

**CITY OF VERO BEACH, FLORIDA
SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 5:30 P.M.
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA**

Reverend Terry Thompson of Gates of Praise Church of God gave the invocation.

PRESENT: John Cotugno, Mayor; Linda Moore, Vice Mayor; Tracey Zudans, Councilmember; John Carroll, Councilmember; 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 – September 12, 2023

Vice Mayor Moore made a motion to approve the regular minutes of September 12, 2023. Mr. Neville seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. Special Call City Council Minutes – September 12, 2023

Mr. Neville made a motion to approve the Special Call minutes of September 12, 2023. Vice Mayor Moore seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Special Call City Council/Workshop Minutes – September 14, 2023

Mr. Carroll made a motion to approve the Special Call minutes of September 14, 2023. Mrs. Zudans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A. Agenda Additions, Deletions, and Adoption.

The City Clerk removed from the agenda item 10-A) “Pocahontas Park Improvement Project Agreement.”

Mayor Cotugno brought up tabling item 4B-2) renaming of the Parks, but there were some comments that other Councilmembers wished to make concerning this Resolution. It will be discussed at that point in the meeting.

Vice Mayor Moore made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Proclamations and recognitions by Council.

3. CONSENT AGENDA (include amount of expense)

A) Disbursement of JAGC Program Funds (\$12,799.00)

B) West Building Contractor Final Payment for Contract 182-2023 (\$8,938.19)

Vice Mayor Moore made a motion to adopt the consent agenda. Mrs. Zudans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A) ORDINANCES

1) An Ordinance of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, Amending the Land Development Regulations by Amending Chapter 62, Article I, P-1 and P-2 Park Districts; Article II, POI Professional, Office, and Institutional District; and Article III, Commercial Districts, to Revise the Permitted Principal, Accessory and Temporary Uses, Revise the Accessory Structures, and Clarify the Development Standards for the Park, Conservation, Office, Institutional, and Commercial Zoning Districts; Amending Section 62.503, Permitted and Prohibited Uses, to Revise the Permitted Uses for the Ocean Drive/Cardinal Drive Overlay District; Changing the Heading of Chapter 60 (Appendix) to Chapter 60, Article IV, Definitions; Amending Chapter 60, Article IV, Definitions; Amending Chapter 60, Article IV, Definitions, to Amend, Delete or Add Use Definitions; Providing for Term Capitalization; Providing for Codification; Providing for Conflict and Severability; Providing for Correction of Scrivener's Errors; and Providing for an Effective Date.

The City Clerk read the Ordinance by title only.

Mr. Jason Jeffries, Planning Director, stated that this is the second and final public hearing on this Ordinance. At the September 12, 2023, City Council meeting when this Ordinance was first heard he presented staff's findings and updated the Ordinance with the changes that Council asked to be made.

Mr. Carroll referred to page 22, lines 14 and 15, where it talks about prohibited façade materials. He showed a picture (attached to the original minutes) of a metal façade and

metal awning that is popular now. He asked that they at least allow metal materials to be approved at the Planning Director's discretion.

Mr. Neville felt that the building looked industrial and he would not like to see something like that in their downtown area. He said it would be more appropriate on US1 or maybe they could find a zoning district that would be more reasonable.

Mayor Cotugno asked Mr. Jeffries if they adopt the Code with this façade capability would there be a way someone could apply to be able to do it.

Mr. Jeffries explained that with the way it is written in their Code the person could make an appeal to the Architectural Review Committee. He explained what is being used today is metal and more of an accent material. He said they could insert language to allow it at the Planning Director's discretion if that is what Council would like to suggest.

Mrs. Zudans agreed with that language. She did not want to discount any of these materials because visually they can be appealing if they are done right. She said some of these materials are not just aesthetic, but structurally sound and good material to use in Florida.

Mr. Jeffries explained nothing in the Ordinance would prohibit someone from using steel for structural elements.

Mayor Cotugno asked that when looking at the downtown master plan could they include something to say it is excluded in that area.

Mr. Jeffries explained that nothing here applies to downtown. He said this would be for their commercial districts.

Mr. Neville felt that the Planning and Zoning Board should have a vote on this as well.

Mr. Jeffries expressed that this was getting a little too complicated. He said if this is included in a site plan then the Planning and Zoning Board would see it. He said when it is a minor site plan then it would be at the Planning Director's discretion.

