
ROCKLEDGE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021 ♦ 6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The Rockledge City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at Rockledge City Hall, 1600 Huntington Lane, Rockledge, Florida.

PRESENT:

Thomas J. Price	Mayor
Michael Cadore	Councilmember, Seat #1
Dr. R. Shaun Ferguson	Councilmember, Seat #2
Sammie Brown Martin	Councilmember, Seat #3
Frank T. Forester	Councilmember, Seat #4
Duane A. Daski	Councilmember, Seat #5
Ted J. Hartselle	Councilmember, Seat #6
Joseph E. Miniclier	City Attorney
Dr. Brenda Fettrow	City Manager
Jennifer M. LeVasseur	City Clerk & Public Relations Officer

STAFF PRESENT:

Matthew Trine	Assistant City Manager & Finance Director
John Cooper	Planning Director
Joseph P. LaSata	Public Safety Director/Chief of Police
Scott Brown	Public Works Director
James Elmore	Wastewater Treatment & Water Reclamation Director
James H. Wilson	Deputy Fire Chief
Patrick O. Hartselle	Police Captain
Tricia Olsson	Deputy City Clerk

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Thomas J. Price.

2. INVOCATION

- The invocation was given by Councilman Ferguson.

3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- A salute was given to the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance was repeated in unison.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes of Regular Meeting on June 2, 2021

Councilwoman Martin moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on June 2, 2021; seconded by Councilman Cadore. The motion carried unanimously (7).

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. Mayor Price

1. Mayoral Proclamation

a. Juneteenth Celebration 2021

Mayor Price read aloud a Proclamation recognizing the weekend of June 19-20, 2021 as Juneteenth Celebration 2021. The Proclamation was presented to Clarence Whipple, President of the NAACP – Central Brevard Chapter and former City of Cocoa Councilman.

Mr. Whipple expressed his gratitude to the City for issuing the Proclamation.

2. Special Recognition

a. Award for Second Quarter 2021

- Officer Avery Morehead, Department of Public Safety – Police Division

Mayor Price recognized Officer Avery Morehead, Department of Public Safety – Police Division, as recipient of the Employee of the Quarter Award for the second quarter of 2021. Officer Morehead was presented with a gift certificate and a Certificate of Commendation, along with the congratulations of the Council.

b. 30 Years of Service

- Battalion Chief Stephen Mahaffey, Department of Public Safety – Fire & Emergency Services Division

Mayor Price recognized Battalion Chief Stephen Mahaffey, Department of Public Safety – Fire & Emergency Services Division, for 30 years of service and presented him with a Certificate of Commendation, Letter of Congratulations, a gift card and a commemorative City pin.

6. FINANCIAL / BUDGET REPORT

- May 2021

Councilman Daski moved to be in receipt of the Financial/Budget Report for the month of May 2021; seconded by Councilwoman Martin. The motion passed without objection (7).

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS / ORDINANCES / RESOLUTIONS

- None

8. REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Councilman Ferguson moved to be in receipt of the minutes from the following meetings:

- Community Redevelopment Agency Board of Commissioners, Minutes of Meeting on May 26, 2021
- Planning Commission, Minutes of Meeting on June 1, 2021
- Council Finance and Budget Committee, Minutes of Meeting on June 9, 2021

and to consider independently any recommendation(s) contained therein; seconded by Councilwoman Martin. The motion carried unanimously (7).

- A. Community Redevelopment Agency Board of Commissioners, Minutes of Meeting on May 26, 2021 (no recommendation)
- B. Planning Commission, Minutes of Meeting on June 1, 2021
 - 1. Recommendation: ZDA-21-02, Zoning District Amendment, C-2 (General Commercial) to RMU (Redevelopment Mixed Use), Two Parcels Totaling 4.36 Acres West of Cogswell Street and Angela Avenue Intersection

...recommend approval to the City Council for the rezoning of the subject property...

Councilman Ferguson moved to accept the recommendation and open the matter for public hearing; seconded by Councilman Cadore. The motion passed by unanimous vote (7).

