

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF REDINGTON SHORES
REGULAR MEETING VIA HYBRID ZOOM
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020 – 6:00 P.M.
VIA ZOOM
MINUTES**

Mayor Henderson explained that due to a COVID exposure at Town Hall, the meeting was held entirely via Zoom to protect the health and welfare of the Commission, employees of the Town, and the public. Atty. Rubenstein read a disclosure regarding meetings being held via Zoom due to special circumstances surrounding COVID-19.

Present upon roll call: Commissioner Neal, Commissioner Krajewski, Vice Mayor Robinson, and Mayor Henderson. Commissioner Blackburn was absent from roll call, however, joined the meeting shortly after the approval of minutes. Also present was Building Official N. Mazzei.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Meeting, October 14, 2002; Workshop Meeting, October 28, 2020 and Special Meeting, October 28, 2020

Motion to approve the minutes from all 3 meetings made by Vice Mayor Robinson. Seconded by Commissioner Neal. Motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF BILLS – October/November 2020:

No action. Mayor Henderson explained that the information was not ready for distribution for the meeting.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Mayor Henderson

Mayor Henderson announced that information was communicated to residents regarding flood issues due to Tropical Storm ETA. She announced that residents were being asked to contact Town Hall to report flood damage and that permits would be expedited and fees waived for those residents requiring flood damage repair. After Mayor Henderson's request, Chief Swan provided comment on the events of the tropical storm. He remarked that the storm had diminished in comparison to early reports, but the area had still been affected by a significant tidal surge, causing rushing and standing water in most all roadways, most significantly Gulf Boulevard in the Boca Ciega Bay area, with water cresting and moving over both sides of the roadway. He stated that he thought this would be a learning experience for many in the area, explaining that many waited until the last minute to take precautions because so many storms shift paths or diminish before affecting the area.

Vice Mayor Robinson, Commissioner District No 3

Vice Mayor Robinson applauded the efforts of the Public Works staff for their rapid response taking preventative measures prior to the storm to prevent damage and excess debris. He thanked Chief Swan and the Indian Shores Police Department, along with Chief Buford and the Seminole Fire Department for their efficient response and attention to residents. He explained he traveled the Town with Building Official N. Mazzei to document flood damage. He explained that if the Town received FEMA designation, the area may be eligible for grants. He encouraged residents to call Town Hall to communicate flood damage to assist in documentation reporting. He stated that an estimated 500,000 cubic yards of sand were lost from area beaches and that the Beach Beacon had published an article

indicating that the area may not be eligible for beach renourishment. He concluded his statements by encouraging all resident to review their personal emergency storm response plans. Chief Swan added comment, urging individuals to consider their neighbors when going out during high water storm activity. He explained that driving in high water can create wave action that can push water and create more flooding. He stated that he had driven the beaches from Redington up to Indian Rocks Beach and could see significantly less impact in area with dunes.

Chief Buford provided a brief report on the storm, indicating that a lot was learned about storm response and preparedness by this incident. She stated that she has been attending meetings with the County regarding a new fire station in North Redington Beach. She concluded her statements by announcing the department's preparation for COVID vaccinations for first responders.

Commissioner Blackburn, District No 1

Commissioner Blackburn announced the installation of new swings and refrigerator at Constitution Park. She stated that several pilings from Seabreeze had floated into Del Bello Park due to the storm, would be cleaned up, and holes that formed near the walkway by the seawall were filled in. She explained that former Building Official B. Cooper had inspected the fishing pier at Del Bello Park and recommended it be closed off due to safety concerns because of repairs needed for support. She stated that she had contacted 14 different companies for estimates for repairs; 3 responded with estimates, although one was not in the scope of work requested. She stated Premier CPS supplied a bid for \$9,700 to remove the existing midrail and replace with Trex synthetic wood material and stiffen all vertical posts, plus make the dock to ramp area flush. She stated that Dock Medics supplied a bid for \$9350 but did not provide a detailed scope of work other than replacement of the handrail and installation of bolts for support. She provided her recommendation to accept the bid from Premier CPS. Commissioner Neal replied that he would like to see the bids before making a decision. Mayor Henderson stated she would like Building Official N. Mazzei to inspect and review the project. Commissioner Blackburn replied that the old dock also needed piling repair, so both could be reviewed at the next workshop meeting.

Commissioner Neal, Commissioner District No 2

Commissioner Neal commended the public works staff on their efforts before and after the storm. He also made note of their recent work on cleaning out the storm drains throughout the Town. He explained that upcoming projects included inspection of sewer manholes and laterals. He commented on the fence ordinance that was discussed at a previous meeting a few months back and requested this be discussed at an upcoming workshop meeting.