Mr. Carroll was fine with this. He said he just wants to make sure that it is not being prohibited.

Mr. Falls referred to page 22, (2) *Prohibited façade materials*.

Mr. Jeffries explained that is in the POI zoning regulations and what they are talking about now is commercial.

Mr. Jeffries stated on page 53, (5) *Prohibited façade materials*. It would now read: "*The following materials are prohibited as exterior cladding on buildings over 200 sf, except where used as accent material.*"

Mr. Carroll said on page 53 it looks like under building designs paragraph (c) that the whole section was deleted.

Mr. Jeffries explained that he did revise this. He noticed when they were talking and looking at it the formatting was not right so he made it consistent with everything else.

Mr. Carroll said on page 53 there was a reference to a house in the commercial section.

Mr. Jeffries said that was part of the scrivener's errors.

Mr. Carroll referred to page 48, line 8, where it refers to accessory buildings and the structures table. He asked if there was clarification on whether accessory buildings could be constructed simultaneously.

Mr. Jeffries explained that was another scrivener's error that he included in the next Ordinance that they will be discussing. He said it has been clarified.

Mr. Carroll referred to page 36, lines 30-31. He said there is a lot of other roofing materials out there including solar panels made by Tesla. He suggested including in this paragraph, other similar materials as approved by the Planning Director.

Mayor Cotugno opened and closed the public hearing at 5:51 p.m., with no one wishing to be heard.

Vice Mayor Moore made a motion to approve the Ordinance with the modifications made by Council. They are on page 36, section 62.19, (3)(a) it would add a phrase material as approved. That same language would be repeated on page 53 in section 62.39 for the commercial districts. On page 53, section 62.29 3 (a) then in 62.29 C (5) they will add the language accent material. Mrs. Zudans seconded the motion and it passed 5-0 with Mr. Neville voting yes, Mr. Carroll yes, Mrs. Zudans yes, Vice Mayor Moore yes, and Mayor Cotugno yes.

- 2) An Ordinance of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, Amending the Land Development Regulations by Amending Chapter 67 to Rename the Chapter Title to Use Specific Standards and Add Specific Standards for Permitted, Accessory, and Temporary Uses and Structures; Deleting Chapter 31, Boats and Waterways; Deleting Chapter 38, Article II, Satellite Dish Antennas; Deleting Section 64.13, Home Occupation; Deleting Section 64.14, Community Gardens; and Deleting Chapter 78, Dog-Friendly Dining, to move Accessory Use and Structure Standards to Chapter 67; Amending Section 64.10, Site Plan Review Standards and Conditions to Move Accessory Use Standards to Chapter 67; Providing for Term Capitalization; Providing for Codification; Providing for Conflict and Severability; Providing for Correction of Scrivener's Errors; and Providing for an Effective Date.**

The City Clerk read the Ordinance by title only.

Mr. Jeffries presented staff's findings on this Ordinance at the September 12, 2023, City Council meeting. He handed out to Council a page that included some more changes that were made to the Ordinance. They were on page 37, (b) where it talks about the permit required. It now reads "*A commercial establishment must obtain a permit from the City before establishing a beach service area. The beach service area application shall be on a form prescribed by the Planning Director that provides written and graphic documentation demonstrating compliance with the criteria of this section, as outlined in Sec. 67.13(c)(5)c and reviewed pursuant to Sec. 64.05. The permit must be renewed each calendar year.*" Then on that same page xi now reads "*During turtle season, March 1st through October 31st, beach service area equipment shall not be placed in a marked sea turtle nest and any holes from beach area equipment that can trap or disorient sea turtles shall be filled to limit disruption to turtle nesting activity.*"

Mr. Carroll referred to page 26, line 4, (a) and said that "should" needs to be "shall." He said on page 28, lines 25 and 26, it clarified boarding or breeding of animals at the veterinary's office.

Mr. Carroll asked Vice Mayor Moore if restaurants were allowed to sell alcohol to go. Vice Mayor Moore said no and explained that was only allowed during Covid.

Mayor Cotugno opened and closed the public hearing at 6:01 p.m., with no one wishing to be heard.

Vice Mayor Moore made a motion to approve the Ordinance with scrivener's corrections and the additional page 37 with the highlighted areas Exhibit A-2). Mr. Carroll seconded the motion and it passed 5-0 with Mr. Neville voting yes, Mr. Carroll yes, Mrs. Zudans yes, Vice Mayor Moore yes, and Mayor Cotugno yes.

