

MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS
REGULAR SESSION – DECEMBER 12, 2017

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, MET IN REGULAR SESSION IN THE CITY HALL AUDITORIUM/COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 324 E. PINE STREET, ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017 AT 6:30 P.M. WITH THE FOLLOWING PRESENT:

CHRIS ALAHOUZOS	MAYOR
DAVID BANTHER	VICE MAYOR
REA SIEBER	COMMISSIONER
SUSAN MICCIO-KIKTA	COMMISSIONER
JACOB KARR	COMMISSIONER

ALSO PRESENT:	MARK G. LeCOURIS	CITY MANAGER
	ERICA AUGELLO	CITY ATTORNEY
	IRENE S. JACOBS	CITY CLERK & COLLECTOR

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ROLL CALL:

City Clerk Jacobs called the roll.

INVOCATION:

Reverend Milton Smith, Mt. Hermon Missionary Baptist Church, gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Alahouzos led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mayor Alahouzos asked for public comments and there were none.

PROCLAMATIONS:

1. FEAST DAY OF EPIPHANY – MAYOR ALAHOUZOS

Mayor Alahouzos read and proclaimed January 6, 2018 as a celebration of the 112th Anniversary of the Feast Day of Epiphany in Tarpon Springs. Reverend Father Athanasios Haros, Protopresbyter, Dean St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, accepted the proclamation, thanked the Board for the proclamation. He appreciated asking God to bless the City every year through the blessing of the waters of Spring Bayou.

Mayor Alahouzos asked for Board or public comments and there were none.

PRESENTATION:

2. SPRING BAYOU AREA UPDATE: POLICE DEPARTMENT

Michael Trill, Major Tarpon Springs Police Department, gave a power point presentation on the 2017 police activity report for the area of Spring Bayou.

Mayor Alahouzos asked how the current report compared to previous years, and Robert Kochen, Police Chief, advised that the Police Department had made a big impact in this area. Mayor Alahouzos felt if police presence was continued it stops crime and rebuilds the neighborhood and makes businesses feel more confident.

Vice Mayor Banther appreciated that the report separated the types of calls and was in support of the Police Department being more proactive in that area. He was sensitive to complaints and appreciated the Police Department treating all calls fairly; and felt it was important to have this information quarterly.

Commissioner Miccio-Kikta felt calls are not as severe and looked like more incidents were happening at the Tarpon Inn.

Commissioner Karr appreciated the pro-active role the Police Department had taken. He mentioned that when tourist go on-line, it could be discouraging to visit Tarpon Springs when reading reviews from the Hotels in that area.

Public Comments:

Dolly Vatikiotis, 49 W. Center Street, Home Owners Association President Villa Plumosa, commended the Police Chief and Major for the additional lighting and surveillance in her neighborhood. Mrs. Vatikiotis said the Police Department needs to stay on top of these problem areas.

Peter Dalacos, 514 Ashland Avenue, thanked Chief Kochen and Major Trill for their presentation and professional overview. He said that trend shows that continued proactive surveillance had deterred criminal activity, and that there were other worse areas of crime in the City. He did not feel it was worth spending money on this property; and said to let investors purchase property themselves if they were so interested in it.

CONSENT AGENDA:

3. ATTORNEY'S FEES:

A. TRASK & DAIGNEAULT, LLP: INVOICE # 55204

4. SPECIAL EVENTS:

A. GLENDI: JANUARY 6, 2018

B. SUNSET BEACH CONCERT SEIRES: FEBRUARY - NOVEMBER 2018

5. AWARD FILE NO. 180059-N-RS: SINGLE SOURCE PURCHASE OF PUMP AND MOTOR REPAIR PARRS AND MAINTENANCE

6. AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF JOLLEY TROLLEY SERVICE AGREEMENT NORTH COUNTY COAST ROUTE AND AMENDMENT 1 TO COASTAL ROUTE FUNDING AGREEMENT

Commissioner Karr asked why Clearwater was paying less then Tarpon Springs, and City Manager LeCouris said that it was because that was their hub. Mayor Alahouzos asked if the ridership had increased, and City Manager LeCouris said yes. Commissioner Sieber advised that it took her 1 ½ hours to Clearwater Beach and she would like to see additional routes.

