



## Council Updates

***After taking office, The Bonita Springs City Council has been hard at work during workshops, community outreach, planning, and civic event support, to figure out the most important priorities needing immediate attention.***

- Council concluded that 'transportation' was a top priority in for the City. The focus is on the improvement of the U.S 41/Bonita Beach Road intersection. What became apparent early in the process was the need to collaborate and gain financial participation from surrounding jurisdictions including the Florida DOT, Lee County, Collier County and others.
- In efforts to address certain community land use issues, Bonita Springs engaged a special counsel to assist the city in reviewing applications based on the Lee County Comp Plan. This is particularly important for the Raptor Bay project as it will be reviewed under the Lee plan. This application will most likely come before Council in early fall.
- Council authorized funding for the completion of downtown redevelopment project expected in early 2017. This operation required a reallocation of funds from some capital improvement projects and operating funds.
- An ordinance passed included a provision to expand opportunity for citizen input on zoning issues. Citizens may now address council at public meetings, regardless of whether or not participants had spoken at preliminary Zoning Board meetings.
- Bonita Springs is in the process of updating its comprehensive plan to conform to state mandates utilizing the services of consultant Dr. Banyan from FGCU. The staff is also in the process of simplifying land development codes and making sure the codes are compatible with the comp plan.
- Council members attended a variety of civic events such as Memorial Day, Flag Day ceremonies, Celebrate Bonita, and the Fourth of July event. These events help to brand Bonita Springs as a vibrant city with small town charm.
- We look forward to the start of construction on the new Bonita Springs County Library and a Bonita Springs High School. These are wonderful and valuable additions to our city. A community meeting was held to discuss priorities and interests in programs and services to be offered at the new Bonita Springs Public Library. A short online survey concerning the new Bonita Springs Public Library is available.
- Council approved a landscape plan for the downtown area recognizing maintenance concerns of the merchants. Council also approved design concepts for the planned Imperial River Bridge.
- The City has joined with the county, state, federal officials and regional water agencies in supporting and advocating for a variety of projects to improve the water quality of our estuaries, rivers, and bay, knowing that each entity must do their part if we want to see an improvement.
- Work has been completed on the reconstruction of the historic water tower, adjacent to the Liles Hotel. This is an example of the city's commitment to and recognition of our history.
- Bonita Springs is collaborating with the Bonita Springs YMCA for pickle ball courts with partial funding from the city and shared use agreements for these courts and the YMCA pool.

- Mayor Peter Simmons was recently appointed to the Board of Directors for the Florida League of Mayors. The Florida League of Mayors serves as a forum for the general study of ideas and policies affecting municipalities, while providing a platform for municipal leaders to speak out on issues of urgent interest to the citizens in their cities.
- Council attended a meeting with Senator Bill Nelson regarding water quality, Lake O, and the Zika virus.
- Council continues to further outreach to our Hispanic Community with interviews on Telemundo 43, Univision and in D'latino's Magazine.