



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

**City of Bonita Springs
City Council
Meeting Minutes**

August 2, 2023
5:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Rick Steinmeyer called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

2. Invocation

Rev. Bill Gilmore of the First Presbyterian Church provided the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Steinmeyer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Roll Call

The City Clerk called the roll:

*Present: 7 Mayor Steinmeyer, Council Member Bogacz, Council Member Purdon,
Council Member Carr, Council Member Corrie, Council Member Fullick,
Deputy Mayor Forbes*

Absent: 0

5. Approval of Agenda

No objections or changes.

6. Mayor's Welcome

Mayor Steinmeyer welcomed and thanked everyone in attendance.

7. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Kyle Moran - Expressed support for agenda item 10a, Wayfinding Signage and Gateway Master Plan, and for continued focus on downtown revitalization.

Jim Magnus - Expressed support for agenda item 10a, Wayfinding Signage and Gateway Master Plan, and thanked Council for recommending him for the Recovery Task Force, Economic Recovery Branch.

8. Lee County CDBG-DR Item and Public Participation

A. Presentation and public comment regarding Lee County's Draft Action Plan for Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding (Green Sheet No. 23-08-162)

Assistant County Manager Glen Salyer, along with Jeannie Sutton, Deputy Director of Strategic Resources and Government Affairs, presented an overview of the draft Action Plan (on file in the City Clerk's office). Mr. Salyer stated that the public comment period will last until Aug. 31, after which the Board of County Commissioners will consider adoption of the Action Plan on September 19. Following adoption by the Board of County Commissioners, the Action Plan will be submitted to HUD for review and approval.

Mayor Steinmeyer called for public comments. The following speakers came forth:

Ann Grandell – Stated that there is a lack of clarity on how members of the public can propose projects and utilize the portal. (Mr. Salyer responded that there is no application intake process yet. HUD must first approve the draft Action Plan).

Brandon Miller – Asked whether project funding will be allocated directly to contractors or through the municipality. (Mr. Salyer responded that it depends if it is a municipality sponsored project or a private applicant project.)

9. Zoning and Land Use Items:

A. (SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING) A ZONING ORDINANCE FOR A VARIANCE FROM LDC SECTION 4-2399(C)(2), WHICH REQUIRES A SETBACK OF 5 FEET, TO ALLOW A SETBACK OF 3.1 FEET ALONG THE NORTHERN SIDE PROPERTY LINE FOR A CANTILIEVERED STRUCTURE ON A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY IN BONITA SPRINGS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Green Sheet No. 23-08-155)

The Clerk read the Ordinance title into the record. City Attorney Rooney administered the oath to those intending to give testimony. Mary Zizzo, Planner with Community Development, provided the staff presentation. Director John Dulmer and Building Inspector Ayita Lonergan were present to respond to questions. Amy Thibaut, attorney with Pavese Law Firm, presented for the applicant. Property owners James & Jennifer Foley were present to respond to questions.

Council Member Corrie motioned to approve; seconded by Council Member Purdon. Mayor Steinmeyer called for public comment and, seeing none, asked the Clerk to record the vote by roll call. The motion carried by a vote of 6-1, with Mayor Steinmeyer opposed.

Ordinance 2023 – 09 adopted.

10. Proclamations and Presentations:

A. Presentation from Stantec on the City's final Wayfinding Signage and Gateway Feature Master Plan (Green Sheet No. 23-08-158)

Kevin Mangan from Stantec provided the presentation, which included illustrations of the signage proposals (on file in the Clerk's office). There were no objections from council members to the proposals. Mr. Mangan will finalize and deliver the final Master Plan to staff.

7:07 p.m. – Mayor Steinmeyer recessed the meeting for a 20-minute break.

7:27 p.m. – Mayor Steinmeyer reconvened the meeting.

11. Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of the July 19, 2023, Draft City Council Meeting Minutes

B. Approval of the July 19, 2023 Draft City Council Budget Workshop Minutes

C. Confirm and ratify Resolutions Extending Local State of Emergency (Green Sheet No. 23-08-157)

Mayor Steinmeyer motioned to approve the Consent Agenda; Council Member Corrie seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

12. Mayor and Council Member Items:

A. Consider one application for appointment to the Local Planning Agency (Green Sheet No. 23-08-165)

Council Member Carr motioned to approve the appointment of Raymond Townsend to the Local Planning Agency Board; Council Member Bogacz seconded. Mr. Townsend thanked Council Members for the opportunity and consideration. The motion carried unanimously.

13. Public Hearing:

A. Second Reading and Public Hearing of the following Ordinance: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 24 - FLOOD HAZARD REDUCTION - TO CLARIFY THE DEFINITION OF MARKET VALUE AS APPLIED TO EXISTING BUILDING IN SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS OF LAW, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION AND SCRIVENER'S ERRORS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Green Sheet No. 23-08-160)

The Clerk read the Ordinance title into the record. Ayita Lonergan, Floodplain Manager with Community Development, responded to questions. Council Member Purdon motioned for approval; Council Member Carr seconded. Mayor Steinmeyer called for public comment and, seeing none, asked the Clerk to record the vote by roll call. The motion carried unanimously. Ordinance 2023 – 10 adopted.

