

**SPECIAL CALL CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2021 9:30 A.M.
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA**

Mayor Robbie Brackett, present; Vice Mayor Rey Neville, present; Councilmember Honey Minuse, present; and Councilmember Bob McCabe, present **Also Present:** Monte Falls, City Manager; John Turner, City Attorney and Tammy Bursick, City Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

A) Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Neville led the Council and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

B) Roll Call

The City Clerk performed the roll call.

2. ADOPTION ITEM

A) Lease with Corporate Air for Parcel 30 North Ramp

Mr. John Turner, City Attorney, reported that Corporate Air has requested to have a fixed base operator lease agreement for parcel 30 on the north ramp. It is for a 40 year lease with a one-time ten year extension. He said that Corporate Air is an existing tenant at the other end of the Airport and they are expanding. The proposal is for three (3) additional hangars in that area. He said this has been an involved process. Corporate Air has extensive finance arrangements with their lenders and requested that part of the lease performance bond by the contractor be waived. He said that is something that the City would require if they were the owner, but in this case they are not. He said that staff has no problems with waiving the performance bond and asking Council to approve the lease.

Mrs. Minuse noted that on page 2, it says thirty (40) years, and wondered if that needed be changed. Mr. Turner said that was a typo and it should be (30) years.

Mr. Turner commented that there is a completion of improvements date, which is usually the commencement date and that is when the rent starts.

Mr. Neville asked about the 2% and was told that it is gross.

Mayor Brackett opened the meeting up for public comments at 9:35 a.m.

Mr. Brian Heady commented that without a performance bond the party could walk away at any point and leave the City responsible for cleanup. He said they (performance bonds) are important documents.

Mayor Brackett closed public comments at 9:36 a.m., with no one else wishing to be heard.

Mr. Turner agreed that normally the performance bond is part of the document. However, in this case Corporate Air made a request that is very controlled by the financial lender. He said if there is a problem

the City will know about it. He said there are representatives from Corporate Air if Council wants them to address the performance bond. He did not feel like this was an unreasonable request. He said that the performance bond is generally paid for by the contractor and it has to do with the cost of the project.

Mayor Brackett commented that Corporate Air has been a tenant for the last 10 to 15 years and he doesn't believe that they have ever had a performance bond in the past.

Mr. Philip Vitello, Counsel for Corporate Air, thanked the Airport Director, Mr. Turner and Mr. Falls for their assistance in this matter. He discussed the performance bond and reassured everyone that there would not be any liability to the City. It would all be on Corporate Air and the bank. They are just trying to assist the contractor. He said that it is the contractor who has the liability and no one else.

Mrs. Minuse made a motion to approve the Fixed Base Operator's Lease Agreement with the City of Vero Beach and Corporate Air. Mr. McCabe seconded the motion and it passed 4-0 with Mr. McCabe voting yes, Mrs. Minuse yes, Vice Mayor Neville yes and Mayor Brackett yes.

Mrs. Minuse asked that discussion of the sidewalk on A-1-A be added to the agenda.

At this time the City Council moved into the workshop part of the meeting.

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mr. Falls gave an update on the sidewalk on A-1-A. He said that Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is looking at moving the sidewalk closer to the roadway itself. He doesn't have the details yet. He said that FDOT is planning to schedule a public meeting when they get their plans completed. The City has asked FDOT for some mid-block crossing on A-1-A and they have said unless the sidewalk connects to not build mid-block crossing.

Mr. Neville commented that if someone is on the east side of A-1-A and wants to get to the west side of A1A it is very dangerous and it is vital to have a sidewalk there. He said that once the sidewalk is in place and those crossings are there then many people will use it.

A) City Priorities/Goals

Mayor Brackett commented that staff is looking for direction from the Council as they approach the budget.

Mr. Neville expressed that there are some priorities and goals that align themselves with budgeting and different processes. There are different issues that they are dealing with. With the political perspective there will be more impact in the region and they need stronger ties with Legislation in Tallahassee. They need to construct a priority list. He would like to see them develop stronger ties with the County and maybe have a joint workshop to clear the air. He said that all the area municipalities and the County are speaking as one when it comes to home rule. They need to be more influential than they have been.