- 3) An Ordinance of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, Amending the Land Development Regulations by Amending Chapter 60, Article I, General Provisions, to Clarify General Provisions related to the Land Development Regulations; creating Chapter 60, Article III, Interpretation, to add Rules for Interpreting the Land Development Regulations; Deleting Section 34.08, Boardinghouses, to move the use prohibition to Chapter 60; Providing for Term Capitalization; Providing for Codification; Providing for Conflict and Severability; Providing for Correction of Scrivener's Errors; and Providing for an Effective Date.**

The City Clerk read the Ordinance by title only.

Mr. Jeffries reported that there have been some changes made to this Ordinance that have been incorporated in the Ordinance. It was read for first reading on August 30, 2023 and he presented staff's findings on September 12, 2023.

Mayor Cotugno opened and closed the public hearing at 6:03 p.m., with no one wishing to be heard.

Vice Mayor Moore made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Mrs. Zudans seconded the motion and it passed 5-0 with Mr. Neville voting yes, Mr. Carroll yes, Mrs. Zudans yes, Vice Mayor Moore yes, and Mayor Cotugno yes.

- 4) An Ordinance of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, Amending the Land Development Regulations by Amending Section 63.04, Parking Ratios, to Revise the Parking Ratios for allowed uses; Providing for Term Capitalization; Providing for Codification; Providing for Conflict and Severability; Providing for Correction of Scrivener's Errors; and Providing for an Effective Date.**

The City Clerk read the Ordinance by title only.

Mr. Jeffries reported that this Ordinance was read for first reading at the August 30, 2023, City Council meeting and he presented his findings at the September 12, 2023 meeting.

Mayor Cotugno opened and closed the public hearing at 6:04 p.m., with no one wishing to be heard.

Mr. Carroll made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Mayor Cotugno seconded the motion and it passed 5-0 with Mr. Neville voting yes, Mr. Carroll yes, Mrs. Zudans yes, Vice Mayor Moore yes, and Mayor Cotugno yes.

- 5) An Ordinance of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, Amending the Land Development Regulations by creating Section 64.13, Conditional Use Review, to Consolidate Review Procedures for Conditional Uses; Providing for Term Capitalization; Providing for Codification; Providing for Conflict and Severability; Providing for Correction of Scrivener's Errors; and Providing for an Effective Date.**

The City Clerk read the Ordinance by title only.

Mr. Jeffries reported that he presented his findings on this Ordinance at the September 12, 2023 City Council meeting. This Ordinance clarifies the procedures for conditional uses.

Mayor Cotugno opened and closed the public hearing at 6:06 p.m., with no one wishing to be heard.

Vice Mayor Moore made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Mr. Neville seconded the motion and it passed 5-0 with Mr. Neville voting yes, Mr. Carroll 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, Relating to City of Vero Beach Municipal Marina Rates and Fees; Repealing Resolution 2021-07 and Adopting Updated Rates and Fees; Providing for an Effective Date.

The City Clerk read the Resolution by title only.

Mr. Monte Falls, City Manager, reported that the Marine Commission reviewed the Resolution at their Special Call meeting yesterday and did not make any adjustments. They also agreed to have an annual review of the rates at their June meeting and bring their recommendations to Council for review.

Mayor Cotugno opened and closed the public hearing at 6:07 p.m., with no one wishing to be heard.

Mr. Neville made a motion to approve the Resolution. Mrs. Zudans seconded the motion and it passed 5-0 with Mr. Neville voting yes, Mr. Carroll 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, Establishing Policies and Procedures Relating to the Naming or Renaming of Public Parks, Public Recreation Facilities, Public Buildings, and Structures; Maintenance of Structures by Donors; Repealing any conflicting policies; and Providing for an Effective Date.

The City Clerk read the Resolution by title only.

Mr. John Turner, City Attorney, reported that he brought this Resolution back at the direction of Council. He just needs to know how Council would like to proceed.

Mr. Neville suggested having a workshop so they could all sit down and sort things out concerning renaming of their properties. He asked that once a new Resolution is drafted that it be sent to the City Council giving them time to go through the Resolution and they would send their comments back to the City Attorney. He doesn't think that it needs to be back on the agenda until they have had time to review it.

