

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF REDINGTON SHORES
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020 – FOLLOWING WORKSHOP MEETING
VIA ZOOM WEBINAR
MINUTES**

ROLL CALL: Commissioner Drumm, Commissioner Blackburn, Commissioner Neal, Vice Mayor Robinson, Mayor Henderson, Attorney Denhardt

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Meeting, April 8, 2020; Special Meeting, April 13, 2020

Vice Mayor Robinson motioned to approve minutes for the Regular Meeting on April 8th, 2020 and the Special Meeting on April 13th, 2020; Commissioner Drumm seconded. Roll: all yes

RATIFICATION OF BILLS – April/May 2020

Vice Mayor Robinson motioned to ratify the bills for April and May 2020; Commissioner Neal seconded. Roll: all yes

COMMISSION REPORTS

Mayor Henderson

Mayor Henderson stated that Town Hall is still closed to public business, however work has still been occurring. With the new recommendations to protect workers and the public, there will be a glass partition and there will be a limited number of people allowed in at one time. There was a small hiccup with the crosswalk by the Towers, it is still being worked on. There was an RFP put out on maintaining the grass areas of the town, the deadline for submitting applications is July 2nd. Mayor Henderson stated Commissioner Blackburn will be in charge of the bids and will report back to the Commission at the end as to who will have the bid.

Mayor Henderson began speaking about the Fourth of July coming up and the potential for having to cancel the show due to COVID-19. Discussion took place between Chief Swann and Chief Burford about the issues of maintaining crowd control during the day and how both Chiefs did not see the firework show being a conducive setting for social distancing. Vice Mayor Robinson stated he was disappointed but concurred with the Chiefs on their thoughts. Town Clerk, Mary Palmer, stated she spoke to other municipalities in the area and stated they also cancelled their firework shows. The Commissioners discussed their feelings over the situation. Chief Swann stated he would expect a statement from the county due to the closure being countywide regarding Fourth of July meetups. Discussion took place about the beaches being open and having to shut some outlets off because of the amount of people in the area. Mayor Henderson stated the consensus was to cancel the firework show.

Mary Palmer spoke about the glass partition with the speaker, which was approved at \$2,800. Fort Knox Fire and Communications are going to add switches for the doors and some wiring for the keypads at \$2,879. All fees associated with hardening town hall come out of the Emergency Management funds and be put towards a reimbursement from FEMA. Vice Mayor Robinson motioned to approve the hardening of town hall, the partition and speaker upfront and the security of the front door; Commissioner Drumm seconded. Commissioner Drumm stated we are at \$5,679 dollars to keep everyone safe behind the counter, suggested to not exceed an amount in the motion. Mary Palmer suggested to not exceed \$7,500. Vice Mayor Robinson amended his motion to not exceed \$7,500. Discussion ensued about disinfecting the town hall when a person leaves and keeping it safe for Mary and/or Sarah when they are alone in the town hall. Commissioner Drumm seconded the amendment. Roll: all yes

Commissioner Jennie Blackburn, District No 1

Commissioner Blackburn stated there were two non-emergency fire responses with a response time of five minutes and forty-seven seconds, four emergency fire responses of six minutes and thirty seconds. For EMS there were five non-emergency and eleven emergency EMS responses, average response time was four minutes and twenty-seven seconds. Commissioner Blackburn spoke about her discussion with Chief Burford and how enthusiastic she was about her profession. Commissioner Blackburn spoke about the Parks Department having a Zoom meeting on Friday afternoon. Commissioner Blackburn met with the Maintenance crew and spoke highly of the employees. Commissioner Blackburn also stated she has a couple of pieces of equipment that she would like to budget for, one of which is a beach plow.

Chief Burford stated the call volume is down 40% on the beaches. She stated the pandemic possible COVID calls are on the decline.

Commissioner Neal, Commissioner District No2

Commissioner Neal thanked all the first responders for all the work they have put in the last month. Commissioner Neal spoke about the sewers and having seventy-four sewer laterals inspected and thirty-sixty lateral liners have been installed. From the last report given, there has been \$80,000-\$85,000 in repairs made. The repairs have taken place on Sunset Blvd, Lee Avenue, 177th Ter., and 182nd Ave. But, stated we have been under budget. Commissioner Neal stated he got a call from a constituent stating the beach access needed to have sanding blown off. Commissioner Neal stated they ordered a new power rake for \$1,000 that will help in keeping the sand build-up.

