

**CITY OF VERO BEACH, FLORIDA
NOVEMBER 3, 2020 8:30 A.M.
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA**

The invocation was given by Pastor Randy Bryant of Ryanwood Fellowship.

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Pledge of Allegiance

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

B. Roll Call

Mayor Tony Young, present; Vice Mayor Laura Moss, present; Councilmember Robbie Brackett (via GoToMeeting), Councilmember Joe Graves (via GoToMeeting) and Councilmember Rey Neville, present. **Also Present:** Monte Falls, City Manager; John Turner, City Attorney and Tammy Bursick, City Clerk

2. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular City Council Minutes – October 20, 2020

Vice Mayor Moss made a motion to adopt the October 20, 2020 minutes. Mr. Neville seconded the motion and it passed 3-0 with Mr. Neville voting yes, Vice Mayor Moss yes, and Mayor Young yes.

2. Special Call City Council Minutes – October 26, 2020

Mr. Neville made a motion to adopt the Special Call minutes of October 26, 2020. Vice Mayor Moss seconded the motion and it passed 3-0 with Mr. Neville voting yes, Vice Mayor Moss yes, and Mayor Young yes.

A. Agenda Additions, Deletions, and Adoption.

B. Proclamations and recognitions by Council.

1) Awards given to the Five Winners of the Florida in City Government Week Scavenger Hunt

The City Council announced the winners of the Florida in City Government Week Scavenger Hunt and presented them with their prizes to be picked up at City Hall.

2) Veterans Day – November 11, 2020

Mayor Young read and presented the Proclamation.

A Certificate of Appreciation was given to Mr. Holt Sutherland, Government Coordinator, thanking him for his services as the Government Coordinator for the City of Vero Beach.

3) Tad Stone, Fire Chief and Miranda Hawker, Health Officer to give an update on COVID Testing

Mrs. Miranda Hawker, Health Officer, gave a Power Point presentation (attached to the original minutes).

Mr. Tad Stone, Fire Chief, thanked Mayor Young and Mr. Falls for their continuing cooperation and conversations that he has had with them throughout this event. He wanted to ensure everyone that there has been excellent cooperation taking place. When COVID first started they had daily calls, then they became weekly calls and now they just have calls when they need to. At the time, his department dedicated two (2) ambulances for COVID transports and they have since shut that down. He said that he has had close to 20 employees test positive for COVID, but only one (1) employee had to be hospitalized. They helped out with needed supplies for the different agencies throughout the County until they could get caught up and had their own supplies. Their mission is to support the CDC guidelines and offer the best guidance going forward. Although this is a Health Department mission, they want to make sure that they get all they need including manpower to make sure that this community is protected.

Mayor Young asked how the City can assist them. He said that maybe they could offer some of the CARE Act funding to go towards testing.

Mrs. Hawker appreciated the offer for funding, but said that is not the problem it is more of being able to get the needed supplies. She was grateful that Mr. Neville has recovered from COVID. She said that the Health Department worries about anyone who has COVID. They know that there have been people who get very sick with it and even have died. The Health Department keeps encouraging people to wear their masks, minimize large gatherings and continue to practice social distancing. She said right now they are looking at the cases increasing and promoting these public health recommendations are important. They do anticipate that the COVID vaccine will be coming out in late December and will be made available to the general public by early spring. She said they may be looking at places to make available for people to get these vaccines and the City may be able to help at that point.

Mr. Graves said the one (1) issue that he sees is the availability for rapid testing. He asked what can the City do to get rapid testing results back for people that need to know if they have the virus. He said that it would seem like they could implement a rapid testing program within the City. He said under the authority of the Florida Statutes what authority

does the Health Department have to implement some kind of contact tracing program with the local businesses.

Mrs. Hawker explained that people could get expedite testing results from the Health Department, TCCH, or Whole Family Health and several physician's offices. She said there are also additional places within the community to get rapid testing. She said that someone should start with calling the Health Department to get a test.

Mr. Graves recalled that he needed a rapid test for his trip when he was going to Columbia and called the Health Department and was told that they were not available.

Mrs. Hawker explained that they are not able to make rapid testing available for everyone and reiterated that there are other places within the community where people can get rapid testing.