7. AWARD BID NO. 180031-B-CM: YARD WASTE DISPOSAL

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Peter Dalacos, 514 Ashland Avenue, said there was no accountability for the trolley and that he spoke on PSTA route 66.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MICCIO-KIKTA

SECOND: COMMISSIONER BANTHER

To approve agenda items 3A, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 AND 7.

Vote on Motion – Upon roll call vote the motion carried unanimously as follows:

Commissioner Karr	Yes
Commissioner Miccio-Kikta	Yes
Commissioner Sieber	Yes
Vice Mayor Banther	Yes
Mayor Alahouzos	Yes

SPECIAL CONSENT

8. AWARD FILE NO. 180044-N-RS: PUBLIC ART NAIAD SCUPTURES

Sherri Orr, Chairman Public Art Committee, gave a power point presentation on the Committees selection of the four bronze sculptures, of the Naiads, by re-owned sculptress Gleanna Goodacre. These sculptures are to be installed at the roundabout at the West end of Dodecanese Boulevard. Additionally, she spoke on another selection of the Public Art Committee called "Storybook Time", in which would be placed at the Cultural Center outside.

The majority of the Board was excited on the selections and felt that the Naiad and the Storybook Time sculptures were beautiful pieces and were a good fit for the areas. Commissioner Karr would like to see other alternatives and did not feel it was wise to spend 33% of the budget; therefore, could not support due to cost. Vice Mayor Banther voiced that art across the United States drives tourism and was in support. Ms. Orr added that Ms. Goodacre was a recognizable name and that people travel all over just to see her work. Commissioner Karr asked if there was a process in placing insurance on public art, and City Manager LeCouris responded that once the City started collecting significant pieces, they would check with insurance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dolly Vatikiotis, 49 W. Center Street, Member Public Art Committee, stated that the artist was nationally known and that these sculptures were truly exceptional.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER SIEBER
SECOND: COMMISSIONER MICCIO-KIKTA

To award file No. 180044-N-RS: public art Naiad Sculptures to Galleria Silecchia, in an amount not to exceed \$ 75,800.00 for the Public Art Committee and also purchase the Storybook Sculpture.

Vote on Motion – Upon roll call vote the motion carried unanimously as follows:

Commissioner Karr	Yes
Commissioner Miccio-Kikta	Yes
Commissioner Sieber	Yes
Vice Mayor Banther	Yes
Mayor Alahouzos	Yes

(Committee)

SPECIAL CONSENT (Continued)

9. REQUEST TO SETTLE ADMINISTRATIVE FINE OR LIEN: 987 SUNRISE DRIVE

Attorney Augello presented the background information of this item; and advised the Board that the current property owner offered to settle in the amount of \$ 328.24; however, the City Attorney's Office was recommending to settle the case for the amount of \$ 5,000.00, plus the administrative costs incurred by the City of \$ 575.00, and the non-negotiable utility lien for a total of \$ 7,821.54.

Vice Mayor Banther asked if the current owner new about liens, and Commissioner Miccio-Kikta said it would show on title. Commissioner Karr felt this was a foreclosure and felt that property was received below market value. Since the current owner stated that they would not be flipping the house and got the house below market price, he suggested placing paid back stipulations if the current owner were to sell within so many years.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MICCIO-KIKTA
SECOND: COMMISSIONER BANTHER

To settle administrative fine or lien: 987 Sunrise Drive in the amount of \$ 5,000.00, plus the administrative costs incurred by the City of \$ 575.00, and the utility lien (non-negotiable) for a total of \$ 7,821.54, and that requesting party be given sixty (60) days to pay that amount and that if that amount is not paid, the liens revert to their original amount.

