

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF NICEVILLE, FLORIDA
MARCH 8, 2022

The Niceville City Council met in regular session at 6:00 PM, March 8, 2022 in the Council Chambers, 208 N Partin Drive. The Mayor and all Council members were present, except Councilman Nodjomian. Also present were City Manager, Lannie Corbin; City Clerk, Dan Doucet; City Attorney, Dixie Powell; Police Department, Chief Popwell; Fire Department, Chief Mayville; Public Works Director, Johnathan Laird; Deputy City Clerk, Wendy Farmer, Deputy City Clerk and Finance Director, Steven Rausch and Director of Technology and Purchasing, Chad Morris. There were approximately 21 visitors in the audience, including other City employees. Mayor Henkel called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Reverend Stauffer offered the prayer and Mayor Henkel led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Council Meeting, February 8, 2022
Planning Commission Meeting, March 1, 2022
Local Planning Agency Meeting, No Meeting Held

Councilman Donahoo moved approval: Councilman Williams seconded. Council Vote: Schaezle-yes; Alley-yes; Donahoo-yes; Williams-yes. Motion passed

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PRESENTATIONS:

Youth Advisory Council – Update

There was not a representative from the Youth Advisory Council tonight due to their meeting being held March 3rd. Wendy Farmer gave the Council an update from that meeting. Mrs. Farmer explained the Youth Advisory Council is working on their Campus Carnival in conjunction with the Emerald Coast Autism Center’s 10th annual 5k run. She explained the 5k was being held April 9, 2022 at 8 AM, at the Northwest Florida State College and the Youth Advisory Council would be instrumental in providing over 40 volunteers to help with set up, registration, clean up and hosting games for children at the end of the race. The cost for registration will be \$30.

Ordinance 22-04-01 – An ordinance for the rezoning of certain properties in the City of Niceville, Florida providing for same and an effective date. Jan Orr, representing the Estate of Jean Ritchey, 820 Spence Circle and parcel id 12-1S-23-0000-0016-0010 request the property be rezoned from C-1, Limited Commercial to RNC, Residential Neighborhood Commercial. Metes and bounds description. Parcel id numbers 12-1S-23-0000-0016-0000 and 12-1S-23-0000-0016-0010. (First Reading)

Mr. Doucet read Ordinance 22-04-01 by title. Councilman Williams moved approval and Councilman Schaetzle seconded. Jan Orr explained that she is not representing the Estate of Jean Ritchey any longer as she is now the owner of the property. Councilman Schaetzle inquired if the ordinance was dealing with two properties and Ms. Orr stated it was. Councilman Donahoo asked if the property was cleared off? Ms. Orr stated it has a house on it. He then asked what business would be at the property? Ms. Orr stated at this time there was no plan for a business but she wanted to have the option later.

Council Vote: Schaetzle-yes; Alley-yes; Donahoo-yes; Williams-yes. Motion passed

Resolution 21-12-02 - A resolution granting a special exception to the Land Development Code Section 11.05.01 (e) to allow for a 48' dock as opposed to a 33' dock. Lot 2 Dolphin Point Estates, according to the map or plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 9, Page 20, Public Records of Okaloosa County, Florida. John and Kristin Harris, 107 Dolphin Point Road.

Mr. Corbin explained that Mr. Harris submitted a letter to request Resolution 21-12-02 be postponed to the April 2022 agenda.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS/REQUESTS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Lannie Corbin briefed the Council on several projects.

He stated he had met with Dr. Bill Smith, Director of the Okaloosa County School Board, in regards to the sidewalk that had been discussed at an earlier council meeting, in the new Huff's building development behind Goodyear Tires. He explained the City was working with the School Board to obtain property so the Huff's could install the sidewalk.

At the Regional Sewer Board meeting last Thursday, it was updated that the treatment levels were good. He mentioned the engineers were still working on the closing of the treatment facility and pumping directly to the County at their plant in Wright. We have also asked our State Representative about the possibility of funding assistance to take down the facility to turn it back into just land. Councilman Schaetzle asked when it would be

decommissioned and Mr. Corbin replied he thought it would be the middle of next year before that could happen.

Deer Moss Phase I is almost built out and they will be opening up 90 more lots. This has been a great project for the City.

The Senior Center is one of the busiest places in town right now, according to Mr. Corbin. It is a dynamic place with all types of programs and a great recreational area that includes a putting green and pickleball courts that will be covered. He stated a lady donated funds to the City to cover the pickleball courts. Councilman Schaetzle inquired if there was an end date for construction? Mr. Corbin stated he thought it would be in the Spring. Councilman Schaetzle explained that the Florida League of Cities has three annual awards: The City Spirit Award, The Florida Citizenship Award and The Environmental Stewardship Award. He stated the City Spirit Award will be given to a city for a specific, single citywide effort to address a local need successfully. He then stated that Niceville should consider submitting the Senior Center complex for this award in 2023 since the deadline for this year's submission is Friday, April 15th.

Police Department – Update

Chief David Popwell briefed the status of department operations.

During the month of February, the Police Department responded to 4,000 calls for police assistance. There was a total of 44 traffic crash reports written involving 85 vehicles and 1 pedestrian. The estimated amount of damage to these vehicles and related property was \$225,277. A total of 136 traffic citations and 233 traffic warning were issued, 16 misdemeanor, 6 felony and no DUI arrests were made.

Chief Popwell gave an update on the double homicide that happened February 11, 2022 stating both vehicles involved were in our custody. He went on to say the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) collected all the evidence and is processing it as we speak, six people were involved; two were deceased, one is in custody in the Leon County Jail, one is being searched for by the US Marshal Service and 2 were being searched for in Tallahassee. He stated this was a gang and drug related shooting.