Mr. Graves felt that there must be some kind of disconnect. He asked his Doctor for a referral in getting a rapid test and they didn't know where he could get one. He wanted to attend the City Council meeting today, but was told that he needed to have a test showing that he tested negative for COVID before he could come into City Hall. There seems to be an issue of some kind of disconnect with the health community and getting these tests. He reiterated that when he called the Department of Health he was told that they were not available so he had to drive to Orlando to get a rapid test done before he flew out to Columbia. Then when coming back he did a test a CVS by himself and just dropped it in a box and is now waiting for the results.

Mrs. Hawker said that she would have to know the specific Doctors that he has spoken to in the community to make sure that they receive the correct information. She said that the testing side involves what capabilities these different places have. She explained the differences of testing while in quarantine and not in quarantine.

Mr. Graves felt that offering rapid testing once a week would be something that would be helpful. He asked with contact tracing does she have the authority to implement that program or is it something that the City has the authority to do.

Mrs. Hawker explained that the Department of Health has the authority for contact testing. She said that agencies may help them to identify those people who came in contact with someone and they are required to cooperate with them.

Mr. Neville commented that he knew that he had COVID before he ever received his test results back. He said that two (2) weeks had gone by before he ever received a call from the Health Department asking what his symptoms were and they never asked where he had been or who he had been in contact with. He said that it would have been better if someone had called him sooner. He is a widower and was in complete isolation since his wife had passed away. He was not in a good place to make good judgements. He said that he probably should have gone to the hospital. He asked if they do much contact tracing in the County.

Mrs. Hawker answered yes. She explained that they prioritize the cases. She said that the United Way has developed a Means Committee for better support to people that have been effected. She said that there are lists of additional resources that they are mailing out to people who have contacted COVID. They need to come together as a community and check on people who have become sick. It is important to maintain in contact with friends and family. If they get into a situation of increased cases they will prioritize the contact tracing that they do.

Vice Mayor Moss commented that there is a great interest in rapid testing. She asked how much money is budgeted towards that and what are the plans for the future.

Mrs. Hawker explained that they have the money for the equipment, but they are not able to obtain the supplies. She said that it is still tough to get all the resources needed for rapid testing.

Vice Mayor Moss commented that the Council will be discussing the CARES Act funding later on in the meeting and they just needed to know if they could help with funding for rapid testing.

Mrs. Hawker did not think that funding was the problem.

Mayor Young asked about having mobile testing made available.

Mrs. Hawker explained that the testing is done by a bus that travels throughout the State. She said that when it was in town last week they did not add the City of Vero Beach as a place for testing because there are places in the City where people can get tested. She said that the bus does not come into this County very often, but she would ask if they would come to the City for testing on a one (1) time basis.

Mayor Young commented that there is a lot of data out there, but the data needs to be understood so that they have the right metric to get alerted to. She asked Mrs. Hawker what is a trigger that she sees as a warning so they will be on alert to get this information out to the community.

Mrs. Hawker said that when the positivity rate starts going up, she pays attention to that. Also, how many people are being hospitalized and the number of people in the ICU.

Mayor Young went over the different doctors and groups that have come in to talk to the Council about COVID. He asked if there is still something that they are not picking up on that they should be paying attention to.

Mrs. Hawker commented that the City has partnered with them beautifully. As they go in with vaccine planning she will keep in touch with Mr. Falls and Council on seeing if any help will be needed.

Mr. Neville asked if there was data for rapid testing in regards to false negatives and false positives.

Mrs. Hawker said there is and that she would send him that information.

Mr. Neville expressed that when he spoke earlier he didn't want it to sound like he was completely isolated. He had friends bringing him food and a lot of people called to check up on him.

Mr. Graves appreciated Mrs. Hawker and Mr. Stone coming to their meeting and talking to the Council today. He encouraged people to continue wearing their masks and avoiding large gatherings. They want to do the right things and take the politics out of it and continue doing everything to prevent the virus from getting worse.

3. CONSENT AGENDA (include amount of expense)

A) Award of Bid #330-20/JO – Conn Beach Boardwalk Repairs (\$396,375)

Vice Mayor Moss asked why they are not doing the dune crossover work at the same time that they are doing the boardwalk repairs.

