

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF NICEVILLE, FLORIDA
MAY 10, 2022

The Niceville City Council met in regular session at 6:00 PM, May 10, 2022 in the Council Chambers, 208 N Partin Drive. All Council members and the Mayor were present, Councilman Nodjomian and Councilman Williams joined through a conference call. 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. Mayor Henkel offered the prayer and led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Council Meeting, April 12, 2022
Planning Commission Meeting, May 2, 2022
Local Planning Agency Meeting, No Meeting Held

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PRESENTATIONS:

Youth Advisory Council – Councilman Nodjomian stated the Youth Advisory Council meeting had been postponed until May 18, 2022, so there was no update.

Proclamation recognizing the selection of the Distinguished Young Woman Award

Mayor Henkel read and presented London Taylor with the Distinguished Young Woman Award and proclaimed May 10, 2022 to be London Taylor Day. Ms. Taylor thanked the Mayor and stated this program has helped her with confidence and empowering women. She also stated it was an honor to represent the State of Florida June 23-25, 2022 at the 65th Distinguished Young Woman National Finals in Mobile, Alabama.

Proclamation recognizing all the members of the NWFSC Men’s Basketball Team on winning the National Junior College Athletic Association National Championship

Mayor Henkel read and presented Dr. Devin Stephenson, Ramsey Ross, Lorenzo Jenkins, Deshawndre Washington, Fallou Diagne, and Michael Dudley with a proclamation congratulating them on winning the National Junior College Athletic Association National Championship. They finished with an overall record of 31-5 and Panhandle Conference record of 9-3, and won the 2021-2022 Panhandle Conference Championship. College President Stephenson stated he has lived here for the last five years and he is proud to call Niceville home. He explained they did finish with a record of 31-5 this year after only winning six games the season before. It is the number one collegiate turn around record in NJCAA history. They are very proud of the team's accomplishments. He remarked that you only have to raise the expectation of these young people and tell them what you believe they can do, and if you hold them accountable, they will rise to the occasion. This is the third in program history. Deshawndre Washington was named MPV of the tournament and will be attending New Mexico State University, playing Division I basketball. Michael Dudley redshirted this year, so we are excited for the future with him. Fallou Diagne, while injured this year, he still remained the biggest motivator for the team. He will be attending Western Kentucky University next year and will play Division I basketball. He also went on to say that the basketball team earned a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.2 for the fall semester, they also have a 100% graduation rate, and we are very proud of these athletes. Ramsey Ross, Athletic Director, thanked the Mayor for recognizing these young men. He recognized Assistant Coach Lorenzo Jenkins for his hard work. He also stated these young men represented the college and community the right way by putting their egos aside.

Designation of Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) - Mayor Henkel

Mayor Henkel read and presented Wendy Farmer a letter from the International Institute of Municipal Clerk (IIMC) for attaining her CMC. Also presented to Mrs. Farmer was a lapel pin and plaque from the IIMC.

Niceville Housing Authority – Becky Cole Update

Becky Cole addressed the Council and explained that in 2019 she came before them asking for the City to refund a portion of the pilot payment and they agreed. She thanked them for that and stated they have hit a few snags with being able to expand. She proposed to the Council to enter into an agreement regarding the refund of the pilot payment for longer than a year. She was requesting the possibility of a ten-year agreement. Discussion followed regarding the agreement. It was decided that no motion would be made at this time and a draft would be presented to Attorney Powell.

Ordinance 22-05-01 – An ordinance for the rezoning of certain properties in the City of Niceville, Florida providing for same and an effective date. CALM Organization, 1702 27th St aka 201 Redwood Ave, request their property be rezoned from PCI, Public/Civic Institutional to PUD, Planned Unit Development. Lots 1,2,3,4, and 5, block B, Rosemont,

according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 64, Public Records of Okaloosa County, Florida. (Final Reading)

Mr. Doucet read Ordinance 22-05-01 by title. Councilwoman Alley moved approval and Councilman Donahoo seconded. No one spoke for or against.

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

Ordinance 22-06-01 – An ordinance for the rezoning of certain properties in the City of Niceville, Florida providing for same and an effective date. Malcolm Spears, 1600 27th St and the adjoining parcel # 09-1S-22-2140-0000A-0020, requests his property be re-zoned from R-2, One or Multi Family, to R-3, Multi Family. Metes and bounds description, parcel id numbers 09-1S-22-2140-000A-0010 and 09-1S-22-2140-000A-0020. (First Reading)

Mr. Doucet read Ordinance 22-06-01 by title. Councilwoman Alley moved approval and Councilman Schaetzle seconded. Ammy Hanson stated this project was to build three single family homes on these lots and there were no objections with Planning Commission. Judy Boudreaux, 2423 Duncan Drive, asked what was the difference between R-2 and R-3? Mrs. Hanson stated it would allow him to build three houses instead of two.

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 April, the Police Department responded to 3,586 calls for police assistance. There was a total of 42 traffic crash reports written involving 79 vehicles and one pedestrian. The estimated amount of damage to these vehicles and related property was \$355,903. A total of 99 traffic citations and 103 traffic warning were issued, 5 misdemeanor, 8 felony and 1 DUI arrests were made.

Councilwoman Alley congratulated Chief Popwell and his staff for the recognition Niceville received last month for being the safest city in Florida for 2021

Chief Popwell informed the Council that the incident at the ice cream shop was a juvenile road rage prank. He also informed them that the final arrest had been made in the Props

homicide. Lastly, the 14-year-old who was in the company of the 47-year-old male was recovered and he is in jail.

