

MAYOR
Hal J. Rose

DEPUTY MAYOR
John Dittmore

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Daniel Batcheldor
Pat Bentley
Daniel McDow
Stephen Phrampus
Andrea Young



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CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

February 2, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rose called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION

Mayor Rose led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

3. ROLL CALL

Attending: Mayor Hal Rose, Deputy Mayor John Dittmore, and Council Members Pat Bentley, Andrea Young, Daniel Batcheldor, Stephen Phrampus, and Daniel McDow.

Also present: City Manager Scott Morgan, City Attorney Morris Richardson, Police Chief Rick Wiley, Information Technology Director Tom Bradford, Finance Director Margi Starkey, Jacobs Project Manager Brian Mascher, City Clerk Cynthia Hanscom, and members of the public.

4. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

New Employee Introductions. Police Chief Rick Wiley introduced Administrative Assistant Eddie Mae Saines Walker, who started with the City on January 29, 2021.

Proclamation to Melbourne Regional Chamber. Mayor Rose presented a proclamation to Michael Ayers with the Melbourne Regional Chamber recognizing 95 years of service to the business community.

Presentation from Melbourne Airport Authority. Robert Himler, Manager of marketing and communication with Orlando-Melbourne Airport, presented an update on the airport. He reminded Council that just like all businesses during the pandemic, the airport had suffered. However, he reported the most recent connection with TUI, a travel and tourism company that would be using the Melbourne airport as the exclusive

airport in Central Florida. He provided an overview of other development proposed for the airport, including the Hyatt Hotel at the entrance to the main terminal.

Council Member Batcheldor stated that there may be occasion for many ex-patriots that currently reside in the area that may want to have a direct flight back to the United Kingdom and suggested they look at the market for direct flights.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

Jeff Kiel, President and CEO for Promise in Brevard, spoke about the Promise Café and Bakery located at the West Melbourne Community Park. He noted that the facility had to close because of the pandemic but had opened for ice cream only, which had done very well in the last four months. He stated the facility had hosted several meetings and gatherings in the last few months which had been very successful. However, he noted that in the 'event rental' business it was restrictive because of the inability to serve alcohol. Therefore, he was asking for Council to consider allowing the venue to offer alcohol for specific events.

Deputy Mayor Dittmore commented that he had suggested relaxing the rules for alcohol in the parks as a way to encourage use of the park. He did not believe alcohol would negatively impact the use of the park. He recommended that an officer be required to be present. Mayor Rose stated that he did not believe an officer would need to be present for an event like a wedding. Mr. Kiel noted that this facility would be competing with other facilities that would not be required to provide a police officer onsite and the cost may be prohibitive to being competitive.

City Attorney Richardson stated that there were several types of alcohol licenses that could be obtained. Mr. Kiel noted that he would not be asking for a license to sell alcohol to customers to take out of the facility. City Attorney Richardson stated there could be an issue because an alcohol license holder could not be within a certain number of feet from a park; therefore, this may require a change in the code provisions.

Council Member Phrampus commented that he had toured the facility and met Mr. Kiel and believed that serving alcohol could help the facility. He asked the City Attorney to bring an ordinance to Council. City Attorney Richardson stated that there seemed to be a consensus of Council that he proceed.

City Manager Morgan reminded Council that the lease agreement with Promise included a restriction on the City holding no more than 10 events at the park that would serve food. Deputy Mayor Dittmore asked if Promise would be willing to change that requirement in the lease. Mr. Kiel stated that this restriction could be discussed.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Deputy Mayor Dittmore moved to approve the following consent agenda. Council Member Bentley seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- Approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes for January 19, 2021.

- Approve the Special City Council meeting minutes for January 21, 2021.
- Approve Resolution No. 2021-05 accepting the dedication of public water and sewer system improvements from Extended Stay America hotel, and authorize the City Manager to sign the Bill of Sale.
- Approve Resolution No. 2021-06, correcting the stated cost of dedicated water, sewer system, roadway, and stormwater system improvements from John's Landing, LLC.

7. ACTION AGENDA

First Quarter FY 2020-2021 Budget and Council Priorities. Finance Director Starkey presented the first quarter FY 2020-2021 budget report and Council priorities status report. She reviewed the revenues and expenditures for the first quarter and explained the difference between expended and encumbered funds.

Mayor Rose commented that the numbers are just a place in time because if one item goes over budget the funds are pulled from other sources such as excess funds. He noted that the budget had been amended three times and asked that those be listed with future amendments so there is a balance at the end of the year.

Deputy Mayor Dittmore moved to receive the first quarter FY 2020-2021 budget and Council priorities status report. Council Member Bentley seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Amendment to Election Code. City Clerk Hanscom presented the first reading of an ordinance, noting this change was reflected by the change in the Charter with the amendment approved as part of the November 3, 2020, election. Because some language is duplicated in the code, an amendment was needed.

City Attorney Richardson read Ordinance No. 2021-07 in title only:

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-07

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEST MELBOURNE, BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 22, ELECTIONS, SECTION 22.2. CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS PERIOD, TO REFLECT CHANGES MADE BY THE ELECTORS IN THE NOVEMBER 2020 ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Deputy Mayor Dittmore moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2021-07 amending the election code as reflected in the amended Charter, and schedule a public hearing and second reading for February 16, 2021. Council Member Phrampus seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

8. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Young reported she had spent Saturday at the West Melbourne Community Park and was pleased to see many people using the park. She also commented that she was surprised that police officers were not receiving the vaccine. Chief Wiley commented the priority levels are different in each state; given the large number of elderly residents in Florida and the number of retirement homes, officers have not received priority.

Council Member McDow had no report.

Council Member Phrampus reported he had attended a breakfast meeting sponsored by the Palm Bay Chamber and had toured the Promise facility.

Council Member Batcheldor reported that he was aware the cities had little authority on COVID-19 vaccinations and was disappointed that the law enforcement officers were not given higher priority as first responders. He stated he had reached out to State representatives last week to ask that they be given prioritization and encouraged all to do the same.

Deputy Mayor Dittmore had no report.

Council Member Bentley presented a few slides on the status of investments with the Police Pension plan noting that the plan went from 50 percent funded 12 years ago to 98.78 percent funded today. At their last meeting, the Board voted to re-balance the accounts and lowered the assumption rate to 6.8 percent.

Mayor Rose reported that there were five elected officials from West Melbourne at the breakfast sponsored by the Palm Bay Chamber. He announced the Mayors' Fitness Challenge would begin the following weekend and urged participants to log in their minutes. He congratulated Council Member Andrea Young for being selected as the Vice Chair for the Tourist Development Council. He also expressed appreciation for the new sign at the sewer plant and suggested that the gateway signs at the City borders be lit at night.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.