Mr. Falls explained that they do not have the funding for that at this time. He said that the boardwalk was built 36 years ago and now they need to remove the decking and replace the substructure to ensure another 35 years of service. The contract is for the boardwalk decking and stringers, handrails and western steps.

Vice Mayor Moss commented that since COVID walking the boardwalk has become a recreational activity. She asked what is the timeline for the contract to get awarded for the stairs.

Mr. Matt Mitts, Director of Public Works, said that there are earmarked funds in the five year capital plan and the City will continue to patch things as needed.

B) Small Government Enterprise License Agreements – (\$82,500)

Mr. Neville made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Vice Mayor Moss seconded the motion and it passed 3-0 with Mr. Neville voting yes, Vice Mayor Moss yes, and Mayor Young yes.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A) ORDINANCES

B) RESOLUTIONS

5. PUBLIC COMMENT (3-minute time limit)

6. CITY COUNCIL MATTERS

A) NEW BUSINESS

1) Future Considerations: Charter Review, Preserving our Sense of Community, and other Thoughts – Requested by Vice Mayor Laura Moss

Vice Mayor Moss commented that it has been over 15 years since the last Charter Review was done in the City of Vero Beach. She was told that a Charter Review should be done every 10 years. She recalled that they were way overdue in getting their Comprehensive Plan completed and she didn't want to see that happen with the Charter Review. She said that this is not a directive of any kind. It is just a suggestion for the new and old City Council to look at.

Mr. John Turner, City Attorney, explained that the Charter does not require that a Charter Review be done. It is the discretion of the Council on how they would like to proceed with having a Charter Review. He said in the past they have selected a Charter Review Committee to advise changes that they feel need to be made.

Vice Mayor Moss asked if there was a State requirement to have it done.

Mr. Turner did not know of any.

Vice Mayor Moss said that she would leave it to the future City Council to discuss.

Mr. Neville agreed that they should consider the possibility of having a Charter Review done.

Mr. Turner recalled that he provided Council with some research that he did on what other communities have done regarding Charter Reviews.

Mayor Young commented that as he looks at the challenges for the future Council there seems to be more things of importance that will need to take place. He named the Three Corners project, the Airport, and removing the Water Treatment Plant off of the bridge. He is confident that the people in this community have the culture in hand for their City.

Vice Mayor Moss recalled what a big job it was dealing with the selling of the utilities to FPL and doing the Comprehensive Plan all at the same time.

Mayor Young agreed that it was enormous.

Vice Mayor Moss thanked the community and Council for the opportunity to serve as a Councilmember for the City of Vero Beach. She felt it was special that she and Mayor Young were leaving the Council on the same day and that is Election Day. She hoped in the future that more people would participate in government and attend their meetings. She

is going to be serving on the County Commission and their meeting agendas are available on their website just as the City's agendas are available on the City's website. She said that when people participate in government they know what is going on in their community. She expressed what an honor it was to serve this City and a pleasure to be on this City Council. She thanked them for allowing her to be a part of the Council. She said this year has been a joy and the most fun she has had since she has been on Council. She spoke separately to each Councilmember. She said that each one (1) of them is historic. Mr. Brackett ran for office twice before he got seated. He (Mr. Brackett) is a man of few words, but what he says is decisive. Mr. Graves made history by attending their meetings from a foreign country. That shows that he loves this community and his family. Mr. Neville made history by having COVID and attending their meetings via GoToMeeting. She appreciated Mr. Neville protecting their Lagoon and looking after those derelict boats. She said of the people who served as Mayor over a 100-year period there were 10 people who started as Mayor. She was the first woman to start as Mayor the first time she was elected. Vice Mayor Moss told the story of when she first met Mayor Young. She was wearing her sash and he came up and introduced himself and just laughed. They were both running for City Council at the time and were at the library campaigning. She told him that she was borne to do this and she liked him immediately because he laughed. She told the Mayor that it has been a pleasure since the moment they met working with him right up to now. The four (4) years that they spent together and she started as Mayor and he is now ending as being Mayor has been historical. She noted that Mayor Young's grandfather was the first Mayor and Mayor Young has done a great job being the Mayor and at the same time having to deal with the pandemic. She then presented him with a plaque thanking him for his services.

