

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

The Niceville City Council met in regular session at 6:00 PM, February 8, 2022 in the Council Chambers, 208 N Partin Drive. All Council members were present, with the exception of Councilwoman Alley who phoned and the Mayor who was out of town. 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 13 visitors in the audience, including other City employees. Mayor Pro Tem Schaetzle called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Reverend Stauffer offered the prayer and Councilman Williams led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Council Meeting, January 11, 2022
Planning Commission Meeting, February 1, 2022
Local Planning Agency Meeting, No Meeting Held

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PRESENTATIONS:

Youth Advisory Council – Update

Phoebe Barron, Vice-Chair for the Youth Advisory Council, updated the Council regarding their prior and upcoming events. She stated the Campus Carnival and 5K are proceeding as planned. They will be working on a sign-up sheet for volunteers for the event. She then explained their next Community Service Contest will be done based on the Campus Carnival. They will also be surveying past members to get their feed back on the Youth Advisory Council and how it has affected their lives. Judy Boudreaux, 2423 Duncan Drive, asked how the video contest went? Phoebe responded that they entered but did not win. Councilman Nodjomian stated the Youth Advisory Council has gone after every award opportunity available and have successfully won several \$500 awards in the past.

Designation of Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) – Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor Pro Tem Schaetzle read and presented Steven Rausch a letter from the International Institute of Municipal Clerk (IIMC) for attaining his CMC. Also presented to Mr. Rausch were a lapel pin and plaque from the IIMC.

Resolution 22-02-01 – A resolution granting a special exception to the Land Development Code, Table 7-2, R-1 zoning, to allow for a 3' north side setback as opposed to the required 7' 6". Lot 6, Block 8, of Revised Edgewater Village Subdivision, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 4, Page 47, Public Records of Okaloosa County, Florida. Nathan Vannatter and Melissa Sorensen, 2310 Canal Drive.

Mr. Doucet read Resolution 22-02-01 by title. Councilman Donahoo moved approval and Councilman Williams seconded. Michael Proteau, 2304 Canal Drive, came forward as the architect on the project and explained that two corner additions are being proposed. Councilman Nodjomian asked if any neighbors had concerns over the additions? Ammy Hanson stated no and explained that 24 letters had been mailed out and there were no objections. Councilman Schaetzle asked Mr. Proteau if this was going to be one or two stories? Mr. Proteau stated there would be two separate additions. One would be a single car garage and the second would be an addition on the back that they are considering making a family room and bathroom and they were looking at making it two stories however, the entire second floor would not be occupied.

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

Resolution 22-02-02 – A resolution by the City of Niceville recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Florida Association of City Clerks (FACC) and honoring this achievement.

Mr. Doucet read Resolution 22-02-02 by title. He then read the resolution in its entirety. Councilman Williams moved approval and Councilman Nodjomian seconded. No one spoke for or against.

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

Councilman Schaetzle stated this was a milestone and Councilman Nodjomian agreed, adding they could not do their jobs without Mr. Doucet. Attorney Powell took this time to

recognize Mr. Doucet for his service to the City of Niceville and his guidance through the years.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS/REQUESTS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Police Department – Update

Chief David Popwell briefed the status of department operations.

During the month of January, the Police Department responded to 3,333 calls for police assistance. There was a total of 44 traffic crash reports written involving 80 vehicles and 3 pedestrians. The estimated amount of damage to these vehicles and related property was \$250,802. A total of 140 traffic citations and 149 traffic warnings were issued, 21 misdemeanor, 16 felony and 4 DUI arrests were made. Chief Popwell also stated the department has 2 drones and 5 pilots getting their certification. He stated they were notified yesterday that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is changing their requirements and they are only allowing five specific drones to be authorized for use in the State of Florida. Unfortunately, our two drones are not on the list. Axon, the company we purchased them through, has agreed to replace them with approved drones if the changes go through. We have emergency authorization to use ours if we have to. Mr. Corbin asked if that was only drones for the Police Department and Chief Popwell said yes. Councilman Nodjomian asked, given the proximity to Eglin Air Force Base, what is the protocol to use the drones, is it below 300 feet? Chief Popwell stated it was below 400 feet but most of the time it is going to be below 100 feet.

