



**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
of THE MARY ESTHER CITY COUNCIL
October 25, 2023 - 6:00 PM**

195 Christobal Road – North, Mary Esther, FL 32569

CITY COUNCIL PRESENT

Chris Stein, Mayor
Susan Coxwell, Councilmember
Jan Lipscomb, Councilmember

Larry Carter, Mayor Pro Tem
April Sutton, Councilmember
Bernie Oder, Councilmember

CITY STAFF PRESENT

Jared Cobb, City Manager
Hayward Dykes, City Attorney
Dillon Morris, Administrative Coordinator

Valerie Broxson, City Clerk
Shawn Lindsey, Public Works Director
Kelvin Cherry, Code Compliance Officer
Heather Day, Finance Director

OTHERS PRESENT

Grady Carpenter, OSCO Captain

Mark Bundrick, OCWFD Chief

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Stein at 6:02 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Stein led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

The City Clerk called the roll as reflected above.

4. SPRINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS

4.1. Task Order 2024-01, Springdale Neighborhood Stormwater Improvements

City Manager Cobb provided some background on the Springdale Neighborhood project. The project originally included water and sewer. It was later amended to include repaving the streets. Recently, it was discovered that stormwater is also a concern due to Ray's Pond not having the capacity to take all of the stormwater from the Springdale neighborhood. Kimley Horn, was looking at diverting storm water flow away from Ray's Pond either past Rays Pond or up to the ditch on the northwest side.

Scott Jernigan from Jacobs spoke regarding the stormwater concern in the Springdale neighborhood. If sidewalks are installed prior to the stormwater, then the sidewalks will have to be ripped up and redone. The recommendation from Jacobs is to have the existing contract with Talcon paused while the Ray's Pond contract is bid, awarded and the design improvements being discussed are completed. Talcon would then return after Ray's Pond is completed to install curbs, asphalt, and sidewalks. Sidewalks can be done for some areas of the Springdale neighborhood, but from Kohler north, Talcon would need to wait until after stormwater improvements are completed.

Discussion included whether the sidewalks in the Azalea Park subdivision will be also be paused and if those individuals impacted by the delay could be notified of the situation.

CM Cobb stated that it would depend on what the cost comes out for this project and on the appropriation request.

Mayor Stein asked if there was a motion to approve task order 2024-01 with Jacobs Engineering for an amount not to exceed \$83,200 for engineering. Councilmember Coxwell made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Sutton. Hearing no discussion, the motion passed 5 to 0.

5. FY 2025 LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION REQUEST

5.1. Review and select projects for FY 2025 Legislative Appropriation Request submission

City Manager Cobb shared that there are two projects identified as suitable for an appropriations request and wanted feedback from the council. The appropriation requests go before the Legislature in January of 2024 and would become available, if passed, after July.

The first request is for the Northwest Stormwater Improvements in the amount of \$500,000. The project includes the ditch and Ray's Pond, which was discussed during the previous agenda item; however, it will be written mainly for the ditch because it is the last part of the project. The second request is for the Azalea Park neighborhood sidewalks in the amount of a million dollars. The Azalea neighborhood and Caswell are projected to have the sewer lines rehabbed and new water lines, streets, and curbs installed. Sidewalks in the area are an alternative.

Mayor Stein if there is a motion to authorize the City Manager to submit a Fiscal Year 2025 local funding initiative request to the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives for Northwest stormwater improvements, for the amount of 500,000, and for sidewalks in the Azalea Park neighborhood for the amount of 1 million. Councilmember Lipscomb made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Carter. Hearing no discussion, the motion passed 5 to 0.

6. AWARD OF RFB 2023-01, MISTY WATER BOAT RAMP PIER

6.1. Review and Consideration of Bonding Requirements

City Manager Cobb shared that Complete Site Source was awarded the RFB for the Pier. After the award was made, staff sent them the agreement along with all the additional requirements listed in the bid documents. The contractor came back and asked if a certified check could be accepted instead of the performance bond because it would cost about 3% of the project to get the bonds. Their understanding was that the state does not require a performance bond if the bid is less than \$100,000 and hoped we would do the same. To approve the request, the council would need to approve it since it is not in the procurement code. The next lowest bid was around \$150,000.

City Attorney Hayward stated that Florida statute allows a certified check in lieu of the bond and as far as the statute's concerned, the certified check is treated like a bond.

Mayor Stein asked if there was a motion to accept the certified check. Councilmember Sutton made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Lipscomb. Hearing no discussion, the motion passed 5 to 0.

7. COMMENTS

Councilmember Sutton got visited the control tower at Hurlburt Field and enjoyed the opportunity.

Councilmember Coxwell read a statement from Ron Moore who thanked the Fire Fighter James Dee, Ocean City Wright Fire District, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, and the paramedics involved in saving his life while experiencing a widowmaker heart attack. Council discussed showing recognition to the individuals involved at a future council meeting.

Mayor Stein discussed the progression of the events for the Veteran's Day event. In addition, Mayor Stein discussed Home for the Holidays and Yard of the Month.

City Manager Cobb shared that Shawn Lindsey is the new Public Works Director and Josh Zeigler is the new Maintenance Technician. CM Cobb also mentioned that the area beside the library had electrical work, irrigation, and sod installed.

Mayor Pro Tem Carter, Councilmember Lipscomb, Councilmember Oder, City Attorney Dykes, and City Clerk Broxson had no comment.

8. ADJOURN

The council meeting adjourned at 6:38 PM.



Interim City Clerk, Dillon Morris



Meeting approved on 1/16/24