

CITY HALL, SEBRING, FLORIDA, February 20, 2018

Minutes of regular meeting of Council held this date.

PRESENT: John Shoop, Mayor; Mark Stewart, President Charlie Lowrance, Pro-tempore; Lenard Carlisle, Tom Dettman and Scott Stanley, Councilmembers; Bob Swaine, City Attorney; Scott Noethlich, City Administrator and Kathy Haley, City Clerk.

The invocation was given by Mayor Shoop followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Shoop announced that the School Board is meeting regarding the recent school shootings. Mayor Shoop would like the City to show support for our kids and get together to help Sheriff Blackman and Chief Hoglund on this issue. Councilman Lowrance stated he met with Chief Hoglund regarding the shootings and suggested that Council and citizens come up with ideas they feel can help protect our children locally. Mr. Lowrance stated he would like this put on Council's next agenda to further discuss this. Mr. Stewart agreed and stated we need to do something. Mr. Carlisle stated that citizens need to get involved. Mr. Scott Chapman stated that he feels every measure should be taken and find a way to prevent this. Mr. Dettman stated as a prior school resource officer he has a lot of thoughts on this and will give his input.

President Stewart presented the consent agenda items. The items presented for approval were: minutes from Council's recycling workshop and regular meeting on February 6, 2018; announcement of upcoming meetings from February 26 – March 6, 2018; approve re-appointment of Dr. Charlotte Pressler as CRA Chair and Mr. Scott Davis to serve as CRA Vice Chair for FY 2017/2018; approve request by the Southside Baptist Church to hold Easter Sunrise Service at Circle Park on April 1, 2018 from 7:00 – 8:00 am; approve Continuing Services Contractor with Blot Engineering, CivilSurv, Cool

and Cobb, Craig A. Smith and Associates, Master Consulting Engineers, Pennoni Associates and Polston Engineering as presented;

Moved by Carlisle, seconded by Lowrance and with the unanimous vote of Council the consent items were passed.

Attorney David Schumacher came before Council on behalf of clients, Kevin and Cyd Hunter. Mr. Schumacher is seeking conceptual approval to vacate a portion of road-right-of-way in the Lake Jackson Blvd. Subdivision. A fee has been established of \$1,000.000 to vacate a right-of-way but before moving forward would like to know if Council is good with the idea. There is a list of items that need to be done before 2nd reading of the ordinance and Mr. Schumacher stated this will be done between the 1st and 2nd reading of the ordinance. The City will collect the processing fee before processing this request. Mr. Swaine explained where the proposed vacation will be. Mr. Swaine stated he does not feel that we are giving up a viable access to U.S. 27 unless Council see that road ever being developed. Mr. Swaine stated if Council moves forward he would like it subject to rights for a draining field. Mr. Lowrance asked if there is drainage there now. Mr. Swaine stated he does not see it but if this moves forward that will be determined. Mr. Lowrance stated he is concerned about the drainage since nearby developments have a drainage issue and would like to fin out to see if we need an easement. MR. Stewart agreed. Mr. Carlisle asked if there is enough room for drainage. Mr. Swaine stated we would have to check with the Public Work Director and this can be determined before the owner pays the processing fee to move forward. No action was taken as this issue until it is researched further and come back to Council.

Mr. Marcel Chin, owner of 1420 Spring Hill Ct., came before Council to request to vacate road right-of-way on undeveloped portion of Prospect Ct. Road. Mr. Dettman asked Mr. Chin is the reason for requesting the vacating is to enlarge his property. Mr. Chin stated yes. Mr. Noethlich explained about the property in question and stated that ½ of the vacated property would go to Mr. Chin and the other ½ of the property would go to the property owner on the other side. The same processing fee of \$1,000.00 plus a list of items to be done before 2nd reading were explained. No action was taken but the consensus was for Mr. Chin to move forward.

Mr. Scott Chapman, representing Bevis Construction, came before Council to request to reconstruct Mr. Alan Jay Wildstein's dock and boathouse that was severely damaged in Hurricane Irma. Mr. Chapman stated he is trying to permit a smaller boathouse than what existed before the hurricane but since that time new requirements have been put in place and he is not able to rebuild that size. Mr. Swaine stated that Council will probably be hearing a lot of these requests since so many docks were damaged in the hurricane. Mr. Swaine gave Council some options: (1) Council can increase the dock size, (2) go with the State requirements, (3) go somewhere in between the new City requirements and the State requirements and (4) enforce the City's current ordinance. The majority of Council like the idea of following the State's guidelines. Council discussed this issue in detail and what the State's requirements are. Mr. Noethlich stated that Ms. Jennifer Codo-Salisbury, Central Florida Regional Planning Council, has researched this issue and found that about 50% of cities let the State regulate. Mr. Lowrance asked about grandfathering docks and let people rebuild what they had before. Mr. Noethlich stated he is not opposed to this idea but it may need to go

before the Planning & Zoning Board. Mr. Shoop stated that Council could approve a variance. Mr. Swaine stated this would be a faster approach. Mr. Noethlich went over in more detail the State's setback requirements which will make some docks non-conforming. Mr. Swaine stated then the City would only have authority over electrical issues. Mr. Dettman stated he would like to further research exactly what the State's guidelines are but feels he would support letting people replace the dock size that was there before. Mr. Noethlich stated that a clause could be put in the ordinance that someone could qualify under a natural disaster.

Mr. Lowrance made a motion to repeal the City's current ordinance and go by the State's criteria. This motion died from lack of a second.


Moved by Stanley, seconded by Dettman and the unanimous vote of Council to alter the existing ordinance for boat docks and put in a clause that if there is a natural disaster they can rebuild their pre-existing dock within an year of the disaster. In the meantime they can apply for a variance with Planning & Zoning. Mr. Stanley suggest they wait for the revised ordinance. Mr. Chapman asked if they can move forward with repairing the City wall. Council stated yes.

The City bills were presented for payment as follows:

General Fund	\$ 78,633.22
CRA	\$ 3,360.00
Infrastructure	\$ 7,416.00
Water & Wastewater	\$ 96,646.36
Solid Waste	\$ 52,514.11
Golf Course	\$ 3,996.19

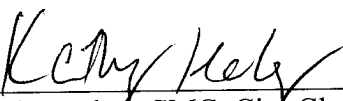
Moved by Carlisle, seconded by Lowrance and with the unanimous vote of Council, the motion passed to approve the paying of the bills as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Mark Stewart, President

ATTEST:



Kathy Haley, CMC, City Clerk