MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF NICEVILLE, FLORIDA
MARCH 10, 2020

The Niceville City Council met in regular session at 7:00 PM, March 10, 2020 in the Council Chambers, 208 N Partin Drive. All Council members were present. Also present were City Manager, Lannie Corbin; City Clerk, Dan Doucet; Technology Department, Chad Morris; Police Department, Chief Popwell; Fire Department, Chief Mayville. Mayor Pro Tem Henkel called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, and a visitor offered the prayer, and led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Council Meeting, February 11, 2020
Planning Commission Meeting – March 2, 2020
Local Planning Agency Meeting, No Meeting Held

Councilman Nodjomian moved approval of the minutes. Councilman Schaetzle seconded. No one spoke for or against. Council Vote: Henkel-yes; Schaetzle-yes; Boudreaux-yes; Nodjomian-yes; Alley-yes. Motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Youth Advisory Council – Update

Chairman Regan Howell introduced herself. She said the military care package project involved having collection boxes around the City of Niceville, including the high school and college, and behind one of the buildings here. It did not go as we planned or hoped. It is something we plan to do better next time. For next year, we will write a memo about what we can do better and maybe have some better locations to make the drive go smoother, and come up with better ways that we can get the message out, so that people will contribute something, even if it is just letters from high school kids to the military members. Councilman Nodjomian stated we did have some contributions that could be put together with some letters. Chairman Howell continued, with the virus and the hand sanitizer, and certain other materials that are also needed for the virus are also going out of stock. It’s just a little bit of tough timing. We will be happy to write a memo for the future for those who want to do something like this, and can learn from this.

Vice Chairman Elise LeMier introduced herself and said they were planning a debate on April 15th, which is a Wednesday, from 7 to 8 pm, for high school students that want to come and talk. Some of our debate topics will be school security, college debate, debt and tuition, environment, education funding, and electoral college, since that’s a big thing.
right now. We’re trying to get that out in the future, after spring break, so we have time to start planning to do it, and hopefully get some kids to come. We also have the 2020 Youth Council Community Service contest, which is due on March 25th. We’re going to talk about government week. We were in the Florida League of Cities newspaper, so we’re going to use some of those pictures. We’re going to talk about the whole thing and then we’re going to focus in on the Youth Advisory Council. It’s a 500 word or less paper.

One more thing, Councilman Nodjomian said, share with the Council your experience during Legislative Days. Ms. LeMier replied, we did a mock debate to pass a bill, and we learned a lot from that. Then we went to the Tallahassee City Hall, which was very interesting because we got to learn about what everybody did in the City, which was interesting because I did not know what everyone did and all the roles everyone had. So, it was just very interesting for all of us to learn more things about the government and to figure out things. We’re very excited to go back again next year.

Mayor Pro Tem Henkel said very good and asked if there were any questions. Councilwoman Alley asked where the City’s debate would be held. Ms. LeMier said it would be held here at the City Council chambers. What time will that be held? Seven to Eight. And, is it open to the public? Yes, ma’am. Councilman Nodjomian added that April 14th is our election date, there’s no council meeting that night. Our Youth Council will have their Council meeting on the 14th to make final preparations for the debate which will occur right here the next evening. There will be some refreshments and snacks and everyone’s invited. So, hopefully you all can come out, and everyone in the audience as well. Yes, please do, Ms. LeMier added. Thank you.

Mayor Pro Tem Henkel, said Dan I think we have a League of Cities presentation to do. Dan Douce said yes sir. Mayor Pro Tem Henkel stepped down to the front of the room to a microphone. We have a special presentation that we want to make to an individual who is doing a tremendous job. Most of you know her in the City. She’s a well-known individual, and so, Cathy Alley, would you come up here please? You see, Cathy Alley got elected to her current position last July and she’s hit the ground running. Every time there’s an event going on, she’s there. She was so motivated that she’s actually done something that a few people accomplish, but not everybody. So, we wanted to recognize Cathy, and we wanted to make sure that everybody understands that Cathy takes her job seriously when it comes to doing City business. She actually went and completed the Institute for Elected Municipal Officials and she did that this past January and that’s a huge accomplishment when you stop and think about it, so Cathy we want to make sure you have this. Cathy that’s a great job! I’m going to give you the floor. (Clapping.)
Councilwoman Alley stepped up and said there are four parts to the entire certificate. You have to do four sections and I signed up to do the second one in April. Yes, I am very committed to the City of Niceville and thank you so much for this recognition. I did not know this was coming tonight, so thank you. The audience clapped again.

Ordinance 20-03-01 - An ordinance for the rezoning of certain properties in the City of Niceville, Florida; providing zoning for same and an effective date. Property is located at 206 Bailey Drive. The owner is requesting re-zoning from R-1, Residential Single Family to R-1B, Residential Single Family and have a future land use of MDR, Medium Density Residential. William and Dara Johns, 206 Bailey Drive. (Final Reading)

Mr. Doucet read Ordinance 20-03-01 by title. Councilman Schaeftle moved approval on final reading. Councilwoman Alley seconded. Mayor Pro Tem Henkel asked if anyone from the audience wanted to speak. There was no response. Does anyone from the Council want to address it? Again, there was no response.

