

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF NICEVILLE, FLORIDA
MARCH 14, 2023

The Niceville City Council met in regular session at 6:00 PM, March 14, 2023 in the Council Chambers, 208 N Partin Drive. All Council members and the Mayor were present. 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 30 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 14, 2023
Planning Commission Meeting, March 6, 2023
Local Planning Agency Meeting, No Meeting Held

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Due to agenda rescheduling, Mayor Henkel swore in Councilwoman Cathy Alley, Councilman William Schaetzle, and Councilman Abner Williams for a four-year term since they ran unopposed during the qualifying period, prior to the start of the council meeting. The election date would have been March 14, 2023.

PRESENTATIONS:

Youth Advisory Council – Update

Councilman Nodjomian provided the update due to the Youth Advisory Council meeting early. He stated there were 7-8 members in attendance at the meeting and they discussed three main topics. The first was the clean up that was held on Saturday (March 11). He explained there were 12 students and 5 staff members who attended, and there were approximately 18 bags of trash collected. Mr. Laird thanked the Youth Council for the job

they performed cleaning up the city. The second topic was the Emerald Coast Autism Center (ECAC) 5K that will be held April 1, 2023 at the ECAC. They will be providing assistance again this year at the event. The last was that he and Mrs. Farmer would be taking 5-6 members of the Youth Council to Tallahassee on April 5th to attend the Legislative Action Days program being held that day. Councilwoman Alley asked when the 5K would begin and Councilman Nodjomian stated he would find out and get back to her.

Mayor Henkel read and presented a proclamation to the American Red Cross proclaiming March 2023 as Red Cross Month. Micki Miller, Bobby Miller, George Legge, and Mike Moran were present to receive the proclamation.

Okaloosa Walton Homeless Continuum of Care – Crystal Harrison, Executive Director

Ms. Harrison presented a PowerPoint regarding homelessness to raise awareness. Some statistics she shared from the Okaloosa Walton Point in Time (PIT) Count are that 259 total persons are experiencing homelessness, 37% suffer mental illness, HIV/AIDS, and substance abuse, or are survivors of domestic violence, and 33 households have at least one child. This is a humanitarian issue, public health issue, economic issue, and a moral issue. Help can be in the form of partnership, advocacy, education and awareness, and attending meetings. The next meeting is April 18, 2023 at 11AM in Warriors Hall, Crestview, Florida. Councilman Donahoo asked how long they have been in existence? She stated since 2015. Councilman Nodjomian asked if they were primarily grant funded and she stated yes. She is here just asking for our support. Mayor Henkel asked what the numbers were for Okaloosa County? Ms. Harrison stated it was 140 for unsheltered which did not include homeless students or couch surfers (those spending only a night at a house). They may have found a place to sleep for that one night and would not be included. The number is actually much higher.

Ordinance 23-04-01 – An Ordinance of the City of Niceville, Florida amending Ordinances No. 296 (previously amended by Ordinance 333), 297, 351, 526, and 93-11 to correct certain scrivener errors in the legal descriptions; providing for repeal of conflicting provisions; providing for severability; providing for all other provisions of said ordinances to remain the same; and providing for an effective date. (First Reading)

Mr. Doucet read Ordinance 23-04-01 by title. Councilman Nodjomian moved approval and Councilman Donahoo seconded. Councilman Schaetzle asked if this would be amending an existing ordinance and Mr. Doucet stated yes. He then asked if we have ever gone back and rewritten them completely? Mr. Doucet stated this was the first time we have done something like this due to the fact that scrivener errors were found. Mr. Morris explained

that the GIS department had been looking at the city limits and comparing them to what the County had. During the process, it was found that some annexation ordinances had some errors. Councilman Nodjomian responded that this is an administrative clean-up. Mr. Doucet agreed.

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

Resolution 23-03-01 – A Resolution granting a special exception to the Land Development Code, Table 7-2, R1B zoning to allow for a 16' rear setback as opposed to the required 20' West 57.31 feet of Lot 9, Davis – Clark Subdivision, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 4, Page 10, Public Records of Okaloosa County, Florida. Malcolm Spears, 1509 25th Street.

