

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 REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

October 3, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION

Mayor Rose asked his granddaughters, Allison and Kate Vasile, to lead 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, Police Chief Gregory Vesta, Public Works Director Mark Piccirillo, Human Resources Director Jennifer Curran, Systems Administrator Christian Arsenault, City Clerk Cynthia Hanscom, and members of the public.

4. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

Recognition of Mayor Hal Rose. Deputy Mayor Phrampus presented a plaque with a key to the City for Mayor Rose for his 26 years of service. Council Members Bentley, McDow, Adams, and Young also spoke on his service and wished him well in his retirement.

Public Works Director Piccirillo presented Mayor Rose with a street sign that said "Mayor Rose Way" with his years of service printed on one side of the sign.

Brevard County Clerk of Court Rachel Sadoff presented Mayor Rose with a proclamation expressing appreciation for his years of service to the community.

Brevard County Attorney Morris Richardson spoke on working with Mayor Rose when he was City Attorney with West Melbourne.

Ruth Lyle, 2240 Wekiva Lane, spoke on knowing the Mayor while her children went to school where he taught and his assistance with her children. She also commended him for the many years of helping others in the community.

Robert Dabney, 136 Carolina Street NW, former City Council member and West Melbourne resident, spoke on how Mayor Rose was able to fill the shoes of the previous Mayor and the number of years Mayor Rose had worked with the City.

Jeff Kiel, President of Promise in Brevard, spoke on the years that he has known Mayor Rose and his support of the residents to Promise.

Lori Vasile, daughter of Mayor Rose, spoke on growing up in West Melbourne and the dedication that he gave to the City and how he served as a role model for her and her children.

Allison and Kate Vasile spoke on growing up with their grandfather as Mayor and all the different things that they were able to do. They presented the Mayor with an engraved gavel.

Mayor Rose thanked everyone for their comments. He said it had been an incredible journey and he had the pleasure of working with many great people. He urged the City to strive for quality and planned growth.

Council then took a short break and reconvened at 6:38 p.m.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Rob Medina from the City of Palm Bay presented a copy of the congressional record where Representative Bill Posey congratulated Mayor Rose for his 26 years and that his service was an inspiration to others.

Gwen Burley, 155 Diane Circle, Indialantic, spoke on issues with irresponsible selling of rabbits. She noted that her organization, Space Coast Bunnies, was working to find homes for over 70 pet rabbits. Retail outlets are the primary source of the sales and the government has been deaf to the problem. She encouraged the City to advocate for a county-wide pet ban on rabbits. She believed it was a social obligation to push for a change for irresponsible pet sales.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Deputy Mayor Phrampus moved to approve the regular City Council minutes for Wednesday, September 20, 2023. Mayor Rose seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

7. ACTION AGENDA

Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Coastal Florida Police Benevolent Association. City Manager Rhode presented the collective bargaining agreement with the Coastal Florida Police Benevolent Association. He stated the two-year agreement had been approved by the union with a two-step process for a 5.5 percent increase the first year and a 7 percent increase the second year. This would apply to all police sworn personnel except the command staff.

Council Member Adams moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-15 approving a collective bargaining agreement with the Coastal Florida Police Benevolent Association for a term ending June 30, 2025. Deputy Mayor Phrampus seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

One Year Review of the City Manager's Performance. Human Resources Director Curran presented the summary performance evaluation for City Manager Tim Rhode. She noted the overall score was 3.93 out of 5 which indicated that he was exceeding expectations. The performance score received at his six-month evaluation was 3.39.

Council Member Dittmore moved to accept the summary results of the City Manager's one year performance evaluation. Deputy Mayor Phrampus seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Council then considered an annual increase for the City Manager. Council Member Dittmore stated that he would like to see his salary more reflective of that from other cities. In addition, Mr. Rhode brings 20 years of experience to the position. Council Members agreed that they needed to retain good employees.

Council Member Dittmore moved to recommend a 10 percent increase in salary. Deputy Mayor Phrampus seconded the motion.

Council Member Bentley spoke about the need to have the City Manager at least at the midpoint in order to compensate at a level equal to that for other cities. He believed it would be doing the employees a disservice if not paying the City Manager at midpoint, which was \$177,248.

Council Member Dittmore agree to amend the motion to approve a salary increase to the midpoint of the salary scale or \$177,248. Deputy Mayor Phrampus agreed to the amendment.

Council continued to discuss the salary received by City Managers at other cities, specifically that of Rockledge which is of similar size.

Council then voted on the motion to increase the City Manager's salary to \$177,248, which passed unanimously.

8. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Young spoke about the recent amount of rain that had fallen and that she had traveled through several subdivisions. She noted that West Melbourne had fared very well with no major flooding.

Council Member McDow had no report.

Council Member Adams commented she had also visited several subdivisions following the recent heavy rain and expressed appreciation to the Public Works staff. She spoke on New Life Mission, an organization that serves homeless women with children. New Life Mission had been around for 15 years, which shows that there is a need in the County.

Deputy Mayor Phrampus agreed that the Public Works staff should receive kudos because there were no flooding problems in the City over the past weekend. He reported that he had met with the City's auditor and was glad to report that there did not appear to be any issues. He also stated that he had met with representatives from the Space Coast Apartment Association about impacts from recent legislation.

Council Member Dittmore commented that there would be a vacancy on Council with the selection of the Mayor. He asked for direction on advertising for the future opening on City Council. The City had advertised one-month in advance of the opening when Council Member Batchelder had resigned. Therefore, to maintain consistency, he suggested posting the opening so that applicants could submit their required information for the future selection by City Council on November 14. Council Members discussed the schedule and the possibility that a vacancy would not occur if Council could not agree on a selection for Mayor. There appeared to be a consensus that advertising the vacancy should wait until the vacancy was created.

Council Member Bentley had no report.

Mayor Rose thanked everyone for expressing well wishes upon his retirement. He wished the City well and encouraged everyone to work together to move forward.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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