- a. Public Hearing

Chairman Price opened the matter to the public for comment.

There being no comment, Chairman Price declared the public hearing to be closed.

Councilman Ferguson moved to approve the zoning district amendment from C-2 to RMU and to authorize preparation of

the required Ordinance; seconded by Councilman Daski. The motion carried without objection (7).

2. Recommendation: Amendment to Land Development Regulations Section 62.72 – Uses and Section 62.73 – Lot Requirements, MH – Mobile Home District

...recommend approval to the City Council for the proposed changes and additions to the MH – Mobile Home zoning ordinance 62.72 and 62.73...

Councilwoman Martin moved to approve the recommendation and to authorize preparation of the required Ordinance; seconded by Councilman Cadore. The motion passed unanimously (7).

3. Recommendation: Amendment to Land Development Regulations Section 59.70 – Property Maintenance Code, Section 59.73(8) – Requirements, Motor Vehicles, and Section 55.15(D) – Parking Regulations in Residential Districts – Permissive Parking

...recommend approval to the City Council for the proposed changes and additions to the Land Development Regulations with amendment 'within 24 hour period' to Section 59.70, Section 59.73(8), and Section 55.15(D)...

Councilman Daski moved to approve the recommendation and to authorize preparation of the required Ordinance; seconded by Councilman Ferguson. A call for discussion was made.

Councilman Forester requested additional information regarding vehicles that are parked behind a fence in a side yard. Planning Director Cooper clarified that this amendment only regulates vehicles that are parked at the front and corner side yard of the property. He explained that the intent is to prohibit residents from parking vehicles in their front yard and subsequently blocking the sidewalk or other driveways.

The motion passed unanimously (7).

4. Recommendation: Amendment to Land Development Regulations Section 62.52(c)(5) – Uses, R3 – Multi-Family Dwelling (High-Density) District

...recommend approval to the City Council for the proposed amendment to Section 62.52(c)(5) of the Land Development Regulations...

Councilman Ferguson moved to approve the recommendation and to authorize preparation of the required Ordinance; seconded by Councilwoman Martin. A call for discussion was made.

At the request of Council, Planning Director Cooper provided a brief background of the regulations pertaining to consistent density requirements for convalescent homes.

The motion passed unanimously (7).

C. Council Finance and Budget Committee, Minutes of Meeting on June 9, 2021

1. Recommendation: Approval of Tentative Millage Rate

...recommend a tentative millage rate of 5.99 mills...

Councilwoman Martin moved to accept the recommendation; seconded by Councilman Hartselle. The motion passed unanimously (7).

Mayor Price offered a brief summary of the Council Finance and Budget Committee's work during the last two meetings. City Manager Fettrow explained that the City will not receive the DR-420 until June 30th, so this item should be tabled until the July 21st City Council meeting for formal discussion and action.

Councilman Ferguson moved to table the item until the July 21st City Council meeting; seconded by Councilwoman Martin. The motion carried unanimously (7).

2. Recommendation: Addition of Three (3) Full Time Employee Positions in the Information Technology Division, Police Division and Sanitation Division

...recommend approval of the addition of three (3) additional full time employee positions in the Information Technology Division, Police Division and Sanitation Division...

Councilman Daski moved to approve the addition of three (3) additional full time employee positions in the Information Technology Division, Police Division and Sanitation Division; seconded by Councilman Ferguson. The motion passed without objection (7).

3. Recommendation: Health Insurance Negotiation with Cigna for 0% Interest Rate and Authorization to Issue a Request for Proposals

...recommend that City Manager Fettrow negotiate a 0% rate increase with Cigna for Fiscal Year 2022 and to authorize a Request for Proposal process to commence if a 0% rate is not available...

City Manager Fettrow explained that the health insurance renewal rate is expected to increase by approximately 3.4%; however, the City may be able to negotiate a 0% increase in order to remain with Cigna for an additional year. Further, if this rate cannot be achieved, then she will release a Request for Proposals.