Mrs. Zudans felt that the Resolution needed to be tabled for now and that all renaming of any buildings or Parks comes to the City Council. She said they are in the process of doing the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Three Corners project and she doesn't want by having a Resolution in place to impede them in having success with the Three Corners project. She said for right now whether or not it is to honor live or deceased people that the matter is brought directly to City Council and that they don't do the Resolution at this time.

Mayor Cotugno agreed. He said if they just state naming of any public facility is at the sole discretion of City Council then they have covered all basis. If future City Councils' have any issues then they can discuss them at that time.

Mr. Neville commented that the City has 17,000 people that are a part of their community and they have a right and expectation in having some input of the naming of property. He feels that they need to be careful about doing this. He thinks it is important when they name something that it lasts and is meaningful. He showed a packet put together by the City Clerk's office on how many of their Parks got their names. He said what he is in favor of doing when this Resolution comes up is entering into it a pending description of the Park and why it was named that at the time it was done. That way 30 years from now when someone is asking why a particular piece of land was named they will have the document to refer to.

Mayor Cotugno expressed when someone is petitioning naming a Park they have to give a description of why. He said by making it at full discretion of City Council there would be documentation. This Council has corrected some oversights that past Councils have had, for whatever reason. With this matter they have streamlined it, gave it to the full discretion of City Council and hopefully the full description of why something is being named should be in the minutes.

Mr. Neville would like to see the description in the Resolution itself.

Mr. Turner said he would not be bringing the Resolution back unless Council instructs him to do so.

Mr. Neville felt that there needed to be some guidance and policy. He went over how Piece o' Pie Park was named, which was named by elementary students. He felt that they needed to be careful in this process. He said with the Three Corners property they don't want to do something that they might ultimately regret.

Mr. Turner commented that this particular Resolution may be some general framework on how they would want to proceed. The Resolution needs input from each Councilmember, with the idea being the City Council is the ultimate authority on the naming. He said there should be a process on how someone can present an application to City Council. He said someone would complete an application to be filed with the Clerk's office and then it would be put on the agenda for City Council's review.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT (3-minute time limit)

Mr. Ken Daige was curious of changing the Park name if it is included in their Charter. The City Attorney felt this was a good question and said he would look into it.

6. CITY COUNCIL MATTERS

A) NEW BUSINESS

B) OLD BUSINESS

A) Discussion of the funding for the WWII pilings on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary – Requested by Mayor John Cotugno

Mayor Cotugno mentioned that they have had a discussion about this. He said not only the sacrifice of their World War II veterans need to be honored, the Island itself has been a great asset to their City. It is a meeting place for the entire County. It has placed a positive focus on their City and given them well deserved recognition that they give their veterans. He said that veterans who have sacrificed their lives for our Country sometimes goes unnoticed and under recognized and now they will be recognized with this World War II Memorial. He requested that they invest in this by taking money from the Capital Fund and making a capital contribution to this memorial.

Mrs. Zudans commented that she sits as a civilian on the Indian River County Veterans Council. She has watched the veterans in their community benefit from what the council does and she has been able to meet a lot of the veterans. She thinks the memorial is fantastic. She spoke and agreed with the Mayor that the Island is the whole County. The City's population is 17,000 and the County is much larger and also participates when events occur on the Island. She noted this was also a nonprofit endeavor as well. She said before the City gives money to this she would like to see all other avenues of monies exhausted including asking the County for money as well. She feels that the County should be participating. She would like to see them reach out to some of the bigger corporations in their community asking for help. She has done extensive work in this community in the nonprofit world and would be more than happy to meet with Tribute Team and help, but she would like to see them look at all of these alternatives before the City has to spend money.

Mr. Neville commented that there are two aspects of the presentation that they heard. There was an emotional appeal, however this is a business decision and these things have to be separated. He does not want to hurt anyone's feelings, but he has not seen a cost estimate for this project to understand how this project is being done. The City deserves to have financials identified. He believes that the 170,000 people that are a part of the County including them would like to have some of their hard earned taxes support this effort. He suggested when they have their joint meeting with the County they might propose that as a suggestion. This way the County would have an opportunity to participate. He said the original bridge was built partially from funding with the County, because the City could never have done that on their own. They are funding the replacement of the bridge now regrettably because times have changed. He said lets consider discussing this at their joint meeting with the County asking for their support of Memorial Island. He thought that maybe the County would like to participate because this is a County Island and they are always present when events are held on the Island.

