

## PENDING ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

Revised October 27, 2020

1. **PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF POLICE CHIEF AND THE CITY MANAGER.** The reviews were discussed by the Commission at its January 14, 2020, continuation meeting. The Commission directed that it be reminded in October 2020 to begin the reviews for the calendar year, with the reviews to be discussed at the Commission's December 7, 2020 meeting. Information for review of the City Manager was provided to the Commission in October. As Chief Hardwick has been elected Sheriff of St. Johns County, there is no need for the Commission to do his review as he will be leaving his position as Police Chief.
2. **LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS.** At its August 3, 2020, meeting the City Commission approved on first reading an ordinance to amend the Regulations to permit the access of private property from dead-end streets. The ordinance had its first public hearing at the Commission's September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, when the Commission passed it on second reading. The second public hearing and final reading were done at the Commission's October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The Building Department staff is now preparing revisions to the Regulations to implement the new policies in the Comprehensive Plan that was approved by the state in February. The first phase of the revisions was submitted to the Commission at its October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. They concern levels of service for recreational facilities in the City. The City Attorney will prepare an ordinance for the Commission's November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Another revision to the Regulations is needed to allow mobile food dispensing vehicles, or food trucks, in the City. At this time, mobile food vending is prohibited anywhere in the City except in connection with a special event permit issued by the City. A new state law mandates that cities and counties cannot completely ban food trucks. The Commission will review suggested regulations at its November 9, 2020 meeting to allow them in certain areas.

Also, at the Commission's November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Building Official will propose four more changes:

- a. to remove obsolete language concerning occupancy limits
  - b. to include medium low-density residential land use districts as subject to the same impervious surface ratio that applies to medium density residential land use districts
  - c. to adopt by reference the currently adopted Florida Building Code concerning unsafe buildings
  - d. to show that the number of regular members of the Code Enforcement Board is seven.
3. **UPDATING STRATEGIC PLAN.** As its January 7, 2019, meeting, the City Commission decided to do the update itself with the City staff. At later meetings in 2019, the Planning Board and the Sustainability and Environmental Planning Advisory Committee provided suggestions for the plan. The Commission agreed with the City Manager's suggestions for items in the plan and asked him to include in it parking infrastructure. The City Manager has prepared a Mission Statement, a Vision Statement, a Values Statement and a list of goals and the tasks each. The Commission reviewed the plan and provided comments at its January 14, 2020, continuation meeting. The City Manager will revise the plan it back to the Commission at a future meeting.

4. **PARKING PLAN.** The City Commission has changed the focus of the parking plan from paid parking to improvements for parking on City-owned plazas and streets. The staff will draft a five-year plan and the Police Department is to determine the most effective parking regulations for the streets west of A1A Beach Boulevard. The parking plan will be provided to the Commission at a future meeting. At its October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, a Commissioner proposed that paid parking be discussed again. This may happen at a workshop meeting next spring.
5. **JOINT MEETINGS:**
  - a. With the County Commission. No date has yet been proposed by either Commission for a joint meeting.
  - b. On February 10, 2020, the City Commission and Planning Board held a joint meeting. The topics discussed included communications, training for Board members, hiring a planner and providing more information to the Board. It was agreed to have a joint meeting every six months. At its March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, the Commission asked that the Code Enforcement Board and the Sustainability and Environmental Planning Advisory Committee be asked for dates for a workshop meeting with the Commission. Because of the social distancing requirement caused by the pandemic, the Commission will be asked in early 2021 when it wants to schedule a joint meeting with the Planning Board and SEPAC.
6. **UPDATING PERSONNEL MANUAL.** Past updates or changes have included: to designate Christmas Eve and Good Friday as holidays for the City employees; to provide compensation to the employees during emergencies; revisions to provisions in the Manual concerning equal employment opportunity, educational assistance program, Americans with Disabilities Act coordinators, records, interpretations and conflicts of interest. Ms. Beverly Raddatz, the City Clerk, will propose more updates to the Manual at Commission meetings in 2021.
7. **STREETLIGHTS ALONG STATE ROAD A1A.** The City's Public Works Director, Bill Tredik, has taken the lead on this project. He is working with Florida and Light and the Florida Department of Transportation to have lights put at seven locations between the city hall and Madrid Street, opposite the entrance to the Marsh Creek subdivision. DOT has approved the lights. At its January 13<sup>th</sup> continuation meeting, the Commission approved the agreement with FPL to have new lights erected. The City Manager has approved the agreement and a contract has been submitted to FPL. The streetlights are being designed and should be installed before the end of 2020.
8. **STREETLIGHT FOR ENTRANCE TO BEACH ACCESS WALKWAY.** A resident has requested that a light be put at the entrance on A1A Beach Boulevard. On January 29<sup>th</sup>, City personnel met with representatives from Florida Power and Light. The company will change the lighting as part of the conversion of the Boulevard streetlighting to LED lights.
9. **LED STREETLIGHTS.** FPL representatives presented a proposal to the Commission at its June 10, 2019, meeting to change the lights throughout the City to LED lights. The Commission decided it needed more information from FPL. Chief Hardwick has worked with FPL on a complete review of the lighting along the Boulevard. As its January 13, 2020, continuation meeting, the Commission approved the agreement for lighting changes subject to the following conditions: 1) to verify that the City must pay

