

MAYOR
Hal J. Rose

DEPUTY MAYOR
Stephen Phrampus

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Diana Adams
Pat Bentley
John Dittmore
Daniel McDow
Andrea Young



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CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

MINUTES

June 6, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rose called the workshop to order at 5:00 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 Stephen Phrampus, and Council Members Diana Adams, Pat Bentley, John Dittmore, Daniel McDow, and Andrea Young.

Also present: City Manager Tim Rhode, City Attorney John Cary, Assistant City Manager Tom Bradford, Police Chief Gregory Vesta, Finance Director Candice Blake, Human Resources Director Jennifer Curran, Capital Projects Manager Mark Petroni, Systems Administrator Christian Arsenault, City Clerk Cynthia Hanscom, and members of the public.

4. BUDGET WORKSHOP – PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND MAJOR SEWER MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

City Manager Rhode presented capital projects for the 2023-2024 budget. The capital projects included were gleaned from the priorities established at the last budget workshop. Mayor Rose argued about the exercise noting that there were many items that could be considered as top priority.

City Manager Rhode reviewed the proposed projects for the general fund, the nonmajor and American Rescue Act funds, the water fund, and the wastewater funds.

Council Member Young noted that safe routes to schools was a project that she would like to see given more priority. Grants may be available to fund projects. City Manager Rhode stated that City staff would explore that option.

Council Member Young also asked about vehicle replacement funds. City Manager Rhode indicated the proposed vehicle replacements would be discussed at the next workshop. Council Member Young stated that there may be electric vehicle grants available. City Manager Rhode indicated the City was pursuing grants as well as hurricane mitigation funds from Brevard County.

Council Member Young asked about extending the reuse area. City Manager Rhode stated that as part of the issuance of the consumptive use permit for the water plant, the St. Johns River Water Management District asked that the City use more of the reuse water rather than put it down the deep well. Although converting the older neighborhoods would be a challenge, there may be large public areas, such as the schools and the parks that could use the water. Mayor Rose suggested the City could provide additional times the reuse is available to existing users.

Council Member Young also asked about funding for the Ellis Road widening project. City Manager Rhode stated the only commitment made by the City is \$20,000 to relocate a lift station. Council Member Young asked about using Community Redevelopment Agency Funds. City Manager Rhode stated the project would be eligible but funding would need to be a policy decision of the Council.

Council Member Young also spoke about street sweeping and the need to have a way to clean areas that do not have curbing, such as Palm Lake Estates.

Deputy Mayor Phrampus stated that providing appropriate parking at the Clements Woods Park should be given more consideration.

Council Member Bentley questioned the proposed rate increase for the stormwater fee assessment. City Manager Rhode explained this was being proposed for next year. He noted that they had money coming into the fund but there were projects proposed that may require shared funding. He stated that a full analysis would be provided when the proposed increase was brought before Council.

City Manager Rhode reviewed the proposed budget calendar, noting a proposed operating budget would be presented at the next budget workshop.

Mayor Rose asked about property value increases proposed by the property appraiser. Finance Director Blake noted the preliminary numbers showed a 9 percent increase from last year. She reminded Council that the final number would not be provided until July 1.

5. RECESS

Council recessed the workshop at 5:38 p.m. and reconvened to the Regular City Council meeting at 6:00 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

June 6, 2023

6. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rose called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

7. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION

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

8. ROLL CALL

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

Also present: City Manager Tim Rhode, City Attorney John Cary, Assistant City Manager Tom Bradford, Police Chief Gregory Vesta, Finance Director Candice Blake, Human Resources Director Jennifer Curran, Capital Projects Manager Mark Petroni, Systems Administrator Christian Arsenault, City Clerk Cynthia Hanscom, and members of the public.

9. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

Employee Introductions. City Manager Tim Rhode introduced Capital Projects Manager Mark Petroni who started with the City on May 23, 2023.

10. PUBLIC HEARING

Water Rate Increase. City Manager Rhode presented the second reading of an ordinance to increase the water rate. He noted that the increase was based on the 14 percent increase imposed by the City of Melbourne. He noted that this increase was only a pass-through cost and would only impact the consumption portion of the utility bill. Notices of the public hearing had been sent to customers through the three billing cycles in May.

City Attorney Cary read Ordinance No. 2023-10, in title only:

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-10

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEST MELBOURNE, BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 58-98(a), MONTHLY POTABLE WATER RATES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND INTERPRETATION; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN

CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Rose opened the public hearing. There being no comments, he closed the public hearing.

Council Member Dittmore moved to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 2023-10, effective August 1, 2023, increasing water consumption rates. Council Member Bentley seconded the motion.