Mayor Brackett agreed that they could be doing a better job legislatively. He said there is some opportunity to work with the County and some of the County people are open for discussion. But, like with anything else they can continue to do more. He expressed they are neighbors. He said when the

Airport issue came up, he visited all the municipalities and the County and they were all willing to help in supporting the Resolution.

Mrs. Minuse agreed with both Mr. Neville and Mayor Brackett. She said that they also need to restore the relationship with the Regional Planning Agencies. She knows that budget season is coming up and there are a lot of important decisions that will have to be made. It is her pleasure to serve with this Council and she looks forward to continuing to serve.

Mayor Brackett brought up that they needed to communicate better with their citizens. He said that other cities have newsletters that go out to the public or have constant contact to let their citizens know what is going on. They have a good story to tell and they don't do a good job telling it all the time.

Mr. Neville wanted to see periodically their staff come forward and give a brief presentation of what they are doing. He said that they have a great staff and they need to be show cased. This is a vibrant City that does great stuff.

Mr. McCabe felt that their economic development goal needs to go after tourism. He said that is largely funded by bed tax, which a large part of is collected in the City. He would like to see the numbers addressed in a different way.

Mayor Brackett said that he would like to see a Police Officer patrolling the waters at least 20 hours a week. He said that it might be tough to handle budget wise, but it is necessary. He said that more and more vessels are being anchored on the south side of the bridge. They need to be able to regulate what is happening. He felt that a presence being seen of an Officer on a regular basis would help.

Mr. McCabe would like to have a program where there is public recognition to those people who are helping with the cleanup of the Lagoon.

Mr. Neville commented that he has not seen lot of structural growth in Downtown Vero. He thought that the City needed to look at what they could do to help from a policy perspective like rezoning. It is more active than it used to be, but still they don't see much growth. They need to work on the downtown lighting and get that done so people can walk comfortably at night.

Mr. Neville brought up that they have two (2) bridges going over to the Island and these bridges are not going to get any wider so they need to do what they can to constrain the amount of growth that can occur. There will be a time when going to the beach is not going to be fun anymore because it is so hard to get there and he doesn't know how to deal with it. He said maybe an attempt to direct people to go to South Beach and away from Central Beach would be a start.

Mayor Brackett commented that the downtown area is very vibrant and more than it has been since he can remember. He said that there are a lot people who are redoing their businesses and fixing them up. Rents are higher than ever and restaurants continue to boom. However, he agreed that they could continue to improve and do better things.

Mr. Neville expressed a willingness to address zoning matters if there is a constraint on people wanting to do something downtown.

Mayor Brackett agreed that they needed to recognize that citizens are customers of the City and don't need to be the first person that is told "no" they are not allowed to do that.

Mr. McCabe agreed that they need to do everything they can to boost the economy. He said that there was a great crowd at Downtown Friday. He said there were a lot of activities going on and the businesses were happy. He felt that they needed to do everything they could to encourage MainStreet to have this event the last Friday of every month. He hopes that the Oceanside concerts will start soon and that they needed to encourage them to do so. He said that they might even consider some type of incentive to have these events, which would spur economics in the City.

Mr. Neville commented that the Oceanside Business Association (OBA) rents the stage for their concerts and it is expensive. He said it seems to him when they are talking about generating tax in the community that maybe would be an offset for OBA. He knows they passed the Resolution on the pricing for the stages, but he didn't like the increase when they did it and he still doesn't.

Mr. McCabe agreed that it could be modified.

Mr. Neville brought up lateral E, on 20th Avenue. He doesn't understand why they have that body of water and now there is grass growing in that area. He has some concerns about the risk of a child falling in. He visions taking 20th Avenue and connecting it to Aviation Boulevard. He knows it would be an expensive project, but it would be fantastic.