At this time, Council took a 10-minute break and the meeting reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

2) Expression of Gratitude for the Opportunity to have Served The People of our City on Vero Beach City Council – Requested by Vice Mayor Laura Moss

This item was heard earlier in the meeting.

B) OLD BUSINESS

Mr. John Turner, City Attorney, expressed that they are all aware that the Governor's Executive Order regarding attending meetings virtually expired on November 1, 2020. In that order he suspended the current laws relating to public meetings that require a quorum present to meet in person and that meetings could be held virtually. The question has arisen as to if they can still proceed with appearances meeting virtually and those members appearing virtually vote on a topic. He said that there are no specific cases on those issues. He addressed the Attorney General's opinion on that from 1983. In that opinion it was discussed if a County Commissioner could participate by telephone in a meeting and vote at that meeting. The Attorney General said no that they could not do it and they had to be physically present at the meeting. Then in 1992 there was an Attorney General's opinion where a County Commissioner could not physically be at the meeting because of medical

treatment at the time and wanted to vote by telephone and the Attorney General said yes she could vote if a physical quorum was present for the meeting. The next time it was addressed was in 2003 and that Attorney General's opinion stated if there existed an extraordinary circumstance and there was a physical quorum present at the meeting then that person would qualify to vote electronically. Then in 2006 an agency member didn't have medical treatment or extraordinary circumstances, but had other issues and was told she could vote even though she was not present for the meeting as long as there was a physical quorum. In 2001 at a workshop the question came up could a member appear electronically and participate and the Attorney General said yes so long as the public had access to the workshop. Then in 2009 the Attorney General goes back and says a physical quorum must be present at the meeting. Mr. Turner questioned where does that leave them. He said that these are just opinions from the Attorney General. It is not stated in public meeting laws. In the way the Sunshine laws are interpreted and strictly followed he wondered if any of the opinions would be upheld in Court. He said as far as in Florida the Attorney General's office said it might be appropriate by those attending electronically to vote as long as a physical quorum is present at the meeting because it has not been decided and there is nothing in the Statutes on this.

It was the consensus of City Council to move forward with this meeting and just allow the three (3) Council members who are present to vote on the necessary items. If there is something that needs to be tabled until the full Council is present then they can hear that item at another meeting. They did not want to create any problems because the things cited by the City Attorney were just Attorney General opinions.

7. PUBLIC NOTICE ITEMS FOR FUTURE PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing will be held on November 17, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

- A) **An Ordinance of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, Amending Chapter 38, Section 62, Specific Noises Prohibited, Amending sub part 4, Construction Equipment and Activity, to prohibit certain construction activities within the City from 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. without a Special Permit; Providing for Codification; Providing for Conflict and Severability; and Providing for an Effective Date. – Requested by the Police Department**

The City Clerk read the Ordinance by title only and reported that the public hearing would be held on November 17, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

Chief David Currey stated that this would "mirror" the County's Ordinance. The reason that prompted the Ordinance was that they received some noise complaints regarding the Riomar Country Club. They want to work with both the Country Club and the neighbors in coming up with a solution. After doing some research they felt that the best solution would be to mirror the Ordinance that the County uses and prohibit certain construction activities within the City from 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Mr. Neville felt that 6:00 a.m. was too early for mowing the grass to begin. He thought that they would start getting more complaints if that was allowed. He supports the golf

course, but does not support mowing to be allowed to start at 6:00 a.m. He asked for modifications on that time to be made.

Chief Currey explained that it is usually still dark at 6:00 a.m. and he doesn't anticipate much mowing to take place or begin before 8:00 a.m.

Mr. Neville did not feel that 6:00 a.m. was appropriate and asked that it be looked at before the public hearing takes place on November 17, 2020.

Public Hearing will be held on November 17, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

- B) An Ordinance of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, related to the Budget for the City of Vero Beach, Florida, for the period beginning October 1, 2019 and ending September 30, 2020; Providing and Establishing Revisions to said Budget based on revised Revenue, Expenditure and Transfer Estimates; Providing for an Effective Date. – Requested by the Finance Director**

The City Clerk read the Ordinance by title only and reported that the public hearing would be held on November 17, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

Ms. Cindy Lawson, Finance Director, commented on the good news concerning this budget revision. She said that there investments were better than she anticipated.

