



CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA
NOVEMBER 5, 2020, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Watford called the regular meeting of the City Council for the City of Okeechobee to order on Thursday, November 5, 2020, at 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, located at 55 Southeast 3rd Avenue, Room 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The invocation was offered by Mayor Watford, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by Council Member Keefe.

II. ATTENDANCE

Roll was taken by City Clerk Lane Gamiotea to establish a quorum. Members present: Mayor Dowling R. Watford, Jr., Council Members Wes Abney, Monica Clark, Bob Jarriel, and Bobby Keefe.

III. AGENDA AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A.** Mayor Watford asked whether there were any agenda items to be added, deferred, or withdrawn; New Business Items I and J were added.
- B.** Motion by Council Member Clark, seconded by Council Member Abney to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**
- C.** There was one comment card submitted for public participation for issues not on the agenda. Mr. Mike Mammarelli, owner of Joey's Pizza located at 107 West South Park Street, voiced his concerns with the increased homeless population loitering in Veteran's Park and panhandling. Council Member Keefe also relayed comments from Mr. David Feltenberger on the same issues, adding that Mr. Feltenberger was willing to offer his services to help remedy the situation. Mayor Watford instructed Chief Peterson to ensure the Police Officers were informing individuals of what they could not do in public areas.

IV. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A.** Ms. India Riedel was presented with an engraved crystal mantel clock and a framed longevity service certificate which read "In recognition of your 15-years of service, hard work, and dedication to the City, its citizens, and your fellow employees from November 7, 2005 through November 7, 2020."

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Clark, seconded by Council Member Keefe to approve consent agenda items **A**, Minutes for the October 6 and 20, 2020, Regular Meetings; and **B**, ratify Ryan Holroyd's re-appointment as the Fifth Member to the Police Officers' Pension Fund Board, term being October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2024. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A.** Motion by Council Member Abney, seconded by Council Member Jarriel to read proposed Ordinance No. 1220 by title only regarding Abandonment of Right-of-Way Petition No. 20-002-SC [as provided in Exhibit 1]. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Attorney Fumero read the title of proposed Ordinance No. 1220 as follows: "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA; VACATING AND ABANDONING A PORTION OF SOUTHWEST 4TH STREET (f/k/a FIFTH AVENUE) AND A PORTION OF SOUTHWEST 5TH STREET (f/k/a FOURTH STREET) MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREIN, LYING WITHIN THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5, PAGE 5, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA (PETITION NO. 20-002-SC); RESERVING UNTO THE CITY, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS A NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENT FOR PUBLIC UTILITIES PURPOSES; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO RECORD THE ORDINANCE IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

VI. NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

ITEM A. CONTINUED: Motion by Council Member Jarriel, seconded by Council Member Keefe to approve the first reading and set December 1, 2020, as a Final Public Hearing date for proposed Ordinance No. 1220. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

- B. Motion by Council Member Jarriel, seconded by Council Member Clark to approve a software upgrade to the Police Department Spillman System in the amount of \$19,925.00 for the purpose of providing Uniform Crime Report Data required by the State of Florida [as provided in Exhibit 2]. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**
- C. The status of Code Enforcement Case No. 190411010, Kemp Properties of Okeechobee located at 909 South Parrott Avenue [approximately 1.035 unplatted acres] was provided in a memorandum dated October 28, 2020, from Chief Peterson and Assistant City Attorney Kowalsky [a copy is incorporated in the official minute file]. The Case was deferred.
- D. Motion by Council Member Keefe, seconded by Council Member Clark to accept the recommendation by the Code Enforcement Special Magistrate to proceed with foreclosure proceedings regarding Code Enforcement Case No. 190412010 [located at 102 Southwest 14th Street, Legal: Lots 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, and 12 of Block 22, together with a 15-foot wide Alley running North to South between said Lots, SOUTH OKEECHOBEE, Plat Books 1 and 5, Pages 12 and 7, public records of Okeechobee County]. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**
- E. Motion by Council Member Jarriel, seconded by Council Member Keefe to approve salaries and positions for Code Enforcement as presented by Chief Peterson [Full-time Code Enforcement Officer Step 1 annual salary amended to \$37,440.00 or \$18.00 per hour. Part-time Administrative Secretary job title changed to full-time Assistant Code Enforcement Officer with Step 1 annual salary as ~~\$33,240.00~~ \$33,224.00 or \$15.97 per hour added to the Salary Step Plan; a copy of the cost explanation is incorporated in the official minute file]. **Motion Carried Four to One.** Minutes were amended at the January 5, 2021 meeting.
- F. Motion by Council Member Jarriel, seconded by Council Member Keefe to approve the Committee ranking for Request for Qualification (RFQ) No. ADM 03-32-09-20 Professional Landscape Architect Services [as provided in Exhibit 3]. Motion and second withdrawn from the floor.
- Motion by Council Member Keefe, seconded by Council Member Clark to postpone approving RFQ No. ADM 03-32-09-20 Professional Landscape Architect Services rankings and to have all five firms make their presentation to the Council [the submittals from each firm have been incorporated in the official minute file]. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**
- G. Mayor Watford and Council Member Clark conveyed proposed Florida Department of Transportation improvements to State Road 70 East from 3rd to 16th Avenues.
- H. By consensus the Council directed Staff to provide all figures related to annual and sick leave payouts for Fire Department employees only to review at the next meeting.
- I. ITEM ADDED TO AGENDA: Motion by Council Member Jarriel, seconded by Council Member Keefe to authorize Mayor Watford to execute a letter to South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to hold a workshop and consider alternatives to its proposed Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir Water Restoration Rules [as presented in Exhibit 4]. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Motion by Council Member Keefe, seconded by Council Member Abney to authorize Mayor Watford to execute a letter to Governor DeSantis supporting Mr. Ben Butler being re-appointed to the SFWMD Board [a copy of the letter read by Council Member Keefe is incorporated in the official minute file]. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

VI. NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED


J. ITEM ADDED TO AGENDA: The consensus of the Council was to host the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony as a restricted venue on December 1, 2020, at 5:00 P.M. with only City employees and their families for in person attendance, utilizing the Center for Disease Control guidelines at that time, and provide a virtual broadcast on the City's YouTube Channel and/or Facebook.

VII. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Jarriel thanked those who attended the Town Hall meeting. Council Member Keefe requested as an agenda item for the next meeting, to discuss meeting minutes' preparation styles.

VIII. Mayor Watford adjourned the meeting at 8:39 P.M.

ATTEST:


 Lane Gamiotea, CMC, City Clerk


 Dowling R. Watford, Jr., Mayor

Please take notice and be advised that when a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, he/she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. City Clerk media are for the sole purpose of backup for official records of the Clerk.