Councilman Daski moved to direct the City Manager to negotiate a 0% rate increase with Cigna and to authorize the issuance of a Request for Proposals if negotiations with Cigna do not result in a 0% rate; seconded by Councilwoman Martin. The motion passed unanimously (7).

4. Recommendation: Increase in Employee Life Insurance Coverage
...recommend an increase in life insurance coverage from \$20,000.00 to \$50,000.00 per employee...

Councilwoman Martin moved to approve the increase in life insurance coverage from \$20,000.00 to \$50,000.00 per employee; seconded by Councilman Daski. The motion carried without objection (7).

5. Recommendation: Authorization to Order Nine (9) Police Vehicles and One (1) Fire Engine
...recommend the ordering of nine (9) police vehicles and one (1) fire engine on or before June 25th...

Councilman Daski moved to approve the purchase of nine (9) police vehicles and accessories up to \$330,000.00 along with one (1) fire engine up to \$511,000.00 and authorize staff to order on or before June 25th; seconded by Councilwoman Martin. The motion passed without objection (7).

6. Recommendation: Authorization to Secure a Debt Instrument for Wastewater Projects

Councilwoman Martin moved to authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to review terms, secure a loan in an amount of up to \$5.5 million and execute the required loan documents; seconded by Councilman Ferguson. The motion carried unanimously (7).

City Manager Fettrow noted that the Wastewater projects will be funded through a combination of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, awarded grant funds and the debt instrument.

7. Recommendation: Approval of COVID Premium Pay for Employees
...recommend approval of COVID premium pay for employees and to authorize staff to "gross up" the amount so employees receive \$1,000.00 after taxes...

Councilman Daski moved to approve "grossed up" COVID premium payments of \$1,000.00 for employees; seconded by Councilman Ferguson. The motion passed unanimously (7).

Councilwoman Martin inquired as to whether employees who utilized leave time during COVID for illness; City Manager Fettrow confirmed that the federally designated "COVID sick time" was afforded to City employees. City Manager Fettrow reiterated that this incentive is only available to current employees who have been employed since October 1, 2020 and earlier.

8. Recommendation: Approval of COVID Vaccine Incentive

...recommend approval of the utilization of ARPA funds to provide a \$300.00 incentive to employees who provide proof of COVID vaccination...

Councilman Ferguson moved to utilize ARPA funds to provide a \$300.00 COVID vaccine incentive to employees; seconded by Councilwoman Martin. Voting for the motion: Councilmembers Cadore, Ferguson, Martin, Forester, Daski and Hartselle. Voting against the motion: Mayor Price. The motion carried with six (6) in favor and one (1) opposed.

Councilwoman Martin called for a minority rationale explanation; Mayor Price reported that he did not support the utilization of taxpayer dollars for this purpose.

9. Recommendation: Authorization to Utilize Transportation Impact Fee Trust Funds for Martin Road/Roy Wall Boulevard Realignment Project

...recommend approval to utilize up to \$1 million in TIFT funding for the Martin Road/ Roy Wall Boulevard realignment project...

Councilman Daski moved to approve the utilization of up to \$1 million in Transportation Impact Fee Trust Funds for the realignment of Martin Road and Roy Wall Boulevard; seconded by Councilwoman Martin. The motion carried unanimously (7).

10. Recommendation: Renewal of City Manager Contract

...recommend renewal of the City Manager contract as written with an immediate renewal...

Councilman Ferguson moved to approve the renewal of the City Manager contract, effective immediately; seconded by Councilman Cadore. The motion passed without objection (7).

D. Reappointments and Appointments

1. Reappointments

- o None

2. Appointments

a. Fire Employees Retirement Board

Councilman Daski moved to appoint Kevin Jarvis to the Fire Employees Retirement Board as a resident member; seconded by Councilwoman Martin. The motion carried without objection (7).

b. General Employees Retirement Board

Councilwoman Martin moved to appoint Brenda Black to the General Employees Retirement Board as a resident member; seconded by Councilman Cadore. The motion passed unanimously (7).

c. Business Development Committee

Councilman Daski moved to appoint Noelle Nickerson and Jody Spinneweber to the Business Development Committee; seconded by Councilman Cadore. The motion carried unanimously (7).

d. The Rockledge Environmental Enhancement (TREE) Board

Councilman Forester moved to appoint Jane Vander Linden and Julie Rebelo to The Rockledge Environmental Enhancement (TREE) Board; seconded by Councilwoman Martin. The motion passed without objection (7).