for the additional lights along the Boulevard; 2) that the City Attorney review the interlocal agreement with the County and the state; 3) that the Public Works Director and Police Chief review FPL's recommendations and be judicious about the number of lights along the Boulevard and hold off on changing any lights that might be converted to LEDs soon. The agreement with FPL was signed. FPL now must do the design and install the lights. The Public Works Director has verified the locations of the lights proposed to be changed. The FPL is moving forward with the design of 10 of the 12 lights. The remaining two lights will be re-evaluated as to whether there is a need to change them to provide better illumination of the Boulevard.

10. GRANTS. The Public Works Director has prepared and or will prepare applications for grants from the following agencies:

- a. Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program, \$106,500, for restrooms at Ocean Hammock Park. City match would be \$35,500. Total project cost: \$142,000. The Governor approved the appropriation and now the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has sent the contract, which the City Manager has signed. The restrooms are being designed by a local architect.
- b. Coastal Partnership Initiative: \$25,000, to fund planning for other improvements to Ocean Hammock Park: picnic pavilion, observation platform, playscape for children, more trails. City match would be \$25,000. Total project cost: \$50,000. Though it is federal money, the grant is provided through the state, which has approved it. The City has hired a consultant to design and permit the project starting October 1<sup>st</sup>. The Public Works Director is preparing a contract with Gulfstream Design, LLC. Contract will be signed in early November. Project is to be completed by November 2021, which is when the contract will expire.

The Public Works Director has applied for another Partnership grant for \$60,000 for additional improvements to Ocean Hammock Park. The application was submitted on September 25, 2020. The City will not know until May 2021 whether it has received the grant.

- c. Florida Resilient Coastlines Program to do a Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptability Plan. Total amount requested \$72,000. No match required. This will involve updating the City's stormwater model, identifying vulnerabilities, and recommending options for inclusion in a future Public Works Capital Improvements Plan. The Governor approved the funding, the civil engineer has been hired and work on the project has started.
- d. St. Johns River Water Management District Cost Share Program: Grant applied for in February to provide funds for the new weir at the City's Mizell Road retention pond. The amount requested is \$600,000. In April, the City was notified that its project was in line for funding. However, whether the money will be provided depends on the District appropriating it in the District's Fiscal Year 2021 budget. District approved the funding for this program in September 2020. The contract has been executed. Construction will begin once FEMA has given its approval. Construction will begin in early 2021.
- e. Florida Recreation Development Assistance Group. The Public Works Director has prepared and submitted grant and more improvements to Ocean Hammock Park. The state will inform the City

in May 2021 whether the City's application has been recommended for funding. Funding will depend on the Legislature appropriating the money and the Governor approving the funding