Deputy Mayor Phrampus asked about the increase in relation to the service line. Finance Director stated the flat rate, which is based on meter size, will not change. The consumption rate would be the change.

Mayor Rose asked about the water plant. City Manager Tim Rhode indicated that they were approximately 1,305 days from having a water plant.

Council then voted on the motion to approve Ordinance No. 2023-10, which passed unanimously.

11. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no comments from the public.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Young moved to approve the Regular City Council minutes for Tuesday, May 16, 2023. Council Member Adams seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

13. ACTION AGENDA

Group Insurance Plans for the 2023-2024 Plan Year. Human Resource Director Curran introduced Hylant representative Sherry Morgan. Ms. Morgan indicated that the increases in health insurance were not favorable for the 2023-2024 plan year. Starting negotiations with Cigna with a 25 percent increase, they were able to get down to 8 percent increase. The increases were the result of some large claims from the City in the last year. Quotes had been received from United Health Care and Florida Blue but did not reflect significant savings. Therefore, they were recommending staying with Cigna for another year. The changes in the plan included increases in the deductibles and increases in the co-pays. Ms. Morgan noted that employees appeared to be concerned about the prescription plan which would not be changing.

Council Member Adams stated the recent Compensation and Classification Study indicated that the City placed high among its peers in relation to benefits. She asked what this change would do. Human Resources Director Curran indicated the City offers a rich health insurance plan and they would continue to offer a rich plan. However, the

plan would cost the user slightly more. She believed the plan would be in line with the average plan or slightly above.

Council Member McDow asked if the 8 percent increase would be borne by the employee or the City. Ms. Morgan indicated the monthly plan costs would increase by 8 percent. She explained the costs for the employee would be between \$8 and \$10 per pay period. The City would be absorbing the majority of the increase.

Deputy Mayor Phrampus asked if the increases were based on overall claims or claims within the City. Ms. Morgan stated there were some large claims for the City over the last year. Deputy Mayor Phrampus asked if the cost would be adjusted downward if the claims are reduced. Ms. Morgan stated that they do not usually see that done in health care.

Ms. Morgan stated that Cigna wants to keep the City as one of their clients. They are not providing costs based on just one year. They were looking for a long-term partnership.

Council Member Young moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-08 approving the City's group insurance plans for the 2023-2024 plan year. Mayor Rose seconded the motion.

Medical	Cigna
Health Reimbursement Account (HRA)	Ameriflex
Dental	Principal
Vision	Principal
Life & Disability	Lincoln Financial Group
Employee Assistance Program (EAP)	Metropolitan Family Services
Flexible Spending Account (FSA)	Ameriflex
Supplemental Options	Colonial Life, Reliance Standard & MetLife

Mayor Rose noted that no one wants to see increases in costs but it was the reality. The increases in the past were lower numbers and easier to accept. He did not want to discourage employees to seek health care if it was needed.

Council Member McDow asked about the possibility of a consortium so that the losses could be shared. Ms. Morgan indicated that a consortium could be considered in the future. She noted that other municipal clients were not participating in that type of program because they were trying to be specific to the needs of their employees.

Several Council Members suggested the employees be provided with the costs paid by the City for their benefits.

Council then voted on the motion to adopted Resolution No. 2023-08, which passed unanimously.

Pour-in-Place Surface Repair and/or Replacement at Space Coast Field of Dreams. Assistant City Manager Bradford presented a proposal to repair the areas of

the Space Coast Field of Dreams. He noted that an exhibit had been provided in the staff report on the areas to be repaired. Public Works Department staff had made immediate repairs so the fields can be used while waiting for the substantial repairs. Proposals were received from vendors for the repairs and top-coat treatment for the sports fields and playground. He noted the repair budget was increased from \$31,000 to \$60,000 in the current year budget to accommodate the repairs. A budget resolution had been prepared to enable the repairs to all of the surfaces for the current budget year.

Milo Zonka, 533 Crassas Road, Indialantic, stated he had served on the Field of Dreams board and was consequently made the project manager when the park was being built. He noted it was a labor of love. The park was unique, built well and built to last. The park was to be maintenance free excepting the soft surfaces. Therefore, it should not be a surprise that the surfaces need some repairs. He encouraged Council to consider a surface without seams because that appeared to be the failure points. He asked that Council take the necessary steps to keep the park safe.

Deputy Mayor Phrampus asked about previous maintenance on the surface. Mayor Rose indicated the Space Coast Field of Dreams made the necessary repairs before turning it over to the City.