Council Vote: Henkel-yes; Schaeftle-yes; Boudreaux-yes; Nodjomian-yes; Alley-yes. Motion passed.

Ordinance 20-04-01 - An Ordinance of the City of Niceville, Florida relating to a Gas Utility Franchise to the Okaloosa County Gas District, created under the laws of the State of Florida, the right, authority, easement, and privilege to install, operate and maintain a natural gas manufacturing plant or plants, natural gas transmission and distribution system and such other necessary facilities for the purpose of providing natural gas services to all classes of customers within the City of Niceville, Florida, providing for non-exclusive grant; providing geographic area, providing a term; providing consideration; providing accounting; audit; inspection; providing City not to compete; providing relocation at district expense; providing relocation for private enterprise; providing right to purchase after expiration of franchise; providing notice of exercise of option; providing transmission system and interruptible customers; providing annexation; providing default clause; providing proper operation; providing hold harmless clause; providing sovereign immunity; providing exclusivity of ordinance sections, providing repealing clause; providing severability; and providing for an effective date. (First Reading)

Mr. Doucet read Ordinance 20-04-01 by title. Councilman Schaeftle moved approval. Councilman Nodjomian seconded. Councilman Nodjomian asked what it is we are doing and why? Mr. Corbin said we are actually renewing a franchise agreement with the gas company. We get utility tax and a franchise fee from them. The utility tax is roughly $150 thousand and the franchise fee is about $135 thousand, so it comes to close to $285 thousand. Mr. Corbin explained the purpose of the Franchise stated that the franchise fee
of 6% was based on gross revenues received and that does not change. There are buy-out agreements. Every five years the City of Niceville can opt to buy the gas company out if they choose to, but of course there are a lot of ifs about that. We have been partners with the gas company for years, long before I got here. It’s a good relationship, and all this does is renew a franchise that we’ve had with them for years. Discussion followed. Dixie Powell added that he reviewed the ordinance from the last ordinance and made the changes and modifications. Does the franchise fee adjust based on anything like CPI or anything like that, Councilman Nodjomian asked? Mr. Corbin replied it is renegotiated every five years if you choose to do that. There is verbiage in the contract for renegotiating if you choose to. Why are you not seeking an adjustment, asked Councilman Nodjomian? If you choose to renegotiate the fee, that would be a decision the City Council would make said Mr. Corbin. More discussion followed. Any questions from the audience? None.

Council Vote: Henkel-yes; Schaetzle-yes; Boudreaux-yes; Nodjomian-yes; Alley-yes. Motion passed.

Ordinance 20-04-02 - An Ordinance for the rezoning of certain properties in the City of Niceville, Florida providing zoning for same and an effective date. Property is located on Maple Avenue; owner is requesting that it be re-zoned from PCI, Public Civic Institutional to R-1, Single Family Residential and the Future Land Use be changed to MDR, Medium Density Residential. The North ½ of the Southwest ¼ of Block 64, Valparaiso Realty Company’s Pine Crest Addition Subdivision No. 6. Doug Stauffer representing Faith Independent Baptist Church, 1309 Valparaiso Blvd; Niceville, Florida. (First Reading)

Councilman Schaetzle moved approval. Councilwoman Alley seconded. Discussion followed. Is it only one lot that is being rezoned, Councilwoman Alley asked? Mr. Doug Stauffer introduced himself, as the Pastor at Faith Independent Baptist Church, and said there are two lots the church owns. He said they are asking to rezone just one lot. Discussion followed. Does anyone else from the audience want to address this? No comments.

Council Vote: Henkel-yes; Schaetzle-yes; Boudreaux-yes; Nodjomian-yes; Alley-yes. Motion passed.

Resolution 20-03-01 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Niceville Florida adopting and promoting support for renaming of the City Post Office to Doolittle Raiders in honor of a group of World War II Airmen; and providing for an effective date. Councilman Nodjomian moved approval. Councilman Schaetzle seconded. Any
questions Mayor Pro Tem Henkel asked? Councilwoman Boudreaux had a question about who was making this happen. Councilman Nodjomian explained it is a federal action and Congressman Gaetz had proposed renaming the Niceville Post Office, and had asked for the City to support it. Councilwoman Boudreaux said she was very supportive of the Doolittle Raiders and they were instrumental in our war effort. Councilwoman Alley spoke about the Niceville post office not being the historically correct location of where the Doolittle Raiders received their mail. Councilman Nodjomian explained the action is not memorializing the location, but is picking a federal facility that is within an area of significance to where the Doolittle Raiders trained. The actual post office itself was the Front Porch restaurant on Bayshore Drive.