Mayor Young added that for a year of calamity to have news that she provided was phenomenal.

Mr. Falls felt that this speaks volume to the City Council Reserve Policy that was put in place by this Council and previous Councils. He said that the Reserve Funds are there if you need them.

8. CITY CLERK MATTERS

- A) Lien Reduction Request – 2202 Buena Vista Blvd.**

Chief Currey reported that the City received a request from the Law Firm of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith for a lien reduction on behalf of the current property owner Richard and Ashley Lombardo. Their request is to reduce the current lien of \$15,308.80 to \$1,485.61 (\$13,823.19 reduction) for the assessed property at 2208 Buena Vista Boulevard. The applicant advises RESICAP did not acquire the property until June 20, 2019, and the occupant was not evicted until November 8, 2018. Further the property was fully rehabbed by June 20, 2019, and was sold on July 2, 2020. Additionally, the applicant advises RESICAP actively took steps to abate the violations once the occupant was removed from the home. RESICAP is not legally permitted to abate any violations as long as there is an occupant in the home. There are four (4) different cases involved with this address.

Mr. Falls added that the ownership of this property has changed hands several times during the history of these violations and that is why they want to get some additional information on.

Chief Currey asked Ms. Drozd, Attorney for the applicant who was present for today's meeting, (via GoToMeeting) to explain why they are asking for a reduction request.

Ms. Katie Drozd, Attorney representing the applicant, explained the reason for the reduction. She said after speaking with the Deputy City Clerk there are no outside violations involved with this property. The only two (2) things that do remain outstanding are the two (2) abatements. What happened back in August of this year is the client who is the former owner of the property who they represent was supposed to contact the City Clerk's office and pay those abatements. As she understands it they are separate from the actual lien. The client is in the process of actually doing that. She guessed they misunderstood that they were supposed to contact the City and have the check ready when the City gives them the final amount that is owed. She said that one (1) of the abatements has actually been accruing since 2014. She said that these are really the two (2) things that remain outstanding and her client is ready and willing to make the payments on those two (2) abatements. However, her client did not acquire the property until June 19, 2018, and the occupant who was on the property was not evicted until November 8, 2018. By June 20, 2019, the property was completely rehabbed and then the property was sold in July 2, 2020. She does not believe that her client is responsible for such high fines because her client took steps to abate the violations. When she says this she does not mean the two (2) abatements that are currently outstanding and they are ready to pay. But, all of the other violations were actively taken care of once the occupant was removed from the home. Her client could not do anything until that happened.

Mr. John Turner, City Attorney, explained that one (1) of the questions that they had initially was that these liens and the abatement liens have been on file for a number of years. The property has changed hands and purchased by her client and the liens were not paid. He guessed there was no money set aside in escrow to cover the liens. It is incumbent on the purchaser in acquiring the property to make sure that they get clear title, which would mean paying off the liens. They are at a loss on how that did not occur in this case. They did not see anything in the backup information that would explain that. He asked Ms. Drozd to address that.

Ms. Drozd explained that from what her client has told her the violations did get taken care of fairly quickly when they were the owner of the property.

Mr. Turner asked Ms. Drozd who is her client in this matter.

Ms. Drozd said that it is RESICAP. It is a company that purchases properties that may or may not be in bad condition. They restore the properties that they purchase to good condition and then resell them.

Mr. Turner asked Ms. Drozd if RESICAP is her client. Ms. Drozd answered yes. He then asked her if they actually purchased this property at one (1) time. Ms. Drozd said yes that they purchased the property on June 19, 2018.

Chief Currey asked Ms. Drozd if that was US Trust Bank. Ms. Drozd answered yes.

Mr. Turner stated that the certificate of title does not show the client's name on it.

Ms. Drozd believed that was her clients other name. She said that RESICAP is just their business name that they go under. She said that the certificate of title that they are looking at is what was sent to her by her client.