Vice Mayor Moore agreed with the comments made by Mrs. Zudans and Mr. Neville. She said the County did split the cost of the bridge with the City when it was first built and they

are not contributing anything to the bridge this time. She said they should go after County funds and get them to participate in this. She also feels like at the end of the day she is not going to let the veterans get so close to the finish line that they have to let the project die.

Mr. Neville did not see where there was a big problem here. He said there are donors who will pony up and contribute. However, because there is very little reporting that takes place, the community is not aware of what is going on.

Mayor Cotugno commented that they were looking at this out of rosie glasses and not what has happened in the past. In the past the County refuses to address issues with them, such as the bed tax. He said this would not be a donation without an agreement. The City gave \$1 million to the School Department to begin a playground and community complex. They asked them for accountability. They put a document together that provides for accountability and the fact that they would not invest that money unless that money was accounted for. What they are asking for here is a small contribution in order to honor their veterans. He said there are a lot of things being looked at after the City of Sebastain had their joint meeting with Indian River County, but there was no specific action from the County to get any funding. He said by going back to the County they are just kicking this can down the road.

Mrs. Zudans offered her services because she has done a lot of nonprofit work. She wanted an opportunity to help them outside of City Council. She asked to meet with them and to see where there donors are and who they haven't hit and maybe she could introduce them to some different people. She said if that doesn't work then they could bring it back to City Council. She said if the last resort is that the City needs to invest money that would be the time to talk about it. She wanted to have the opportunity to see if they could get it funded privately first.

Vice Mayor Moore questioned if there was some sort of timing issue for the Island and these funds are needed immediately.

Mr. Tony Young stated that this project has been a priority for over a year for the community. He expressed his gratitude on what the City has done in support of Memorial Island. He has reached out to the County and reached out to the community at large. He then introduced the members of the Tribute Team and most of them were present at tonight's meeting. He said that he spent several hours this afternoon trying to examine the way that they asked for funding for this project. He feels they have reached out to the community. They have spoken to several of the area clubs and this community has been apprised of this since the beginning. He thanked City staff and the Council for supporting them with this project. There have been 12 charities who have donated and 300 private individuals who have come forward. He told Mrs. Zudans if she knows of other people who might be willing to support them that would be great. In addition, 11 businesses have donated indirectly to support this and 12 businesses have donated in-kind donations to the amount of \$35,000. He did not want to appear as being ungrateful to Council because this would not happen without them. He expects the bridge to be completed in December and then have a ground breaking ceremony in January. He mentioned that a lot of the work

being done for the monument has been free. He was just before them tonight requesting for assistance with this. He was waiting for his contract to come back from the engineer, which will give them a specific cost of how much is still needed.

Vice Mayor Moore asked Mr. Young if the County told him that they will not help.

Mr. Young said negative. He has gone to the County and the information that he has received back is they are supportive.

Vice Mayor Moore felt if they get close to the finish line then the City should help them get to the end if they need to.

Mr. Neville asked Mr. Young when they planned to break ground.

Mr. Young hoped that the groundbreaking ceremony would take place in January.

Mr. Neville asked Mr. Young when he will know what the cost is going to be.

Mr. Young said when he gets the scope of work from the engineer doing the project.

Mr. Neville asked if they were the choice of last resort. He said if they have no other donors that are willing to participate in this then they are asking the City to fill in the difference, which is where they are.

Mayor Cotugno commented that was not a fair characterization. He said when the School Department came to them and asked for a donation and the City gave them \$1 million and it was not as far along as this project is. The City was the first to contribute to the project. To say the last resort is an unfair characterization. They are looking for the City to participate. They have a need and the City should make a decision as to whether or not they want to help them with their need.

Vice Mayor Moore commented that when they gave the \$1 million to the School Department that project was estimated to be at \$8 million. The City knew how much they needed. She would be happy to help with this project, but needs to know what they need from the City.

Mr. Young explained the request for assistance was not predicated on the fact they were in a position of dire circumstances. It was a request that they saw a proposal for that would allow the City to support in saying they stand behind the veterans and the Tribute Team. He said this project will happen. He is just looking to the City Council for a jester that says yes for this memorial, which they will own and is worthy of their contributions.

