



Town of Melbourne Beach

TOWN COMMISSION WORKSHOP WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2017

MINUTES

Mayor Jim Simmons
Vice Mayor Tom Davis
Commissioner Wyatt Hoover
Commissioner Sherri Quarrie
Commissioner Steve Walters

Town Manager Timothy Day
Town Clerk Nancy Wilson

The Town Commission conducted a
Town Commission Workshop
at 5:30 p.m. on March 1, 2017
in the Masny Room – 507 Ocean Avenue

I. Call to Order

Mayor Simmons called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Town Clerk Wilson led the roll call:

Commissioners Present:

Mayor Jim Simmons

Vice Mayor Tom Davis

Commissioner Wyatt Hoover (arrived at 5:44 pm)

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie

Commissioner Steve Walters

Staff Present:

Town Manager Timothy Day

Town Clerk Nancy Wilson

III. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Led by Mayor Simmons

IV. New Business

A. Parking Meters/Permits at Ocean Park Beach (Commissioner Quarrie)

Commissioner Quarrie said that installing parking meters was raised in the past but was found unfeasible. She's hoping with modern technology there is something available that will allow us to generate some revenue to help with maintaining the area. Because of recent concerns, including parking and security issues, she'd like for us to reach out again to the State of Florida. She added that Avenue B is the first free stop for the beaches and that is why it is overcrowded. Commissioner Quarrie also suggested a reconfiguration of the Ocean Park parking area to add spaces and make it less dangerous at that intersection adding that a cement barricade may be necessary.

Vice Mayor Davis asked about the lease provisions with the State and wondered if it would be a conflict if we made improvements. Town Manager Day answered that we have a 99 year lease agreement with them and it does not allow for the installation of a parking meter system. He said the reason for the lease is for the specific purpose of preserving the property for public outdoor recreational, park, conservation and related purposes at no charge.

Mayor Simmons said we need to advertise this to the residents. He has already received a lot of feedback from residents indicating they don't

want parking meters but added that we do need a comprehensive solution for all parking in Melbourne Beach. Rather than putting in meters, he suggested permit parking for residents and their guests. He said that there has been a big congregation of FIT students at Ave B recently and that, while they leave the area spotless of litter, some have been drinking very excessively and behaving poorly as the day progresses. He also stated that the problem is by no means limited to FIT students, but, that they are easily identified by their parking stickers, t-shirts, etc. He suggested contacting the Director of Student Affairs of FIT and letting him know that we will prosecute disorderly conduct and also suggested placing an article in the Beach Comber to get input from our residents.

Commissioner Quarrie responded that the situation at Avenue B sounds like a safety issue and suggested security cameras using license plate recognition software to deter this activity. Mayor Simmons said the problem stems from overcrowding at the parking areas and alcohol consumption and that if we had a control mechanism to limit parking, the problem would most likely go away. Commissioner Quarrie added that if we are serious about enforcing the law, students may need to go elsewhere to have fun.

Vice Mayor Davis said that we spend a lot of money cleaning up after the beach visitors and he'd like to find a way to recoup that expense. He said that during his campaign, he promoted paid parking to a few residents and it was not well received so he dropped the issue.

Mayor Simmons said the parking spaces at the end of the streets should be first come, first served with street parking being reserved for residents with permits. Commissioner Hoover suggested modifying access for golf carts and bikes.

Commissioner Walters said there are two issues: parking at the end of Avenues A & B and generating revenue from parking. He said residents don't want to get permits and he feels that those without permits will park along the streets at which time it becomes an ongoing enforcement issue. He added that paid parking could potentially drive customers away from local businesses and he emphasized that people don't want to pay to park. This has been discussed numerous times and every time, residents say they don't want to worry about obtaining and renewing permits. Commissioner Walters was also concerned that issuing permits would require the hiring of an additional employee or stretch too thin our current staff. He said that enforcement is a big job and suggested that we erect *No Parking* signs at the areas in question.

Town Manager Day relayed to the Commission the recent number of citations in the area in the past year. He also said that residents have told him that they are afraid of retaliation if they call the police.

Commissioner Hoover said that they may want to think about what is attracting people who behave poorly to the area adding that all solutions involve an investment of some kind. He suggested improving the aesthetics of the parking areas and/or contacting an organization who would perform a study.

Commissioner Quarrie said that the curve on A1A needs to be looked into for safety reasons to which the Town Manager responded that recent accidents have been the result of drunk driving.

Mayor Simmons said that a landscaping project at Avenues A & B eliminated parking on one side of the road. He'd like residents to park on the streets and visitors to use the nine spots at the end of the Avenues. Commissioner Walters said that we risk blocking driveways if street parking is encouraged.

Both Mayor Simmons and Vice Mayor Davis want a public meeting to discuss this issue with the residents. Commissioner Quarrie said it could be presented that we need input about how to keep our beaches safe given our current set of issues. The Commission was in agreement that the Town Manager should direct the Police Chief to increase beachside patrol.

Commissioner Quarrie reiterated her desire to reconfigure the Ocean Park entrance in order to provide more parking and make the area safer. She said that if we have a bigger presence in the form of license plate recognition or using modern technology, the bad behavior will go away. Commissioner Walters responded that he doesn't think FDOT will allow any changes to the reconfiguration of Ocean Park.

The Commission agreed by consensus to have Town Manager Day contact the State of Florida about using meters at Ocean Park. It was also agreed to, by consensus, not to have a meeting with the public until the Commission has spent more time studying Ocean Park safety and the parking issues.

Commissioner Hoover suggested that visual cues be used so people who visit us for the first time know how to behave. These cues would inform people that they need to slow down.

Mayor Simmons asked if the Commission agreed to have Town Manager Day contact the Director of Student Affairs at FIT and tell him that Melbourne Beach will be increasing enforcement at our beach areas due to

the recent parking issues and bad behavior of FIT students. The Commission agreed by consensus.

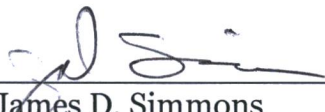
Town Manager Day announced that the Town Pier will be closed beginning March 6th for restoration. Mr. Day also asked about the sign at the boat ramp and was told to offer it to the Historic Center or otherwise dispose of it. He wrapped up the meeting by saying he is continuing to work on the RFP for Town roads.

V. Adjournment

Vice Mayor Davis moved to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Hoover. Motion carried 5/0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

ATTEST:



James D. Simmons
Mayor



Nancy Wilson
Town Clerk