Vote on Motion – Upon roll call vote the motion carried 4 to 1 as follows:

Commissioner Karr	No
Commissioner Miccio-Kikta	Yes
Commissioner Sieber	Yes
Vice Mayor Banther	Yes
Mayor Alahouzos	Yes

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

10. ORDINANCE 2017-34: ADOPTION OF FLORIDA BUILDING CODE (2nd Reading)

City Attorney Augello read the following Ordinance by title only:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 6 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS BY AMENDING SECTION 6-1 TO ADOPT THE 2017 FLORIDA BUILDING CODE – BUILDING; THE 2017 FLORIDA BUILDING CODE – RESIDENTIAL; THE 2017 FLORIDA BUILDING CODE – EXISTING BUILDING; THE 2017 FLORIDA BUILDING CODE – ENERGY CONSERVATION; THE 2017 FLORIDA BUILDING CODE – ACCESSIBLITY; THE 2017 FLORIDA BUILDING CODE – PLUMBING; THE 2017 BUILDING CODE – 6TH EDITION – TEST PROTOCOLS FOR HIGH VELOCITY HURRICANE ZONES, THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE (NEPA 70) 2014 EDITION; BY AMENDING THE 2017 FLORIDA BUILDING CODE CHAPTER 1, ADMINISTRATION; PROVIDING FOR MODIFICATIONS THAT MAY ARISE AT PUBLIC HEARINGS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

The legal advertisement were met and this public hearing was called by virtue of this Ordinance being published by title only in the “Tampa Bay Times” on November 24, 2017.

Anthony Mastracchio, Building Director, advised there was no new information since the first reading.

Mayor Alahouzos asked for Board or public comments and there were none.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER SIEBER
SECOND: VICE MAYOR BANTHER

That Ordinance 2017-34 be adopted on its second and final reading.

Vote on Motion – Upon roll call vote the motion carried unanimously as follows:

Commissioner Karr	Yes
Commissioner Miccio-Kikta	Yes
Commissioner Sieber	Yes
Vice Mayor Banther	Yes
Mayor Alahouzos	Yes

(Continued)

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (Continued):

11. RESOLUTION 2017-39: BUDGET RESOLUTION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

City Attorney Augello read the following Resolution by title only:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-18.

Ron Harring, Finance Director, presented this item and summarized that these were budgeted items that were not expended. Mayor Alahouzos said that 2017 was a very challenging year and that even with the hurricane these were carry overs for projects in process.

Mayor Alahouzos asked for public comments and there were none.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER KARR
SECOND: VICE MAYOR BANTHER

To adopt Resolution 2017-39 as presented.

Vote on Motion – Upon roll call vote the motion carried unanimously as follows:

Commissioner Karr	Yes
Commissioner Miccio-Kikta	Yes
Commissioner Sieber	Yes
Vice Mayor Banther	Yes
Mayor Alahouzos	Yes

(Continued)

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (Continued):

12. RESOLUTION 2017-44: AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR FORWARD PINELLAS GRANT

City Attorney Augello read the following Resolution by title only:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA; AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS THROUGH FORWARD PINELLAS THROUGH THE PLANNING & PLACE-MAKING (PPM) GRANT PILOT PROGRAM, COMMITTING LOCAL MATCHING FUNDS, STATING THE ASSURANCE OF THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Karen Lemmons, Economic Development Director, gave the background stating that the City was applying for the grant in the amount of \$ 50,000 with a local match pledge of \$ 25,000 from the CRA, \$ 20,000 from the General Fund, and \$ 5,000 in-kind from the Chamber of Commerce. The project was titled "Activate Tarpon Springs!", which would consist of the Sponge Docks and the Downtown.

The Board supports and felt that market analysis was desperately needed.

