

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF NICEVILLE, FLORIDA
APRIL 11, 2023

The Niceville City Council met in regular session at 6:00 PM, April 11, 2023 in the Council Chambers, 208 N Partin Drive. All Council members, except Councilman Nodjomian who joined via conference call, were present; and the Mayor was present. Also present were City Manager, Lannie Corbin; City Clerk, Dan Doucet; City Attorney, Dixie Powell; Police Department, Chief Popwell; Fire Department, Chief Mayville and Assistant Fire Chief Webster; 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 35 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, March 14, 2023
Planning Commission Meeting, No Meeting Held
Local Planning Agency Meeting, No Meeting Held

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PRESENTATIONS:

Youth Advisory Council – Update – Councilman Nodjomian

Councilman Nodjomian explained that the Youth Council attended the Legislative Days in Tallahassee on April 5th. The group consisted of himself, Mrs. Farmer, and four members of the Youth Council. There were also 8 other youth councils from around the state, totaling approximately 80 youth. They broke into groups and performed a mock legislative session. He commended Eryn Russell and the Florida League of Cities for hosting a great event. He also mentioned that Councilman Schaeztle was attending the Legislative Days as well and took time to say hello to the youth who attended. The trip to Tallahassee counted as their April meeting and they will have one more meeting in May to wrap up this year's academic session.

Mayor Henkel recognized the Boy Scout Troops in attendance. Jeff Sobel explained, BSA Troop 1157 and 157 were in attendance working on their Citizenship in the Community Badge and Communication Badge.

Tammy McGaughy, CPA/ABV, CFF, CFE, Warren Averett, LLC – 2022 Financial Audit Out Brief.

Ms. McGaughy provided the Council with a summary of the auditor's results for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022:

1. Unmodified opinions on financial statements.
2. One material weakness in internal control over financial reporting, no non-compliance findings (AG Rules)
3. Subject to compliance examination of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recover Funds Program. No findings with respect to the examination.
4. GFOA Certificate Awarded for fiscal year 2021 CAFR (36th Consecutive Year)
5. Pension Standard Reporting (GASB 68) – The City's portion of unfunded pension liability is \$12.4 million (prior year \$4.8 million) – Actuarially determined.
6. OPEB Standard (GASB 75) – The City's portion of unfunded health benefits liability is \$4.5 million (prior year \$5.8 million).

She explained that in 2021 the State had a great rate for FRS (Florida Retirement System), however with investment earnings going down it impacted the liability. This includes both the health and pension liabilities. The City is not doing anything wrong, you are making the payments. Ms. McGaughy stated that she had already met with staff to address the new finding (#2) and a process has been put in place. Councilman Schaetzle complimented Ms. McGaughy and her firm for coming in to do the audit and Councilman Nodjomian also thanked her stating the continuity was important.

Proclamation recognizing the selection of the Distinguished Young Woman Award.

Mayor Henkel read and presented Ms. Autumn Sobel with the proclamation for the Distinguished Young Woman Award. Ms. Sobel thanked Mayor Henkel and the Distinguished Young Woman leaders. She stated she originally participated to have fun with her friends however, it had changed her life. She has received \$4,000.00 in scholarship money to attend Clemson University.

Proclamation recognizing Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Mayor Henkel read and presented the proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Proclamation recognizing the Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Mayor Henkel read the proclamation for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

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. (Final Reading)

Mr. Doucet read Ordinance 23-04-01 by title. Councilman Schaetzle moved approval and Councilwoman Alley seconded. No one spoke for or against.

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

Resolution 23-04-01 – A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to purchase services for the Cedar Avenue South Force Main Upgrades Project.

