

CITY OF BRADENTON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Jan. 14, 2015
8:30 a.m.
MINUTES

The City of Bradenton City Council met in regular session in the City Hall Council Chamber, 101 Old Main Street, Bradenton, Florida, at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015.

Present: Mayor Wayne Poston; Councilman Ward I Gene Gallo; Vice Mayor/Councilman Ward II Gene Brown; Councilman Ward III Patrick Roff; Councilman Ward IV Bemis Smith; and Councilman Ward V Harold Byrd, Jr.

City Officials: Carl Callahan, City Clerk & Treasurer/Chief of Staff; Michael Radzilowski, Police Chief; Claude Tankersley, Public Works Director; Chuck Edwards, Fire Chief; Tim Polk, Department of Planning & Community Development Director; and Bill Lisch, City Attorney.

The pre-meeting invocation was given by Pastor Bill Pierson of J.O.Y. Fellowship.

(The City does not endorse the religious beliefs of any speaker.)

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Poston.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Poston.

PROCLAMATION: None

PRESENTATION

- Equal-Play Playground, Manatee High School Key Club.

Kendall Mackey, a senior at Manatee High School and a member of the MHS Key Club, presented the City with a plan to buy wheel-chair accessible playground equipment for the Riverwalk. She showed a brief PowerPoint presentation that went over the type of equipment and where it would be located and told the council that the Key Club would cover the \$33,000 cost to buy and install the equipment and the City would not be responsible for any costs (excluding regular maintenance) until the warranty was up and it needed replacing in at least eight years. Public Works & Utilities Director Claude Tankersley said at that time he would ask either the City or Downtown Development Authority to cover those costs. City Clerk & Treasurer Carl Callahan said this plan has already received the blessing of the DDA. **MOTION TO APPROVE the Key Club's request was made by Councilman Gene Gallo, seconded by Vice Mayor Gene Brown, and approved 5-0.**

Carl Callahan administered the oath to anyone wishing to speak on any non-agenda items and during the public hearings.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

County Commissioner John Chappie reiterated his commitment to continuing the positive communications between the City Council and Manatee County Commission. He said the region is experiencing tremendous growth spurts and said it's imperative that communication remains strong.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Minutes: Dec. 17 City Council.
- b) Resolution 15-01: CDBG substantial amendment.
- c) Public Event: Southeastern Guide Dogs walkathon on Feb. 21 at Rossi Park in Riverwalk.
- d) Public Event: Shamrock 5K Run on March 14 along downtown waterfront.
- e) Public Event: Pirate Fest 2015 on March 15 in front of McKechnie Field on 9th St. W.

- f) Request to close Village Green Parkway between 14th Avenue West and 15th Avenue West from Jan. 19-Feb. 6 to connect to the City sewer system in Village Green Parkway.
- g) Agreement authorizing Manatee County to reimburse the City for juror parking.

MOTION TO APPROVE the Consent Agenda was made by Councilman Patrick Roff, seconded by Councilman Harold Byrd, and approved 5-0.

BUSINESS/ADVERTISING, PETITIONS, HEARINGS & COMMUNICATIONS: None

NEW BUSINESS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS, CITY ATTORNEY AND COUNCIL

Claude Tankersley, Public Works & Utilities Director
Ware's Creek bridges – Project recap

Carl Callahan, City Clerk & Treasurer, said he asked for an update on the Ware's Creek project now that the City's portion of the project – the replacement of four bridges spanning the creek – is completed. He called it tremendous news.

Claude Tankersley, Public Works & Utilities Director, introduced the engineers who played an instrumental role in the replacement of the bridges. He noted that this was a flood-relief project, not a transportation project, and it involved a significant amount of historic preservation. He also noted that it was completed ahead of schedule and under budget. He said it wasn't an easy project; he displayed graphics that showed various impediments to water flow in Ware's Creek, flood levels prior to dredging and how it affected the bridges at 9th, 12th, 14th, and 17th avenues. Design work on the bridges started in October 2010. The goal was to complete the bridge replacement in five years but it was completed in about four years. The estimate for the total project was \$8.2 million but ended up costing only \$6.87 million, half which was paid by Southwest Florida Water

Management District. This included preserving the old guard railings that were designed a century ago by an engineer from Bradenton.

Councilman Bemis Smith noted that most of the improvements affected properties outside the City limits. Mr. Tankersley acknowledged that is true, but the improvement helped many City residents, too, he said.