Mr. Doucet read Resolution 23-03-01 by title. Councilman Schaetzle moved approval and Councilwoman Alley seconded. Malcolm Spears, President of Grand American Enterprises, 4608 Shannon Drive, Crestview, Florida, stated this is a corner lot and there will be traffic coming down parallel to the lot but across the back there will be no traffic. He is asking for 4 feet on the back of the property so the house will fit, instead of asking for it on the side of the property with the heavy traffic. Councilman Nodjomian asked if there had been any objections from adjacent properties, specifically from those behind the property? Mrs. Ammy Hanson stated there had been none.

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

CITY MANAGER REPORTS/REQUESTS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Mr. Corbin briefed the status of projects throughout the City.

Mr. Corbin updated the headwater project stating that had been approved by the Corp of Engineers and we are awaiting the permit. Greg Pope is working on the signs for the walking areas of Niceville. Mr. Corbin, Mayor Henkel, and Dr. McCartney have been discussing the possibility of an aquatic center in this area. They are looking into a regional approach to see if it is possible.

Councilman Schaetzle asked Mr. Corbin for an update regarding the property on Government Street at the corner of Iowa Street? Councilwoman Alley stated she thought it had been seized. Chief Popwell explained that it had been seized by the Marshall Service but has since been sold to the Nguyen family. Mr. Corbin stated he would follow up.

Police Department – Update

Chief David Popwell briefed the status of department operations.

During the month of February, the Police Department responded to 3,651 calls for police assistance. There was a total of 54 traffic crash reports written involving 103 vehicles and 4 pedestrians. The estimated amount of damage to these vehicles and related property was \$361,742. A total of 91 traffic citations and 193 traffic warnings were issued; 10 misdemeanor, 12 felony and 2 DUI arrests were made.

Chief Popwell stated his department had used 6 doses of Narcan at 3 different events since last months meeting. He also stated Chief Mayville would have numbers for his department as well. He told the Council he was in Tallahassee representing the City of Niceville as the Law Enforcement Officer of the Day to the Florida House. Councilman Schaetzle asked if an officer had recently presented an award? Chief Popwell stated Officer Chadley Moore was presented a lifesaving award today as a result of his actions during a call for service. Councilman Schaetzle asked that if in the future he would coordinate with the City Clerk so the Council could attend? Chief Popwell stated he would.

Fire Department – Update

Chief Tommy Mayville briefed the status of department operations.

During the month of February, the Niceville Fire Department ran 175 calls. They participated in send offs for the Ruckel and Niceville High School Cheerleaders leaving for a competition. Administration attended the retirement ceremony for Chief Giuliano, Eglin Air Force Base. Administration and Battalion Chiefs participated in hazmat and mass casualty training held at Twin Cities Hospital. Crew members James, Sallee, Russano, and Wolfgramm attended the annual Orlando Fire Conference. Assistance Chief Webster gave a pump class to other in the department. Chief Mayville discussed drug use and peer pressure. He stated the department has been running approximated 6 drug related calls a week, and they have been administering Narcan. With Narcan, it's temporary. When we administer it and save a life, we can end up back at the same place later. Councilman Schaetzle asked what the upper age limit seemed to be? Chief Popwell stated the upper age he has notice is approximately 65 and Chief Mayville stated it does not target any age. Councilwoman Alley stated Governor DeSantis has launched a drug program and is hopeful that with intense targeting at the schools, the students will start to understand how bad it is. Councilman Williams pointed out that students are getting drugs on-line through social media.

Water/Sewer/Drainage Projects – Update

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

Water and Sewer:

Work has started on Reeves Street upgrading water lines from the 2' to an 8'. The pipeline is complete. We are waiting on clearances from DEP so we can install the service line.

We are in the process of upgrading lift station #42 on Country Club Drive.

We hope to be installing a force main on Cedar Avenue when school is out this summer.

Calls: 32 water calls and 16 sewer calls; made 5 water taps and 10 sewer taps; 189-line spots. We changed out 99 meters and have completed 528 service orders.

Stormwater:

We have completed the stormwater projects on Sabal Palm and Davis Drive.

We have installed a flume on the Rhonda Drive holding pond.

We are looking into redoing the pond on Gracie Lane.

We are working with Okaloosa County on a stormwater issue at 1754 Thomas Street. Okaloosa County has agreed to partner with us and do the construction.

