CITY OF BRADENTON
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 8, 2014
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, January 8, 2014.

Present: Mayor Wayne Post; Vice Mayor/Councilman Ward I Gene Gallo; Councilman Ward II Gene Brown; Councilman Ward III Patrick Roff; 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; William Lisch, City Attorney; Chuck Edwards, Fire Chief; and Tim Polk, Department of Planning & Community Development Director.

The pre-meeting invocation was given by Joel Mimbs, director of Manatee Religious Services.
(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.

Councilman Ward IV Bemis Smith was out with an excused absence.

PROCLAMATIONS: Florida Arbor Day - January 17, 2014

Ingrid McClellan, Keep Manatee Beautiful & Tree and Land Preservation Board, accepted the proclamation and said that this year, Bradenton would celebrate a 20-year membership in TREE CITY USA and would receive its 8th growth award. She said that on Arbor Day, four flowering trees which had been donated by the community would be placed on Palma Sola Scenic Highway.

PRESENTATIONS: Tim Polk, Planning and Community Development Director, presented a plaque to **Dick Coury** in observation of his 10 years of service on the Bradenton Code Enforcement Board.

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

a) Resolution 14-01: CDBG 2013-14 Action Plan.
b) Resolution 14-02: Appointing Darin Autrey to the Planning Commission.
c) Resolution 14-03: Reappointing Richard Whetstone to the Planning Commission.
d) Request from Bradenton Police Department to use forfeiture funds to buy equipment.

MOTION TO APPROVE Consent Agenda Items A-D was made by Vice Mayor/Councilman Gallo, seconded by Councilman Byrd, and approved 4-0. *(Councilman Smith was out with an excused absence.)*

BUSINESS/ADVERTISING, PETITIONS, HEARINGS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Tim Polk, Planning & Community Development Director, introduced **Rebekah Brightbill, CCRA,** who gave a summary of proposed improvements to Love Park. Information was distributed outlining the sources of revenue and the estimated cost of the improvements. Mr. Polk requested permission from Council to utilize the funds received from the State grant and TIFF dollars.

Discussion: Rather than using chain link, the costs of a wrought iron fence was being investigated by Ricardo Ramos. Costs of playground equipment may be higher than what was set aside. Doggie bags will also be installed in the park. Carl Callahan said that park impact fees would be available for use similarly as had been for Martin Luther King, Jr. Park.

MOTION TO APPROVE use of the CCRA funds and impact fees for the improvement to Love Park were made by Councilman Byrd, seconded by Vice Mayor/Councilman Gallo, and approved 4-0. *(Councilman Smith was out with an excused absence.)*

Tim Polk acknowledged Rebekah Brightbill and the Public Works Department for the work they had done to move the proposed improvements forward. Mr. Polk then presented Rebekah with a plaque for her seven years of service to the Central Community Redevelopment Agency as she leaves to pursue new endeavors on the east coast.

Mr. Polk then introduced **Jesus Nino**, the new CCRA Manager. Mr. Nino said he was very excited to serve the community and would put his previous 10 years of experience to good use.

NEW BUSINESS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS, CITY ATTORNEY, AND CITY COUNCIL – None scheduled.

BUSINESS BY APPOINTMENT - None scheduled.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Vice Mayor/Councilman Gene Gallo, Ward I: Vice Mayor Gallo offered his condolences to the former Mayor Bill Evers family, in the loss of his wife, Jane, who had been a tremendous asset to the community.

Vice Mayor/Councilman Gallo then made a MOTION to nominate Councilman Bemis Smith as Vice Mayor for 2014. The motion was seconded by Councilman Roff, and approved 4:0. *(Councilman Smith was out with an excused absence.)*

Lastly, in reference to the media attention given to the recent scandal within the Bradenton Housing Authority, Mr. Gallo asked Mr. Lisch for clarification on the authority of the Mayor and the City Council over the Board of Directors as there was much misunderstanding on the part of the community as to the governing power.

Mr. Lisch stated that the BHA receives its funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and not from the City. The Mayor and Council cannot simply fire members of the board–it would involve a long complicated process of hearings, notices, rights to attorneys, and public hearings. A city-appointed liaison can only offer an opinion and it does not need to be accepted by the Board.

Discussion: Everyone would like to see more involvement and cooperation between the Bradenton Housing Authority and the City to work together to straighten out the problems. City staff would remain available on a volunteer basis to assist in any way the Board of Directors would like to utilize. The Board of Directors must have no less than 5 and no more than 7 members. The appointment of 2 more members to the current 5 may be considered. As current liaison, Councilman Brown will speak on behalf of the City Council at the upcoming Board of Directors meetings and keep the Mayor and Council informed of developments.

Councilman Gene Brown, Ward II: Echoed Councilman Gallo's sentiment that Jane Evers had left a legacy of helpfulness and community involvement. He thanked the police and fire departments for their representation at her funeral service. Councilman Brown said he is looking forward to serving the City in the upcoming year.

Mayor Wayne Poston: Mayor Poston said that the Christmas decorations that the City has had for 15 years will need to be replaced. The Downtown Development Authority will be conducting a fund raising program to find sponsors for new decorations prior to the 2014 holiday season.

Councilman Patrick Roff, Ward III: Shared a letter from a constituent who expressed thanks to the City for the conscientious care that has been exhibited during the months-long bridge repair and flood drainage projects in various areas along Ware's Creek.

Mr. Roff had just attended the third in a series of meetings by the Village of the Arts Task Force which has generated innovative ideas and created great progress in the developing arts and entertainment district. The Village had been featured in a great press release on Sunday and the "Tapestry Project" was commended.

Councilman Harold Byrd, Jr., Ward V: Also extended his sympathies to the Evers family having known Jane while serving under Mayor Evers' tenure.

Councilman Byrd then personally expressed his thanks to Rebekah Brightbill for her involvement in the community and the CCRA and said she would be greatly missed.

Mr. Byrd reported that the next meeting of community pastors would be held on January 18th, from 8:00 a.m. - noon. A lot of strides have been made to help prevent violence, and today's vote to improve Love Park was another step in the right direction.

Councilman Byrd added his comments to those of his colleagues to express hope that a better Bradenton Housing Authority would come from the difficulties currently being experienced.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Carl Callahan: Mr. Callahan sent out his condolences to the Evers family. He reported that once the annual audits were completed, Council Workshops would be renewed. He then introduced Gail Chatfield who would be assisting Sharon Beauchamp, Assistant City Clerk.

Chief Edwards: Nothing to report.

Tim Polk: Wished everyone a Happy New Year and looked forward to enjoying another great year of progress.

Claude Tankersley: Nothing to report.

Chief Radzilowski: Nothing to report.

Bill Lisch: Proudly donned his winning Florida State Seminoles jacket and hat.

There being no further business, Mayor Poston adjourned the meeting at 9:46 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.