Mrs. Zudans felt that the School Department and the contribution of the \$1 million is a different situation. There are two government entities that are collaborating together on a project. She brought up the Rowing Club who raised all of the funds for their building and they are in the same situation where the City allowed them to have the property and that

asset will come back to the City at some point if the lease ends in any way. For her to say she is going to use someone's tax dollars for a nonprofit without getting their consent would not be right.

Mr. Young said the money is not being given to a nonprofit. It is being given to the City of Vero Beach. It is a return on an investment.

Mrs. Zudans asked if they were financing this. Is the money coming to the City and then the City is giving the money back to pay for the work.

Mr. Young said that was not the way it was being handled.

Mrs. Zudans suggested giving the citizens more time to help with the funding then having the City come up with the money.

Mr. Young appreciated the Council and their support. He said this is an opportunity to share what's going on with the Tribute.

Mr. Neville recalled that Mr. Young was before them some months ago requesting funding because of the pilings that were now needed and he felt that there was going to be a deficit in funding because of that. He thought that was the request for funding, but things have been turned around to just a jester on the part of the City. He needs to know what the cost is and what their balance sheet looks like and have the architect explain to them why the structure is so heavy.

Mr. Carroll commented that he just heard Mr. Young say for the first time, which surprised him that they have the budget for repairs, but now he is indicating that Mr. Bill Bryant, Contractor, has not given him an estimate for the entire project, which makes him wonder with the bids the City is receiving on some of their projects how much more is the project going to cost.

Mr. Young explained that they have the architectural plans completed and the City has approved the plans that go to the County. He will provide them with more information as soon as he receives it from Mr. Bill Bryant.

Mrs. Bethany Fortunato stated that as to the nonprofit this isn't going to a nonprofit. She said a nonprofit is sponsoring it and managing the funds being held who is the Cultural Council because the Tribute Teams nonprofit status would not allow them to hold those funds. The nonprofit is taking it on as a project, but ultimately this will be the City's monument. She agrees the County should also contribute to the project and under the new administration she thinks that will happen. She reiterated it was not going to a nonprofit they are just taking a leadership role in making this happen.

Mrs. Zudans stated that the process they are going through is the same process that the Words from War Monument went through. She thinks there are a lot of people out there who want to support the monument.

Mrs. Fortunato expressed that they are still in the process of fundraising. She said they would like to have the City participate in some level because ultimately this will be their jewel in the middle of the Island.

Coronel Carroll thanked Council for the support they have given them. He said the Island is a gem, but it is missing a World War II monument.

Mr. Neville wondered if the City could help with donating some trees and landscaping. Mr. Young said the community of Indian River County will cover those costs.

Mr. Ken Daige noted that under Old Business on the agenda the request is listed for funding for pilings. He wanted to know how much is needed for the pilings, which is listed on the agenda. He said there has never been a problem with taking care of the Island. He asked the Team to let the community know how much is still needed to complete the project. He said there is new leadership at the County and they may be open to helping. Also, there may be other donors in the community not aware of this.

Mayor Cotugno said based on the comments he has heard tonight he is going to make a motion to table this matter. He urged the Tribute Team to approach each Councilperson individually and outline to them exactly what they're asking for from the piling standpoint and what they are planning to do on the Island. They will bring it up at a future time.

Mayor Cotugno made a motion to table this matter for a future discussion. Vice Mayor Moore seconded the motion and it passed 5-0 with Mr. Neville voting yes, Mr. Carroll yes, Mrs. Zudans yes, Vice Mayor Moore yes, and Mayor Cotugno yes.

B) Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council Meeting – Comments regarding increased property insurance premiums. – Requested by Councilmember John Carroll

Mr. Carroll commented that he brought the matter up concerning the increase of insurance premiums for Airport tenants at the last Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council meeting. He said amazingly enough there were only two (2) other jurisdictions dealing with this problem. He said that many of the government agencies don't have a lot of buildings.

Mr. Falls explained that staff is reaching out to other airports on how they are handling their leases and will present this information once it has been completed.

C) Discussion of the Proposed Agenda for the October 5, 2023 Neighborhood Meeting regarding the SR 60 (Twin Pairs) Kimley-horn Engineering Evaluation – Requested by Councilmember John Carroll

Mr. Carroll prepared a preliminary agenda for the meeting to be held on October 8th to discuss SR60/Twin Pairs. Council liked the agenda as outlined.