Mr. Turner said they show it as being sold to US Bank. He suggested that since they were having a difficult time communicating electronically is to reset this matter to be discussed at another meeting so more investigation work can be done. He suggested having a Representative appear before Council unless Ms. Drozd had anything additional to add right now.

Ms. Drozd was fine with that. She asked when will this meeting be reset to or reheard.

Mr. Turner recommended that it be heard at their December 1, 2020, City Council meeting.

Ms. Drozd told Mr. Turner if he needed anything else from her to please let her know.

B) Commission Reappointments

Airport Commission

Mr. Buck Vocelle's appointment on the Airport Commission expires on November 15, 2020 and he would like to be reappointed.

Vice Mayor Moss made a motion to reappoint Mr. Buck Vocelle to the Airport Commission. Mr. Neville seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Historic Economic Development Zone Advisory Committee (EDZC)

Mr. Terry Torres term on the EDZC expires on November 15, 2020 and he would like to be reappointed.

Mr. Neville made a motion to reappoint Mr. Terry Torres to the EDZC. Vice Mayor Moss seconded the motion and it passed unanimously (3-0).

Vice Mayor Moss made a motion to move Mr. Bob DelVecchio up to a full member. Mayor Young seconded the motion and it passed unanimously (3-0).

Marine Commission

Mr. Daniel Thomas's term on the Marine Commission expires on October 15, 2020. He does not wish to be reappointed. Mr. Robert Snyder serves as an Alternate member and would like to be moved up.

Mr. Neville made a motion to move Mr. Robert Snyder up to a full member. Vice Mayor Moss seconded the motion and it passed unanimously (3-0).

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

A) First Amendment – Indian River County CARES Act Funding Agreement (\$610,736)

Mr. Falls reported that the City's total allocation under this amended agreement remains unchanged from the original amount of \$610,736. As discussed with Council on October 20, 2020, the City reduced its direct expenditures by \$182,124. Based on conversations with representatives of various local agencies, the City staff has proposed to reallocate those funds to food support/food delivery through the Treasure Coast Food Bank and the Senior Resource Association. This will enable the remaining funds to be directed to the benefit of the community and spent prior to the deadline of December 31, 2020, while minimizing the costs of administration for these programs.

Ms. Cindy Lawson, Finance Director, reiterated that the big issue was that the funds had to be spent by the deadline of December 31, 2020. The City partnered with the County on this and the County has worked directly with the agencies for all of the documentation. She recalled at the last Council meeting that Mr. Brackett asked if some of the money could go to the Source. She checked with the County on that and was told that the Source is not one (1) of the County's contacted agencies.

Mrs. Karen Deigl, CEO for the Senior Resources, thanked the City Council for their allocation of funds to go to the Senior Resources to help their Meals on Wheels program. She said that they are supplying over 400 meals a day, which is an 80% increase since COVID began. She said that these dollars are essential and well spent. She said with the number of people that they are now serving they are in desperate need for more volunteers. She shared the new protocol that is taking place because of COVID. She said that there are two (2) distribution places in the County for their volunteers to pick up these meals and drive them to the different locations. One of the locations is at the Senior Resource Center in Vero Beach and the other location is in Sebastian.

Mr. Neville made a motion that Council approve the first amendment to the Indian River County CARES Act Funding Agreement and City of Vero Beach Spending Plan. Vice Mayor Moss seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**B) License and Construction Agreement 2020-LA-389-Bill Bryant & Assoc.
License and Construction Agreement to use Riverside Park**

Mr. Falls reported that The Next Generation have been working since early 2017 to construct a “Words From War” memorial to honor those who served in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Gulf War. The memorial was originally planned to be located on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary (VMIS), but the VMIS Advisory Committee felt its size was out of scale with the other memorials already existing. The site plan for the memorial was approved on October 14, 2019. The memorial will be constructed by Bill Bryant and Associates with the artwork and sculpture by Mr. Ross Power. He was asking the City Council to approve the License and Construction Agreement with the Next Generation Veterans, Inc., so that they may begin construction on the “Words From War” memorial. This work is being done at no cost to the City and once completed will be an asset to all who experience it.

