



MINUTES
WORKSHOP CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2018, FOLLOWING
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL, 116 FIRST STREET
NEPTUNE BEACH, FLORIDA

Pursuant to proper notice a Special City Council Meeting of the City Council of the City of Neptune Beach was held on Monday, September 17, 2018, at 6:48 p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 116 First Street, Neptune Beach, Florida

Attendance

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Elaine Brown
 Vice Mayor Scott Wiley
 Councilor Richard Arthur
 Councilor Rory Diamond
 Councilor Fred Jones

STAFF:

City Manager Andrew Hyatt
 Deputy City Manager Amanda Askew
 City Attorney Patrick Krechowski
 Chief of Police Richard Pike
 Director of Public Works Leon Smith
 City Clerk Catherine Ponson

Call to Order

Mayor Brown called the workshop meeting to order at 6:48 p.m.

AWARDS / PRESENTATIONS / RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Proclamation

Mayor Brown presented a proclamation to Natalie Croft for her efforts in the installation of a bike tack at the end of South Street

CITY MANAGER REPORT

**City
Manager
Report**

City Manager Andy Hyatt reported the following:

- Oakhurst paving would begin the next day, September 18, 2018.
- Milling of Second Street would begin on Wednesday, September 19, 2018, in preparation of that paving project, then Hopkins Street, Margaret Street, and Fourth Street.
- The ribbon cutting at the Neptune House is scheduled for Friday, October 19th, 2018.

Chief Richard Pike commended his staff on the safe return of a 3-year old child who was found wandering the street earlier that morning.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Land Use
and Parks**

Committee Chairman Diamond reported that his committee met on Wednesday, September 12, 2018, in a special meeting to discuss the recently received ULI (Urban

Land Institute) report. The purpose of the ULI report was to give the City ideas on how to improve the City, particularly east of Third Street. The outcome of the meeting was that the Council would rank the ideas from the report and go through them one at a time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public
Comment

Lynda Padrta, 1113 First Street, Neptune Beach, spoke regarding the PUD Ordinance, the roundabout, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and she added that the Community Development Board should be citizens of Neptune Beach

Mary Frosio, 1830 Nightfall Drive, Neptune Beach, stated the City should hire the parking expert first and then make the decision on buying the equipment. She added golf carts regulations should be considered in the parking program, and she would like to see more details regarding the program.

PROPOSED ORDINANCES

Proposed
Ordinance,
Chapter 4,
Alcoholic
Beverages

Proposed Ordinance: An Ordinance of the City of Neptune Beach, Florida Amending Chapter 4, Alcoholic Beverages, Section 4-5, Consumption on Atlantic Ocean Beach, Other Public Places and Providing an Effective Date

City Attorney Krechowski confirmed Councilor Diamond's inquiry that this ordinance would allow alcoholic beverages in the Neptune House.

Vice Mayor Wiley questioned if alcohol would be allowed outside under a tent under this ordinance. Mr. Hyatt answered that if they were confined to a space then alcohol would be allowed outside. Alcohol is not allowed under the current ordinance.

Councilor Diamond inquired if problems arise the City Manager has the discretion to not issue any more permits. Mr. Hyatt answered that he would not issue any more permits.

THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE WAS MOVED FORWARD TO THE OCTOBER 1, 2018 REGULAR COUNCIL AGENDA BY A 4-1 HAND VOTE

Proposed
Ordinance,
Chapter 6,
Article V,
Backyard
Hens

Proposed Ordinance: An Ordinance of the City of Neptune Beach, Florida, Amending Chapter 6, Animals, Article V, Backyard Hen Pilot Program, Sections 6-40—6-45; Providing for Severability and Providing an Effective Date

Mayor Brown explained that there were 4 applications and 3 permits issued since the adoption of this ordinance on July 5th, 2018. The current ordinance expires on January 5, 2019.

Vice Mayor Wiley questioned if the number of permits would stay at 25. Mr. Hyatt answered the number would remain at 25.

Councilor Arthur suggested changing the wording to 25 "active" permits.

CONSENSUS: MOVE FORWARD TO THE OCTOBER 1, 2018 AGENDA

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS / NONE

ISSUE DEVELOPMENT

Florida Blvd. /
Penman Rd. /
Forest Ave.
Roundabout
Study

Florida Boulevard/Penman Road/Forest Avenue Roundabout Study Councilor Jones stated that the intersection of Florida Boulevard, Penman Road, and Florida Avenue is a concern, particularly after the launch of the East Coast Greenway Trail, which runs along Florida Boulevard. Under the current intersection configuration, it is not a greenway. He added that the roundabout proposal would be a way to address safety and improve some of the service conditions.

Christopher LeDew, Chief of Traffic Engineering, City of Jacksonville, explained that in March 2018, the City of Jacksonville agreed to conduct a traffic study of the intersection. He introduced John , and Josh Reichert and Stefan Escanes of Metric Engineering, consultants who conducted the study.

Mr. LeDew reported that roundabouts are one of the tools used in traffic engineering. It is an alternate intersection design. There are proven safety benefits in reducing speeds and conflicts. In a typical intersection, there are 32 conflict points; in a typical roundabout, there are 8 conflict points. Every conflict point is where car paths would cross, and they have a 37% percent crash reduction. There is corresponding reduction in bicycle and pedestrian crashes in roundabouts due crossing one lane at a time. There is less stop and go traffic, and they are aesthetically pleasing.

He continued by adding that there are cons as well. Roundabouts are more expensive, and they have a larger footprint requiring right-of-way from adjacent property. There are concerns for those with visual impairments. He remarked that mobility experts are brought in for these issues.