Mr. Carroll said he wanted to make sure that everyone gets as much information concerning this project as they possibly can.

Vice Mayor Moore mentioned that a lot of people are visual, so she suggested having drawings of what the roads will look like surrounded by trees and buildings, etc.

Mr. Falls said that they would have some of that information available, maybe not as elaborate as Vice Mayor Moore would like to have. He said there would be an introduction and then if any Councilmembers wished to speak at the meeting to let him know so he can add their names to the agenda. Both Mr. Carroll and Mrs. Zudans said that they would like to make some comments.

Mayor Cotugno asked whose meeting is this.

Mr. Falls explained it is a meeting for the City of Vero Beach to meet with the public.

7. PUBLIC NOTICE ITEMS FOR FUTURE PUBLIC HEARING

8. CITY CLERK MATTERS

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

A) Joint Meeting – City of Vero Beach and Indian River County

Mr. Falls asked Council to bring any items to their next meeting that they would like to be discussed at the Joint City/County meeting. Then they will narrow the list down at that meeting. He showed what the agenda looked like for the Joint Sebastian/Indian River County meeting that was recently held.

Mrs. Zudans reported that she attended the meeting and it was very well done, with a lot of people attending and some good discussions took place. She said the biggest topic that they discussed was the sewer/septic situation.

Mr. Falls gave an update on Seaside Grill and said that they are calling for their final inspection on Friday so they are getting closer to opening the restaurant.

10. CITY ATTORNEY MATTERS

A) Pocahontas Park Improvement Project Agreement

This item was removed from the agenda.

11. COUNCILMEMBER MATTERS

A. Mayor Cotugno's Matters

Mayor Cotugno reported that he attended Janet Bagley's funeral, which was held at McKee Gardens. He participated in the Taxpayer's Association forum held at the IG Center on Friday night. He reminded Council that on October 2, 2023, the Legislative Delegation meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. at the Indian River County Administration Building. On October 7th the Youth Sailing Foundation will be holding their open house and everyone is invited to attend. Also the Special Olympics will be held on October 7th at 7:30 p.m. at the IG Center.

B. Vice Mayor Moore's Matters

Vice Mayor Moore gave a Power Point presentation on Christmas Decorations. She said that they have always put their decorations on utility poles and had them lit when the City owned the poles. Now that Florida Power and Light owns the poles they will not lite them with the decorations there so their money is not being put to the best use for these decorations. She suggested taking the money that they would use for the decorations on the poles and use it towards purchasing lighting for downtown and letting someone else handle it, such as MainStreet.

Mr. Matt Haynes, Executive Director for MainStreet, said that he would like to see the redirection of how some of this money is allocated and made even to what downtown is receiving. He said that MainStreet would be happy to own it and manage it.

Vice Mayor Moore added that the City doesn't have the employees to put those lights up. She also wanted to see the businesses downtown getting involved.

Mr. Falls explained the City has always allocated a certain amount of money to Downtown, Royal Palm Pointe, Miracle Mile and Ocean Drive for Christmas decorations. He said if the downtown area wants the City to allocate the money being spent on lighting to them and they will take on the task of handling it that is fine with him.

Vice Mayor Moore suggested trying it this year to see how it works.

Mr. Falls said that they are working on updating the MainStreet agreement and will now include a section for the Christmas lights in the agreement.

C. Councilmember Zudans's Matters

Mrs. Zudans announced that Mr. T.P. Kennedy will now be serving as her appointee on the Planning and Zoning Board.

D. Councilmember Carroll's Matters

Mr. Carroll showed a picture (attached to the original minutes) of a Theater in Athens, Georgia, and said that he would love to see the Downtown Theater look like that.

E. Councilmember Neville's Matters

Mr. Neville commented that it disturbs him when he sees some of their residents building swimming pools set five feet from their back and side yards and they have to destroy a tree in order to do so. He said the estimated growth rate for a Live Oak Tree is 31 inches and there is a tree that is over 100 years old. He begged their residents who insist on having st. augustine grass everywhere to not trim their trees where they don't look like trees anymore. He knows that their neighbors are enjoying the shade that those trees provide. He sees these trees being cut down faster than they are growing and sooner or later there will not be any trees. He just encouraged their residents to be careful in how they are managing their trees.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Tonight's meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

/tb