



City Council Chambers
9101 Bonita Beach Road
Bonita Springs, Florida 34135

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 18, 2023
9:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Rick Steinmeyer called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Invocation

Mayor Steinmeyer furnished the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Steinmeyer led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Roll Call

The Mayor and all Council Members were in attendance.

5. Approval of Agenda

6. Mayor's Welcome

7. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Ben Hershenson commented in support of the Rail Trail project.

Former Council Member Amy Quaremba congratulated the newly-elected Council Members and commended City Employees Nicole Perino and Charles Tomlinson on their service awards. She also commented on the Tree of the Season, FDOT's request to use the Rec Center for a public workshop, and the Rail Trail project.

Deb Orton, Co-founder and President of Friends of BERT (Bonita Estero Rail Trail) commented in support of the Rail Trail project.

Steve Gunther also commented in support of the Rail Trail project.

Rob Orton also commented in support of the Rail Trail project.

Emily Porter addressed the E.A.R. public survey and the findings that support the development of the Rail Trail project.

Bruce Ackerman presented Council with a draft resolution for consideration that supports the Rail Trail project but excludes its path bisecting the Vines community.

Diana Ackerman commented in support of the Rail Trail project but opposed to it bisecting the Vines community.

Tom Rubbelke also spoke against the Rail Trail bisecting the Vines community.

8. Proclamations and Presentations:

A. Presentation of 15 Years of Service Awards to City Employees Nicole Perino and Chuck Tomlinson

Mayor Steinmeyer and City Manager Hunter presented City employees Nicole Perino and Charles Tomlinson with their 15 years of Service Award and thanked them for their service to the citizens of the City of Bonita Springs.

B. Presentation of the Tree of the Season Award by the Tree Advisory Board (Green Sheet No. 23-01-008)

Jack Brown, Chairman of the Tree Advisory Board, presented the Tree of the Season Award to Grace Lennon representing the Pelican Landing Community Association.

C. Presentation by the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) on the Bonita Estero Rail Trail Feasibility Study (Green Sheet No. 23-01-006)

Don Scott, Director of the Lee County MPO, was in attendance to present the Rail Trail Feasibility Study to the City Council and receive feedback before the study is presented to the MPO Board in March. He furnished a PowerPoint presentation illustrating the three options for the project's design.

Council discussion was held. Council Member Jesse Purdon suggested that the Lee County Sheriff's Office be involved in the process to address security.

9. Consent Agenda:

Council Member Chris Corrie motioned approval of the Consent Agenda; Council Member Jesse Purdon seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

- A. Approval of the December 21, 2022 City Council Workshop Minutes
- B. Confirm and ratify Resolutions extending the Local State of Emergency due to Hurricane Ian. (Green Sheet No. 23-01-001)
- C. Approve FDOT's request for use of the Bonita Springs Recreation Center Gymnasium for a public meeting regarding the PD&E study conducted for the intersection of US 41 and Bonita Beach Rd. (Green Sheet No. 23-01-002)
- D. Approve two purchase agreements to acquire parcels located in the Quinn/Downs/Dean Neighborhood for the Voluntary Home Buyout Program (Green Sheet No. 23-01-003)
- E. Approve resolution accepting one resignation from the City's Tree Advisory Board, one resignation from the Outreach Committee, and one resignation from the Veteran's Advisory Committee. (Green Sheet No. 23-01-004) **ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 23-03**
- F. Approve Amendment No. 1 for a contract time extension for the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Cares Act (CDBG-CV) entitlement program funds. (Green Sheet No. 23-01-007)
- G. Adopt a Resolution appointing a chairperson to each of the City's advisory boards and committees. (Green Sheet No. 23-01-010) **ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 23-04**
- H. Approve agreement with Feed Thy Neighbor, Inc. to participate in the City's Food Insecurity Program utilizing Community Development Block Grant – COVID funds (Green Sheet No. 23-01-011)

10. Mayor and Council Member Items:

- A. Discussion regarding reaffirming the City's support for retention of the CSX/Seminole Gulf Rail Corridor as part of the SUNTrails priority network. (Green Sheet No. 23-01-005; Corrie)

Council Member Chris Corrie withdrew his Green Sheet.