Mayor Brackett explained that this is right in the middle of a number of neighborhoods who did not want to connect to Aviation Boulevard because of the traffic that it would create. They have been fortunate that there have not been any major accidents by the canal and to put a lot of traffic on that road would increase accidents there.

Mr. McCabe said putting up guard rails would be less expensive.

Mr. McCabe brought up being Tree City USA and thought that they needed to take a hard look at their zoning laws. He knows that the Tree and Beautification Commission are looking at the development in this community.

Mrs. Minuse agreed that there has been a lot of concern in the community about how these trees have been pruned lately.

Mr. Neville commented that the City used to be known as *Where the Tropics Begin* and he doesn't see that much anymore. We were also known as *Hibiscus City*. He would like them to consider making the City of Vero Beach the *City of Oaks*. They need to get their tag line right.

Mr. Falls said they are working on that task right now and looking at strengthening their Tree regulations.

Mr. McCabe agreed that the Ordinance needed to have teeth in it so it is enforceable.

Mr. Jeffries reported that this item was discussed at the last Tree and Beautification Commission and now he will be taking it to the Planning and Zoning Board and it will be brought to the City Council as a text amendment Ordinance.

Mr. Neville said that what he sees often is the footprint for houses are being enlarged when they add a second story. The only thing a neighbor can see once this is done is a wall and he feels that is an intrusion. He wondered if there was any interest in having a second story setback.

Mr. Jeffries explained that the Planning Department deals with both sides. There were things put in the Code 20 years ago when this started. He said that someone's garage is included when they are calculating Floor Area Ratios (FAR's).

Mr. Neville noted that the older established neighborhoods are changing when these new homes are built. The neighborhoods will not be the quaint place that they once were. He referred to a home in Riomar where there are high walls, it is painted yellow and is oceanfront property at the end of Ocean Drive.

Mr. Jeffries commented that he is updating residential zoning districts to deal with some of these issues. The Code does not differentiate between retaining walls and boundary walls.

Mayor Brackett felt that they need to apply caution on what they do with trees and development. He said that they can become overburdening as a government. The most complaints that he gets in his office is that the City is too restrictive. They don't need to be big government telling people what color they can paint their house, etc. They need to balance out with people's rights to live. He referred to the trimming of trees and said maybe they should say trees can't be planted in the right-of-way, which might look better than when the trees have been pruned.

Mr. McCabe wanted them to consider having people hook up to the sewer line. This brings them back to the Lagoon and it needs to be their first priority, which is the health of the Lagoon.

B) Restructuring of Board/Commissions

Mayor Brackett reported that he met with the City Clerk and the City Attorney to talk about the City Commissions and Boards and how to restructure them. There seems to be a problem with finding people to serve on the Commissions and Boards, as well as some Boards have more County residents than City residents serving on them. They came up with narrowing the Advisory Committees down to five (5) members, by either having five (5) members and no alternates or three (3) members and two (2) alternates serving. Council asked staff to work on this and bring something back to them.

C) Changing the required Septic Tank Inspections from every five (5) years to every three (3) years and discussion of drainfields

Mayor Brackett would like to require septic tank inspections be done every three (3) years instead of every five (5) years, which is now required. He said that the tanks are older and they are getting older every year. This would allow them (the City) to continue to monitor the Lagoon and have more people convert to septic. The requirement would be for everyone. The cost for inspection ranges from \$250.00 to \$500.00.

Mr. Rob Bolton, Water and Sewer Director, explained that when septic tanks are inspected the drainfield is also inspected, but it is not a requirement that they connect to the septic system. The inspector checks off whether or not it is a nuisance. The only ones required to connect is a sanitary nuisance and that means a crack in the septic tank or bad shape rising to the top that could cause some issues. He said just

because the system is failing and sluggish doesn't require them to connect. There also have been discussion on nutrients, which septic tanks were never designed around nutrients and only health aspects. Any house built prior to 1983 means there is a potential that there is not as many nutrients then the homes built after 1983. He said that they hired a company to determine how many nutrients were removed and ground water monitoring in the Live Oak area. The study ended up showing more pollution than the original model showing the septic system.

