

**CITY OF BROOKSVILLE  
EXECUTIVE SESSION AND  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON, III COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
201 HOWELL AVENUE  
BROOKSVILLE, FL 34601**

**MINUTES**

**April 17, 2017**

**6:30 P.M.**

Brooksville City Council met in the Regular City Council Meeting with Robert B. Battista, Mayor, Betty Erhard, Vice-Mayor, and Council Members Joe Bernardini, Natalie Kahler, and William Kemerer. Also present were Cliff Taylor, City Attorney; Bill Geiger, Acting City Manager; Virginia Wright, City Clerk; Jim Delach, Finance Director; George Turner, Chief of Police; Richard Radacky, Public Works Director; Mike Walker, Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Director, and David Freda, Fire Chief.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Battista followed by an Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADJOURN MEETING AND CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

City Attorney Rey read the purpose of the Executive session into the record as follows:

**EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO F. S. CHAPTER 286.011(8)**

The purpose of the Executive Session is to discuss the recent arbitration award. The persons attending the meeting will be Robert B. Battista, Mayor, Betty Erhard, Vice Mayor, Council Members Joe Bernardini, Natalie Kahler and William Kemerer; Attorney's for the City of Brooksville, Clifford A. Taylor, Jennifer Rey; Acting City Manager, Bill Geiger; and Court Reporter of Carolyn F. Engel & Associates. The meeting is expected to last approximately one-half hour. All those whose names were not called were asked to leave the Council Chambers.

The regular meeting was adjourned to the executive meeting at 6:32 and reconvened at 7:10 pm.

**CITIZEN INPUT**

Mayor Battista called for citizen input; there was none.

**PROCLAMATIONS**

Council Member Kahler requested the addition of a proclamation in Honor of General Federations of Women's Clubs (GFWC) Historic Brooksville Women's Club 127<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**Motion:**

Motion made by Council Member Kahler, and seconded by Council Member Bernardini, to add a proclamation in honor of GFWC Day to the agenda and seconded by Council member Bernardini. Motion carried 5-0.

**Proclamation in Honor of the General Federation of Women's Club Day in Brooksville, Florida**

A proclamation in honor of General Federation of Women's Club Day was read in its entirety by Council Member Kahler.

**Proclamation in Recognition of National Arbor Day**

The Proclamation in recognition of National Arbor Day was read in its entirety by Mayor Battista

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and presented to Mike Walker, Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities. Mr. Walker advised the Arbor Day celebration will take place on April 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the One-room Schoolhouse. The trees were once again donated by Stewarts Tree Service.

### PRESENTATIONS & REQUESTS FOR SPONSORSHIP CREDITS

#### Presentation - One-Way Pairs Study / Tindale, Oliver & Associates

Steve Diez of the Hernando/Citrus MPO gave a brief history. He advised the study is complete and will be presented to the MPO tomorrow for a summary and it will be up to City Council going forward to report and coordinate with FDOT as to what they would like to see.

Wally Blain of Tindale Oliver & Associates reviewed the study as provided in Attachment A hereto, which included:

- Study Objective
- Technical Analysis
- Outcomes and Opportunities
- Coordination and Ongoing Projects
- Moving Forward

Moving forward Mr. Blain advised the feasibility study would need to go to design.

Council Member Bernardini stated taking over the stated streets is a major responsibility. He inquired how many turn lanes would be on the main street. Mr. Blain stated the analysis did not have a problem with no turn lanes but felt a 1-2 car storage turn lane would be sufficient until the Bell Street area where a 6-10 car storage may be needed. Mr. Blain advised that under a two-way conversion there would be fewer left turns from Jefferson or Broad.

Mayor Battista stated that previous versions included a rerouting of US 41 further north, but it was not included in this version. Cliff Manuel, President of the Brooksville Vision Foundation further reviewed the rerouting options.

Council Member Kahler asked if the Orange Street Pedestrian Project refers to the SunTrust parking lot benches. Acting City Manager Geiger advised they are still in negotiations. Council Member Kahler asked the Acting City Manager if there would be state/federal funding available for this project. He advised the City would work to obtain funding through the Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Department of Transportation.

Council Member Kemerer stated the concept has changed from what was presented a few years ago. He pointed out that they are asking the state for the Coast to Coast Trail to utilize US 41, which he felt changes the complexion of the whole issue. Mr. Blain stated there could be a conflict that needs to be looked at. How the lanes are utilized for trucks will be moved from the feasibility to the engineering stage.