Commissioner Krajewski, Commissioner District No 4

Commissioner Krajewski remarked that it had been approximately 3 weeks since his appointment to the Commission and during that time he had been walking his district and introducing himself to his neighbors. He stated that his encounters showed that those he spoke with had a positive attitude and an interest in their community. He reminded the Commission that E. Schroeder was the current alternate for the Park & Rec Board and recommended she be moved to fill the District 4 vacancy. He stated that he met with the library director and planned to attend the upcoming library board meeting since he was appointed as the Town representative. He included that he had also recently attended a virtual Forward Pinellas meeting and met with the Town attorney for new commissioner orientation. Motion by Commission Krajewski to appoint Emily Schroeder to the Park & Rec Board for District 4. Seconded by Commissioner Neal. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading – Ordinance 20-08 – Amending Section 140-14 – Identification Stickers

Ordinance 20-08 read by Atty. Rubenstein. Motion to approve made by Vice Mayor Robinson. Seconded by Commissioner Krajewski. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment to Planning and Zoning Board – District Three

Vice Mayor Robinson explained that L. Coppock was recently appointed to the Planning and Zoning Board to fill the vacancy left by J. Demarco, however L. Coppock was not eligible to fill the seat. After providing a brief experience history for R. Caby, he made a motion to appoint Richard Caby to the Planning and Zoning Board, term expiring March 2021. Seconded by Commissioner Neal. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 12-20 – Amending FY 2021 Capital Improvement Budget

Resolution 12-20 read by Atty. Rubenstein. Vice Mayor Robinson explained that the budget amendment was for the purchase of a new truck. Motion to approve made by Commissioner Krajewski. Seconded by Vice Mayor Robinson. Motion carried unanimously.

Mediation Hearing 70.51 – Recommendation

Vice Mayor Robinson stated that a resolution had been agreed upon at the October 19th mediation hearing and it was his recommendation to initiate changes to the Town's Land Development Code that would allow a swimming pool be constructed with a minimum setback of six feet from the existing seawall and/or landward of the CCCL, whichever is greater; included in the resolution is the recommendation to grant a variance to the property owners for construction of the pool with the same setback requirements described on the property located at 17822 Lee Avenue.

Commissioner Blackburn expressed her disapproval of a code change, stating that she believes there was confusion between the seawall and the CCCL line during discussions. Motion by Commissioner Blackburn to make no changes to the existing code. Seconded by Vice Mayor Robinson, he stated for the purpose of discussion.

Commissioner Neal stated that the purpose of the mediation hearing was to come to a resolution, and it sounded like they had because the property owner had agreed to back up the pool 15 feet from the seawall. He included that he saw no harm in allowing the construction of the pool and was tired of seeing taxpayer money being spent on attorney fees.

Mayor Henderson stated that, during some investigative work to find out how much the construction of the pool, or lack thereof, would affect the Town's tax roll, she discovered that the property owner was claiming homestead on a home that, to her knowledge, she was not living in, which would indicate the potential fraud.

Commissioner Blackburn included that the construction of a pool would not add significant value or dollars to the tax roll. She stated that it was more important to be resilient against storm impact. She also explained her interpretation of the code and the difference between the seawall and CCCL. She stated that the seawall was referenced in the code for the intercoastal construction, while the CCCL was referenced in the code for beach side construction. She explained that other area beaches have a restriction of 18ft or more in their codes.

Mayor Henderson stated that a pool could still be fit on the property if the property owners reconfigured their plans.

Commissioner Blackburn agreed and stated that she did not see a hardship, so a variance should not be granted.

Mayor Henderson remarked that all other pool permits issued on Lee Avenue, with the exception of one variance granted for handicap accessibility, were all issued by one former building official.

Vice Mayor Robinson stated that the purpose of the mediation was for review of the house plans and

that he felt those involved were not prepared for discussion about the pool as it was only just brought up at the mediation.

Mayor Henderson opens the floor to the applicant or representative of the applicant.

Atty. J. Kenney, attorney for the applicants J. and C. Muszik addressed the Commission and stated that the request for relief pursuant to §70.51 Florida Stats. proceeding proposal was presented by the Town and accepted by the Musziks. He stated that he thought that the Town would pursue these actions in good faith. He explained that he had also reached out to Atty. Rubenstein to remediate with the new building official after learning that former building official, B. Cooper was no longer involved in the process. He included that the Town has long applied the code as not to apply to pools, as they were not recognized as a recreational facility, but recreational facilities were viewed as public facilities.

Commissioner Blackburn cited section 90-96 General Provisions (A-F) and reiterated her stance that the code was clear as to the regulations regarding the matter and did not agree with a code change.

Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Robinson – yes, Commissioner Blackburn – yes, Commissioner Neal – nay, Commissioner Krajewski – yes, May Henderson – yes. Motion carried 4-1, Commissioner Neal opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Henderson opened the floor for public comment, however, explained that public comment would not be taken on the items previously discussed in Old Business.

C. Muszek, 17822 Lee Ave – expressed her feeling that public comment should be open for any comment, regardless of topic and said she thought it was. She stated that Commissioners, because they are being paid, should research and be able to provide documentation for information given at a public meeting as it could affect the livelihoods of their constituents. She read from Section 90-96 (C) regarding the construction of pools seaward of the CCCL line and included a statement that all pools along Lee Avenue violated the code. She expressed her opinion that the Commission should correct this section of the code.

K. Speed, 175 175th Terrace Dr – provided an update on the Town’s fireworks that were purchased and not used, stating that he had 3 companies interested in purchasing.

MISCELLANEOUS

Workshop Meeting – November 25, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Henderson asked the Commission whether they wanted to hold the workshop meeting the night before Thanksgiving. After discussion, it was decided to hold the workshop meeting at 6:00 p.m., immediately prior to the next regular board meeting.

Regular Meeting – Wednesday, December 9, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheri A. Zindars
Deputy Town Clerk