Vice Mayor Robinson, Commissioner District No 3

Vice Mayor Robinson thanked Chief Swann for taking care of the dog problem on the beach and suggest putting something together to send to condo owners about animals on the beach. Vice Mayor Robinson stated his appreciation to Cinda for building a list for the condo presidents. Vice Mayor Robinson also stated that everyone is due to turn in budget figures of the areas they oversee to Mary for the 2020/2021 Budget. It was suggested to be a little conservative with the department budgets. Vice Mayor Robinson stated the hurricane season begins on June 1st, stating that the hurricane service is saying this should be a more active season. Tomorrow, May 14th there will be a virtual meeting for hurricane season preparedness that includes Chief Swann and Chief Burford.

Commissioner Drumm, Commissioner District No 4

Commissioner Drumm stated the tennis courts look great. The library report will begin curbside pick-up on Monday, May 18th, and will be open to the public beginning June 1st. The Fire Marshal was on site at the library to go through the social distancing requirements as well as the occupancy amount allowed. Commissioner Drumm gave an update on the upgrades being made at the library with hardening for COVID-19. Commissioner Drumm stated he turned in the FY 20/21 budget into Mary. The report shows that the library budget has increased to \$82.03 for the year, and if it stays the way it is the increase will come out to about .25%.

Acceptance of FY 2019 CAFR

Vice Mayor Robinson stated this is the comprehensive annual report and gave thanks the auditors and Mary for getting the CAFR together as well as the FAC members who assisted.

Jeanie Bittinger thanked the Commission and Mary for taking time to go through the process. Ms.Bittinger gave a quick synopsis of the FY 2019 CAFR stating the town came out ahead. Discussion took place regarding the CAFR report between the Commissioners and Ms.Bittinger. Vice Mayor Robinson asked about noting that the General Fund being over two million dollars is a result from Penny for Pinellas, Ms.Bittinger stated the topic would be addressed in Mary's MD & A report. Vice Mayor Robinson motioned to accept the FY 2019 CAFR; seconded by Commissioner Drumm. Roll: all yes

OLD BUSINESS

1.Approval of Continuing Undergrounding on West Side of Gulf Blvd.

Mayor Henderson gave an update from the last Big C meeting, where the county spoke about the Penny Three and Four monies and taking the undergrounding on to save money; however it could not happen and could possibly cost the beach towns up to twelve million dollars. Mayor Henderson asked for a consensus to go to the BIG C with what the town wants to do. Vice Mayor Robinson motioned to go with option 2 which was to not go with a county contractor; Commissioner Neal seconded. Roll: all yes

2.Approval of Town Policy Manual

Ms. Lisa Henderickson, chairperson for the Personnel Committee, spoke about the new framework being presented on the manual to exclude the general procedures. Commissioner Blackburn moved to accept the town policy manual as written, Vice Mayor Robinson seconded. Commissioner Neal stated he saw some conflict. The Commissioners thanked the Committee on their work. Roll: Commissioner Blackburn- yes; Commissioner Drumm -yes; Commissioner Neal- no; Vice Mayor Robinson – yes; Mayor Henderson - yes

3.Resolution 02-20 - Adopt Pinellas County Local Mitigation Strategy

Attorney Denhardt read Resolution 02-20, Adopt Pinellas County Local Mitigation Strategy by title. Vice Mayor Robinson spoke about his involvement with Deputy Town Clerk Sarah Mauter participation in the county LMS meetings, where other towns have adopted similar strategies to be consistent across the board. By adopting this strategy, it also allows the town to be eligible for any grants that the county offers. Vice Mayor Robinson motioned to adopt the Pinellas County Local Mitigation Strategy; seconded by Commissioner Drumm. Building Official Cooper stated this LMS strategy gives the town CRS points as well. Roll: all yes

