limits in the arteries that are connected to downtown and be looking at them.

Vice Mayor Moore expressed that they have heard three (3) times from Kimley-Horn that this is a practical and sensible thing to do. She also said that there was an Urban3 meeting conducted by the MainStreet Director and one of the first things they mentioned was to get rid of the highways going through downtown and narrow the roads. She said that Mr. Bob Gibbs, who is the City's consultant, has said that they need to improve walkability and traffic calming downtown. She said that Mr. Gibbs took a lot of pictures of the downtown area and not one of those pictures were from south of the Twin Pairs. She said whatever experts they consult they will all say narrow the Twin Pairs and this is their chance to do it.

Mr. Neville agreed that the City needs to do this. He said if they don't they will limp along and no matter what kind of downtown study they have it will be a blighted area surrounding those two (2) streets. He said the speed needs to be reduced and they need to narrow the lanes. There needs to be some sort of crossing capability to move from 20th Avenue to 19th Place and maybe someday they might see some children walk to the Freshman Learning Center. If they had a safe route for children to either ride their bikes or walk from the north or the south of town that would be wonderful. He reported that the School Board will not offer school busing within a two mile radius so every parent within the City of Vero Beach within two miles of a school where a child attends has to tote them to school and that is

crazy. He brought up the traffic problem near Beachland Elementary School where the kids are toled to school because they live too close to be picked up by a bus. He liked the idea of painting their sidewalks, which would be an incredible way of guiding children on their bikes from their home to school if there is a way the children would be able to cross the Twin Pairs.

Mrs. Zudans commented that every improvement that the Council has talked about has been previously approved to move forward with except for taking lanes away. She said there are many things that they can still move forward on without taking lanes away.

Mayor Cotugno commented that the Twin Pairs project has kind of been the zombie of Vero Beach. He said this project never seems to die one way or the other. They haven't been able to put a "stake" in it. Then every so many years it shows up again and causes a lot of debate. He appreciated Mrs. Zudans, Mr. Neville and Vice Mayor Moore's position on this. He said that what he believes that they need to do is put a "stake" in this once and for all and decide not what they want to do with the Twin Pairs, but what they want to do with downtown. He said that you cannot try to revitalize downtown without addressing the Twin Pairs. He said what he is most interested in is the second part of the study, which is that they are finally going to get neighborhood input. He said that neighborhood input has varied and having it placed in a public forum where it becomes public record is very important. He said right now they are in the middle of the process and he would like to continue the process understanding that they will be getting community input and it is all part of the downtown revitalization.

The motion passed 3-1 with Mr. Neville voting yes, Mrs. Zudans no, Vice Mayor Moore yes, and Mayor Cotugno yes.

B) Add on Item –

Emergency Purchase Notification – Inspection of Tanks Project Underwater Solutions, Inc., Contract 188-2023, Contract Amount \$58,000, Change Order Amount \$8,572

Mr. Falls reported that he had to authorize an emergency purchase last week. It was for the inspection of tanks project. There was an inspection of the Indian River Shores reuse tank and it was found to have approximately 36" of sludge and debris, which was more than the 6 to 8" that they expected. The cost for the change order was \$8,572.00. He asked Council to please ratify this expenditure that he needed to make.

Vice Mayor Moore made a motion to approve the emergency purchase expense authorized by the City Manager. Mr. Neville seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Falls reported that the Town of Indian River Shores has filed a motion for rehearing regarding their court case. He said that the City has responded back. He also recently told a newspaper reporter that this needs to stop.

Mrs. Zudans referred back to the emergency purchase authorized by the City Manager. She felt that the threshold in which the City Manager is allowed to spend without bringing the matter to Council needs to be looked at.

Mr. Falls said that he would sit down with the Finance Director to discuss it and bring something back to Council.

10. CITY ATTORNEY MATTERS

Mr. Turner also reported that Indian River Shores has filed a motion for a “do over” before the Supreme Court. The City will file their responses this week and he will keep Council updated.

11. COUNCILMEMBER MATTERS

A. Mayor Cotugno’s Matters

Mayor Cotugno commented that he was honored to give the keynote address at the grand opening of the Tangelo house last Saturday. The work that was done on this home is great for their heritage of Vero Beach. He also attended the Vietnam Veterans Golf Tournament on Saturday.

Mayor Cotugno asked the City Manager to look at House Bill 1379 and Senate Bill 1632 to see what kind of impact that this will have on the Water and Sewer Department’s budget.

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

- 1) Mr. Barry Barker with Bike Walk Indian River County will speak on the outline work that Bike Walk Indian River County does as a non-profit advocacy group representing cyclists and pedestrians and how they provide bicycles to the transportation disadvantaged members of the Vero Beach Community.**

Mr. Barry Barker commented that he got involved with Bike Walk Indian River County about seven (7) years ago when it first started. It is a non-profit agency that tries to provide a safer environment for cyclists in Indian River County. They work closely with MPO and FDOT to make this area a safer place. Because of their work with MPO and FDOT they have achieved a few things, but he said it is a slow process in working with these two (2) groups. They have been able to get new signage letting people know that there are bicyclists in the area. They also have a bike rehabilitation plan to provide bikes to people who need them and cannot afford a car. He said that 43% of Indian River County is transportation disadvantaged. What happens is people from the community donate bikes to them and they access the bikes when they come in and see if they can rehab the bike. He said there is a process that people have to go through before a bike is given to them. Last year they were able to distribute 362 bikes to needy people in the community. They also try to educate bicyclists and motorists to prevent accidents. He said that he will send

the Clerk a Power Point presentation that he originally thought he would share with Council today.

B. Vice Mayor Moore's Matters

Vice Mayor Moore stated that she would be meeting with the Board of Directors for the Arts Village this week to determine areas where they might want to have the mural at. She will keep Council updated on their progress.

C. Councilmember Zudans's Matters

Mrs. Zudans reminded the public about this year's July Fourth event. She also reported that the City Council will be holding their budget hearings on July 17th and July 18th this year beginning at 9:00 a.m. She hoped that a tax increase would not be necessary, especially since they have been told they will receive a 12% increase in property taxes this year.

Mrs. Zudans mentioned that she felt after the discussion they had with the Power Squadron at their last meeting that they need to be looking at the leases that they have on City buildings and their tenants. She said they basically don't charge any rent and don't know the value of their assets. They need to be evaluating this and doing a better job holding their tenants accountable for their buildings. They also need to make sure that the tenants are taking care of the buildings.

D. Councilmember Carroll's Matters

Mr. Carroll was absent from today's meeting.

E. Councilmember Neville's Matters

Mr. Neville brought up for consideration changing the speed limit in City residential areas from 25 miles per hour (mph) to 20 mph. He said that this stimulated from a person that resides on Camila Lane. After doing some research, he found out that the State does not allow Police Departments to give tickets unless someone is going five (5) miles or more above the speed limit. So now someone has to be going 30 mph before they are given a ticket. He said that this was just a thought to consider for another time.

Mrs. Zudans requested hearing from the Police Chief before they do anything with the speed limit.

Mr. Neville showed pictures of the wonderful experience that he had when visiting the Tangelo house on Saturday. He said that the property owners did a wonderful job redoing that old building (pictures attached to the original minutes).

Mr. Neville showed a picture of the paving that was used at that home and encouraged the Planning Director and City Manager to consider using permeable paving.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

/tb