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Action Item: Cost-Share Agreement with St. Johns River Water Management District, Flow Equalization Basin Project (Wastewater Treatment Department)

City Manager Fettrow reminded Council that the City was recently notified of a grant funding award from St. Johns River Water Management District in the amount of \$1,917,250.00 for the Flow Equalization Basin Project. At the June 2nd City Council meeting, Council authorized her to sign and execute the agreement with the caveat that the action would be included on the next agenda for ratification. The formal Cost-Share Agreement was received by the City and reviewed by City Attorney Miniclier, who found it to be in good form.

Councilwoman Martin moved to approve the Cost-Share Agreement and authorize the City Manager to sign and execute the agreement;

seconded by Councilman Cadore. The motion carried without objection (7).

10. CONSENT BUSINESS

Councilman Daski moved for approval of these consent business items:

- A. Approval: Interlocal Agreement, City of Cocoa and City of Rockledge, Crossing Guard Services for 2021-2022 School Year (Public Safety Department)
- B. Approval: Renewal of Agreement, Community Development Block Grant Program, Brevard County (Planning Division)
- C. Approval: Effluent Surface Water Discharge Elimination/Deep Injection Well Conceptual Evaluation, Tetra Tech (Wastewater Treatment Department)
- D. Approval: Revised Master Agreement for EZ Reader Software, Mueller Systems (Wastewater Treatment Department)
- E. Approval: FDOT Traffic Signal Lighting, Maintenance and Compensation Agreement (Public Works Department)
- F. Approval: Proposal and Agreement for Landscape Maintenance of Barnes Boulevard Rights-of-Way, U.S. Lawns of Brevard (Public Works Department)
- G. Approval: Declaration of Surplus Property and Authorization to Sell or Scrap Surplus Property, Public Works Vehicles and Equipment (Public Works Department)

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Martin and passed by unanimous vote (7).

11. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT BUSINESS

- o None

12. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Action Item: Selection of Voting Delegate, Florida League of Cities Annual Conference, August 12-14, 2021 (City Manager)

City Manager Fettrow stated that the by-laws of the Florida League of Cities require City Council to designate a Voting Delegate for the Florida League of Cities Annual Conference, which will take place in August 2021. A Resolution is not required, and the Voting Delegate form will be completed and returned to the League.

Councilman Forester moved to designate Councilman Ferguson to serve as the Voting Delegate and Councilman Hartselle as the alternate Voting Delegate at the Florida League of Cities Annual

Conference in August 2021; seconded by Councilman Daski. A call for discussion was made.

City Manager Fettrow noted the Councilmembers that have voiced interest in attending and reminded Council of the upcoming dates.

The motion passed without objection (7).

B. Discussion: Increase in Salaries of Mayor and City Council Members

Councilwoman Martin expressed that the City's charter is vague as it relates to Council stipends. She noted that population should be considered when making this decision. City Manager Fettrow provided a ranking of municipalities by population size throughout Brevard County.

Councilwoman Martin moved to table the item until the July 21st City Council meeting; motion died for lack of a second.

Councilwoman Martin moved to increase the Mayor's salary to \$650.00/month and increase the Council's salary to \$550.00/month; seconded for discussion by Councilman Forester.

Councilman Forester explained that he does not support a larger gap between the Mayor and City Councilmember salaries. Councilwoman Martin remarked that Councilmembers are public servants and receive calls from constituents on a regular basis, and the Mayor attends meetings and events on an even greater scale.

City Manager Fettrow noted that Councilmembers serve the community not for monetary gain, but rather for the betterment of the community. She also emphasized how much time Councilmembers devote to serving the public.