Mr. Manuel stated the potential of rerouting US 41 is moving much slower than idea of rerouting US 98. Both options require complete street redesign and the safety of pedestrians and bikes need to be foremost in that design. Both need to be complete streets. The point is to try to encourage trucks to use different routes. You can restrict trucks from traveling on roads downtown if the street is not a US highway. Mr. Manuel suggested to obtain federal and state funding Council would need to make a decision and stand by it. He further reviewed the process involved in

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changing designations of US highways, advising the County would have to participate with the City.

Acting City Manager Geiger reported there was a meeting today with Brian Malmberg during which this issue was discussed. The roads would continue at a collector level even if they are turned back into a local government (City and County) and would still be maintained by the County. Mr. Blain discussed options to slow traffic down. Council Member Bernardini mentioned that there need to be some type of pedestrian cross walk near Magnolia Street to make it safer. Mr. Blain stated it should be encouraged for individuals to use the east side. Council Member Bernardini felt there should be some type of striping delineating a cross walk. Mr. Manuel explained it is very difficult to obtain a permit and if the City of Brooksville wants to take over options for their streets they need to be designated local streets.

Mayor Battista inquired of Mr. Manuel, based on his experience, why truckers would want to come through downtown instead of taking the bypass. Mr. Manuel stated it is because they are US highways, but they should be encouraged to utilize a different route other than downtown. US highways are supposed to be for trucks; designed to move trucks through quicker. Council Member Kahler felt Council should remain consistent with the plan as presented and discussed in the past in order to move forward. Council Member Bernardini was not in favor of losing the 25 parking spaces that would be lost with the final design. Council Member Kemerer asked for clarification that council wanted to go with the two-way streets as previously discussed and to reroute the US designated roads. Mayor Battista confirmed.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Bernardini, referencing meal reimbursement verbiage contained in the minutes of the Personnel Manual Workshop, that staff may be required to attend conference/seminars, etc., in which there may be provided a breakfast that consists of coffee and donut. He felt that was not adequate. Council Member Kahler advised that was referenced for in-county conferences.

### **Minutes**

May 17, 2016 – Personnel Manual Workshop  
June 22, 2016 – Personnel Manual Workshop Part 2  
August 8, 2016 – Budget Workshop  
August 22, 2016 – Budget Workshop  
December 19, 2016 – Regular Session

### **Howell Avenue Sidewalk Local Cost Share**

Council consideration to approve the budget amendment as attached.

### Motion:

Motion by Vice-Mayor Erhard, and seconded by Council Member Kahler to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

Council Member Bernardini, referencing page 3 of the August 22<sup>nd</sup> Budget Workshop minutes, asked about the turnover rate a report, indicating there is a high turnover rate. Acting City Manager Geiger stated he can provide info with turnover rate within a specific time period. Mayor stated out of a little over 100, 60 people had been lost over the last two and a half years and he would like to know what departments. Acting City Manager Geiger stated this would take much manpower to create the info by department and the reasons why they left. Council Member Kemerer stated there could have been staff moved from one department to another. Discussion continued. Acting City Manager Geiger will have that information by the first budget review.

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## PUBLIC HEARING

### Ordinance No. 868 – Text Changes to Comprehensive Plan

Council consideration to approve the Second and Final Reading of Ordinance No. 868 Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) – City of Brooksville Petition for a Text Amendment to the City’s Comprehensive Plan

City Clerk Wright read the Entry of Proof of Publication into the record as follows:

Notice was published in the Tamp Bay times on Friday, December 9, 2016 and Friday, April 7, 2017.

Steve Gouldman City Planner reviewed and presented the second and final reading Ordinance No. 868, incorporating text changes to the Comprehensive Plan. The document was submitted FDOT, who pointed out minor language changes and typos, as well as Hernando county and the Department of Economic Opportunity. The DEO asked that language relating to the provision allowing for expansion of the vision map by 1500 feet administratively be removed to avoid a potential challenge. Hernando County was also concerned with that verbiage. After discussion, it was decided to leave it as a case-by-case basis as it is now, requiring a future land use amendment followed by the zoning process.

Mayor Battista called for public input; there was none.

### Motion:

Motion was by Vice Mayor Erhard, and seconded by Council Member Bernardini, to approve the Second and Final Reading of Ordinance No. 868.