Ms. Elisa Michener asked to speak. Mayor Pro Tem Henkel asked her to come forward to the mic and introduce herself and her address. Ms. Michener identified herself as Niceville’s historian and said she is concerned about the renaming of the post office because historically you did that when you changed the name of the City. We were Boggy, Florida until 1910, when the post office name was changed to Niceville. I think that’s important, how we are looking at this from a historical perspective. I don’t know why it would be that post office. I would love to see a historical marker down in front of the Front Porch that would say this is where the Doolittle Raiders received their mail. Maybe we could do that in addition if this resolution is going to happen, maybe we can still do a historical marker in the future. Councilman Nodjomian asked, do we actually know that’s where their mail went through? Well, it was the only post office in the area, said Ms. Michener. So, it certainly was the servicing post office, Councilman Nodjomian stated. And, then the next post office was across the street, building 1950, that was recently razed. The one that you’re looking to honor was not built until the 1990s. Yes, we were discussing earlier how new that building is, said Councilman Nodjomian. I just think our history is so serious, I just think if we do it, it should be based on historical evidence, Ms. Michener said. Mr. Corbin said, we’ll be glad to put a historical marker for that area, but what we are doing here is endorsing what a congressman has already approved.

Councilwoman Boudreaux spoke, after this came up at the last meeting I asked a number of people how they felt about this. Everyone knows the Doolittle Raiders. I asked them what they thought, and one hundred percent of them, I think maybe ten people I asked, all of them said no. They like Niceville. This is our town and although they certainly would like to honor the Doolittle Raiders, they did not feel that our post office should be renamed. It belongs to the people and they think of themselves as Niceville people.

So, what will the exact official name of the post office be, asked Councilwoman Alley. I don’t think it changes the fact it’s the Niceville post office. It’s just that it has Doolittle Raiders as an honorarium on the facility. Certain buildings have somebody’s name
attached to them. Councilman Nodjomian asked Dan Doucet, City Clerk, to read the resolution commemorating the renaming of the post office.

Dan Doucet read the resolution.

Whereas request has been made to the City Council of the City of Niceville, Florida for the renaming of the City’s Post Office, located at 90 Palm Boulevard, Niceville, Florida 32578 in honor of Doolittle Raiders, a daring group of WWII airmen who trained during 1942 at what was then Eglin Field; and, whereas the City Council has the inherent power to adopt this resolution under its City Charter and Florida law; and now, therefore, be it resolved by the City of Niceville, Florida: in recognition of the important work done by the Doolittle Raiders, the City of Niceville hereby supports and promotes the renaming of the city’s post office, to the “Doolittle Raiders Post Office”, located at 90 Palm Blvd. North, Niceville, Florida 32578. This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption and approval in accordance with the City Charter. Adopted in regular session this 10th day of March, 2020.

Mayor Pro Tem Henkel asked, this resolution is to do nothing more than support what has already happened? Councilman Nodjomian said, well it hasn’t actually happened yet. I called our congressman’s office before our meeting today to get an update as to where that was and they didn’t have an update. We could table the resolution.

City Attorney Dixie Powell said, as a suggestion we could contact by email to request it be renamed Niceville-Doolittle Raiders Post Office. I think we have some other people who want to discuss this. Please come up to the mic.

Mike Griffith, with the Bay Beacon. My question is if this name change takes place, would that affect how people address their mail? No; this is taking a physical structure and renaming it. It is not changing the name of the City on the address, said Mayor Pro Tem Henkel.

Chad Morris, stepped up and spoke about renaming of buildings, and opined that the renaming of a building does not necessarily change the way people refer to the building, but is more of a way to honor a person. The City name won’t change. There are a lot of federal buildings across the country that have people’s names on them. Councilman Nodjomian said it is weekly that congressman have someone’s name attached to a building. Councilwoman Boudreaux said, I’m from Washington D.C., originally and the Raeburn building, there is no other way of knowing that building. It’s called the Raeburn building.
Mayor Pro Tem Henkel said he would make a couple of comments on it as well. What’s been requested, is do we support the renaming. The Doolittle Raiders trained locally and made an impact that changed the course of history. I think that’s quite an honor. I personally think that’s a great thing that we have a congressman that’s interested in bestowing that honor right here on our post office in the City of Niceville, which I’m very proud of; and I really strongly feel that this is a great thing. Does anybody else have any comments? You had made a comment about maybe tabling? Yes, Councilman Nodjomian said, if there is any discomfort with the wording as it is, we could pull it back and reword it.

Councilman Schaetzle said, I raised the issue last month, and I see what the words say; and heard what everybody had to say, and I think to honor the Doolittle Raiders is the right thing to do, but the concern that some citizens may have, is the post office name going to change? Chad mentioned that we are incorporated as the City of Niceville, and I don’t expect that to change. It will just be a plaque. I don’t feel uncomfortable, the way this reads, in supporting it.

I'll let my motion stand, said Councilman Nodjomian. I don’t think language really matters on the resolution to support the renaming; we can vote not to support it, said Dixie Powell. We can clean up the language on the resolution even after the vote if the wording is not quite accurate. Sure; and then Dan can submit the rewritten words. Alright, unless there are any other questions, let’s vote.

