

Town of Melbourne Beach

PUBLIC NOTICE

MINUTES

**TOWN COMMISSION WORKSHOP
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 7, 2019 @ 6:00pm
MASNY ROOM – 507 OCEAN AVENUE**

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 conducted the roll call.

Commissioners Present:

Mayor Jim Simmons

Vice Mayor Wyatt Hoover

Commissioner Steve Walters

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie

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. New Business

Before beginning with the items on the agenda, Interim Town Manager Mascaro announced that Fire Department personnel are meeting to discuss the stipend issue. HR Attorney Hament is concerned with the amount of the stipend and what the implications could be on the Town. Once the Fire Department comes up with a plan and alternatives, the Commission needs to revisit the issue and make a decision before the new fiscal year. Ms. Mascaro will forward to the Commission information she receives from Mr. Hament.

Interim Town Manager Mascaro updated the Commission on some serious flooding problems being experienced on Poinsettia. Lawns are starting to sink so she has reached out to B.S.E. Consulting to find out what is underground in that area. Public Works has been pumping out the drains with the Ditch Witch and they created drainage swales. Public Supervisor Davis explained what measures his guys have taken but it was too early to provide details though he indicated that the pipe may be submerged.

A. Discussion regarding beach access parking – Mayor Simmons (00:21:48)

Mayor Simmons said over the past few years, the Town has been having more and more beach access parking problems primarily in the spring and early summer. They're limited in what they can do in some parking areas because

the Town may have accepted State or County dollars making those areas available to everyone. A few years ago, the subject of parking meters was discussed but the residents didn't want them. One problem is that people are parking their vehicles on the grass on both sides of the street which results in broken sprinklers, impassable roads and other problems. The Mayor said a possible solution would be to allow street parking for residents only (which would involve some type of sticker) and restrict that parking to one side of the street. The problem is only going to get worse and he thinks the Commission should get ahead of it. Vice Mayor Hoover is in favor of dealing with beach parking issues and added that certain restrictions may help with VRBO problems. Commissioner Runte was involved in a parking study where it was determined that a perceived shortage of parking was really a parking management problem. He added that he hasn't talked to anybody who is against parking meters. The Town is improving the Ocean Avenue Park area but it is being used by outsiders who don't take good care of the facilities. He's in favor of a comprehensive plan which includes the use of parking meters. The Town has a lease agreement with the State for Ocean Park which allows us to charge for parking but all money made has to be put back into the Park. Commissioner Quarrie thinks that if the use of kiosks as a revenue stream is explained effectively to the residents, they would agree to having them installed. There are about 70 parking spaces in the Ocean Avenue Park lot.

Commissioner Walters was opposed to the parking suggestions. He said the last 4 times the subject was discussed, it came down to 3 things: enforcement, staff time, and parking in the business areas down Ocean Avenue. Business owners complained when this was last proposed because beachgoers who didn't want to pay for parking would park in front of the businesses and customers were driven off. He added that the State of Florida may not permit it.

The Interim Town Manager was tasked with researching kiosks for Ocean Park, finding out from the State of Florida what is permitted on that leased property, researching resident access permits and parking at the ends of streets. Vice Mayor Hoover asked the Interim Town Manager to also contact Indialantic to find out how paid parking affects their businesses.

This item will be added to the Action List.

- B. Discussion and possible action regarding the Town Manager position – Vice Mayor Hoover (00:53:14)

Vice Mayor Hoover said that the Commission decided a few months ago to revisit the hiring of a Town Manager after the budget was wrapped up. He suggested as a first step, that they move forward with the process of

advertising the position. Mayor Simmons said he thinks they should do something different. They've done the advertising, interviewing, evaluating and have heard the same promises over and over and they keep ending up in the same place. The Mayor said he's happy with what Elizabeth has been doing in the last 5 months and he's ready to enter into negotiations with her. The Town has made great progress since she's been the Interim Town Manager. All candidates make the same promises and the pool of applicants is the same. He knows she is going to be in for the long haul. Vice Mayor Hoover didn't disagree with her performance but he thinks it's their responsibility as leaders of the community to exercise due diligence. The Mayor responded that he would like to hire based on example vs. promises; he's done with interviews where he hears the same thing over and over again. Commissioner Walters said the Mayors argument doesn't hold water because he doesn't know if there's anybody out there that lives in the Brevard County and is qualified to do the job. He said he wants to follow policy and advertise the position to which the Mayor said that the appointed position does not need to be advertised. Interim Town Manager Mascaro said the Charter states that an appointed position does not need to be advertised. Commissioner Quarrie said Elizabeth has proven herself and she is in favor of offering her the job. Commissioner Runte agreed that Elizabeth has done an excellent job. He's happy with moving forward with hiring her as long as Town policy says it's OK. He added that she's accomplished a lot while serving as the Town Manager.

The Town Attorney will be contacted to ensure that the Town Manager position is appointed and advertising isn't necessary. This issue will be placed on the August 21st agenda.

VI. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm

ATTEST:



James D. Simmons, Mayor



Nancy Wilson, Town Clerk