

Town of Melbourne Beach

TOWN COMMISSION WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019

MASNY ROOM – 507 OCEAN AVENUE

MINUTES

PUBLIC NOTICE

**The Town Commission conducted a Town Commission Workshop
on Wednesday, April 3, 2019 in the Masny Room
located at 507 Ocean Avenue to address the items below.**

Commission Members:

Mayor Jim Simmons
Vice Mayor Wyatt Hoover
Commissioner Steve Walters
Commissioner Sherrie Quarrie
Commissioner Corey Runte

Staff Members:

Interim Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro
Town Clerk Nancy Wilson
Town Attorney Clifford Repperger

I. Call to Order – Led by Mayor Simmons

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

II. Roll Call

Town Clerk Wilson led the roll call.

Commissioners Present:

Mayor Jim Simmons
Vice Mayor Wyatt Hoover
Commissioner Sherrie Quarrie
Commissioner Steve Walters
Commissioner Corey Runte

Staff Present:

Interim Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro
Town Clerk Nancy Wilson

III. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Led by Mayor Simmons

IV. Public Comment

V. Presentations

New Police Officer Zachary Martin was introduced to the Commission. Mr. Martin worked in New Jersey for a few years then worked in West Melbourne until starting here in Melbourne Beach. He filled the last vacant position in the police department.

1. Alan Ross to report on the Southern Squall event held on March 2nd

Mr. Ross thanked the Commission for allowing him and his wife to host the Southern Squall event. They were very pleased with the help they received from the Town and would like to host the event again next year. Mayor Simmons said his only feedback was that there were too many people who could see and hear the event without paying. Mr. Ross said he knew that going in but he was still hoping to get a bigger turnout from locals. The estimated attendance was 525 people but the venue could have accommodated twice that number though parking would have been an even bigger problem. Commissioner Runte attended the event; he said it was very well organized and that the other people in attendance really enjoyed themselves. The Commissioner recommended that in subsequent years, the event should be held on a weekend when there aren't so many other events going on in Brevard County. Mr. Ross said they netted \$17,000 and the Town's portion amounted to \$6,840 (*From 01:05:02 - minus our expenses, the Town made approximately \$2,757 which will be*

used for playground equipment. Commissioner Quarrie said that the percentage of the proceeds should have been based on the amount remaining after our expenses had been paid so we weren't paid as much as the other 2 recipients. Vice Mayor Hoover suggested drafting an agreement spelling out details for similar events in the future. Mayor Simmons commented that Ryckman Park is for public use and having outside events monopolize it sets a bad precedent.)

2. Quarterly Departmental updates– Fire Department (00:08:02)

Fire Chief Micka showed the Commission members one of the Fire Department's thank-you cards that the Town may want to replicate.

Mr. Micka handed out his powerpoint presentation and also had it projected on the wall. He gave a brief history of his tenure with the Town of Melbourne Beach followed by a summary of what he would be presenting which started with an overview of grants for which the MBVFD has applied. Next, an overview was presented of the Insurance Services Organization's audit of the Town's fire services which has consistently improved, yielding lower insurance rates for homeowners and businesses. Also included in the presentation was an overview of staffing and the relationship with MBVFD, Inc. In conclusion, the future of the department, staffing of volunteers and budgeting shortfalls were outlined.

Fire Chief Micka responded to questions asked by the Commission members. One question had to do with the slippery epoxy flooring that was laid in the bay area of the FD at a cost of \$15,000; the flooring is still slippery even after repeated attempts to remedy the problem by scoring and etching it. The Commission was under the impression that this problem had been solved. Mayor Simmons asked if perhaps there is another kind of flooring that could be used because what's happening is that the aggregate is wearing off but the epoxy remains thus yielding a slippery surface. Commissioner Quarrie suggested that since Commissioner Runte has worked on similar projects, he would provide the specifications for those jobs.

Commissioner Quarrie is concerned about the shortfalls in the budget for fire equipment so she suggested larger percentage increases in the budget for each Town department. She also believes the Town needs to have a grant writer; Commissioner Runte concurred.

In response to a question asked by the Mayor, Fire Chief Micka said that the \$280,000-\$300,000 figure in his presentation, regarding the department's salaried personnel needs, represents 4 people.

Commissioner Walters mentioned adding certified firefighters of the MBVFD to the Police Pension Fund. Jeff Boos, Captain of the FD, said they have looked into that in the past but nothing came of it. Interim Town Manager Mascaro will look into the matter further.

After answering some more general fire department questions, Fire Chief Micka concluded his quarterly report presentation.

3. Discussion regarding hiring a Town Manager – Commissioner Walters (01:12:58)

Commissioner Walters said he doesn't want to wait to advertise the Town Manager vacancy and would like the advertisement to be placed in the usual places in order to seek the most qualified applicant. Mayor Simmons said we keep making the same mistake by thinking we're going to get some super qualified applicant who then won't move here and will leave after a year or so. He suggested sitting back and waiting 6 months before hiring a Town Manager. Commissioner Walters said everything worked fine when we didn't have a Town Manager and each Commission member was responsible for a department. He added that with the Police Benevolent Association issue and the need for grants, the Town needs someone with more experience. He also asked who would cover the Finance Department. Mayor Simmons said that Ms. Mascaro should be given 6 months working in the position; she served for 3 months in the position in 2017 and understands the Town's finances.

Commissioner Quarrie said there are some important issues that the Town needs to address and she would rather focus on those issues along with the budget before going through the process of finding a new Town Manager. The Commission discussed the hiring process further before coming to a decision.

The Commission consented 4-1 to wait until after the budget process to discuss the hiring of a Town Manager.
Commissioner Walters dissented.

Mayor Simmons commented on an article in *Florida Today* that said the state is trying to make short term rental regulations even more restrictive. For example, if a property has too many cars parked on their property, the

regulation to restrict that has to apply to all residents not just those occupying short term rental properties.

Commissioner Runte sees a need for the Town to engage the services of a grant writer. He knows a top notch candidate who lives in Melbourne Beach and who has been successful in acquiring grants. It was decided that this issue would be discussed during budget meetings.


Interim Town Manager Mascaro wanted clarification about the SCTPO grant opportunity previously mentioned by Vice Mayor Hoover. Matching funds aren't required and we would team up with FDOT who would perform planning and engineering functions. The Commission consented to having her move forward with the application.

VI. Adjournment

Vice Mayor Hoover made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Quarrie seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm

ATTEST:



James D. Simmons, Mayor



Nancy Wilson, Town Clerk