Council Vote: Schaeztle-yes; Boudreaux-no; Nodjomian-yes; Alley-yes; Henkel-yes. Motion passed.

Resolution 20-03-02 - A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to purchase services for Water and Sewer Improvements on Benton and Nutmeg Avenues for the City of Niceville.

Motion to approve? Councilman Nodjomian made the motion to approve. Councilman Schaetzle seconded.

Chad Morris said the bid came in $50,000 higher than what had been budgeted. This is to replace a 2-inch water main with a 6-inch water main. We’re adding some fire protection in that area. The reason it came in higher is because the contractors are busy and not looking for work. One bidder stated they were not going to submit a bid because they have enough work. Two others bidders submitted bids of $474,000 and $331,000.
The sewer was a little lower, but the water was a lot higher. So, in total it came in about $51,000 above budget. Mr. Corbin asked, how critical is this? If the economy slows down and we delay this bid in two or three months, would we get more bids?

Mr. Price, Public Works Director, spoke about the water and sewer line infrastructure. He spoke in detail about the work and indicated that the work was needed but a delay of a few months would be acceptable if more time was needed.

Mr. Morris, Purchasing Director just added that the only major thing is the fire protection that would be added. Councilman Nodjomian said I think it is a great question you asked Mr. Corbin, I had the same concerns. Chad added the budget was created in August of 2019. It is not an emergency situation, so maybe we should wait and rebid at a time when people are needing work, Mr. Corbin said. More detailed discussion continued.

We could have a catastrophic issue if something went wrong with that line. I don’t expect it, but it could happen. Bruce Price added. Councilman Nodjomian said we can adjust the motion and authorize City staff to negotiate with the bidders to do the work for the budgeted amount.

Mayor Pro Tem Henkel asked Dixie if we could table the resolution and have them go back and negotiate, or do we approve an amended motion that allows them to negotiate? Dixie Powell said we can table the resolution and at some point, we would have to reject that bid and have them rebid it. Chad said if it is a completely unit-priced bid, we could only choose the items we want to do for the sewer project and accept the bid at that point, but tabling the bid would probably be best at this point. Councilwoman Alley said I don’t think contractors are going to get any less busy in the foreseeable future unless something catastrophic happens and the County does a nosedive. Discussion continued about the details. Putting it off for a month or two is not going to hurt anything, commented Mr. Corbin. It might save us $50,000. We have a good working relationship with all 3 of them that have submitted plans, so we can talk with construction services.

Councilwoman Boudreaux made a motion to table the resolution. Councilman Schaetzle seconded. Council Vote: Schaetzle-yes; Boudreaux-yes; Nodjomian-yes; Alley-yes; Henkel-yes. Motion passed.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS/REQUESTS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Fire Department – Update

Chief Mayville greeted the Council and stated that during the month of February 2020, the Fire Department had 120 calls with 114 of those being located within the City. There
were six mutual aid calls. There were three structure fires, 52 medical calls, and 14 vehicle accidents involving transport by EMS to the hospital. We had one elevator rescue, one illegal burning within the City, 12 community service calls, 27 good-intent calls, two smoke scares for residents, and four alarm activations in commercial businesses, two carbon dioxide alarms.

The fire department is busy with activities around the City. With the coronavirus, a lot of folks want to know about it. What are we doing? We are doing what we have always done... we're answering calls. The only thing that concerns us is quarantine of our firefighters. We have certain precautions in place for our employees. It is a serious virus and we are treating it as so. There are federal, state, county, and local guidelines. I don't want anybody to panic. It is a virus and we will respond to you if need be.

Councilwoman Boudreaux asked, if you get a call and you arrive there and they say they have a bad cough and fever, would you respond to that? There’s a series of questions before we ever respond, that the dispatcher will ask the resident. That’s privacy act information. On the scene we will do the same. There are some cases that are local. We have been to certain things which we can't discuss with the public. We are taking every precaution. Everything is good. The City Manager and myself have talked about the way we handle things. He’s on top of it and he’ll probably share some more with you about it. We have a partnership with the base. We have a partnership with the south end fire departments. We’re all handling it the same way, along with Okaloosa County EMS.

Councilwoman Boudreaux asked, do you have a person you contact with disease control? Everyone’s involved... the health department, the federal, state, local. We’re going to provide you the best service that we can provide, said Chief Mayville.

Councilwoman Alley asked if 27 good intent calls are normal? Chief Mayville said it is about average.

On a brighter note, we sent our high school off to a state championship and they brought back the title. Our firefighters attending the Orlando conference. Four of our firefighters went down there and got educated. We also had a joint training committee with the County and they shared that information with all the departments and we continued that training and partnership with all of the south end fire departments and Eglin AFB. We were at Citgo training. We have a lot of new folks in the area. We are getting up to par at that Citgo refinery due to the large fuel bulk storage. We had our boat out, exercising it as well. We are doing our routine training and getting everything going with that. The
partnership with Valparaiso is working very well. The same talk that was in Valparaiso last night is what I discussed with you tonight. Please don’t panic because we got you covered.