11. Public Hearing:

- A. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER A PETITION FOR A REQUEST TO VACATE, ABANDON, CLOSE AND DISCONTINUE THE PUBLIC'S

INTEREST IN A 15-FOOT WIDE DRAINAGE EASEMENT LYING IN TRACT B, IMPERIAL BONITA PLAZA EAST, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN INSTRUMENT NO. 201400024D413, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Green Sheet No. 23-01-009)

Jay Sweet, Community Development, provided an overview stating that the reason for the request is due to an existing drainage structure that conflicts with the property owner's design for a new building. All utilities will be relocated to the new easement.

Mayor Steinmeyer motioned approval; Council Member Carr seconded; and the motion passed 6-1 (Council Member Fullick opposed). **ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 23-05**

12. City Attorney's Items:

City Attorney Rooney provided an update on the Spring Creek//Bonita Springs Golf Course drainage project. An agreement will be coming before Council to formalize the coordination with Barron Collier.

13. City Manager's Items:

A. Update regarding Hurricane Ian recovery

Assistant City Manager Matt Feeney provided an update on the ongoing debris removal activities and advised that the operation will be winding down within the month.

City Manager Hunter next addressed Executive Order 22-03 which implemented a curfew on the barrier islands. She advised that neighboring jurisdictions have changed their curfew to 12 a.m. to 6 a.m. She clarified that the City's residents will not be denied access to their homes and that this would pertain to non-residents of the island. She requested direction to amend the City's curfew to 12 a.m. to 6 a.m.

Council Member Carr motioned for the City Manager to amend the curfew as stated; Council Member Purdon seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Hunter addressed an email from the Assistant City Manager, as staff was asked by the City's Lobbyist to provide a factual letter to the Senate Select Committee on Resiliency and the House Select Committee on Hurricane Resilience and Recovery. Additionally, she advised that Council will need to finalize the City's legislative asks at

the next meeting. She also provided an update regarding the City's projects that were submitted to the County for ranking as part of the Local Mitigation Strategy.

14. Mayor and Council Member Reports

Mayor Steinmeyer reported that the Governor has placed \$3.5 billion for Everglades restoration.

Council Member Forbes reported that the Governor also committed approximately \$5 Billion over the next four years to be used towards water projects, changing out septic tanks, etc. Council Member Forbes also addressed property insurance premiums and provided Council with his proposed suggestion (copy in Clerk's file) to reduce property insurance premiums.

Council Member Purdon addressed the legislative priorities and suggested adding the prioritization of reopening Lover's Key State Park.

Council Member Fullick also addressed property insurance noting this was something that was already being worked on, which he further addressed. He stated legislation has already been passed to remove the assignment of benefits.

Council Member Carr reported on the LCSO event she attended this weekend as well as the Art Festival. She also attended the SW Florida Climate and Community Summit. In February she will be going to Washington, DC with the Florida League of Cities to attend FAST.

Council Member Corrie addressed an article in the newspaper regarding the beaches on Marco Island, noting that Bonita Beach has not received a Critical Erosion designation by DEP. He would like staff to inquire with Marco Island to see how that program worked and if there is a way for the City to pursue funds for erosion on our beaches.

Mayor Steinmeyer addressed homeowner's insurance and beach renourishment.

15. Public Comment

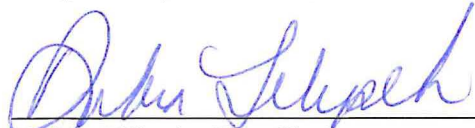
Joe Gallagher addressed the Old Library and the possibility of developing it into a senior center.

Teri Lemaine with the Bonita Springs Assistance Office, informed Council that they have a Hurricane Ian distribution program. There will be a POD distribution unit with new furniture for residents in need. Residents are to call 239-992-3034. Their address is 25300 Bernwood Drive, Suite 6.

16. Adjournment

There being no further items to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

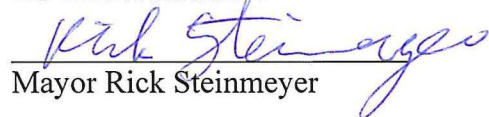


Debra Filipek, City Clerk

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

Date: 2/15/2023

AUTHENTICATED:



Mayor Rick Steinmeyer