Tina Derwich, Rockledge resident, noted her surprise in the Council's current salary and would support an increase.

Linda Beck, 1120 Geiger Street, echoed supportive remarks for a salary increase.

Voting for the motion: Councilmembers Cadore, Ferguson, Martin, Forester, and Hartselle. Voting against the motion: Mayor Price and Councilman Daski. The motion carried with five (5) in favor and two (2) opposed.

13. PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Linda Beck, 1120 Geiger Street, provided a brief history of the historic Lawndale House, located at 1219 Rockledge Drive, and invited Councilmembers to take a tour. A complimentary admission ticket was provided to each Councilmember. Councilmembers expressed their desire to tour the home and suggested opening the Old Municipal Building on a date that coincides with Lawndale House tours.

- Noelle Nickerson, 1576 Peregrine Circle, thanked Councilmembers for their support of the Inaugural Raider Classic tournament, held on June 5th, and reported that the Second Annual Raider Classic tournament will be hosted on June 4th, 2022. Ms. Nickerson noted that the foundation has raised approximately \$58,000.00 in three months.

14. REPORTS

A. City Manager Report

- City Manager Fettrow:
 - Thanked Council for renewing her contract, noting that she is blessed and honored to serve.
 - Displayed the plaque for the Government Finance Officers Association Excellence in Financial Reporting for Fiscal Year 2019 and praised the Finance Division for their hard work.
 - Reminded Councilmembers that City Attorney evaluations are due on Friday, June 18th.
 - Reported that she and Councilman Hartselle recently attended a Florida League of Cities Policy Committee meeting in Orlando.
 - Requested that Councilmembers confirm availability and provide shirt sizes for the July 4th Picnic.

B. City Attorney Litigation Report

- Month of June 2021

Councilman Ferguson moved to be in receipt of the City Attorney Litigation Report dated June 1, 2021; seconded by Councilwoman Martin. The motion passed unanimously (7).

City Attorney Miniclier provided an update of cases listed on the report and noted that in-person trials will resume on June 21st.

C. Reports from the Dais

- City Clerk & Public Relations Officer LeVasseur reminded Councilmembers of the due date for Annual Financial Disclosure Forms.
- Councilmembers collectively thanked the Lawndale House volunteers for attending the meeting and welcomed the newly appointed board volunteers.
- Councilman Ferguson:
 - Offered belated birthday wishes to Councilman Forester.
 - Reminded Councilmembers that Space Coast League of Cities meetings are now in person and remarked that the recent meeting at the Space Coast League of Cities had a wonderful turnout.

- Announced that the Space Coast League of Cities is offering a \$2,500.00 scholarship, and the application deadline was extended to August 6th.
- Reported that the next Space Coast League of Cities meeting will be held on July 12th.
- Thanked Councilmembers for his selection as voting delegate for the League conference.
- Congratulated Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Trine for receiving the GFOA Hero Award.
- Councilman Cadore:
 - Thanked City employees for their hard work.
 - Reminded Council of the upcoming Cyber Academy for area students, which was sponsored in part by the City.
 - Thanked Council for supporting the Juneteenth proclamation.
- Councilman Hartselle:
 - Attended the Finance and Budget Committee meetings and praised the Committee for their work.
 - Attended the Space Coast League of Cities meeting at the Space Coast Field of Dreams and praised the catering team.
 - Recently attended the Florida League of Cities Policy Committee meeting.
 - Commended the Police Department for increasing visibility, which increases the feeling of security for residents.
- Councilwoman Martin:
 - Inquired about the work completion date for the train tracks at U.S. Highway 1 and Eyster Boulevard. It was confirmed that the area should reopen by the upcoming weekend.
 - Congratulated Dr. Fettrow for her contract renewal, as well as Matthew for his recent GFOA award.
 - Complemented Mayor Price for the video he recently filmed with City of Cocoa Mayor Mike Blake.
 - Noted her desire to see an additional Code Enforcement Officer for the City.

15. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chairman Price declared the meeting to be adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Council Chairman

ATTEST:

City Clerk