The firefighters are out monitoring the construction and all the things that are going on. We’re keeping up with our knox box system and accessing to notify people of something that’s possibly going on with their home or business if they are not in town. Emergency contacts and inspections side of the house are going very well. A lot of business and a lot of construction is happening within our City and Valparaiso as well.

Councilman Schaetzle asked, you used the word “Knox”? It is a company that makes a safe that they put on the front of a building, Chief Mayville replied. If you go on vacation, we have a box in our truck, that we have to punch our social security number in there. The moment we get that key out, it opens up any business in town, any bank, any drug store, anything. It notifies everybody when we went in and when we come out, we put our keys back up. So, it’s a commercial building not residential, asked Councilwoman Boudreaux? It is very secure. It can be residential. There are residential and commercial aspects to the company. We highly recommend it. It is a very nice tool. Councilwoman Boudreaux asked, what I’m getting at, if I am on vacation and lightning strikes my house? Chief Mayville responded, if it’s on fire, we don’t need a key. If there is just something where you have an alarm going off, then we’re going to check it, and that’s how we check it. Anything else? Thank you. Mr. Corbin called up Chief Popwell next.

Police Department - Update

Chief Popwell stated that during the month of February 2020, the Niceville Police Department responded to 1,891 calls for police assistance. There were a total of 52 traffic crash reports written involving 105 vehicles. The estimated amount of damage to these vehicles and related property was $217,072. A total of 110 Traffic Citations and 148 Traffic Warnings were issued, 25 Misdemeanor, 19 Felony and three DUIs. The DUIs were at Garden Lane where the person was drinking at home, Willow Lane, they refused to say, and Highway 85 South, they refused to say. On the fire department sending the soccer team out of town, let it be known that the coach is in the Niceville Police Sergeant. That is all I have. Are there any questions.

Mr. Corbin thanked Chief Popwell. Councilwoman Boudreaux added that most of us attended the swearing-in of the new police officers, and the program was excellent. It was very moving and I thank you for inviting us! Anytime; thank you all for being there Chief Popwell replied.
Technology - Update

Chad Morris stated that things are running smooth in the IT department. We are still in the process of spinning up new servers on new network, moving things over. We ran into a couple of hiccups. We discovered that we had to reset and reinitialize our access control system so our door locks work after we change out switches in a building. Other than that, things are going pretty smooth. Talking about viruses, let’s still be careful. There are a lot of people that are using this medical virus issue to put out computer viruses. You may get all kinds of medical emails that are offering to tell you things and offering you all kinds of products and quite a few of them are not going to be legitimate emails, so pay close attention to those.

On another subject, I have another request for you from the purchasing side. I’ll put my purchasing hat on now. We have had some problems with well #11 for the past several months. We had some bacterial tests that it passed and failed. We had a company come in and do some testing. They had some recommendations. We have to pull the well and completely disinfect it and inject some combination of chemicals such as sodium hydrochloride solution, basically to clean it up and kill off the bacteria that are in it, so that well can go back online. It is currently offline. It has not been pumping water since it didn’t pass the testing that they did on it.

We have a single quote for $68,200. For us to bid that out, it would probably be the May meeting before you approve that. Currently, the quote we have is from a contractor who is a month out before he can start on anything right now. As the weather warms up, he is going to get a little busier. He said the work will take approximately three weeks to complete. So, at that point we would be looking at getting into the summer when there is a lot heavier usage. We don’t have a problem right now meeting demand, but the water and sewer department has expressed some concerns about being able to meet demand without this well on line, especially if we have another well go down, a lightning strike or anything like that, which happens around here sometimes. Having two wells down can be a little bit choicey.

We would like to ask for your permission to do this with a not-to-exceed authorized amount of $68,200. We compared the pricing. Okaloosa County has a contract in place that they had bid out for maintenance cost and things similar to this. They don’t have anything with this specific combination of chemicals that the testing company recommended that we use. They have things that are somewhat close. We had Michael
Evans of Poly, Inc., who took those contracts and looked at those, and compared as close to this result as he could. It comes up to basically the same price. He said that it was within a thousand dollars of this price that he got. What I would like to do is for you to give me permission to enter into a contract to have that well repaired not to exceed $68,200. I will get pricing from two other companies before we do this. We already have one of them on notice that we are probably going to be needing a price. Whichever of the three that is the lowest? Griner is the company we have the contract from. I think Lane is another one that Okaloosa County has a contract with, and then there's a third company that they also worked with. We can get prices from at least those three so we can make sure we are getting the best price. But, after Michael had compared, this is very much in the ball park, actually slightly lower than what he had come up with.