Mr. Neville asked if there was more of a risk from failing drainfields than failing septic tanks. He knows that there are concrete septic tanks and fiber glass septic tanks, which the failure is very low.

Mr. Bolton explained that this would be an administrative nightmare if they were to make those determinations. He said that the Health Department determines whose septic tanks need to be connected to sewer. He said that a lot of people do connect when they are told that their matter is being taken over by the Health Department.

Mr. Neville asked if there was any movement by the County for them to encourage people to hook up to the sewer system.

Mr. Falls said no because they don't have the sewer lines like the City does.

Mr. McCabe asked if there would be any impediment from the City moving from five (5) years to three (3) years. He was told no.

Mrs. Minuse asked if within the City limits if they had sewer lines available.

Mr. Bolton told her that they do. He then talked about the success that they have had with the STEP System and there are over 50% of the septic tanks on the Island that have been connected. He mentioned that the County has a new subdivision going in out west and typically whenever a new subdivision is platted that sewers are provided.

Mr. Keith Drewett mentioned that the failure rate on fiber inspection was 20% (4 percent a year). He said a septic tank on the Island typically last for 50 years. He was fine with having septic tanks inspected either after three (3) or five (5) years. He asked at the April 26th City Council workshop if there would be further discussion on septic tanks. It was explained that the workshop is being called to discuss stormwater utility. He said that he would like to give a presentation on septic tanks. Mrs. Minuse said that she would sponsor him to speak at a future Council meeting for 10-minutes.

Mr. Bolton commented that if you look at the statistics over time that concrete will deteriorate and as the tanks get older, they are going to fail more.

Mayor Brackett asked staff to provide Council with a rough draft on modifying the five (5) year inspection period to three (3) years.

Mrs. Minuse felt that would be the time to have Mr. Drewett give his presentation.

Council took a lunch break and the meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m. Public comments were heard before the meeting recessed for lunch.

D) Twin Pairs Lane Reduction

Mayor Brackett called the meeting back to order at 1:00 p.m. He thanked Council for their participation in this morning's meeting and how well it has been going.

Mayor Brackett brought up the twin pairs lane reduction and explained that this will be something that they will need to make a decision on. He said that FDOT will be doing some paving on the twin pairs and this would be the time to piggyback on their project. He said that they only have this opportunity come up every 20 years.

Mr. Falls gave some history of the twin pairs that was constructed over 25 years ago by FDOT. He said that it was done when I-95 ended at Vero Beach to continue the southward movement. He said before State Road 60 was completed, this was a four (4) lane undivided highway with no turning lane. Then 15 years ago it was resurfaced and when that project came up, there was a group that wanted to reduce the number of lanes and it was too late. This project is in the fifth year of FDOT's five (5) year work program. If they are going to do something they will need to let FDOT know before their design plan starts. Several years ago they had a lane elimination permit that they did and it got all the way to the point of issuance of the permit and then they were told by FDOT that the project was not in the works and to wait until it gets into the work program and then update their study.

Mr. Matt Mitts, Public Works Director, went through and showed what the proposal was before the study. The limits of the proposal are from the railroad tracks to St. Helen church. He said to pick this back up, there needs to be a long term commitment. They (FDOT) would like a Resolution passed now saying that the City wants to do this and that is the question. One of the benefits to reducing the lanes is to reduce pedestrian travel time to cross the road. He said the downside is as traffic increases there will be some delay in the corridor.

Mr. Falls added that the hurricane evacuation study says there is no impact on hurricane evacuation. He has never seen a problem of a mass exit of people trying to get out on State Road 60 because of a hurricane. He recalled that State Road 60 was widened from I-95 to the turnpike because there were a lot of issues to get to a north/south corridor. He went over the proposal that they are looking at. If it were to be done in conjunction with the paving project that is when it should be done. They have to redo it and they have to put stripes down and all the City has to do is tell them where to put the stripes. It will be zero cost to the City other than studies and landscaping and bump outs where there will be some costs associated with that.