Denise Klenotich, 1801 Winding Ridge Circle, Palm Bay, spoke on behalf of those present with her, including her special needs daughter Brittany, who received regular therapy at the park. She reminded Council that Brittany was the poster child for the park when it was being developed. She spoke on the deterioration of the park which did not happen overnight. She indicated that City staff drive John Deere tractors across the surface and the sand is not being swept off the surfaces. Before the City took over the park, there were dances and all sorts of activities at the park. She noted that without the Field of Dreams, there are no activities for the special needs. She promised Jim Tapp that his legacy would continue. She stated the Council had failed the special needs community. She did not understand how the Council could let it get so bad. There are no teams and no chance for the special needs to make friends. She stated that bathrooms are another problem in that they should have showers and changing rooms. The park was supposed to be a destination for the City. She stated that she would challenge anyone to face the work that it takes to raise someone with special needs. She concluded that the park was a disgrace.

Robyn Hattaway, Rockledge, the attorney retained by the Space Coast Field of Dreams, stated the Field of Dreams was a county-wide volunteer organization that came together as a community to build the park with sweat-equity. She commented that both the Space Coast Field of Dreams and the City needed to renew their partnership and find solutions going forward.

Council Member Dittmore questioned Ms. Hattaway on the status of the Space Coast Field of Dreams organization as a charitable organization. When asked who was paying the attorney fees, Ms. Hattaway stated the organization was paying the fees. She also explained that they were working with the Florida Department of Agriculture

and Consumer Services on the status of the charitable organization. Council Member Dittmore spoke on accountability and transparency in the Field of Dreams organization. He asked who was handling the finances. Ms. Hattaway stated that the organization had a contracted bookkeeper who reconciles the accounts.

Council Member Bentley stated the City has an obligation that was accepted for the responsibility to the facility. He stated he had no idea the condition of the park was horrific; he was embarrassed. He recommended that the field be made whole. Rather than spend money on a stop-gap measure, he recommended replacing the surfaces. Assistant City Manager Bradford suggested a formal bid process if the recommendation was to move forward with a full replacement.

Council discussed the cost of repairing the seams of the fields now or possible products that would yield some safety. Assistant City Manager Bradford stated he would need to do some research and report back to Council.

Council Member Young commented on the work that could be done for \$73,000 but would not include a warranty. She also mentioned the areas underneath the pavilion were black when the original color was green; the soft surfaces under the pavilion may also need to be replaced.

Deputy Mayor Phrampus moved to finish the patch work that could be done by City staff and move forward with the formal bid process for a full replacement of the surfaces. Council Member Young seconded the motion.

Council discussed the need to reassure the public of Council's policy to maintain and support the Space Coast Field of Dreams as an outstanding facility that would shine for West Melbourne and the special needs community. Assurances were needed that Council would move forward with correcting the problems. Council discussed the agreement with Field of Dreams, regular inspections and maintenance schedules for the park.

Council then voted on the motion made by Deputy Mayor Phrampus to move forward with a formal bid process, which passed unanimously.

Memorandum of Understanding with Brevard County for Legal Advertising. City Clerk Hanscom asked for approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County to participate in legal notices on their publicly accessible website. She explained this was in response to state legislation approved in 2022. The County was proposing a publicly accessible website and had been working with the City Clerks and inviting municipalities to use the site. This would be in lieu of publishing in the newspaper. The cost of the legal ads would be a flat rate of \$125 per ad.

Council Member Adams asked that the change be noted in the Friday Memo, the newsletter and that a link be included on the City's website.

Council Member Adams moved to authorize the City Manager to execute the Memorandum of Understanding with Brevard County for posting of legal notices on their publicly accessible website. Deputy Mayor Phrampus seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

14. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Bentley had no report

Council Member Young invited Council to a meeting on the Ellis road widening project update on June 12. Council Member Young also thanked staff for an amazing Friday memo.

Council Member McDow reported on the various meetings he had attended noting the prosperity project in Palm Bay which presented a correlation between poverty and reading skills.

Council Member Adams reported on the various monthly meetings highlighting the Space Coast Advocacy group made up with Promise residents looking to connect with other groups in Florida.

Deputy Mayor Phrampus spoke on the Mayor's breakfast where it was good to hear what other towns are doing. He also reported on the Space Coast Home Buildings and Contractors of Florida's Space Coast meeting and a meeting on the legislative update with the Melbourne Chamber.

Council Member Dittmore reported on the recent airport board meeting and the ribbon cutting event at the Hyatt at the airport.

Mayor Rose reported on several events, including the Mayor's breakfast and Mayor Carol McCormick's retirement celebration. He announced that the City of West Melbourne and Town of Melbourne Village would be hosting the Space Coast League Dinner on June 13.

15. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.