Mayor Pro Tem Henkel said, based on Chad's inputs, we need a motion in support. Does anyone want to make that motion? Councilwoman Boudreaux moved to make the motion. Councilman Nodjomian seconded. Mayor Pro Tem Henkel said, again it's not to exceed $68,200 is my understanding. Anybody else want to discuss this? Councilwoman Alley asked Mr. Corbin what is your opinion on this? Mr. Corbin answered, Chad, Bruce, the Water and Sewer guy, Ronald Matthews, we talked about this. It is a situation where if we bid it out, we could be going into May or June when we get little rain, and if another well goes out, during that time we could really be in a tough situation, so getting this well back online is really important. Chad, working with Bruce, has done a good job getting prices on this. We think it is important that we bring this up. This is another reason to save $50,000. Right now, we have the money in the budget for this. We have, in that line item, a little more than $260,000; so, we are covered. I think it is something that needs to be done, and the sooner the better.

Councilman Schaetzle asked, do we have any assurance that when this company pulls the well, and they treat it, that it's going to come back successful within the bacterial count limits? Chad Morris replied, I don't think that they can guarantee that to us. I think based on the history of this testing company that tested it, they had a very good reputation as far as knowing what it is going to take. They know exactly what the bacteria is and how to handle that bacteria. Whoever does this work, the contract is basically going to say that they are going to do exactly what this other company recommends. So, the company that is actually pulling the well and doing the treatment is not the one that diagnosed and prescribed the treatment, but they will be doing what is prescribed. We feel fairly confident that is going to work.

Is there something that should be changed in our routine maintenance of the wells to prevent this from happening again, Councilman Schaetzle asked? Mr. Morris responded,
this is something that is a naturally occurring bacteria and sometimes over time it just builds up. That colony can start building up enough that it is a problem. That is part of this treatment to inject the chemical so that it goes out from the base of the well to clear that bacteria out.

Mr. Price spoke next stating we had a problem with this well back in 2018. We disinfected it ourselves and eventually cleared it up. The last time this reoccurred we wanted to make sure it was done right, so we paid someone to disinfect it. They came in and did the disinfection. It did not clear it up. The reason we brought this company in to do the analysis of the well is that we were hoping that they could come up with some solution that would allow us to avoid spending this large amount of money to pull the well out. My interpretation of the report says that this is an iron-based bacterium and because of the environment in that well, this iron is more or less colonizing and forming this iron-based bacterium. The bacteria are showing up in the raw water samples, not in the treated side. The samples that Ronald and them pull every month are raw water samples that they are required to take. If you have two in a row that fail, the DEP tells you that you have to disinfect the well.

This well has been out of operation and we were hoping to avoid what we are talking about right now by having them come in and do this analysis. Their recommendation for treating this well is pulling the pumps out, getting all this rust buildup off of everything and doing some special disinfection. They’re saying that the disinfection method that we use, which is the normal method that’s used, is not effective because of the high levels of iron in this well. Mr. Corbin asked, what’s the gallons per minute for this well? It’s an 1,100 gallons per minute well. It’s the newest well we have, built in 1998. Councilman Schaeztle said, six or seven years ago, we talked about growth in the City, Deer Moss Creek coming on board, and the possibility of needing to drill another well or two. You just emphasized here, if we don’t bring this well online and another well goes down, we may have a water distribution issue. So, are we moving ahead to plan for another well that we will need for growth? Mr. Corbin replied, it’s 2023 or 2024, when the engineers said when we will need another well. Putting the well in is probably a million dollars. This is going to cost 68,000 to hopefully get the well back online. Councilman Schaeztle said, with all the permitting and everything else, I understand that. Mr. Price replied, but Poly, Inc. is already looking at that. We’re trying to work with them now about getting a well location. We are in a water cautionary, which puts more restrictions on us about how much water we can pump out of the ground. However, the water cautionary is at the boundary of the Eglin reservation. If we put a well on the other side, then you are not as restricted, and that’s kind of our angle right now. Mr. Corbin added, we have already made an in-road with Eglin on securing the site on Eglin property for a new well. Thanks for the update, Councilman Schaeztle said.
Any other questions, asked Mayor Pro Tem Henkel? Anything from the audience? Please state your name and address. John Yosi, from 1505 Big Creek Cove. Are we sure that the bacterial count is caused by a naturally occurring bacteria or is there some pollution involved? Question number two is what is the effect on the water supply of putting all of this disinfectant in there? Bruce responded, part of the contract, that we’ll get involved in, requires when they pull all of the pump and stand pipe, they do a video inspection of the well to make sure there is not a structural issue, because sometimes when you have these well problems, it’s because you have a hole in the upper part of the casing and you’re getting a shallow water infiltration which can pollute a good well that’s 800 feet deep. They won’t bring it back online until it passed all of the test, Mr. Corbin stated. Exactly, yes, and when they pump it off, the well is clean before it’s allowed to go back online. They will test everything and make sure the bacteria are gone. They’re not going to let it back online until it passes all of the tests, said Mr. Corbin. They’ll make sure that the bacteria are gone before it goes back online, said Mr. Price. Anybody else, Mayor Pro Tem Henkel asked? No response.

Council Vote: Schaetzle-yes; Boudreaux-yes; Nodjomian-yes; Alley-yes; Henkel-yes. Motion passed.

Water/Sewer/Drainage Projects – Update

Deer Moss Pump Station (Update):
On the Water and Sewer side, with the Deer Moss lift station, we are still waiting on some connections with the power. Once the power is put in, it’s operational, they’ll do the start-up, and the only remaining punch item is going to be getting the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system hooked up.