Fire Department – Update

Chief Tommy Mayville briefed the status of department operations.

During the month of January, the Fire Department responded to 186 calls. The department has been training new hires as well as reviewing and revising their standard operating guidelines (SOGs) and standard operating procedures (SOPs). He then told the Council he and three other firemen traveled to Ohio to go over the details on the new fire truck and that the building process has begun. Due to delays, it will be about 18 months before it is complete. They will also be getting the art work to match the other tower. Firemen have been working on hose testing and will soon begin pressure washing and painting fire hydrants. Battalion Chief Webster is working on writing grants for fire prevention safety. Councilman Schaetzle stated there should be reflectors on the roads to mark the location of the fire hydrant and asked if they are checking to make sure they are not missing? Chief Mayville said yes that is something they keep an eye on. Councilman Nodjomian asked

how the department was doing with the new hires and if the salary adjustments seemed to have helped? Chief Mayville stated the new hires are working well and the salary adjustments have helped out.

Water/Sewer/Drainage Projects – Update

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

Water and Sewer:

Sewer Rehab Work:

Next week Gator boring will be working on Florida Street boring the new reuse line for Okaloosa County. At this time Florida Street will be closed between 2-3 weeks.

The bypass pumping for 4 major lift stations will begin in late April.

Construction Services will be upgrading the force main down Rhonda Drive for the new Juniper West Subdivision in late February or early March.

Calls: 38 water calls and 25 sewer calls; made 18 water taps, 210-line spots and completed 338 service orders.

Stormwater:

Boggy Bayou Headwaters:

Pensacola Concrete has started lining the pipe on Bayshore Drive around the Dana Point area it should be finished by tomorrow afternoon.

We have a washout at the seawall near the Landing and materials have been ordered but have been delayed for eight weeks.

The floating dock has arrived and we are still working at Turkey Creek for the kayak launch and retrieval.

Streets:

We have installed handicap ramps at Cedar Avenue and 27th Street as well as curbs on Byrnes Street to help control run off.

Sidewalks:

Construction Services started the project in Swift Creek. We are also looking into installing sidewalks on Nathey Street around Edge Elementary and Marc Smith Boulevard coming from the new Juniper Subdivision to Palm Boulevard. We also are going to be installing two blocks on Valparaiso Boulevard.

We are currently striping 37th Street and Helms Street between the two churches and Crossing Boulevard.

We are still waiting on a notice to proceed on the John Sims Parkway paving from DOT, so this project has been delays for a couple of weeks.

College bridge renovation will begin February 14th and will remain closed until the milling and resurfacing is completed. There will then be periodic lane closures while they are redoing the joints and guardrails on the College bridge. This will be a six to seven-month project.

The Eglin Federal Credit Union ATM renovation at Cedar Avenue and John Sims Parkway has begun. There will be changes to the egress since DOT has stated SR20 can no longer be used for an exit.

Meigs Park renovations will include refurbishing the tennis ball courts and installing pickleball courts.

Councilman Williams stated he had received emails from the residents of Swift Creek thanking public works for all their hard work. Councilman Schaetzle also mentioned a neighbor of his that complimented the public works for cleaning out an area that was overgrown.

CRA Update:

Ammy Hanson stated the next CRA meeting will be held on March 8th at 5 PM and the agenda will go out next week. Mr. Corbin stated Representative Maney was looking to help fund the overpass near Turkey Creek and asked Mrs. Hanson where we stood with that? She responded that she has been contacted by Senator Gainer's office as well and provided more information on all three projects and they are looking to be supportive of all three.

