

**MINUTES
CITY OF ORMOND BEACH
QUALITY OF LIFE ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

June 4, 2020

5:00 PM

**City of Ormond Beach
Training Room
22 South Beach Street
Ormond Beach, Florida**

1) Call to Order

Dr. Shapiro called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

Members present were: John Adams, Peggy Hart, Troy Railsback, Dr. Philip Shapiro and Margaret Sharifi. Absent was Ali Mehrabian and William Masters.

Staff present was: Finance Director, Kelly McGuire and Recording Secretary Angela Gibbs.

2) Approval of Minutes – February 13, 2020

Ms. Hart moved seconded by Mr. Adams to accept the minutes of the February 13, 2020 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

3) Capital Improvement Program

Dr. Shapiro stated that each year it is the Quality of Life Advisory Board and the Leisure Services Board responsibility to review the Capital Improvement Program at the draft level and make recommendations to the City Commission. Dr. Shapiro stated the City Commission would review at the Capital Improvements Program and Draft Budget Workshop scheduled for June 23, 2020.

Dr. Shapiro pointed out property tax bills and occupational license renewals will go out in September, so the City will not know what the revenues are going to be until then.

Dr. Shapiro stated the main priority for the community is to not have anything look rundown or in disrepair during a time of financial distress. Areas for review include Facilities Renewal, Replacement, General Improvements, Beautification, Parks,

Recreation, and Culture. He noted anything under \$25,000 comes out of the General Operating Fund.

Dr. Shapiro stated his concerns with General Improvements of the five City facilities relating to windows and doors, public safety radio replacement in the event of storm recovery preparation. He stated this is a high priority item and recommended the City proceed without delay due to weather trends since 2004.

Dr. Shapiro stated the Leisure Services Board and the Quality of Life Advisory Board endorsed the Performing Arts Center renovations in the past and feels it should go forward as funding permits.

Dr. Shapiro recommended the City defer or avoid the Police Department roof replacement and continue with repairs due to a pending relocation of the Police Department.

Mr. Adams pointed out the funds for the improvements to the Police Department are contingent on not relocating the Police Department. If the City decides to relocate the Police Department, the City would not fund projects such as roof replacement.

Ms. Kelly McGuire, Finance Director, clarified issues regarding the Police Department. She stated the chiller replacement cannot be delayed due to its present condition. She stated until a decision is made regarding relocation of the Police Department, inspections and repairs will continue. She stated the Police Department has no definite plans to relocate.

Ms. McGuire stated Engineering completed a feasibility study for a National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC). She stated the City was looking at not only relocating the Police Department but making it a NEOC as well. The study findings will go to the City Commission in the near future and a decision made on what the next steps should be.

Ms. Hart inquired about a tree replacement program; whereas, Dr. Shapiro stated that if under \$25,000 cost it would not show up under the Capital Improvement Program. Dr. Shapiro clarified that the Quality of Life Advisory Board handles issues regarding trees and that a separate tree board or committee is not required.

Ms. McGuire stated the City has money in the General Fund for tree replacement.

Ms. Sharifi asked if any studies on the East Granada crossing had ever been done and if an additional traffic signal is in the plans for the Main Street area. She stated traffic is dense in this area and adding another traffic signal or crosswalk would compound the issue the City already has.

Dr. Shapiro stated Granada is a State road not a City road which complicates what the City can and cannot do.

Ms. McGuire clarified the Planning Department handles the Master Plan for the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and gets recommendations from the Main Street Board.

Mr. Adams stated the Main Street crosswalk has enabled business to take place across Granada, which has not always been the case. He stated Ormond Main Street is trying to apply this in other areas throughout the CRA district.

Mr. Railsback stated City staff did a job well done on the CIP and felt the City is in good shape during these trying times. He stated, until we know more information regarding revenues, spacing projects out is a good plan for the City.

Ms. McGuire stated two big issues the City has been impacted with Covid-19 is Sales Tax and Municipal Revenue Sharing. She explained Municipal Revenue Sharing is a variety of different revenues that the state collects and then is distributed. Municipal Revenue Sharing went down 50%, Sales Tax went down 15% for the month of March, and she suspects April and May to be even worse.

Ms. McGuire stated concerns over consumers buying habits due to Covid-19. She feels there may be some consumers that never go back to shopping in stores on a regular basis. Internet purchasing such as Amazon does not bring the City any sales tax revenue, which could cause a long-term issue. She stated the City expects revenue losses through the end of the calendar year and possibly into next year. The City is planning accordingly.

Dr. Shapiro asked if the City is mandated to do an annual budget versus doing a six-month budget; whereas Ms. McGuire stated the State has not provided for that type of exception. She stated the tax rate has to be set by the dates given by the State and rules followed regarding requirements for advertising and have a budget adopted by October 1, 2020.

Ms. McGuire stated the CIP will go to the Commission on June 23, 2020 with preliminary numbers and again in July with more information where then a tax rate can be determined.

Ms. McGuire stated the City is very fortunate to have General Funds available that have not been allocated towards anything. The City Commission has been asked to designate one million for this year and two million next year of the reserve to cover revenue shortfalls. Allocating General Funds will eliminate the need to cut back programs and keep our infrastructure from falling into disrepair.

Mr. Railsback moved, seconded by Mr. Adams, that the Quality of Life Advisory Board endorse the Capital Improvement Program Draft as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

4) Member Comments

Dr. Shapiro stated he would like the Quality of Life Advisory Board to discuss and recommend to the Commission a Museum Corridor that would encompass the one block area of the Art Museum, The Casements, The Cupola and The Stout-MacDonald House. The Museum Corridor name would help to promote the area without costing the City any money he stated.

Mr. Adams stated he would recommend coordinating the Boards efforts with the Ormond Arts District as opposed to two different forces. He encouraged the Board to find out what they are already doing, whereas Ms. McGuire stated City staff could arrange someone from the Art Museum to come and provide more information on what they are doing to promote the Arts District.

Ms. Hart asked if the School Board had made any decisions on the consolidation of Osceola and Ortona Elementary Schools.

~~Dr. Shapiro stated it is the School Board's decision but having the building sit empty is not collecting any tax revenue for the City.~~

Mr. Adams recommended the Quality of Life Advisory Board made a recommendation to the City Commission in favor of the Osceola site for the Elementary School.

Ms. Sharifi brought up concerns about the disparity among business employees wearing face masks consistently and the Center for Disease Control and Preventions (CDC) changing guidelines.

Dr. Shapiro stated the Governor gets information from the Florida Department of Health, the CDC and other local agencies to set guidelines for the state and Ms. McGuire added the City Commission does not make up what the guidelines are. The City essentially follows what the Governor of the State is passing down.

Dr. Shapiro thanked Ms. McGuire and the board for their input in the meeting.

5) Audience Comments

None.

6) Adjournment – Next Meeting – August 6, 2020

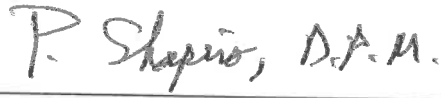
The meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela Gibbs, Recording Secretary

ATTEST:



Dr. Philip J. Shapiro, Chairman