New Reclaim Filter (Update): The filter has been installed and is operational. The filtering of the reclaim as it leaves the reservoir should enhance the effectiveness of the additional chlorine being injected into the main supply line located on College Boulevard. We plan to begin sampling the reclaim water at points in the distribution system to determine the effectiveness of this additional filtration.

Up-coming Water Extension Projects: The water and sewer department are currently looking at two water extension projects that will improve distribution and provide additional fire protection. Plans are to extend a 6-inch water main north along Fir Avenue. This will allow us to put in some more water hydrants. We’re also installing a 6-inch water main on 25th Street from Redwood Avenue to Edreihi Avenue. There’s some new construction going on there in the County, so there’s going to be a need for a larger line anyway.
Stormwater Projects

**Thomas Branch (Update):** The contractor has been given the notice to proceed and the FL DOT permits for the driveway connection, drainage structure modifications and right of way improvements have been approved by FL DOT. We’re putting a driveway connection in, because they’re going to have to have an access to get back to where the stormwater facility is going to be built, back in there just below the highway on SR20, across from the high school.

**Boggy Bayou Headwaters (Update):** We are still awaiting the Army Corps of Engineers permit approval.

Street Projects

**Dolphin Point Cul-de-sac:** The Street Department has completed the drainage improvements and the contractor has started the curbing installation, roadway base replacement and the re-paving of the cul-de-sac. The contractor that got the bid for the sidewalk and some of the roadway work that we recently approved will be putting in the curbing and repaving the cul-de-sac.

**Sidewalk Extensions:** The work on Dolphin Point was the final project identified in the first phase of the Sidewalk Master plan. Once the final cost for this phase is tabulated, we will be able to determine what remaining sidewalk extensions can be funded this fiscal year.

**Street Resurfacing and Restoration:** We are still awaiting word from the representative from Advanced Paving Systems regarding the piggy back contract pricing to reconstruct Rocky Bayou Drive and Bullock Boulevard using the full-depth reclamation process. A specification package to modify the raised median on Rocky Bayou Drive to allow additional storage for south bound traffic turning east on SR20 is also being put together.

**Disaster Debris Removal Training:** We are currently trying to schedule a training workshop with for employees with both the debris contractor, the debris monitoring contractor. The purpose of this workshop is to provide information to the City staff regarding the duties and responsibilities of the debris management contractor, the debris monitor and the City staff.

Mr. Bruce Price said, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the City Council for the support they have afforded me during my career with the City of Niceville.
Mr. Corbin spoke about Mr. Price's 39-year career, stating he could tell he was different. There are not a lot of adjectives to describe a great employee. Let me start with, he’s a self-starter. He’s autonomous. With all of his responsibilities, he was always accountable for everything. He was organized. He was dependable. I piled a lot on him. I found out, really quickly, that he was not a yes person. One of our first arguments was about a project, and usually he was right. You could tell from listening to him and having him go through what he’s gone through over the years, just how smart he is. He’s a natural leader.

There’s an old saying that it is better to be respected than liked. I can assure you he is respected by every employee. He might not be liked by all of them, but he is well-respected. There were tense moments with developers, builders, and environmental issues, but Bruce was always there and he never backed away from his opinion of things. Let me assure you it was always in the City’s best interest. He always was City of Niceville, through and through. I will miss you Bruce. The City Council will miss you a lot. And, the City of Niceville will miss you. You have left an impact on Niceville that will last a long time, and I appreciate it!

Regional Sewer System – Update

No Report.

Other Business:

BILLABLE

Mayor Pro Tem Henkel asked for a motion to pay the bills.

Councilman Nodjomian moved approval. Councilman Schaetzle seconded.

Council Vote: Schaetzle-yes; Boudreaux-yes; Nodjomian-yes; Alley-yes; Henkel-yes. Motion passed.

Mr. Corbin said he had one item. Highway 285 is called Partin Drive, and I checked with the State into how it got its name. It is from the family that lived on this street and they named it after that person. This 285 goes right by Baptist Church, several of Randy Wise’s businesses. It goes by City Hall. It goes by Ruckel, where he has a library named after him. I’d like for us to consider looking at the State to try to change the name to Randall Wise Boulevard or at least name it in his honor. So, it is something to think about. I’m going to try to find out before the next meeting about that. I think it’s something that we need to take a look at. It would be a great honor. Another area; he
was a volunteer fireman, and in the City Council back when he was in his twenties. The public safety complex... the police and the fire station, I would like to have named in his honor, Mr. Corbin stated. That's within our own authority, commented Councilman Nodjomian. It is, Mr. Corbin said, we could put a nice plaque, like we have done at the library, at the community center, and some other areas; and I think it would be appropriate. He meant a lot to Niceville. Councilman Nodjomian said, I have no reservations of moving forward tonight. Councilman Nodjomian moved to name the public safety complex, which includes the police station and the fire station in honor of Mayor Wise. Councilwoman Boudreaux seconded. All in favor?