Mayor Alahouzos asked for public comments and there were none.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER SIEBER
SECOND: COMMISSIONER MICCIO-KIKTA

That Resolution 2017-44 be adopted as presented

Vote on Motion – Upon roll call vote the motion carried unanimously as follows:

Commissioner Karr	Yes
Commissioner Miccio-Kikta	Yes
Commissioner Sieber	Yes
Vice Mayor Banther	Yes
Mayor Alahouzos	Yes

(Continued)

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (Continued):

13. RESOLUTION 2017-45: OPPOSING STRATEGIC PLAN FOR US 19 – TARPON AVENUE OVERPASS

City Attorney Augello read the following Resolution by title only:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS REQUESTING THAT THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REMOVE THE PLANNED INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS ON U.S. HIGHWAY 19 IN THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS FROM THE STRATEGIC INTERMODAL SYSTEM 2045 COST FEASIBLE HIGHWAY PLAN; REQUESTING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONSIDER IMPROVEMENTS TO U.S. HIGHWAY 19 IN THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS THAT DO NOT INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION OF A PARTIALLY CONTROLLED ACCESS FACILITY; AND INSTRUCTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO CERTAIN ENTITIES AND PEOPLE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Heather Urwiller, Planning & Zoning Director, presented this item and said this was a follow up to the presentation made by the Executive Director of Forward Pinellas. With that, the majority of the Board directed staff to work with Forward Pinellas on a Resolution stating their opposition on this overpass.

The majority of the Board supported this resolution. Commissioner Karr did not support at this time because felt the overpass would assist with the safety aspect.

Mayor Alahouzos asked for public comments and there were none.

MOTION: VICE MAYOR BANTHER
SECOND: COMMISSIONER MICCIO-KIKTA

That Resolution 2017-45 be adopted as presented

Vote on Motion – Upon roll call vote the motion carried 4 to 1 as follows:

Commissioner Karr	Yes
Commissioner Miccio-Kikta	Yes
Commissioner Sieber	Yes
Vice Mayor Banther	Yes
Mayor Alahouzos	Yes

MISCELLANEOUS:

14. DISCUSSION ITEM: REGULATION OF MEDICAL CANNABIS DISPENSARIES

Heather Urwiller, Planning & Zoning Director, presented this item and needed direction from the Board on amending current Ordinance as current regulations were not consistent with state law.

Commissioner Miccio-Kikta supported medical cannabis dispensaries in the community. After the election passed on this the board needs to find a way to keep their promise to allow. She said that the City Attorney advised at that time that Legislation would constantly be changing on this. Vice Mayor Banther was in support for this on the state ballot and felt dispensaries should be treated as Pharmacies. Commissioner Sieber asked if current pharmacies could dispense medical cannabis, and Ms. Urwiller replied. Commissioner Karr also felt that it made sense to place in pharmacies.

Public Comments:

Tom Frain, 624 Pent Street, by their nature felt these types of businesses would probably go to highway businesses in order to be profitable.

15. APPOINTMENT TO THE PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MICCIO-KIKTA
SECOND: COMMISSIONER SIEBER

To reappoint Sherry Orr, to another 3-year term, this will expire October 31, 2020; and appoint Dolly Vatikiotis, to fill the unexpired term of Michelle Wagner, this term will expire October 31, 2019; and appoint John (Jack) Spirk to fill the expired term of Lynn Pierson, this term will expire October 31, 2019; and appoint Joan Jennings, to fill the Expire October 31, 2020; and appoint Julie Eickmeier, to fill the Alternate # 1 position, this term will expire October 31, 2019; and appoint Rod Merter, to fill the Alternate # 2 position, this term will expire October 31, 2019.

Vote on Motion – Upon roll call vote the motion carried unanimously as follows:

Commissioner Karr	Yes
Commissioner Miccio-Kikta	Yes
Commissioner Sieber	Yes
Vice Mayor Banther	Yes
Mayor Alahouzos	Yes

(Continued)

MISCELLANEOUS:

16. DISCUSSION ITEM: CITY SIGNAGE & LIGHTING – COMMISSIONER KARR

Commissioner Karr referenced photos and said the City had an opportunity look at signs for consistency, and tie in branding. He would like to see a standard sign incorporating a Tarpon Fish, with a way to incorporate history and culture; as well as, signage showing parking and business information. Commissioner Miccio- Kikta informed the Board that wayfinding signs are faded and look horrible. City Manager LeCouris commented that the wayfinding signs project would be coming back for replacement.

The Board agreed that signs needed to be looked at and Vice Mayor Banther thanked Commissioner Karr for bringing forward. Agrees there should be a standard sign for areas but not for buildings.