Fire Department – Update

Chief Tommy Mayville briefed the status of department operations.

During the month of April, the Fire Department responded to 177 calls. He stated the storms and lightening strikes had kept them busy. The hydrants are still being tested and pressure washed, along with being their locations being marked. They are working along side the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to increase the efficiency of their radios and communication. He then informed the Council that Inspector Mike Valenzuela would be retiring at the end of the month. They are preparing for an easy transition within the department.

Water/Sewer/Drainage Projects – Update

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

Water and Sewer:

Sewer Rehab Work:

Gator boring is working on the new reuse line on Florida Street, hopefully it will be completed Friday.

The bypass pumping for 4 major lift stations will begin the second week of June.

The water line upgrade on Benton Avenue is approximately 90% complete. The service lines still need to be tied in.

The force main on Rhonda Drive should start in the next couple of weeks. Once the force main on Rhonda Drive is complete, we will be paving Rhonda Drive and Juniper Avenue.

The driveway for the Aldi's on John Sims Parkway is complete.

Calls: 47 water calls and 24 sewer calls; made 14 water taps and 6 sewer taps. 457 service orders were completed.

Stormwater:

We have completed the stormwater project at the softball complex.

The stormwater project on Nutmeg Avenue will start in the next couple of weeks.

The seawall at the Landing is complete.

The floating dock and observation deck at Turkey Creek are complete. We will be starting the sidewalk next week to get handicap accessibility to the dock.

We have torn down two abandoned buildings and a storage yard at the CRA property on Edge Avenue.

Sidewalks:

The have started on the sidewalks on John Sims Parkway.

There has been a temporary fix done at the College Bridge renovation site and it looks as though the renovations will not be completed until July.

Parks:

We are finishing up some landscaping at the Senior Center and will soon be ready to open up the back half.

Councilman Schaetzle asked if the flags he saw on John Sims was where sidewalks would be laid all the way up toward Turkey Creek tying into the Rocky Drive area? Mr. Laird answered yes, anywhere on John Sims that does not already have a sidewalk, one will be installed and they will be repairing sidewalks as well.

Councilwoman Alley asked if the landscaping in the center where the trees have been removed is going to go away or will they be re-landscaping? Mr. Laird stated it would be going away and they will be adding a wider turn lane.

Technology and Purchasing Departments:

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

Mr. Morris stated the IS Department has completed the installation of a new node. This should help free up space and resources on the server. He also reminded everybody present to be thinking about cyber security. His department is stopping a lot of emails that are obviously threats and others that are not so obvious.

He updated the status of the sidewalks in Swift Creek stating they were complete. The sod seems to be yellowed but not bad. Doug Tolbert is happy with it but if it does not live and thrive, the contractor will replace it.

According to Mr. Morris, Construction Services is not planning on raising our unit contract price at this time.

Nathey Street sidewalks behind Edge Elementary will be done while students are on Summer break.

City Manager Update:

Lannie Corbin briefed the status of projects around the City.

Mr. Corbin stated the Regional Sewer Board is running smoothly. There are no issues with the plant or the spray field.

The Senior Center is a hot spot with over 1,000 members. This morning, all of the rooms were full with programs.

He met with the Little League group regarding the property between the Mullet Festival Site and the bypass. He will be meeting with Eglin to discuss options for this property.

Mr. Corbin stated the City is doing well. It has been a good year so far and he expects it to get better.

Councilman Nodjomian inquired about the date of the meeting with Eglin? Mr. Corbin stated it would be one day next week and he would notify Councilman Nodjomian of the date and time. Councilwoman Alley stated that Mel Ponder suggested waiting until the change of command in June.

Councilman Donahoo asked who owned the school board sign at the Mullet Festival site and if it had been authorized to located it there? Mr. Corbin state it had not been authorized and it had already been moved once. Eglin AFB does not authorize signs being erected on their property.

Debbie Lewis, 2446 Duncan Drive, suggested using Wolverine Park in Valparaiso for youth sports. Mr. Corbin stated he would look into it but as the property was not in the City of Niceville, he would have to coordinate with the City of Valparaiso.

Bills Payable:

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

Other Business:

Councilman Schaetzle stated that during the Legislative Session, 3,685 bills had been filed. Of those, 285 bills passed both the House and the Senate and went to the Governor. He denied a bill that dealt with solar. Less than one-tenth of the bills made it out of both the House and the Senate. Councilman Schaetzle informed everybody of the upcoming Fish Fry Fundraiser being held by the Niceville Library. It will be May 19th from 5 PM to 6 PM at the Community Center, tickets are \$10.00 each.

Councilwoman Alley informed the Council that after two years of not having one, the Eglin AFB Gate to Gate Memorial Day Run/Walk would be happening this year and she would be participating.

Robert McEachern, 1027 Christy Drive, addressed the Council regarding a health and safety issue at 1032 Christy Drive. He stated he has been trying to get this issue resolved for some time now. He shared pictures of the condition of the property and house. He explained the owner of the property, Charles Mikesh, has been deceased since 2014. Discussion followed regarding the next steps that will be taken by Attorney Powell. A letter will be sent to the heirs and if they do not comply, it will go before the Magistrate.

Katharine Sims, 519 Linden Avenue, expressed her concern to the Council regarding three subjects. She was advised that she had three minutes to speak about them.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK