

MARINE COMMISSION MINUTES
Monday, August 5, 2019 – 9:30 a.m.
City Hall, Council Chambers, Vero Beach, Florida

PRESENT: Chairman, Bill Johnson; Vice Chairman, Brian Cunningham; Members: Clinton Lanier, William Walker, Alternate Member #1, Ben Trautman and Alternate Member #2, Robert Snyder **Also Present:** Marina Director, Sean Collins; City Attorney, John Turner and Deputy City Clerk, Sherri Philo

Excused Absence: Daniel Thomas

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called today's meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and the Deputy City Clerk performed the roll call.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) May 30, 2019

Mr. Trautman made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 30, 2019 Marine Commission meeting. Mr. Walker seconded the motion.

Mr. Johnson said when he was asked to serve as Chairman of the Marine Commission, Mr. Walker brought up his absences from previous meetings. Mr. Johnson said that he had this looked into and he had four (4) excused absences and one (1) unexcused absence, which was a meeting that he forgot about. He said that Mr. Walker had the same amount of absences.

Mr. Walker apologized. He explained that he felt the Chairman of the Commission should be present for all their meetings. He noted that he did vote for Mr. Johnson to serve as their Chairman.

The motion passed unanimously to approve the minutes.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Arthur Tilley (spelling may be incorrect) said that he lives across the street from the Marina and is present for today's meeting because he wants to stay current on what is going on there.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A) Follow up on the Derelict Vessels in the City Limits

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Turner if he has previous experience with Marinas.

Mr. John Turner, City Attorney, reported that previously he was employed with the Town of Fort Myers Beach, which has a large Marina with mooring fields. He said they have experienced many problems with derelict vessels as to what to do with them, how to get rid of them, who is to pay for it, etc. He said it is an involved process and is not easy.

Mr. Johnson said there are two (2) derelict vessels that are located south of the 17th Street Bridge that are in horrible condition.

Mr. Turner reported that Lee County instituted a program a couple years ago because they had derelict vessels in many parts of the County and they eventually made it to Fort Myers Beach to address some of the major ones there. He said that the Marina Director can contact his office and they can report back to this Commission or to the City Council.

Mr. Cunningham said there were two (2) issues. He said there is one (1) derelict vessel that is located just north of the Barber Bridge and then there are two (2) vessels located south of the 17th Street bridge that he was not sure if they were technically derelict vessels in that he thinks people are living on them. He asked if they could legally anchor there if they are living aboard.

Mr. Walker asked Mr. Turner what rules and regulations did they use when they addressed this in Ft. Myers Beach.

Mr. Turner said they used the State Statute, as well as their local Ordinances. He noted that they mainly relied on the State Statute for removal of the boats.

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Turner to work with the Marina Director on this and to report back to the Commission.

Mr. Turner was asked to bring back before the Commission examples of the regulations that Ft. Myers Beach used.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A) Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast, Inc. – Mrs. Michelle Miller

Mr. Johnson reported that Mrs. Michelle Miller was unable to attend today's meeting so this item will be heard at the next Marine Commission meeting.

6. MARINA DIRECTOR'S MATTERS

A) Report on the City Budget Hearings

Mr. Johnson said the Marina proposal was on the City Council meeting in July, but that item was pulled from the agenda because they did not have the information that they wanted to express to the public.

Mr. Sean Collins, Marina Director, explained that when Coastal Tech made their presentation to the Marine Commission it was very lengthy so they wanted to get the same information to the City Council, but in a shortened presentation. He reported that the presentation would be going before the City Council at their September 3rd meeting.

Mr. Johnson said there is a lot of information that will be on the City Council agenda and this presentation will be heard close to the end so anyone on the Commission who is going to attend does not need to be there at the beginning of the meeting. He said the Marina was built in the 1970's and has not changed much since then and it really needs some massive improvements. He said as a Commission they look at this as being a valuable asset to the City of Vero Beach, as well as for property owners in terms of improving property values. He said the Commission's agenda is try to push this forward and improve the Marina, which will improve the overall value of Vero Beach as a destination place and it will add value to homeowners and businesses.

Mr. Collins gave a brief report on the Marina budget. He reported that he chose to focus on the existing structures at the Marina; the bathrooms, the laundry facilities, etc., this next year.

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

Mr. Johnson felt it was important for the Commission members to attend the September 3, 2019 City Council meeting for support to get approval to move forward with the Marina improvements. He asked if it was possible to have the Marina budget available to the Commission members so they are aware of where they are for the year. He said the Commission members did receive this information in the past.

Mr. Cunningham explained that the last Marina Director would send the Commission members a weekly report on the gallons of gas that was sold, the number of moorings rented, the number of slips rented, etc.

Mr. Collins said that he has been continually doing these reports for the City Manager and he will start sending them to the Commission members.

Mr. Johnson asked for an update on the forklift.

Mr. Collins said they made some repairs to the forklift, which improved its lifespan.

Mr. Johnson said about \$3.2 million went towards paying off the loan of the Marina, which frees up about \$338,000 annually. He asked is this funding being used up quickly.

Mr. Collins said that he has been holding back and just taking care of repairs as things happen because they want to get the Master Plan done and find out what they want to do with the Marina.

Mr. Johnson asked can the City Council use these funds for other things.

Mr. Turner answered yes.

Mr. Johnson asked how can they protect these funds.

Mr. Turner said he was not sure if “how to protect it” was the way it should be phrased. It is more of how can they work with the City Council to express the importance of the projects needed.

8. MEMBER’S MATTERS

None

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) Set Date for Next Marine Commission Meeting

The next Marine Commission meeting date is set for October 15, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in the City Hall, Council Chambers.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Today’s meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

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