Councilman Gene Gallo said he's been very critical of the project during the past 20 years. He noted it is a flood-relief project and said it will not prevent all flooding along the creek. He said he wished the Army Corps would have also dredged the mouth of the river because he worries heavy rain and a heavy tide could cause a backup.

Mr. Callahan noted that the bridges were not originally part of the Army Corps project but Public Works staff convinced them that even during normal rain the original design of the bridges caused flooding. He credited the tenacity of Tankersley's staff for getting the bridges replaced.

Councilman Patrick Roff, whose ward includes the City's area of Ware's Creek, agreed. He said he's seen 12th and 14th avenues bridges under water several times during heavy rains. He said he was impressed how the engineering of the project changed the hydraulic flow of the creek by straightening it out and eliminating a 90-degree turn. He said the neighborhood and the City will soon see the economic benefit of this project.

Councilman Harold Byrd congratulated the engineers for getting it done under budget.

Mayor Wayne Poston thanked Mr. Tankersley for the project and the presentation.

BUSINESS BY APPOINTMENT: none

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Gene Gallo, Ward I – Thanked Commissioners John Chappie and Carol Whitmore for attending City Council meetings, working with City officials and knowing the concerns of City residents.

Vice Mayor/Councilman Gene Brown, Ward II – Asked Mr. Tankersley for an update on paving, to which Mr. Tankersley said paving will occur in first two weeks of February and he'll come before council during a workshop to provide further info.

Councilman Patrick Roff, Ward III – Discussed the repaving and how some utility work had to be done first and thanked the Public Works Department for taking care of that during the paving process.

Councilman Bemis Smith, Ward IV – Said elected officials need to start talking about traffic issues because it's beginning to become an issue and city and county officials need to be proactive. He said the good working relationship between the City and Manatee County presents a good opportunity to work on this issue.

Councilman Harold Byrd, Jr., Ward V – Offered to condolences to Dan Nolan's family. Thanked Chief Radzilowski for speaking to the League of Women Voters on Monday. Said there are several Martin Luther King Jr. events on this coming Monday and encouraged attendance. Announced there will be a scholarship awarded to a high school senior in honor of his late sister, Clovia Byrd Russell.

Mayor Wayne Poston – Said the South Florida Museum will announce expansion plans later today and called it a wonderful announcement for Bradenton.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Carl Callahan: Thanked people for sending condolences upon the death of his sister. Said he wants there to be an open dialogue on long-term planning at workshops this year and he welcomes the opportunity to discuss them issues at workshops.

Chief Edwards: nothing to report.

Chief Radzilowski: Working on next year's budget. Pleased to announce that the department is expecting a decrease in violent crime over last year.

Claude Tankersley: nothing to report.

Tim Polk: Kudos to City and County employees for helping an elderly resident in the Village of the Arts clean up her house and getting her help from elderly services. Councilman Roff also thanked them for this "goodwill" project and also thanked Bill's Discount for providing her with new appliances.

Mr. Polk introduced Ellis Mitchell, the new Executive Director of the Bradenton Housing Authority. Mr. Mitchell and Development Director Lance Clayton asked the City for support for a tax credit application and \$37,500 (CDBG or Central CRA funds) for the redevelopment of the Suggs housing project that they want to redevelop from 69 units to 140 on about 12 acres. Mr. Clayton said the project will be completed in multiple phases with 26 units being replaced by 80 new ones. Councilman Byrd said he fully supports the BHA's request but had some concerns, such as traffic on Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue; Mr. Polk said traffic would be considered during project approval and Mr. Tankersley said street improvements have already been approved by Florida Department of Transportation.

Councilman Smith said he first heard of this project just a day ago and, although he supports it, he doesn't feel comfortable committing funds at this point because he doesn't have enough information.

Mr. Polk said his next item was just an FYI. Regarding the Promenade at Riverwalk PDP in 2003 approved by the City, he said developers are working on a master plan for project signage. On the subject of real estate signage, Councilman Smith questioned why there are signs on the rights-of-way of streets nowhere near the project – he said he believed that was prohibited by the City. Mr. Polk said they haven't been very strict with business signs in an effort to be business friendly, but would if requested by council.

MOTION TO APPROVE the request from the Bradenton Housing Authority was made by Councilman Harold Byrd, seconded by Vice Mayor Gene Brown, and approved 4-1 (Councilman Bemis Smith dissenting).

Bill Lisch: nothing to report.

There being no further business, Mayor Poston adjourned the meeting at 9:39 a.m.

NOTE: This is not a verbatim record. An audio CD or DVD recording of the meeting is available for a fee upon request.