11. REQUEST TO ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY AND BEACH COMMISSION FOR FUNDING FOR PROJECTS. In the spring of 2021, City staff will ask the Port Commission to provide money in its Fiscal Year 2022 budget for beach access walkovers.
12. REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FOR BEACH-RELATED PROJECTS. Requests for funding are on hold because of the significant decline in revenue from the bed tax due to the pandemic.
13. NON-CONFORMING BUSINESS SIGNS. The City's sign code has a height limit of 12 feet for business signs. A number of businesses have signs that exceed that height. According to the code, these signs must be made conforming by August 2023. The Building Official and his staff will notify the businesses of this requirement and will work with them to bring these signs into conformity.
14. CHARGING STATION FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES. The Public Works Director is working with the staff of the North Florida Regional Transportation Organization to have a charging station for the public at city hall. The Public Works Director met with the company that builds the stations to determine the location for the station, which will be two charging stations next to Building C on the west side of the south city hall parking lot. The City is waiting for a contract from the company that will install the charging station. Installation should be done after the November general election when the south city hall parking lot will be filled with vehicles driven by persons who are voting at the city hall.
15. FLOODING COMPLAINTS. Citizens have expressed concerns about the following areas:
  - a. Ocean Walk Subdivision. The subdivision is located on the east side of Mickler Boulevard between Pope Road and 16<sup>th</sup> Street. Earlier in 2020, the ditch that borders the subdivision's west side was piped. Ocean Walk residents have complained that the piping of the ditch has caused flooding along the subdivision's west side. The Public Works Director has had the Mickler and 11<sup>th</sup> Street ditches clear of debris, so as to improve the flow of water, and will propose that the subdivision be surveyed and the City's civil engineering consultant, CMT, to review the project. At the Commission's September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, the City's civil engineering consultant, Mr. Gary Sneddon of CMT, described project and its technical basis for piping the Mickler Boulevard ditch. At its October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, the City Commission didn't approve an amendment to the contract with CMT for an investigation and flood control improvements for the Ocean Walk subdivision and asked the Public Works Director to prepare a Request for Qualifications, so that the Commission can consider an engineering firm to review the Ocean Walk drainage issues.
  - b. Oceanside Drive. This street is located in the Overby-Gargan unrecorded subdivision, which is north of Versaggi Drive. The Public Works Department is having a survey on the area done, to determine the appropriate drainage solutions. The solutions will be done in connection with the redesign of the street.
  - c. St. Augustine Beach and Tennis Complex and Private Pond between Ocean Trace Road and the Sabor de Sal Subdivision. The private retention pond for the Beach and Tennis condo complex is

too small and floods during periods of heavy rainfall. The flooding threatens the condo units that border the pond. The Sabor de Sal subdivision had a pond that is owned by the adjacent property owners. It also floods and threatens private property. The area needs a master plan that will involve the City, private property owners and the Florida Department of Transportation. The Public Works Director plans a town hall meeting the affected parties, to discuss a possible private/public partnership. A preliminary step will be the hiring of a consulting engineer to do an assessment and develop project alternatives.

16. **STORMWATER UTILITY FEE.** For a funding source to pay for improvements to the City's drainage system, the Public Works Director proposed a stormwater utility fee at the City Commission's October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Commission decided not to levy the fee at this time. However, it likely will be discussed at a workshop or special meeting in April or May 2021.
17. **SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING.** The City Commission in early 2021 will hold a workshop meeting to discuss whether the City should outsource its collection of household waste and recyclables to a private company.
18. **REFURBISHING AND HIGHLIGHTING CITY'S CIVIL RIGHTS MONUMENT.** The monument is located on the south side of pier park and adjacent to the bocce courts. It commemorates the attempt by black citizens to integrate the "whites only beach" in front of the former city hall in the summer of 1964. The monument was erected by July 2002 and paid for by the Northrup Grumman Corporation. At its September 22, 2020, meeting, the City Commission asked the City Manager to work on a vision for the monument, to take pictures of it for the City's website and social media, to have a picture of it put in the city hall corridor, and to seek funding to repair the monument, which has a metal base that's been corroded.
19. **SEEKING NEW POLICE CHIEF.** Because of Police Chief Robert Hardwick's likely success in November to win the seat of St. Johns County Sheriff, the City Commission at its October 5, 2020, meeting, appointed Commander Dan Carswell of the Police Department to be Interim Police Chief for six months. The Commission will then consider whether to make permanent the appointment of Interim Chief Carswell or to begin the process of advertising for candidates in Florida.
20. **BEACH RESTORATION.** St. Johns County is the local sponsor of beach restoration in the City, as money from the bed tax is used to pay the County's share of the cost for each restoration project. According to the County's Coastal Manager, the next renourishment of the City's beach is scheduled to be done in 2023. In the meantime, the County is discussing whether a renourishment project may need to be done sooner because of severe erosion of the beach in the vicinity of the County fishing pier.
21. **QUARTERLY REPORTS ON PROGRESS OF PROJECTS.** At its September 22<sup>nd</sup> budget meeting, the City Commission asked the City Manager to provide at the end of each quarter in the Fiscal year a report on the progress of projects and expenditures for them. The first quarter's report is due in January 2021.