Chief Popwell then went on to explain how 5 days after installing the new Flock camera system, it was instrumental in recovering a stolen vehicle that had passed by one of the cameras. He reassured the audience that the camera was not taking and storing pictures of every vehicle that passes by. He explained the process of the license plate number having to be entered into the system and then the camera will alert the authorities if it registers it

passing. He did say they were surprised at the number of expired tags that showed up in the City.

Councilwoman Alley asked if the gun that had been recovered at the school was part of the double homicide? Chief Popwell stated an AK47 had been recovered from the football practice field and yes it was involved.

Fire Department – Update

Chief Tommy Mayville briefed the status of department operations.

During the month of February, the Fire Department responded to 156 calls. The firemen participated in numerous send offs for local school sports. Four firemen also attended educational training in Orlando, Florida. He updated the status of the tower truck, stating it was still in the shop for repairs. Hose testing, hydrant testing and painting continued throughout the city as well. The Fire Department is also looking to update their drones to meet the new standards as the ones they have will no longer be able to be flown.

Water/Sewer/Drainage Projects – Update

Johnathan Laird, Public Works Director, briefed the status of current projects.

Water and Sewer:

Sewer Rehabilitation Work:

Gator Boring started the work on Florida Street for the new reuse line.

The bypass pumping will begin in late April for the four major lift stations.

Weather permitting, work will begin Monday on Benton Avenue for the water main upgrade.

Weather permitting, 27th Street will be closed Wednesday, March 9, 2022.

The reuse line on John Sims Parkway has been tied back into the irrigation system for the median.

Calls: 45 water calls and 19 sewer calls; made 23 water taps and 11 sewer taps; 195-line spots, 8 meters changed out and 462 service orders completed.

Stormwater:**Boggy Bayou Headwaters:**

Pensacola Concrete has completed lining the pipe on Bayshore Drive.

We had a washout at the seawall near the Landing. Materials are in and work on the project should begin in the next couple of weeks.

The floating dock has arrived and we have started work for the kayak launch and retrieval at Turkey Creek.

Streets:

The handicap ramps at Cedar Avenue and 27th Street, as well as curbs on Byrnes Street have been completed.

Sidewalks:

The City partnered with Okaloosa County to finish the Redwood Avenue sidewalks from Valparaiso Boulevard to 11th Street.

A decision was made yesterday to wait until after Spring Break to start paving John Sims Parkway.

The renovation on College bridge is still underway, expect delays.

New fencing has been installed at the baseball field at Twin Oaks.

Project at the Senior Center is moving forward. We are waiting on fencing and finishing up the concrete work.

Mr. Laird stated he has gotten many calls as to what is going up next to Walmart. He explained at this time nothing is going up, it is being used as a staging site for the equipment that will be used during the John Sims repaving project.

Councilwoman Alley stated she had received numerous calls regarding the Bayshore Place project and when it would be done. Mr. Laird stated it was complete.

She then asked Mr. Corbin if there would be a ribbon cutting ceremony at Turkey Creek for the boat launch when it was complete? Mr. Corbin stated we are now, we will do it. Councilman Schaezle asked when the launch would be complete? Mr. Laird stated he would have an answer for him tomorrow. He explained they were waiting on fencing to be

delivered. Mr. Corbin stated the brick building that is there is structurally sound but they will be remodeling it to add a lot of glass and it will be used as a welcome center.

Councilman Schaetzle thanked Mr. Laird and his department for filling a pothole in the street in his neighborhood.

Technology and Purchasing Departments:

Chad Morris, Director of Technology and Purchasing, briefed the status of current operations and projects.

Swift Creek sidewalk project is back in progress and sod was laid today. This project should be done within the week, weather permitting.

Due to an increase in fuel and supplies, Construction Services may ask for an increase to future projects. Mr. Morris stated he wanted to give them a heads up.

He asked everybody to be careful when opening emails. Actors have been trying to generate funds using the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

Bills Payable:

Councilman Williams moved approval. Councilwoman Alley seconded. Council Vote: Schaetzle-yes; Alley-yes; Donahoo-yes; Williams-yes. Motion passed

Other Business:

Councilman Schaetzle mentioned the 2022 Legislative Session will conclude this Friday, March 11th. Over 2800 bills were filed, some never made progress and some have already been signed by the Governor. The Northwest Florida League of Cities Dinner is on March 24th and we have a Florida League of Cities individual who will be the guest speaker and discuss the bills that will affect municipalities. The dinner is in Crestview and he hopes people will attend.

Councilman Donahoo stated he attended the Niceville High School Advisory Council and the school has taken over the County as far as population with 2,184 students versus Crestview's 2,118. Also, with the ½ cent sales tax, Niceville High School will be building a multipurpose room, which will be like a gym.

Councilman Williams congratulated our Niceville Athletes. He explained he attended the All Sports Banquet and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) breakfast and he named

several of the award-winning athletes. Paige Dolloff, female All Sports Association Scholastic Award; Eric Trapp, Taylor Haugen Foundation Trophy Award; Noah Harman, male All Sports Association Scholastic Award; Juanyeh Thomas male Collegiate Award; Officer John Newby, Amateur Award. \$200,000 was raised for charities such as The Boys and Girls Club, the Special Olympics, the FCA and the Eleanor J. Johnson Foundation.

Mayor Henkel reminded everybody present that this Sunday, March 13th at 2 AM we will lose an hour of sleep since we are springing forward with Daylight Savings Time. He also reminded the Council that the City of Niceville will be hosting the Okaloosa County League of Cities dinner on April 21st in the Community Center.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

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