City Clerk Wright read Ordinance No. 868 by head note only as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND ADDING AN INTRODUCTION AND TEXT AMENDMENTS TO THE FUTURE LAND USE, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING, INFRASTRUCTURE, CONSERVATION, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION, CAPTIAL IMPROVEMENTS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES ELEMENTS OF THE CITY OF BROOKSVILLE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PURSUANT OT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3215, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion carried 5-0 upon roll-call vote as follows:

Council Member Bernardini	Aye
Council Member Kahler	Aye
Council Member Kemerer	Aye
Vice Mayor Erhard	Aye
Mayor Battista	Aye

## REGULAR AGENDA

Purchase of Wastewater Pumps – School Street and Howell Avenue Master Pump Stations

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Council consideration to approve the purchase two (2) wastewater pumps for School Street and Howell Avenue master pump stations.

Public Works Director Richard Radacky explained the stations need to be changed out. During the last heavy rain, the current pumps could not handle the capacity of water. There have been failures with both pumps. The pumps have been in service for 18 years and the life expectancy of the pumps have been exceeded. He indicated the standard life span is 15 years. He also advised this will be a Sole Source purchase and the proper notice for a single source vendor has been posted. Director Radacky also asked for the budget amendment approval with the money coming from the operating budget for this year.

Council Member Kemerer inquired of the School Street pumps. Director Radacky advised two pumps were bought in 2015 for Howell Avenue. One of these pumps will replace the third one at Howell and one at School Street. Council Member Kemerer asked about the projected purchase of an addition two for next year. Director Radacky advised those will replace the final two at School Street. Council Member Kemerer asked what the age of the pumps at Cortez are. Director Radacky indicated those are an entirely different system. He is exploring the possibility of making the Seagate pump station a master pump station. He indicated the Cortez pumps are relatively new. The money being used was money designated to repaint the Hope Hill tower, which will be included in next year's budget.

### **Motion:**

Motion by Council Member Bernardini, and seconded by Council Member Kahler, to approve the purchase of wastewater pumps for School Street and Howell Avenue Master Pump Station. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Brooksville Police Department Procedure for Street Closure Permit/Manpower Allocation**

Council consideration to approve the Brooksville Police Department's policy and procedure when handling road/street closures, and event security needs within the City.

Council Member Bernardini requested this item be placed on the next Regular Council Meeting Agenda (May 1, 2017). Council consensus was given.

### **Brooksville Police Department/Citizen Complaints - Speeding in Neighborhoods**

Council consideration to approve the option to purchase Speed Radar Signs in those areas of concern within the City where speeding is occurring.

Chief Turner stated traffic studies have been done and speed radar signs can be placed in the neighborhood where speeding is taking place. It will eliminate the speeding in Southern Hills and Candlelight areas where he indicated most speeding is done by residents of those areas. Chief Turner noted there is not a lot of speeding in these areas, however, this will help to address citizen complaints for the few that are speeding. Discussion ensued of speed bumps versus radar detecting signs and the different types.

Chief Turner stated the type of speed radar sign he presented are used all over the country but will further research other options and present to Council at a future date.

### **Brooksville Police Department/City Hall Parking Restrictions and Signage**

Consideration to approve the City Attorney to draft an Amendment to the Brooksville City Code Section 82-31-82-44 and present to City Council for consideration.

Chief Turner reviewed, adding that most complaints have come as a result of the third-floor folks

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parking in the upper lot. Acting City Manager Geiger advised he has left messages with the supervisors on the third floor and has noticed a reduction in violations. He added that they are looking for another place to move their office to but have not found one at this time and the City has not been put on notice. Council consensus was to have the City Attorney to draft an amendment to the Brooksville City Code Section 82-31-82-44 and present to City Council at a future Council Meeting.

### CITIZEN INPUT

Mayor Battista called for citizen input; there was none.

### ITEMS BY COUNCIL

#### Acting City Manager Geiger

##### Blueberry Festival

Acting City Manager Geiger reminder all that the Blueberry Festival is this weekend, Saturday and Sunday.

#### Bill Kemerer, Council Member

Council Member Kemerer thanked all for attending the meeting.

##### Blueberry Festival Parking

Council Member Kemerer inquired if the Council has access to the City parking lot during the Florida Blueberry Festival. Acting City Manager Geiger stated he would check and let him know. Director Walker stated the City's parking lot is to be used for those individuals who have VIP parking tags.

##### Springs Initiative Grants

Council Member Kemerer thanked Public Works Director Radacky and Jon Dowler, Public Works Department Planner, for obtaining the FDEP Grants for reclaimed water. Director Radacky reviewed. Council Member Kemerer asked if there are any other sections of the city that are still on septic that have not yet been addressed. Director Radacky indicated there are various places in the city still on septic but they are where there is a force main running in front of the property and a pump would need to be installed to connect them. He's hoping to get a grant in the future to cover that cost.

