



# Town of Melbourne Beach

**TOWN COMMISSION WORKSHOP  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2017, 6:00 p.m.  
TOWN HALL MASNY ROOM – 507 OCEAN AVENUE**

## **MINUTES**

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

Town Manager Robert Daniels  
Town Clerk Nancy Wilson

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## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

**The Town Commission conducted a Town Commission Workshop  
at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 6, 2017 in the  
Town Hall Masny Room  
located at 507 Ocean Avenue to address the items below.**

**I. Call to Order – Led by Mayor Simmons**

Mayor Simmons called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

Town Clerk Wilson led the roll call.

Commissioners Present:

Mayor Jim Simmons  
Commissioner Wyatt Hoover  
Commissioner Sherri Quarrie  
Commissioner Steve Walters

Staff Present:

Town Manager Bob Daniels  
Town Clerk Nancy Wilson

Commissioners Absent:

Vice Mayor Tom Davis

**III. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

Led by Mayor Simmons

**IV. Special Presentation**

Presentation by Dr. Kenneth Lindeman, Florida Tech Professor, regarding sustainability

Dr. Lindeman is a professor and Program Chair for Sustainability at Florida Tech in the Department of Education & Interdisciplinary Studies. He tailored a powerpoint presentation for Melbourne Beach and it can be found on our website under the “News” category. The 47 page presentation began with reviewing where in east Florida sustainability projects have been undertaken and how established they are. Next, his presentation focused on Satellite Beach and how they contracted with Florida Tech to create a Sustainability Program using paid student interns. He concluded by saying that just creating a plan stimulates conversation that would otherwise not occur; it brings people out who may have particular skills that would be of use to moving your plan forward.

Mayor Simmons said that some of what Satellite Beach is doing doesn’t apply to Melbourne Beach but there is some low hanging fruit that we could tackle that would cost little but would have a positive impact. He said that Satellite Beach has worked hard to create their Sustainability Board and we could use their plan as a baseline. The Mayor said a joint meeting with the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) would be a good place to start.

Commissioner Hoover said that Satellite Beach made great progress because of the Florida Tech partnership and asked if the same would be possible for Melbourne Beach especially given our limited resources. Dr. Lindeman said we could most likely get help from some undergraduate students who need to complete senior research projects. He said that because our meetings and his meetings fall on the same day, it has been hard to coordinate a meeting to discuss sustainability projects. Dr. Lindeman added that there is still grant money available.

The date for our next workshop was discussed and it was agreed by consensus that the meeting would be moved from January 3<sup>rd</sup> to January 10<sup>th</sup>. A joint workshop between the Town Commission and EAB will be scheduled for February 1, 2018.

## **V. Public Comments**

Nobody asked to speak

## **VI. Old Business**

Discussion regarding proposal from B.S.E. Consulting regarding engineering and survey services

Scott Glaubitz, President of B.S.E., and his daughter Ana Saunders introduced themselves. Mr. Glaubitz's proposal was in response to the Town asking for baseline data by providing an inventory and survey of the Town's existing stormwater drainage system consisting of swales, pipes, a site with a below ground stormwater infiltration system and structures; also, to identify deficiencies, required improvements and prioritize proposed improvements. The proposal presented at this meeting was based on the work required as if nothing had been done. However, since completing the proposal, more information was provided so that information will have to be evaluated before coming up with a new proposal. Mr. Glaubitz explained how they perform their evaluation and what activities are required to come up with priority projects so they can be attacked methodically. To make it easy for laymen to understand a project, B.S.E. puts the drainage structures on one large sheet of paper instead of providing a set of plans. When fixes are made, the sheet is updated so an instantaneous view of what's going on in Town is always available. Mr. Glaubitz explained situations he has dealt with in other Towns and how their problems were mitigated.

In response to a comment made from a resident, Mayor Simmons said that a representative from St. Johns River Water Management District said that if



filters are removed from baffle boxes, DEP will impose huge fines. There aren't any extenuating circumstances that would allow for filter removal. The Mayor added that it doesn't matter if a plant is native or non-native, it is pulling the phosphorous out of the ground and is present in run-off.

Mayor Simmons asked what it would take to assess where we are today. Commissioner Walters said we have gone through the evaluation process at least twice and have paid \$100,000's of thousands to do what B.S.E. is being asked to do again. He said we got a grant for \$1.8 million and taxes were raised. So out of the \$5 million allocated for stormwater, we have \$500,000 remaining so he wants to address our current problems; he's not in favor of starting over. Commissioner Walters said the Town doesn't need all of what B.S.E. is proposing because we don't have the money and by the time we can finance it, everything is going to change. We were told at one point that it would cost over \$10 million to update our stormwater system. Mr. Walters added that if it's going to cost \$104,000 to come up with a priority map, etc, and it has all already been done, he'd be in favor of spending the \$500,000 to fix the current issues and move forward from that point without funding a new plan. The Town qualified three engineering firms and now that we've qualified three, the Town Manager can ask each of them what they would charge to do what we need done and handle the current resident complaints.

Ana Saunders said that until very recently, they didn't know other plans existed so in order to provide the Town with a new proposal, she and Mr. Glaubitz would have to review the newly provided information and that would take a few hours.

Commissioner Hoover asked them if what is gleaned from the new information could mitigate the cost. Ms. Saunders answered in the affirmative. Commissioner Hoover also asked if there are creative ways to deal with retention since Melbourne Beach is built out and to also increase percolation throughout the Town. He'd like to see something that prevents water from flowing to lower areas of the island from higher areas and instead have percolate straight down. Mr. Glaubitz said that is exactly the right idea; that is the low maintenance cost solution. He described a plan they came up with for Indialantic that they haven't implemented because the residents didn't like it. The plan was to use the Town rights-of-way where they would put in shallow swales, adjacent to the pavement, ditch blocks and where there is curb and gutter they would cut it back so water didn't run into the storm sewer but, instead, would go into the swale and percolate. As more people are beginning to understand the importance of preserving our lagoon,

the idea is catching on. Mr. Glaubitz concluded by saying that they will propose a lot of things and put costs to them but it is ultimately up to the Commission to decide what is best for your community.

Commissioner Walters mentioned again that we don't want to pay for a plan we have paid for twice before. Mayor Simmons responded that he doesn't believe the previous engineering firms looked at the degrading systems, they only looked at where we didn't have existing systems. He said it would be beneficial to give B.S.E. 2 or 3 hours to assess what we have and then come back to us.

Ms. Saunders said that the 4 current issues in Town are being looked at by a contractor and we are waiting for a cost breakdown.

Commissioner Quarrie asked if water detention, rather than water retention, would be possible in our parks and Mr Glaubitz responded in the affirmative.


**The Commission agreed by consensus to give B.S.E. Consulting 3 hours to review the stormwater files recently received and return to the workshop on January 10<sup>th</sup> with their revised proposal.**

## VII. Adjournment

**Commissioner Quarrie made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Hoover seconded. Motion carried 4-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
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James D. Simmons, Mayor

  
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Nancy Wilson, Town Clerk