Sidewalks:

The next sidewalk project will be in Swift Creek Plantation and then Rocky Shores.

Streets:

The completion date on John Sims/Highway 20 paving is set for April 11, 2023. However, they will be asking for a 95-day extension. He did not think they would be awarded a 95-day extension however it is likely they would get a shorter extension.

Completion date is April 25, 2023 for the Highway 85 project.

We have completed installing the speed bumps in Deer Moss Creek Phase 1.

Parks:

Renovation of Meigs Park has begun.

Mr. Laird gave another special thanks to the Youth Council for their hard work Saturday for the clean-up.

Reminder to everyone that the Egg Dash coming up on April the 8th.

Councilwoman Alley asked if the drain mats are recycled when a street project is complete? Mr. Laird stated no, the erosion control mats are reused on another project.

Technology and Purchasing Departments:

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

Mr. Morris attended a quarterly IT security meeting on-line today and hackers are still finding ways to infiltrate systems. He stated there had been several thousand attempts this year on our system, however there had been no intrusions. It does not appear that they are targeting Niceville, just looking for weak spots in any system.

Mr. Morris updated the sidewalk projects. The contractor has the task order for Swift Creek Plonation for the entrance to 285. Rocky Shores will be next, and the contractor has the plans for this project. The Valparaiso Boulevard design work will be like Thomas Street. The County is interested in working with us and installing drainage. The City has taken ownership of the property on Marc Smith Boulevard and once the force main under the girls' softball field can be rerouted, that project can be completed. Bids have been advertised for the force main project on Cedar Avenue and the resurfacing of the spray park area in the Children's Park. Councilman Schaetzle asked if the Marc Smith sidewalks would be completed before school begins or after? Mr. Morris stated he would contact the Huff's and ask them to finish it before school.

Bills Payable:

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

Other Business:

Councilman Nodjomian agreed that an aquatic center would be an amazing opportunity for the town and a great addition. Many of the council members were at the meeting a few

weeks ago, and the other communities that were in attendance were all supportive of the idea as well. He updated Councilwoman Alley regarding the ECAC race time stating registration would be at 7 AM with an 8 AM start time. It is starting by the ECAC building this year. He then asked the Mayor if he would update them on the city manager search? Mayor Henkel stated he would.

Councilman Schaetzle stated the since we met in February, the 2023 Legislative Session was in session and had started March 6 and would end May 5. He also stated the Senior Center is being considers for the Florida League of Cities award and he has been working with Julie Mooney and Betsy Byrd. They have split the task up of writing the submission and are on the first draft. It is due the middle of April and will be coming to the Mayor for signature when complete.

Councilman Donahoo stated that if anyone was interested, he had a list of the open enrollment for Okaloosa County public schools. The numbers for Niceville and Crestview show the schools at capacity.

Councilman Williams stated Akron, Alabama is celebrating William Thomas Day. Councilman Thomas was involved with a lot of youth leadership, so they are having a youth leadership camp in his honor and it will support the less fortunate kids in the area. Councilman Thomas was also a long-time member of the All Sports Association. Councilman Williams attended the All Sports Banquet this year, and the live auction raised \$183,000, not include the other fundraisers they had throughout the year.

Mayor Henkel gave a date change for the Okaloosa County League of Cities dinner from April 20th to May 18th. He then updated the Council regarding the search for a new city manager. He stated they had received 16 resumes so far and were expecting more. They will all be reviewed and the committee will do their due diligence to present the top ones to the Council for consideration by May 1st. This would allow a replacement to be in place by early July.

Judy Boudreaux, 2423 Duncan Drive, asked who is reviewing the applications? Mayor Henkel replied it is he, 1 member of council, 2 department heads, and 2 citizens.

Tim McCool, 1400 John Sims Parkway, stated 3rd Planet held the 4th bonfire fireworks fundraiser. This year they made a change to the format and asked for \$5 donation to enter and also did a 50/50 drawing. They were able to raise \$9,700.00 this year with an excess of \$35,000 raised in the last 3 ½ years. He hopes to continue fundraising for the fireworks moving forward.

Anne Thompson, 409 Chimney Rock Circle, Florida District 1 Ambassador for Autism Speaks, invite everybody in attendance to light it up blue on April 2nd for World Autism Awareness Day.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

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