14. City Attorney's Items:

A. Approve an amendment to the Bonus Density Agreement with Madison Bonita Springs providing a six-month extension. (Green Sheet No. 23-08-161)

City Attorney Rooney provided a summary of the requested amendment and extension. Council Member Purdon motioned to approve; Council Member Carr seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

15. City Manager's Items:

A. Presentation of the June Financial Report and discussion of fiscal year 2023-2024 budget update. (Green Sheet No. 23-08-164)

Finance Director Lisa Griggs-Roberson presented the June Financial Report and 2023-2024 budget update (on file in the Clerk's office).

B. Adopt proposed millage rate for fiscal year 2023-2024 (Green Sheet No. 23-08-156)

Council Member Corrie stated that he is uncomfortable with the projection for the City's unassigned fund balance surplus, which has significantly lowered. Council Member Corrie asked Finance Director Lisa Griggs-Roberson how much estimated additional revenue would be achieved if the millage was increased. Director Griggs-Roberson replied that increase would be roughly \$260,000 if the millage were set at the former rate of 0.8173 mills.

Council Member Purdon stated that the large surplus last year included unanticipated grant dollars, so the issue isn't as significant as it appears in this snapshot. He stated that he thinks it is wrong to increase property taxes while many residents are still recovering from the hurricane.

Deputy Mayor Forbes stated the decrease in the surplus will not be an issue, unless the city experiences another hurricane or other disaster.

Council Member Carr stated that returning the millage to the former rate of 0.8173 mills is a minuscule increase that will keep reserves at an adequate level.

Council Member Bogacz stated that there is still uncertainty about Property Appraiser value assessments.

Council Member Fullick stated that he is also uncomfortable with the lower projected surplus, and because the unemployment rate is currently low, this is the time to consider a millage increase.

Mayor Steinmeyer motioned to keep the milage rate at 0.8000 mills for Fiscal Year 2023-2024; Council Member Purdon seconded. **The motion failed by a vote of 3-4**, recorded by roll-call as follows:

Fullick	Forbes	Bogacz	Purdon	Carr	Steinmeyer	Corrie
No	Aye	No	Aye	No	Aye	No

Council Member Carr motioned to set the milage rate for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 back to the former rate of 0.8173 mills; Council Member Bogacz seconded. **The motion carried by a vote of 5-2**, recorded by roll-call as follows:

Forbes	Bogacz	Purdon	Carr	Steinmeyer	Corrie	Fullick
Aye	Aye	No	Aye	No	Aye	Aye

C. Approve a Resolution to establish the fiscal year 2023-2024 annual Stormwater Assessment Fee (Green Sheet No. 23-08-163)

Council Member Carr motioned to keep the annual Stormwater Assessment Fee the same; Council Member Corrie seconded. The motion carried 6-1, with Council Member Purdon opposed.

D. Appoint a City Council Member as the voting delegate for the City of Bonita Springs, for the Florida League of Cities 97th Annual Conference scheduled for August 10-12, 2023 at the Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek in Orlando, Florida. (Green Sheet No. 23-08-159)

Council Member Purdon stated that he will be at the conference, along with Deputy Mayor Forbes. He motioned to nominate Deputy Mayor Forbes to serve as the voting delegate; Council Member Carr seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Clerk's note: Shortly after the vote, it was learned that the session where votes will be cast will be held at a time when Deputy Mayor Forbes will not be present. Therefore, a second vote occurred, as follows:

Council Member Carr nominated Council Member Purdon to serve as the voting delegate; Council Member Fullick seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Update regarding Hurricane Ian recovery

City Manager Hunter informed Council that she, Tony Backhurst, and Carly Sanseverino participated in F-ROC program opt-in training, which is a new initiative sponsored by the Florida Division of Emergency Management that streamlines and expedites the process for disaster recovery funding.

16. Mayor and Council Member Reports

Deputy Mayor Forbes - Provided an update on the latest tweaks that he made to the project proposals that were previously approved by council for submission to the Recovery Task Force.

Council Member Fullick - Distributed a map showing an abandoned city road that was never completed. He would like a budget workshop place holder to discuss a vision for the use of the property.


17. Public Comment

None

18. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Prepared by:

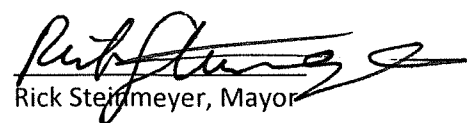


Mike Sheffield, City Clerk

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

Date: 8/16/23

AUTHENTICATED:



Rick Steinhilber, Mayor