Mr. Robert Paugh, from Bill Bryant and Associates, explained that his firm is handling the construction for the monument. He said that they are doing the work pro-bono because they always support the community and feel that this project is very important. He felt that this was an exceptional location to have it. He is anticipating starting construction very shortly. They have put together a plan to begin and conclude in December.

Mr. Bruce Cady, Member of the Next Generation and project lead for this monument, said that they have been before the Council several times during this process. He gave the history of the monument. They wanted to have a monument for those who served from 1990 to the present. Mr. Ross Powell, a local artist helped come up with this drawing. They have been campaigning for three (3) years, which has enabled them to raise the funds and now they are at the point to ask for approval from the City Council to proceed with this project.

Ms. Leanna Collins, Secretary for the monument project as well as a civilian who supports veterans requested to speak. She said there were two (2) major things that they wanted to achieve by constructing this monument. The first was to have The Next Generation Veterans Organization have a place to provide a social organization that would assimilate into the work force and outside in society for these veterans. It allows the veterans a chance to communicate with other veterans and their families. The second thing is mental health, which is something that they continue to struggle with and needs to be addressed with their veterans. This monument not only recognizes veterans who served, but is an education piece to remind the community what these men and woman do for them.

Mr. Falls mentioned that it has been great working with this group. He briefly described what the monument will look like once it is completed. He said that it will be a very moving piece of sculpture. He thanked Bill Bryant & Associates for their pro-bono work on this.

Mr. Neville commented that he was not on the City Council when this project was discussed and had some questions on these t-walls.

Mr. Cady explained when soldiers go into operating environments they set up a basis and have concrete walls to protect the service members from hostile threats on the outside. The artists when he first started this project interviewed veterans to understand the process. From these interviews he noticed that there was one (1) reoccurring theme and that was when the service men left the base, emotions would come back. He asked them for the words that came to them and those are the words that are on the structure that describe what they were feeling. He said that Mr. Ross Powell created a design of the elements of these t-walls for those that served. There is a dome on top of the walls, which represents the helmet. These t-walls are assessable to all community veterans and they can experience what it is like to step across that threshold.

There were some questions on how big the wall was and what supports the dome. Mr. Paugh answered those questions. He explained inside the corner there is stainless steel concrete.

Mr. Neville understood that there was going to be electronics imbedded in the monument. Mr. Paugh explained that there would be lights on the outside, which will illuminate the monument.

Mr. Cady was familiar with the electronics that Mr. Neville was referring to. He said at one time that was going to be phase 2 of the project. However, now they have decided to have stories on their website that the community can go and listen to instead of having them be a part of the monument.

Mr. Neville said that he must have misunderstood the stories that he heard.

Vice Mayor Moss complimented Mr. Cady on his fundraising efforts for this project.

Mr. Cady explained one of the fundraisers was to walk to where the structure was going to be for 100 consecutive days. So there were a few of them that walked from the Cultural Arts Village to Memorial Island carrying the American flag. This walk amounted to 3.9 miles every day and was part of the fundraising effort. He noted that people were still pledging every day. He said that the fundraising campaign's goal was to raise \$300,000 for the monument. He encouraged the community to continue to donate to the project or if they want to find out more about the monument to go to WordsFromWar.com.

Mr. Neville asked how the words will be displayed.

Mr. Paugh explained that there is plywood inside and the letters will be made out of PVC.

Mayor Young expressed that what is going on means a lot to him. What they are doing is in the footsteps of what Alex McWilliam did for McWilliam Park. When Alex had a vision in his mind to designate the spoil islands he turned to the businesses in this community to make that happen. Our veteran community does not speak civilian very well. To convey to the people on what they do these projects are important. There is a great sense of scrutiny by the military so what is conveyed is not simply pulled out of the sky. There are 48 words

and he has looked at all of these words and thinks that they used an object that is used in combat operations and that is commendable. He said the location that they have been provided with is the best that they could ever have.

Vice Mayor Moss made a motion to approve the License and Construction Agreement with the Next Generation Veterans, Inc., for construction of the “Words From War” memorial. Mr. Neville seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

10. CITY ATTORNEY MATTERS

None

11. COUNCILMEMBER MATTERS

A. Mayor Young’s Matters

Mayor Young presented Vice Mayor Moss with a plaque to thank her for her services to the City of Vero Beach. He then thanked the public, staff, and City Council, for allowing him to be a part of the City and serve as a City Councilmember.