Mr. Doucet read Resolution 23-04-01 by title. Councilman Schaetzle moved approval and Councilwoman Alley seconded. Mr. Doucet stated there had been a bid opening and we received two bids. Mr. Morris stated the bid opening was held Thursday and Utility Service Company was the winning bid. He is requesting additional funds for this project as it came in over \$600,000 higher than the project was budgeted. He then explained the re-use project to Deer Moss Creek was delayed due to permitting from Eglin AFB, so the funds could be moved over from that project, so there would not be a need to amend the budget. Councilman Schaetzle asked what the timeline for completion would be? Mr. Morris stated the proposal is for 120 days and they hope to have it completed before school starts. Councilman Nodjomian asked how much over and Mr. Morris replied \$673,840.06. Councilman Nodjomian asked if we had any history using Utility Service Company? Mr. Morris stated we had and we have been happy with their work. Mr. Laird agreed. Councilman Donahoo inquired about the advertising process. Mr. Morris stated it is in the local paper and several national companies pick up on the advertisements. The major issue right now is that contractors are swamped with work and that is causing higher prices. Councilwoman Alley asked if there was a projection for 3,4,5 years out for lines that need to be replaced? Mr. Morris explained there is a plan but it is not that detailed. Each budget cycle we budget for specific lines if we are aware of them. Councilman Williams asked if the current line was going bad or if it was not good enough. Mr. Morris explained that the plan is to put in a bigger line to take pressure off the pumps. Councilman Williams asked if this line would be able to tie into the County when we are ready? Mr. Morris replied yes.

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

CITY MANAGER REPORTS/REQUESTS/RECOMMENDATIONS:**Police Department – Update**

Chief David Popwell briefed the status of department operations.

During the month of March, the Police Department responded to 3,626 calls for police assistance. There was a total of 58 traffic crash reports written involving 117 vehicles and 1 pedestrian. The estimated amount of damage to these vehicles and related property was \$489,660. A total of 165 traffic citations and 250 traffic warnings were issued, 15 misdemeanor, 10 felony and 1 DUI arrests were made.

Chief Popwell stated Officer Ryan was named officer of the year by the Elks Club and that David Wiggs had graduated and is now an officer. Chief Popwell updated the Council on the status of the homicide trial stating it was on hold while awaiting new attorneys as the current ones did not want to participate in a murder trial. Councilwoman Alley asked if the accused was in jail? Chief Popwell stated he was probably out on bail. Councilman Williams stated that 58 car crashes seems to be more than average and asked if there was anything that could be done to reduce them? Chief Popwell stated he hoped drivers would get accustomed to the new traffic patterns on John Sims. The traffic units are out there, so he is not sure what else to do. Councilwoman Alley asked if it was DOT who sets the speed on John Sims? Chief Popwell stated yes and that they follow a manual.

Fire Department – Update

Chief Tommy Mayville briefed the status of department operations.

During the month of March, the Fire Department responded to 214 calls. Chief Mayville stated Lieutenant testing and interviews were held resulting in Ethan Randolph and Mack Regans being promoted. Battalion Chief testing and interviews were also held, resulting in Alex Winkler being promoted. Fire Chiefs from Eglin AFB and Ocean City-Wright were brought in to assist with testing. C-Shift crew members gave CD Williamson Karate School a fire presentation; Jason Maines and Ryan Winburn attended HOT training in Alabama; fireman interviews were held resulting in the hiring of four applicants; Assistant Fire Chief Webster and Division Chief Funchess held training classes; and we have 4 CPR instructors and are looking to had 4 more. Chief Mayville stated 18 years ago they were called out to a lifeless child and saved her life. They just received a graduation invitation and will get to watch her walk the stage to accept her diploma. Councilwoman Alley stated that in the future when promotions happen the Council would like to be informed so they can attend. Councilman Schaetzle asked for an update on the Opioid statics from this month. A brief discussion followed with Chief Mayville being asked to brief the Council next month on the statistics of Narcan use. Councilwoman Alley asked how the staff was being protected

from fentanyl? Chief Mayville stated they coordinate with the police department to know the hazardous areas and also using air packs and protective gear.

Water/Sewer/Drainage Projects – Update

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

Water and Sewer:

The clearances are back on the Reeves Street waterline upgrade and we will be swapping them over next week.

The rehabilitation of lift station #42 is complete. This project was done in house, saving the City approximately \$60,000.00

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

Calls: 43 water calls and 21 sewer calls; 6 water taps and 7 sewer taps were made; 239-line spots. We changed out 52 meters and have completed 486 service orders.

Stormwater:

We have completed the stormwater project on Sabal Palm.

We are looking into redoing the pond on Gracie Lane and are currently waiting on core samples from Nova to return.

We have completed the stormwater projects on 20th Street and Kumquat Avenue, Drew Court, and Red Maple Way.

We are working with Okaloosa County on a stormwater issue at 1754 Thomas Street. Okaloosa County has agreed to partner with us and are drafting an interlocal agreement. The City of Niceville will provide materials and Okaloosa County will do the installation.

We are in the process of designing a new roadway from Hill Lane to Marquette Street.