#### Joe Bernardini, Council Member

##### Springs Initiative Grants

Council Member Bernardini also thanked Director Radacky and Jon Dowler for their efforts in obtaining the grants.

##### Adopt-a-Street Program

He also thanked Acting City Manager Geiger and the Beautification Board for reenergizing the Adopt-a-Street program.

##### Red Light Cameras

Council Member Bernardini indicated all the cameras have been removed. He did not recommend any Council Member or department head send any letters commending that group on

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working with them.

### Charter Review

He asked if the Committee can be appointed prior to January 2018. City Attorney Taylor advised the process of accepting applications can begin. The process was briefly reviewed.

### Fire Department Policy

Council Member Bernardini felt the issue of the Fire Department Medical Director needs immediate attention.

He thanked all who attended the meeting

### **Betty Erhard, Vice-Mayor**

Vice-Mayor Erhard thanked all for attending the meeting.

### Springs Initiative Grants

She also thanked Director Radacky and Jon Dowler for their efforts in obtaining the grants.

### Red Light Cameras

Vice-Mayor Erhard concurred with Council Member Bernardini in that she would not be in favor of Council endorsing the company.

### Fire Department Policy

She also agreed that the Fire Department Medical Director Policy needs to be addressed as soon as possible

### Blueberry Festival

Vice-Mayor Erhard asked if the Blueberry lease has been signed. Mayor Battista advised it has not. City Attorney Taylor advised the delay is in waiting for Mr. Manual to provide the legal description. Acting City Manager Geiger indicated due diligence, as it relates to environmental and use feasibility with soil testing is still in process.

### Council Packet Options

Vice-Mayor Erhard issued an appeal to Council to consider other options than issuing paper packets.

### Adopt-a-Street Program

She advised forms and brochures were created for the program and indicated the City will provide the work zone signs, safety vests, and garbage bags for the program. The cost for signs is estimated at approximately \$70 per sign and will reflect the business group, family, or individual that signs up to assist the City in keeping the streets clean. Council Member Bernardini recommended a notice be included in the water bill and reflected on the City's website.

### **Natalie Kahler, Council Member**

### Council Packet Costs

Regarding the cost of producing the agenda packets, Council Member Kahler indicated Council had requested an analysis of items produced for Council.

### Finance Director

Council Member Kahler welcomed Jim Delach as the new Finance Director.

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### Springs Initiative Grants

She thanked Acting City Manager Geiger for pushing the water reuse project.

### Hernando County Anti-Drug Coalition

Council Member Kahler reported that she is not able to serve on the Hernando County Anti-Drug Coalition as there is a conflict with their meeting times and her activities at Chinesgut Hill. She asked that it be brought back for reappointment.

### Park Rentals

Council Member Kahler felt it would be a benefit for Council to consider, during budgeting, a separate fee schedule for city residents to use parks pavilions, etc.

### Employee Turnover

Council Member Kahler felt the high cost of employee turnover should be included in budget discussions, with the breakdown of costs for each department.

### Brooksville Main Street Program Fund Raiser

She thanked Ryan Malloy, Executive Director of the Brooksville Main Street Program, for coming and reminded all of the fund raiser to be held at Saxon Manor.

### Florida League of Cities Finance, Taxation & Personnel Board

Council Member Kahler advised she had been appointed Chair.

### Roger's Christmas House

She provided a history regarding Roger's Christmas House.

## **Robert Battista, Mayor**

### Howell Avenue Sidewalk

Mayor Battista thanked Acting City Manager Geiger for his work on this project.

### County IT Support Payments

He also thanked Acting City Manager Geiger for resolving the outstanding contract payments to the County for IT Services.

### TV Camera for Water Lines

Mayor Battista asked Director Radacky if this had been used recently. Director Radacky reviewed the process, which stops at the "Y" in the line for property owners, and is used in areas where stoppages are happening, as well as where breaks are.

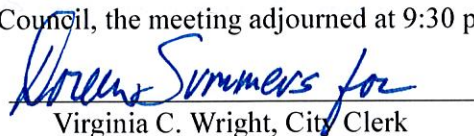
Mayor Battista reminded all that recycling is this week on Wednesday.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Attest:

  
Robert B. Battista, Mayor

  
Virginia C. Wright, City Clerk