Vice Mayor Moss mentioned that everyone has talents and everyone has brought capabilities to this Council that meshed very nicely. She thanked Mayor Young for the sacrifices that he has had to make.

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

B. Vice Mayor Moss’s Matters

Vice Mayor Moss commented that she has enjoyed working with everyone and that it has truly been an honor and pleasure to serve this City.

1) St. John of the Cross Catholic Church Benefit Concert for the Veteran’s Council of IRC – November 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

There will be a musical benefit concert at St. John of the Cross Catholic Church to benefit the Veteran’s Council of Indian River County.

2) Veterans Art Program at Vero Beach Museum of Art beginning November 10 – December 15, 2020 on site at Vero Beach Museum of Art – free for Veterans – Information Attached

The Veterans Art program will begin at Vero Beach Museum of Art beginning November 10 – December 15, 2020 and offered to any veteran. It is a five (5) week session.

3) Veterans Day Ceremony at Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary, November 11, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. – Additional Information Available at veteranscouncilirc.club

The Veterans Day Ceremony will be held on November 11, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary.

4) Free Live Oak Trees Available at Audubon House! Press release with details attached.

There are still free Live Oak Trees available at the Audubon House.

Vice Mayor Moss gave the final percentage count for the US census. She said that Indian River County came in number nine (9) out of 69 counties.

Vice Mayor Moss invited everyone to a farewell pizza party immediately following today's meeting. She then thanked the citizens of the City of Vero Beach and said that serving in this capacity has been the best job of her life. She has not done anything that has come even close to it.

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

C. Councilmember Brackett's Matters

Mr. Brackett thanked both Mayor Young and Vice Mayor Moss for their services and wished them both the best of luck.

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

D. Councilmember Joe Graves's Matters

Mr. Graves commented that this position (City Councilmember) is not always about being right, but getting it right. He appreciated Mayor Young and Vice Mayor Moss for helping him this last year and being a model for him to follow. He said that this job is challenging trying to represent everyone in the community especially during a pandemic. Hopefully as a City Councilmember he has become a better listener. He is looking forward to continuing to serve next year and wished Mr. Brackett good luck during the Election.

Mr. Graves appreciated the Health Department for coming and talking to them today, but he noticed one thing that is lacking is an action plan. He said that everyone on this Council wants to make sure that they do have an action plan. He has invited Dr. Welton to their next Council meeting to let them know what they should do or should be doing for the future. This is something that the community should know and be taking it seriously. He said that this information is important and they want to make sure that they make the right decisions for everyone.

Mr. Graves was happy to be back in Vero Beach from Columbia. He said when you come back here after being gone for so long it is like walking into paradise. This is a place where he wants to live and knows why other people want to live here. He knows why people want to come to Vero Beach. He told Vice Mayor Moss that he knows where she is going to be working and it is not far from here. He wished Mayor Young the best in all of his endeavors. He said that people don't understand what a big job serving as a Councilmember is. It takes a lot of time to do the necessary homework that is needed. They have had a hard working City Council that cares and does the right thing.

Mayor Young knew that Mr. Graves puts his heart into what he does and making that investment shows.

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

E. Councilmember Rey Neville's Matters

Mr. Neville was looking at the back wall in the Council Chambers of all the Mayors and commented on what a good job that they have done for this community. It pleases him to have served on this City Council. He is honored to be here and work hard in doing the right thing. He will miss both the Mayor and Vice Mayor and wished them both well.

Mr. Neville complimented the new Marina Director on what a great job he is doing at the Marina and the difficult decisions that he is making that will change the Marina. He said that local people can now park their boats at the Marina and they haven't been able to do that in a long time. The majority of boats at the Marina are from people in their community and he thinks that will be a real asset for them. He said hats off to the Marina Director for doing such a great job. Also, thanks to their Health Department for doing a great job and coming forward today with all the information that they presented. He thanked all those wonderful people who supported him during the period when he had COVID. He then presented the Vice Mayor with a picture that he had been promising her. It was a picture of him and her when he was the Commodore of the Yacht Club.

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

/tb