Mr. Neville asked if they could possibly get some grants for this kind of work because it is a friendly highway.

Mr. Falls did not know the answer to that question. He said if they (the City) do the minimal part there will be no extra cost and to do extra work, there would be some cost borne by the City or paid for by grants.

Mrs. Minuse commented that she is always very cautious when she is driving next to a bike lane and would like to see some protection for bikers.

Mayor Brackett commented that there are multiple ways to look at this. They could reduce one (1) lane and create six (6) lanes and extra parking. Or they could take one (1) lane out on the northside where it ends anyway. He asked staff when they needed to make a decision on this.

Mr. Mitts said that FDOT would like an answer as soon as possible. He said that they have requested some grace with the timeline. They could tell FDOT that they are considering it and requesting another year to look at it.

Mrs. Minuse agreed with saying that they are passing a Resolution now saying to go forward with this, but the final design is still up in the air.

Mr. Falls said that they could do a Resolution supporting it and then follow it up with the lane reduction project.

Mr. McCabe commented that he was sure that there have been many public hearings held on this matter. He thought that it would be appropriate to ask the businesses along the area to weigh in. He said that where the Chamber of Commerce is located they have a buffer of trees in front of them. However, businesses like Dale Sorenson are located right on the sidewalk. He said that speed is a major concern. He thought putting up some of those speed signs might slow traffic down. He once lived in a City where lights were timed so traffic could not go too fast. He asked if FDOT ever considered timing of lights.

Mr. Falls explained that the lights are timed based on the existing speed limit. He then told why the bump out exists near Scott's Sporting Goods. It was put there to try to keep a vehicle from going into the second floor of the Skiscim building.

Mr. Neville commented that when they took the twin pairs away the surrounding neighborhood declined. They need to work hard to try and bring that area back to life.

Mr. Falls said that they will discuss the twin pairs again at a future Council meeting.

Mr. Ken Daige stated the twin pairs have been talked about for quite a while in the City and a number of studies have been done. The plan that they are considering to move forward on is to drop one (1) lane or two (2) lanes and with growth there will need to be parking in downtown within the next 5 to 10 years. He hopes that Council will move on this before the next budget cycle so there is money in the budget to do it. It would help the Edgewood subdivision when this is completed.

Mr. Neville commented that lately he was not seeing a lot of Police Officers patrolling the twin pairs especially going east.

Mr. Falls said that he would talk to Chief Currey about that.

Mr. McCabe felt that electrical speed warning signs were effective.

Mr. Falls reiterated that speeds are set at what the traffic drives and what it should be posted at. He said people will drive at speeds where they are comfortable driving.

E) Vero Isles Canal

*Please note that this item was heard as the second item on the agenda.

Mr. Falls gave a brief description of Vero Isles canals. He said that since 1941, the City of Vero Beach has been the owner of the lands now underlying the canals at Vero Isles. While expressly reserving ownership, the City dedicated the canals to the use of the public in 1954. Concerned about the potential for liability, in 2008 the City placed a condition on the issuance of a permit to repair or build a dock on City-owned lands, requiring that the permit applicant also sign a license agreement, in addition to other permitting requirements, before a permit could be issued. He said that there are three (3) options for review: 1) Direct staff to re-draft the dock licensing agreement for residential homeowners with significant changes; 2) Maintain status quo; or 3) Abandon the City's ownership interest in the canals while maintaining an easement for public use. He said that there is a problem because there is not a formal Home Owner's Association in Vero Isles. He met with the Board and it seems they are mixed on what they want to do. He said that some questions were submitted before the meeting and he will be happy to answer those questions. A memo is on file concerning the canals at Vero Isles (attached to the original minutes).

Mayor Brackett stated that he was open to any of the three (3) options. The City will do whatever the group wants them to do. The hard part is getting a consensus because there are over 200 homes there. They need to come up with a resolution that works for them and it needs to protect all of the neighbors. His goal is to come up with a solution that works for them and their lease would allow them to get insurance for their dock.

Mr. Neville did not understand why the City would have an interest in those waterways.

Mr. Falls explained that a plat was filed that dedicated the right-of-way to the public. He said while reserving ownership, the City dedicated the canals to the use of the public.

Mr. Neville suggested giving the easement to Vero Isles and be free of any more documentation from Vero Isles.

Mayor Brackett commented that once the land is deeded back to them then their property taxes will go up. He wanted to remain open and let the property owners tell the City what they want to do. He said hopefully they will do it as a group. The City Council is here today talking about this issue and wants to resolve it and give the property owners what they need.

Mrs. Minuse explained why this whole issue came up and why they are here today.

Mr. Don Peterson, resident of Sea Horse Lane, commented that he started trying to get his docks repaired. He said repairing docks and keeping them in safe working order is important to them. They favor a solution that requires no expensive license agreement. He would be happy to pass around a petition to see how many people were in favor of an abandonment. If he can't fix his dock it is an accident waiting to happen. He gave a copy of a letter entitled *Statement in Support of Settlement Offer in on-going Dock Use License Agreement Dispute* (on file in the City Clerk's office).

Mr. Falls said that staff is amenable to have whatever the property owners want.

Mr. Neville was in favor of abandoning the property.

Mr. Steve Fishman commented that they are targeting a solution to a problem that does not exist. City wants to avoid liability. He commented that their property is taxed at a premium because it is waterfront. He didn't think that the bottomlands would have any additional value because of this arrangement. The solution to the problem would be having an easement. This would mean giving up the claim and going back to the way that they did things for a long time.

Mr. Doug Vitunac, Attorney representing Mr. Don Peterson and Mr. Steve Fishman, said that they agreed that abandonment is the best way to go. It sounds like a win/win situation. They don't want to change the public's access to those canals. If they can come up with a clean cut solution and give everyone who owns a lot there already what they thought that they had, it would be the best solution for everyone. He said that City staff has been great to work with.

Mr. Steve Fishman said that he is a member of the Vero Isles Association and sits on the Board. He was not representing the Board, but in talking to neighbors and other people around the community the simplest thing would be if the City doesn't want the land anymore, to give it back. He worries about property values and this seems like a simple solution.

Mayor Brackett reiterated that the property owners need to tell the City what way they want to go. He encourages staff to continue working on this to come up with a solution that is agreeable to everyone.

Mr. Falls said that he would go back and talk to the Vero Isles group and then bring something back to Council.

Mrs. Minuse stated that facts are facts and don't get confused with things that are not facts.

Mr. Falls commented that the canals at Robalo face this same situation.

F) Beachside Parking

Mayor Brackett commented that they have had the study done for the beachside parking and the consultant came back with some recommendations for off-street parking. He said that he and the City Manager drove around the neighborhoods about two (2) months ago, finding spaces for about 55 parking spaces that would not disrupt the neighborhoods. He said this is a priority and needs to get back on the table.

Mr. Neville felt that the City could save a lot of money if the businesses with parking lots would share their spaces. He said before spending money lets have the OBA organize property owners and businesses and work on this solution. There are dozens of parking lots that never fill up. He suggested finding a handful of these lot owners to partner with the City could easily make an additional 60 parking spaces available. He brought up Wilmington Trust and that their parking lot is usually available unless they have a large meeting and in that case other arrangements could be made.

Mayor Brackett did not disagree with what Mr. Neville was saying, but said it is easier said than done. He said that most of those businesses are unwilling to give up or share their parking because they are concerned about liability and extra traffic and cleanup. He brought up Wilmington Trust and said they are not interested in shared parking, because of the liability. There is a parking lot on Sexton Plaza that is completely open most every day, but the owner does not want the public parking there.

Mr. Falls agreed that he has met with a handful of owners over on the beachside and has gotten the same response.

Mrs. Minuse commented that they are going to see more tourists coming and this is something that they will have to take care of.

Mayor Brackett commented that parking problems are great to have because it means that people are coming to the beachside area and shopping and spending money.

Mr. Falls stated that they will be talking about some of these things at budget time and will schedule another budget kickoff meeting.

Mrs. Minuse asked what kind of CARES Act money is available.

Mr. Falls was not sure. He said he would check with the Finance Director on that.

Mr. McCabe commented that a lot of organizations have grant writers and maybe they should discuss it at budget time.

Mr. Ken Daige commented that a number of years ago there was a lot of work done through a block grant. The company hired to do that made their commission off of the grant. There were two (2) Parks, Jacoby and Piece of Pie Park, that both received grant money to improve those parks. He said as different projects come up they might want to look for a grant company that can handle it and they work on a percentage. He said going forward this may be a solution.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ken Daige commented that when talking about 14th Avenue they should look at the south end of 14th Avenue and doing some lighting there and signage pointing to the downtown area, which would help the downtown area.

Mr. Daige brought up the 20th Avenue canal. He said that canal is to the west of where he lives and the neighbors there do not want the canal closed in. He recalled at one (1) time there were cars falling into the canal and that is how they got the walls put up and some improvements made. If they were to close the canal it would make it a throughway there and more traffic would come. The canal holds a lot of water when it needs to. He said that the Indian River Farms District was not in favor of guardrails because they get into their machinery. They did say maybe they would consider having a walkway.

Mr. Daige brought up lighting and said that it would be helpful to have lighting where the Cultural Arts Village is going to be located. He said the neighbors there cannot afford to buy street lights, however they could probably afford to pay the electric bill. They also would like to have the names put back on their streets, as he has asked for before. He said these things could probably be looked at during the budget process.

Mrs. Marilyn Dussault, Chair of the Tree and Beautification Commission, recalled that when they were discussing the concept of Oak Trees and the preservation of Oak Trees at their last meeting they were told that the City had given over the idea of preservation of Oak Trees to the Planning Department and that

the Tree and Beautification Commission would no longer need to discuss it. She asked for clarification on that. In terms of membership it is very difficult to get people to serve. She is down to three (3) members and has lost two (2) members over the last five (5) months. She said they are finding it difficult to get things done with only three (3) members.

Mr. Turner said at this time they are being allowed to meet with the members that they have so they can carry on their business.

Mrs. Dussault realized what the makeup of her Commission is at the time and wanted to make sure that they had the authority to continue meeting.

Mr. Turner said that he would have to bring it up at a City Council meeting and discussed at that time.

Mrs. Dussault commented that she was happy to hear that the City wanted to work better with the County. She said in 2026 it is the 100th year anniversary in the creation of Indian River County. It will be wonderful to be able to work with the County in celebrating 100 years of remarkable people. She told them to continue creating communication with the County.

Mr. Brian Heady commented that matters that continually remain on the agenda are the twin pairs and parking. He did a study on parking and presented it to the Council some years ago. He said that every City Council rehashes the twin pairs and the parking problems. He recalled that two (2) Saturdays ago was the first time that he had to drive around the beachside area to find a parking space. He said if parking is a dilemma that there are a lot of entrepreneurs who could develop a parking lot. One way that would be inviting is because the City has a low tax rate. He said right now the expenditures exceed the income so the City has to reach into their reserves. His advice is to not look at spending more money. He said in adding more parking he doesn't want the City to look like the Indian River Mall. They are better off having parking spaces filled because that creates more interest. He said if Riverside Park was full on a regular basis then they would need to figure out what to do. There are businesses on the beach that take care of their own parking, like Ocean Grill. He said that the Council has a relationship with the County and that is through Laura Moss. They could contact her and ask her what they want to have done. He said they are both City and County residents. He said that cleaning up the Lagoon has been going on for 30 years and the answer is that they need to stop dumping.

Mr. Neville complimented the Recreation Department on doing a superb job with the Easter Egg Hunt.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

/tb