Technology and Purchasing Departments:

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

Mr. Morris stated they are seeing an uptick in attempts to get user names and passwords through phishing emails. So far, the network security has been able to catch these attempts. He reminded everybody to not open emails that do not look right. If there is any question to contact the person the email came from and ask them if they actually sent it. He mentioned an email from Commissioner Boyles regarding a high-speed internet survey the County is doing and that it is a legitimate email and the link can be clicked on. The purpose behind the survey is their funding source requires that broad band service projects are to be serving either unserved or underserved populations, so this will be focused more in the north end of the County.

Mr. Morris said the sidewalk project on Bayshore Drive from Valparaiso Boulevard to 11th Street is a joint project with Okaloosa County and it is to be brought before the Commission at next week's meeting. The City agreed to pay half of the construction and the County has requested a motion and approval from the Council before they can take it to the Commission. Councilman Schaetzle inquired whether we still had the funds to support 50% of this project? Mr. Morris stated yes.

Councilman Nodjomian motioned to approve the City of Niceville to commit 50% of the final cost to the County project for the construction of the sidewalk on Bayshore Drive from Valparaiso Boulevard to 11th Street. Councilman Williams seconded.

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

Judy Boudreaux asked what the total amount of the project was that we agreed to pay 50% of? Mr. Morris stated they are still finishing up some of the plans but a rough estimate was \$180,000 total price and \$90,000 would be our part of it. The expectation is the number is going to be lower than that. Councilman Schaetzle asked Reverend Stauffer if this project was a concern of his along with Bayshore? Reverend Stauffer said it was along with the one that starts on Valparaiso Boulevard and ends on Linden. That is a separate issue but this one is very important too. Councilman Schaetzle asked Mr. Morris if there was a timeline for when they would be doing this project? He stated they have not given us a definite time; the County has to approve the project first and the contractor has another project they are working on in Milton and then should start this one.

City Manager:

Mr. Corbin stated the Regional Sewer Board did not have a meeting but all the numbers the State requires us to be under for DEP, we are well within the requirements for those numbers. He then explained Representative Maney was not only working with Mrs. Hanson on the CRA but he is also trying to get money from the State to help offset the cost of our project to close the sewer plant and tie in with the County. He said if you look at the parcel of land it is ten acres and we may not want to sell this land if we close the sewer plant. It ties in with surrounding property, Eglin AFB has 5 acres there and Ruckel Properties has another 5 acres, so we could put together a nice recreation area in the future. Mr. Corbin informed the Council there had been some issues with COVID-19 in the Police Department but that was all cleared up.

Other Business:

Councilwoman Alley said she had spoken with Representative Maney in Tallahassee today and he is working on funding for the walk over. She will follow up with him again next week.

Councilman Schaetzle said we heard earlier the FACC is celebrating their 50th year and he wanted to add that the Florida League of Cities will be celebrating the 100th year in 2022 and more information on that will be forth coming. He also went on to explain there have been quite a few bills submitted this year in Tallahassee, 3,572 new bills have been filed. The League is actively engaged and are monitoring more than 600 bills. The legislative season is in week five and it will go another three weeks. The Northwest Florida League of Cities is planning their quarterly dinner in Crestview on March 24th and Jenny Anderson will send out an announcement on the date. Representative Maney's told Councilman Schaetzle he would be attending this event. The Florida League of Cities should be the guest speaker and update us on what bills are out there that will affect us. There are quite a few bills the Florida League of Cities has worked on with the bill writers or the committees these bills are going through to change the bills to be a better bill for the cities.

Chief Mayville let the Council know the Fire Department would be on stand-by at 3rd Planet Friday, February 11, for the bonfire they have every year. Councilman Schaetzle added we had a Boston Butt sale for the first time this year and asked Mr. Corbin how the sales were going and if people could still buy one? Mr. Corbin stated they could not as they are sold out.

Bills Payable:

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

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

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