Commissioner Miccio-Kikta thought this could be a project for the Public Art Committee. Mayor Alahouzos also felt that a Committee should be in place to bring back ideas. In additions there needs to be signs for gateways and directional signs.

Commissioner Karr also spoke about lighting in the downtown, such as, lighting or large lite globes to hang in trees all year around. He would also like to look at Hibiscus Street, bike trail, and Pine Street to have string lights hung across to be aesthetically pleasing and encourage residents to venture in those areas. City Manager LeCouris could see lighting in the trees but was not in favor of stringing lights across the street. Commissioner Siebered like the current holiday lighting at the Sponge Docks and would like to see it all year round, and would like all to keep an open mind on what and how this could be achieved.

BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS:

PSTA: Vice Mayor Banther reported on his meeting with Brad Miller from PSTA and announced that he would be coming on February 6, 2018, to give an update on transit manners, seniors issues, and route issues. Additionally he has offered to do training at our senior center to advise seniors on services available and how to use apps to use those services. Mayor Alahouzos asked City Manager to work with Mr. Miller to look at grants available for seniors.

FIREFIGHTERS NEGOTIATION: Commissioner Miccio-Kikta would like an update on contract negotiations at the next meeting. City Manager LeCouris said there probably would be an Executive Session in January scheduled to discuss this, as the first contract was turned down. Commissioner Sieber was glad that an Executive Session would be taking place.

SUNBAY MOTEL: Commissioner Miccio-Kikta would like to see the Budget Advisory Committee review the information on Sun Bay Motel that was previously provided to the Board so the Budget Advisory Committee can look at and give their ideas, thoughts, and make recommendations regarding the purchase. She would also like this to take place during their next meeting in January and Commissioner Sieber agreed.

LANDSCAPING: Commissioner Miccio-Kikta suggested that Commissioner Karr provide photos of planting replacement he recommends to the Board as she was not familiar with the planting names and was more of a visual person. City Manager LeCouris felt this issue needs to be discussed as he was uncomfortable with dictating what applicant can use on permitted uses on the fly. Commissioner Karr stated the guide lines were limited in the code and that was what needed to be looked at. Mayor Alahouzos wanted the Planning and Zoning Board to have equal opportunity to review if plantings were changed. Vice Mayor Banther also agreed that this should be a future discussion item as he was also hesitant to make changes at a meeting.

(Continued)

BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS (Continued):

ANCLOTE RIVER: Commissioner Sieber suggested that plans on the dredging project be re-submitted. She advised that she spoke with Representative Sprowls that the DEO declined funding and he said he would look into this matter because he was under the impression that the project was going to be funded. He said that it would not hurt to resubmit the project for funding; however, the deadline had past two weeks ago. Vice Mayor Banther said he also spoke to Representative Sprowls a month ago on this. At this point, Vice Mayor Banther said it would not hurt to resubmit, but felt the Board and Marine Commerce Committee should focus efforts on the Congressman, and Federal level and stop wasting time with State funding.

TARPON ARTS: Commissioner Karr saw a press release by the Tarpon Arts that the Kathy Monahan foundation was updating the lobby and replacing furniture in the Auditorium and asked the City Manager for more information on this, in which he gave.

MAYOR'S ANNOUCEMENTS:

Mayor Alahouzos announced the following:

-January 6, 2018 we will be celebrating the 112th Anniversary of Epiphany, and looks forward to seeing all at the events planned around that blessed day.

-On January 29 2018 at 10:30 a.m. in the City Hall Auditorium, Congressman Bilirakis, the City of Tarpon Springs and the Ambassador of Greece to the United States will be hosting a Forum open to the public on the goals and objectives of our Sister Cities on exchanging education, economic development and culture.

-Wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a year ahead filled with peace and happiness.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

CHRIS ALAHOUZOS
MAYOR

ATTEST:

IRENE S. JACOBS, CMC
CITY CLERK & COLLECTOR

CITY CLERK'S NOTE: This meeting has been recorded in its entirety and the recordings are kept on file in the City Clerk's Office for the required retention period.