

**MINUTES
SEMINOLE CITY COUNCIL
ANNUAL WORKSHOP
March 27, 2021**

The Annual Workshop of the Seminole City Council was held on Saturday, March 27, 2021, in the Auditorium of the Seminole Recreation Center, 9100 – 113th Street North, Seminole, Florida.

PRESENT:

Mayor Leslie Waters, Vice Mayor Thom Barnhorn, Councilor Chris Burke, Councilor Tom Christy, Councilor Roger Edelman, Councilor Jim Olliver and Councilor Trish Springer. City Manager Ann Toney-Deal, City Attorney Jay Daigneault, City Clerk Ann Marie Mancuso, Fire Chief Heather Burford, Finance Director Allison Broihier, Public Works Director Rodney Due, Community Development Director Mark Ely, Recreation Director Becky Gunter, Human Resources Director Erica Ottmann, and Library Director Lorie Tonti, and Secretary to the City Manager, Marcus Smith.

Breakfast was available at 8:30 a.m.

The Annual Retreat Workshop was called to Order at 9:00 a.m.

City Manager Toney-Deal asked Community Development Director, Mark Ely to give an update on two (2) pieces of Legislation that have the potential to pass.

1. Senate Bill 60 - Mr. Ely stated that this bill, if passed, will prohibit code inspectors from initiating investigations of potential violations, if complaint was received anonymously. When the Building Department receives a complaint, the person making the complaint must give their name and address. If the person refuses to give this information, then the Code Inspectors are prohibited from investigating.

2. Senate Bill 1788 – Mr. Ely stated that this bill, if passed, pertains to fees charged for permits or site plans and the amount of time it takes to issue those permits. The Building Department will have a certain amount of time in which to issue permits, and if the deadline is not met, then a ten (10) percent refund is issued back to the applicant for each day it is late.

A. IDENTIFICATION OF GOALS PRESENTED BY CITY COUNCIL

1. Revenue Enhancements
2. City Infrastructure
3. Economic Redevelopment

4. Recreation and Leisure Services
5. Fire Station #129
6. Law Enforcement Services
7. Annexation Plan
8. Communication to the Community
9. Strategic Plan
10. Beach Trolley
11. Covid Impacts
12. City Motto

1. Revenue Enhancements

City Manager Toney-Deal spoke about existing revenue sources that may be increased. She also noted that a stormwater fee could be imposed in the future, once a study is completed. There is also the possibility to impose a fire inspection fee.

Councilor Olliver inquired about the difference between resident and non-resident rates for the Seminole Recreation Membership. He suggested that a cost comparison be made between other cities; survey others each year and set a goal and measure against it each year. It was the consensus of the Council to set a future workshop date for this item.

2. City Infrastructure

City Manager Toney-Deal reviewed the Pavement Management Plan, and gave an overview of the Storm Water Master Plan. Seminole is one of the few cities that does not impose a stormwater fee.

Councilor Olliver suggested that we survey the cities that currently impose stormwater fees so that we can gage ourselves on what we could possibly charge.

The conversation of stormwater fees will be addressed once the Storm Water Master Plan study is complete.

3. Economic Redevelopment

City Manager Toney-Deal stated that the potential Seminole economic redevelopment sites are located on the south side of 70th Avenue, between 113th Street and Seminole Boulevard, and at 5000 Park Street.

An inquiry was made about the old Sears building on Park Street, and Community Development Director, Mark Ely stated that one of the reasons businesses shy away from this site is because of a FEMA issue and when interested businesses look into it, they do not want to invest that much money to bring it up to FEMA requirements.

4. Recreation and Leisure Services

City Manager Toney-Deal reviewed the current Recreation Department programs, which included programs offered, memberships, revenues and expenses, as well as facility rentals. It also included a five (5) year projected maintenance plan for the overall Recreation Building and athletic fields, and the Phase I Repetto Property possible uses. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation that Mr. Tim Schuler gave at a recent Council meeting was included in the Council packet.

Councilor Olliver stated that in his opinion, we should increase our Recreation Fees to be in line with the quality of services that the Recreation Department offers. The Seminole Youth Athletic Association Field that was discussed with the City needs to be addressed as well, to see if it will be a part of the overall Master Plan.

It was the consensus of the Council to have City Manager Toney-Deal move forward with developing an RFQ for the Recreation Department Master Plan and take to Council for approval.

5. Fire Station # 129

City Manager Toney-Deal stated that land designation for a new Fire Station is still on hold. There were a number of factors that have delayed this site selection process, including COVID-19 and an administrative turnover at the National level at the VA. It is the desire of the City to have a one-hundred (100) year lease or to have the property deeded to the City. Both would have a reverter clause.

Fire Station # 129 will be addressed with Council when a desired land designation has been determined.

6. Law Enforcement

City Manager Toney-Deal stated that the City of Seminole has contracted with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office since the City's inception in 1970. Crimes decreased between 2010 and 2020 and every road in the City has an officer patrol the area at least once a day with the Community Designated Patrol Program.

There was also a chart included to show the per capita cost for Pinellas County Cities that have their own Police Department. The per capita costs were much higher than the per capita cost for Seminole to contract with the Sheriff's Department.

Councilor Burke questioned the per capita costs and City Manager Toney-Deal stated that payroll and pension are examples of what typically raises the per Capita costs in the Cities with their own department.

7. Annexation Plan

City Manager Toney-Deal reviewed the Cost Benefit Analysis for Annexation, and Community Development Director Mark Ely went over the costs to the City for Annexations.

Councilor Burke suggested that Ordinance No. 09-2015 relating to Annexations into the City be revisited and updated.

It was the consensus of the Council to workshop and update Ordinance No. 09-2015.

8. Communications to the Community

City Manager Toney-Deal stated that communications to the community by the different City Departments are in many forms; newsletters, emails, website, facebook, fliers, electronic message boards, door hangers, etc.

Mayor Waters stated that it is very important to communicate, however, we do not want to over communicate, or the message will get lost. Councilor Olliver suggested that updates on on-going large projects or quarterly reports be given.

9. Strategic Plan

City Manager Toney-Deal explained the purpose of a Strategic Plan. She strongly recommended engaging an outside facilitator.

It was the consensus of the Council to move forward with a Strategic Plan.

10. Beach Trolley

City Manager Toney-Deal gave an overview of the possibility of having a PSTA Beach Trolley, and provided a chart with costs to Cites that currently have the Trolley in operation. She also stated that after a conversation with Brad Miller, Executive Director of PSTA, that it was clear that unless the City is willing to pay for it, it would not be something that PSTA would support.

11. COVID-19 Impacts

City Manager Toney-Deal stated that between the CARES grant through the County, the FDLE Grant, and the Cares Act funds, we have weathered this pandemic well. The most recent Cares Act funding will be allocated as soon as guidance for use of said funds, from the Treasury Department, is received. The money will have to be utilized by end of the 2024 calendar year. Updates will be given to Council as they are available.

12. City Motto

Mayor Waters suggested that a new list of mottos be presented to Council and then they will vote and choose the top choice. Councilor Burke suggested "Seminole, Sunshine and Smiles."

It was the consensus of the Council to resubmit the top selections, along with Councilor Burke's addition and the additional ideas that the Mayor submitted prior to the Council Workshop.

Meeting adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

Date Approved: April 13, 2021

Ann Marie Mancuso

Minutes prepared by City Clerk
Ann Marie Mancuso, CMC

Leslie Waters
Mayor Leslie Waters