Mr. Reichert reported that the study was done to determine if the roundabout is feasible and how it compares to a signal. This roundabout compared favorably to a signal. He added that during the design phase there are ways to make sure it is safer for bicyclists and pedestrians through smart design. One way is the approach speeds to the roundabouts.

Mayor Brown stated her concern is safety for pedestrians attempting to cross and how is it safer.

Mr. Reichert answered that in the design phase there is an option is to offset the crosswalk from the roundabout itself.

Vice Mayor Wiley inquired about cars backing up inside the roundabout when pedestrians are crossing the intersection and was a traffic count done of the number of cars passing during the peak times.

Mr. Reichert stated that full traffic counts were performed and the pedestrians were included in the traffic counts.

Mr. LeDew explained that one of the features of the modern roundabout is to position the crosswalk away so that the exiting cars will not block the circulating island. In the same way, for the lanes that are entering the circulating island, you want to be able pull past the crosswalk and wait for the gap in the circulating island. The conflicts are separated so there is one decision at a time for the motorist.

Mr. Escanes pointed out that the signal today is not concurrent. The proposed roundabout allows the traffic to flow much better because the motorist does not have to wait for each

phase of the traffic signal. The approach used is the FDOT roundabout screening tool.

Councilor Arthur stated he had concerns with the nearby school crossings and how to prevent backing up during the peak school hours. He also questioned if there was enough room in the right-of-way for either of the proposed models.

Mr. Escanes reported the two-lane version would require more right-of-way.

Councilor Arthur summarized his concerns as the rights-of-way, the costs, and the school hour traffic. In addition, he stated that something needs to be done in this dangerous intersection if it is not this roundabout.

Chief Pike stated the roundabout would make motorists slow down. He added that this would make the traffic constantly flow. He pointed out he would like to see video of a similar intersection.

Councilor Diamond proposed receiving more citizen input especially from those who use it every day.

Councilor Jones commented that the next phase would be preliminary engineering and then from then on there is a process for implementation. It would then become an interlocal agreement discussion. The intersection is maintained by the City of Jacksonville.

Mr. LeDew summarized that this is a preliminary study to show that the roundabout is a viable concept. He added that the capacity analysis and the modeling that was done show that a roundabout operates better than a traffic signal. He stated that there is a slight delay during the peak hours for southbound Penman Road, however which is less than the current delay. There is a crossing guard at that intersection as well. He further explained that they would complete the study and provide any information that the Council requests to move forward with this project.

Councilor Jones suggested providing more of sketch up model so people could see it in context from the driver's point of view.

Mayor Brown reminded everyone that this is an ongoing discussion. There would be more presentations going to committee and alternatives would also be discussed.

PUD
Ordinance

Discussion of Planned Unit Development (PUD) Ordinance. Vice Mayor Wiley explained that the current ordinance contains areas that need to be reviewed, especially where it states the planned unit development would be required or permitted to have a mix of land use including residential, commercial, and recreational. He stated that this language was very broad. He continued that this should be looked at through public input, sent to the Land Use and Parks Committee, or not have it at all.

Councilor Diamond proposed removing it from the Code and in a deliberate way, see if there is anything that should be put back in from the ordinance.

Deputy City Manager Amanda Askew stated she does not know of a State requirement regarding PUD language in the local codes. The Comprehensive Plan does mention mixed-use development. Either way is an acceptable process. There is no state language that would precede local laws.

Councilor Arthur stated he supports having mixed use in commercial areas. He added that he is concerned if it is removed, how long it would take and how detailed the new language would be.

Councilor Jones stated there is lack of performance standards in the current ordinance. He suggested go through the process of improving upon it or removing it and look at a mixed-use zoning category.

Vice Mayor Wiley reiterated it should be placed in committee and let the discussion start at that level.

Mayor Brown proposed discussing it at a Land Use and Parks Committee that everyone could attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Frosio, 1830 Nightfall Drive, Neptune Beach, spoke regarding the proposed roundabout. She stated she had concerns regarding safety for bicyclists and pedestrians. She also stated she supported removing the PUD Ordinance.

Omar Brown, 2268 Mayport Road, Atlantic Beach, spoke regarding the roundabout and the PUD Ordinance.

Chris Oakey, 620 Camellia Terrace Drive, Neptune Beach, spoke regarding the roundabout and the amount of traffic at the intersection.

Tom Patton, 1827 Leeward Lane, Neptune Beach, stated there is a great deal of skepticism regarding the roundabout. He added there should be public input and education regarding this issue. He supports removing the PUD ordinance and then having something the City has a good handle on.

Ginny Thurson, 1200 7th Street, Neptune Beach, spoke regarding the roundabout. She stated she had concerns with the space in between the crosswalks.

Joann Alcorn, 317 Oceanwood Drive, Neptune Beach, stated her concerns for the proposed roundabout.

Kerry Chen, 227 Margaret Street, Neptune Beach, spoke regarding the PUD Ordinance. He cautioned the Council regarding removing the PUD Ordinance due to language being in the Comprehensive Plan.

Chris Chen, 227 Margaret Street, Neptune Beach, requested the Council make sure the PUD Ordinance states what the City wants. She also spoke in support of the proposed roundabout.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice Mayor Wiley thanked Sergeant Dustin Kamppi and Officer Rick Wood for their participation in the Boys and Girls Club active shooter class recently held.

Mayor Brown reminded everyone that the roundabout is not being voted on or rushed into. There is no vote coming until the it has been studied and vetted through the Council and the public.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the workshop meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.


Elaine Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:

Catherine Ponson, City Clerk

Approved: _____