Streets:

Completion for the John Sims Highway 20 paving project is set for mid to late May, however there has been a 95-day extension requested.

Completion for the Highway 85 project is set for June 16, 2023.

Sidewalks:

Construction Services are about 80% done on the sidewalk project in Swift Creek Plantation and are reviewing the plans for Rocky Shores.

Parks:

We have started the renovation of Meigs Park. The asphalt has been striped and fencing removed.

Mr. Laird gave a special thanks to the Youth Council for their hard work Saturday for the clean-up. They collected 14 bags of trash.

Councilman Schaetzle requested an update to the sidewalk behind Aldi that the Huff's were installing. Mr. Laird stated the project was being looked at now. Mr. Corbin explained there are 5-6 large trees in the path and they are looking at a plan to save them instead of removing them.

Councilwoman Alley asked Mr. Laird how many employees short public works was? He stated they were short approximately 19 employees. She then inquired about a job fair and Mr. Laird stated the HR Director was looking to do another one. Councilman Donahoo asked if the reason employees were leaving was due to money? Mr. Laird answered yes.

Mr. Corbin invited the Council to the annual picnic to be held Thursday, April 13th. He stated that if it was raining, it would be held in the Community Center.

Bills Payable:

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

Other Business:

Mr. Corbin stated that he and Councilwoman Alley represent the City on the Regional Sewer Board and at the last meeting there was some equipment that needed to be replaced. Permission has been given for the work to be done. The nitrogen levels went up beyond what DEP allows, however that was due to the equipment malfunction. Since the repairs, the levels have come down.

Councilman Williams asked, since he had been asked by several people, is there was a new Assistant City Manager? Mr. Corbin stated he had appointed Mr. Morris to that position to assist him in being able to take some classes. He is not over any other employees in that position. Councilman Williams asked when that happened? Mr. Morris stated the first part

of February. Councilman Williams then asked if it came with new responsibilities and new pay? Mr. Corbin replied there was no additional responsibilities or pay.

Councilwoman Alley was excited to announce there was an official request sent to Eglin AFB to negotiate a long term 30-year lease for the Mullet Festival site. She stated that conceptually they have approved.

Councilman Schaetzle stated the Florida Legislature was still in session and would be for another 3.5 weeks. He said to be on the look out for new bills, some would affect us and others would not. Councilman Schaetzle said the package for the Local Action Award for the Senior Center was moving forward and would be ready before the deadline.

Councilman Schaetzle stated he had been working with Eliza Mitchiner and Carolyn Ketchel regarding Jackie Cochran. He asked Ms. Mitchiner to explain. She explained that the Mattie Kelly Arts Center, Spring Theater, was putting on a play the Flight of Jackie Cochran June 4, 2023 and 2 PM. She said it was a great opportunity to learn more about people from our area. Jackie Cochran was the first woman to break the sound barrier and flew with Chuck Yeager. She commented that we have a lot of history around us. Councilman Schaetzle stated there would be limited seating and urged people to buy tickets as soon as they go on sale.

Councilwoman Alley asked Mr. Morris if there was a timeframe for streaming the meeting? Mr. Morris stated he would try to have it set up next month to try out.

Mayor Henkel stated he received a thank you from the President of Northwest Florida State College for the support to the Symphony Orchestra. Mayor Henkel informed the Council and audience that on Sunday May, 21 from 6 PM to 9 PM there would be a fundraiser in honor of Councilman William Thomas. Councilman Thomas was involved in the community and this fundraiser will help children attend a Youth Leadership Camp. Mayor Henkel stated Mr. Beacon had spoken with him and wanted to make sure everybody knew the Senior Center did a great job on the St. Patrick's Day event.

Douglas Beacon, 311 Grove Park Drive, stated he had been a member of the Senior Center since the day it opened and it gets better each day. Julie Mooney is doing a great job. Accolades to her and her staff.

Shirley Fowler, 112 Cedar Ridge Way, stated she likes trees, misses trees, and wants more trees. She attended tonight to bring awareness to the need for mitigation of trees when property is cleared. Mayor Henkel offered to talk more about it with her.

James Williams, 200 Kelly Road, would like to request reclaimed water be offered in his area. He offered to donate more land if necessary. Mayor Henkel stated he appreciated the offer and it would be looked into.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.

ATTEST:

MAYOR

CITY CLERK

Minutesregularcouncil04112023