4.Update on Status of Ethics Complaint

Vice Mayor Robinson began by stating he has no judgement on the truth or the veracity of the allegations or the complaint and has no desire to rehash that at this meeting. But, Vice Mayor Robinson does believe the Commission has a responsibility to handle the complaint. Attorney Rubenstein stated in an email from the 18th of November 2019 that Commission did not have an **affordable affirmative** responsibility to forward the complaint but could do so if the Commission appointed one of its members to file the paperwork. Vice Mayor Robinson stated it is our moral and civic responsibility to make sure it is resolved. Commissioner Neal stated the only thing that was not done was that it should have been brought back to the complainant and should be brought forward to the State of Florida and having them work through the complaint. Commissioner Neal spoke about Mrs. DeMarco's social media and her attitude towards the community. Commissioner Neal went on to raise the question on if she was the correct person to be leading the Planning and Zoning Committee as Chair. Furthermore, Commissioner Neal read a social media post by Mrs.DeMarco that spoke about corruption and overhaul of the building department that involved the Pinellas County Construction Board. Commissioner Neal recused himself from the conversation, Attorney Denhardt stated Commissioner Neal needs to declare a conflict of interest and needs to file paperwork with the Town Clerk.

Commissioner Drumm opened the discussion to elect one of the Commissioners to handle getting the complaint to the state. Discussion ensued about having the complainant taking the complaint to the state herself.

Commissioner Blackburn motioned to hire an independent investigator to uncover the facts and come back to the commission on their findings. Discussion took place about the Ethics Committee regarding receiving the complaint. Attorney Denhardt spoke about what the Ethics Committee does when receiving complaints such as this one and gave a brief synopsis of what his office did on finding out the procedures that the Town was responsible for on the complaint submitted. Vice Mayor Robinson motion to appoint a commissioner to fill out the proper paperwork and submit it to the Ethics Commission. Attorney Denhardt recommends that if the Commission's vote is to forward the complaint to the Florida Commission on Ethics that they do designate one individual as the representative. Discussion took place between the Commissioners on who the appropriate representative would be. Vice Mayor Robinson amended his motion to allow Commissioner Drumm to fill out

and submit the paperwork to the Ethics Commission. Roll: Commissioner Drumm- yes; Commissioner Blackburn- yes; Vice Mayor Robinson- yes, Mayor Henderson- yes; Commissioner Neal sustained

NEW BUSINESS

1.Appointment to Personnel Committee – District One

Commissioner Blackburn motioned to appoint Cynthia Cane to the Personnel Committee for District 1, Vice Mayor Robinson seconded. Roll: all yes

2.Resolution 04-20 – Increase Refuse Rates Per Contract

Attorney Denhardt read Resolution 04-20, Increase Refuse Rates Per Contract by title. Vice Mayor Robinson stated they read the contract and amended the budget to raise the rate for the residents. The rate that was approved was the least costly to the residents. Mayor Henderson asked about the rate for the residents, Vice Mayor Robinson stated the rate change for residents is from \$14.67 to \$15.70, which would be about a dollar increase. Vice Mayor Robinson motioned to approve resolution 04-20; Commissioner Blackburn seconded the motion. Roll: all yes

3.Variance Approval – 17404 2nd Street East - Dock and Boat Lift

Building Official Cooper spoke about Mr. Jim Everett being a new owner in town and in constant communication with him to make sure the work he wants to do complies with town code. Building Official Cooper went over the layout of the property in correlation to Town property to allow the new catwalk and seawall. Commissioner Neal motioned to accept the variance; Commissioner Blackburn seconded. Roll: all yes

4.Approval - Relaxation of Building Permit Fees for Medical Front Line

Mayor Henderson took this off to have more discussion on it.

5.First Reading Ordinance 20-05 - Eliminating Parking on Streets West of Gulf Blvd

Attorney Denhardt read Ordinance 20-05, Eliminating Parking on Streets West of Gulf Blvd by title. Vice Mayor Robinson motioned to approve ordinance 20-05; Commissioner Neal seconded. Roll: all yes

PROCLAMATION – Older Americans Month- May 2020

Mayor Henderson proclaimed May 2020 as Older Americans month.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Henderson stated her appreciation to Cinda for helping funnel comments from the public.

MISCELLANEOUS

Workshop Meeting – Wednesday, May 27, 2020 - 6:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting – Wednesday, June 10, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Mauter
Deputy Town Clerk