Council Vote: Schaetzle-yes; Boudreaux-yes; Nodjomian-yes; Alley-yes; Henkel-yes. Motion passed.

Thursday, Public Works is putting on a nice dinner at the mullet festival site in Mr. Price's honor and you are welcome to come up there.

Councilman Schaetzle commented, about two months ago, our legislators in Tallahassee started their legislative session. It was supposed to end this week. Three thousand plus bills later, that were filed: some never made it out of committee, some got amended and some passed, and there are still some left to go to vote on. The word out of Tallahassee, from the Florida League of Cities is that we can expect extra days, maybe taking us through the weekend into next week, depending on how the legislative body decides to work next week. That's it.

Mr. Nodjomian said he had two things. So, Bruce this is your last meeting as you said. What is the replacement plan for Mr. Price? Mr. Corbin introduced Mr. Jonathan Laird who will be promoted to Public Works Director. Councilman Nodjomian asked what is the effective date of the promotion, and Mr. Corbin said it was March 19, 2020. Councilman Nodjomian said congratulations. I look forward to working with you.

Mayor Pro Tem Henkel said, earlier tonight this came out. I would like to propose that we do a proclamation to honor the Niceville High School boys' soccer team as we have done with other teams that have won state-level things. Mr. Dan Doucet said, yes, we already have something made up for them. It was going to be tonight, but they had something else scheduled so they could not come tonight.

Councilwoman Alley asked could we do one for the Niceville High School cheerleaders because they also won the state championship? Another plaque? Absolutely said Mayor Pro Tem Henkel.
Councilwoman Alley said I just want to talk about a meeting. I went to the EDC meeting and there was an incredible meeting on the half-cent sales tax and how it is being used this first year for the municipalities, and I know that we have used ours for the sidewalks and that have gone into the City which has been a wonderful thing. Also, they talked about the half-cent sales tax, that we will be going after, that will be on the ballot in November, for our schools. Seventy-five percent of our schools in Okaloosa County are over fifty years old. We learned in Okaloosa County, every student is awarded money per student to go toward the infrastructure of the schools. Walton County students get significantly more per student. Discussion followed.

The point being, as Ms. Alley stated, seventy-five percent of our schools in Okaloosa County are over fifty years old and they are falling apart, said Mayor Pro Tem Henkel, so it is something we need to seriously consider as a County to fix that problem.

I wanted to say one other thing from Florida Legislative Days, said Councilwoman Alley. It’s on the Governor’s desk to be signed, to not sweep the documentary (doc) stamp fund, which is the doc stamps on your mortgage. It’s supposed to be used to help people to get into housing. They always sweep it and use it for other projects, and this year it is on the Governor’s desk to not sweep it, so there will be money for bonds to help people buy homes. So, that’s going to be a great win when the Governor signs that, said Councilwoman Alley. It is money to help first-time homebuyers to buy homes.

Would anybody from the audience like to come forward and address the Council? Please come forward and state your name?

My name is Janet Wiskowski Austermann. I live at 115 Edge Avenue, Niceville, Florida 32578. After sitting back there and listening and thinking about the post office. Certainly, I agree with Ms. Boudreaux and the historical foundation. Niceville does have a place, as a city. I understand that is a federal building. It was already passed. We have no say over it if I understand? It has not been passed, but we don’t have no say over it. It would have been nice to have it put to a vote for the residents of Niceville, because people equate a post office with the City they live in, regardless of what size, big or little. You see Bruce. I mean it has Bruce post office: We have a close relationship with the military, without a doubt. My family has also. We’re slowly doing away a little bit with what Niceville is. It just seems wrong for a post office to not carry the City’s name. Now, will this post office continue to carry the City’s name? And if they are interested in honoring the Doolittle Raiders, I do believe that there on the City line of Niceville and
Valparaiso, there was an airplane as a Doolittle memorial there a long time ago. That airplane now is sitting in Florala, Alabama by the lake.

Mr. Doucet said, I can tell you about that. It’s a T-33. It’s a trainer. General Culbertson used to be here at Eglin in the 1960s, and I was his personal driver. I drove him out there to Florala to dedicate that airplane to the City.

So, basically, we do not have a City post office, asked Ms. Wiskowski Austermann?

What we did was a resolution. It carries no weight, other than the fact it said we support the action Mr. Gaetz wants to do. It is an emotional issue, but it is still the Niceville post office. Mr. Corbin addressed that too, that we are going to put a marker where the original post office was, said Mayor Pro Tem Henkel. Councilwoman Alley said we’re working on a walking route right now and we’re designing signs. In that plan, there will be historical sites that will be dedicated and signs put up. There is a lot that will be happening. The CCC statue is going to be purchased and put in place at Turkey Creek, which is another historical marker that is going to happen. So, there is a lot of stuff that is in the process right now that is going to happen within the next six months, said Councilwoman Alley.

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

ATTEST:

MAYOR PRO TEM

Daniel J. Doucet
CITY CLERK

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