

VERO BEACH AIRPORT COMMISSION MINUTES
Friday, September 3, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.
City Hall, Council Chambers, Vero Beach, Florida

PRESENT: Vice Chairman, John Calcagno; Members: Melvin Wood, Carole Jean Jordan, Arthur Hodge and Alternate Member #1, Mary Wood **Also Present:** