

MARINE COMMISSION MINUTES
Wednesday, August 23, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.
City Hall, Council Chambers, Vero Beach, Florida

PRESENT: Chairman, Keith Drewett; Members: William Johnson, and Robert Snyder **Also Present:** Marina Director, Sean Collins; City Manager, Monte Falls; City Attorney, John Turner and Deputy City Clerk, Sherri Philo

Excused Absences: Justin Beard, Brian Cunningham, Clinton Lanier, and John Chianis

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called today's meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., and the Deputy City Clerk performed the roll call.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) April 19, 2023

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2023 Marine Commission meeting. Mr. Snyder seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. OLD BUSINESS

A) Update on the Marina Development/South Complex

Mr. Sean Collins, Marina Director, reported that the City prevailed in the court case regarding the development of the south Marina complex dry storage building. He said they went out to bid for the floating docks at the end of June and received four (4) successful bids. They would be going before the City Council on August 30th to hopefully get approval to award the bid to the recommended contractor.

Mr. Monte Falls, City Manager, referred to the bid sheet that was placed before the Commission members (attached to the original minutes). He noted that the low bidder was a local company from Ft. Pierce. He reported that the bids were about 60% higher than they anticipated. He said that staff has had several meetings with the engineer and architect to do some value engineering on the entire project. He said when they first started looking at this they were not sure if they still had a viable project, but based on some performa documents they were working on they feel comfortable that they would have something to take to City Council that would be a viable project.

Mr. Collins reported that the timeline on this project was pushed back because of ongoing negotiations, as well as the litigation that was occurring. He said currently they were about \$1 million over what they were anticipating. However, they do have two (2) grants at about \$900,000, which would help offset the increase.

Mr. Falls said the grants have a deadline where they have to have a construction contract executed by September 30, 2023.

Mr. Collins explained that the first grant goes back to the Marina Master Plan from several years ago, which ends on September 30, 2023. They have an extension request on the second grant with the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) and they would be meeting on this in September and if approved that would give them until September 30, 2024.

Mr. Johnson questioned when they would begin.

Mr. Collins reported that if they get the contract signed within the first few weeks of September work should start in February.

Mr. Falls reported that in concert with award of the contract, their engineer and architect were wrapping up the final plans for the bid documents to go out to bid on the building. He stated that they would entertain bids with an alternate to build a plain vanilla building and an alternate that would include all the architectural embellishments. Then they would see what the difference was and see what they could do with the budget they have.

Mr. Falls said they would put together a schedule once they have the bid package on what they anticipate, such as when it goes out to bid, when the bids would be received, recommendation of award, construction start, etc.

B) Derelict Vessel Removal Project Update – Officer Marroquin, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission

Mr. Drewett said what he would like to get out of this today was an understanding of the process of the derelict vessel removal.

Mr. Richard Marroquin, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Law Enforcement Officer, went over the process of identifying, noticing, and removing derelict vessels with the Commission members. He reported that he was currently tracking 58 vessels, however the City was fortunate in that there were only three (3) derelict vessels within the City of Vero Beach and they were pending removal.

Lieutenant Brian Kerensky, of the Vero Beach Police Department, said it sounds like they will be able to hire a dedicated Marine Officer, which would help streamline the process because that Officer would be out on the water and could forward information to Mr. Marroquin.

C) Update on Anchoring Limitation Areas – Resolution #2023-22

Mr. Drewett reported that there was new Legislation that came out in 2021 and the Clean Water Coalition (CWC) introduced it to County Commissioner, Peter O'Brien. He said that Mr. O'Brien later retired and there was a change in leadership and this fell through the cracks. With the help of County Commissioner, Laura Moss, they fired this up again and the County Administrator is committed to move forward. The County Administrator asked the City for a Resolution stating that they want an anchoring limitation area, which the City recently passed. He felt that Indian River Shores would also pass a Resolution of support. He said that the City of Sebastian was on the fence so he was not sure if they would pass a Resolution of support. He explained that what this would do was that it would allow a boater to anchor for 45-days so they could make repairs, resupply, etc. After 45-days they would need to move on and if they didn't then the City Police, Fish and Wildlife, or the Sheriff's office could start a process to either force them to remove their vessel or move the vessel for them.

Lieutenant Kerensky stated that this gives them one (1) more tool that they can work with. He said these anchoring limitation areas would help them to stop boaters from overstaying their welcome.

Mr. Johnson asked if they would be monitoring these areas. He asked if they would be speaking with the boaters, if there would be signage, if there would be leaflets left on the vessels, etc.

Lieutenant Kerensky said it was mandatory to have signage and they would be monitoring the areas.

5. NEW BUSINESS

None

6. MARINA DIRECTOR'S MATTERS

Mr. Collins hoped that 2024 would be the year that they could finally see something happening at the Marina.

Mr. Drewett questioned a price increase.

Mr. Collins said a price increase would probably be going before the City Council in September.

Mr. Bob Jones was curious about what pays the reconfiguration and modification to the mooring ball fleet. It seemed to him that it would be a fairly low cost that could help them manage through periods when the dock is out of service.

Mr. Collins reported that they initially submitted their application to the Army Corp about a year ago, however they ended up pulling the application. Therefore, as of now they have not submitted any applications to any permitting agencies for any of the three (3) main docks, the Lagoon or the mooring field. He reported that he did try to get some money put into the budget for this next fiscal year to redo the entire mooring field, however because of cost increases they pulled it and were shifting it to next year.

7. CHAIRMAN’S MATTERS

None

8. MEMBER’S MATTERS

None

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) October 18, 2023

The next Marine Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 in the City Hall, Council Chambers.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Johnson made a motion to adjourn today’s meeting at 10:34 a.m. Mr. Snyder seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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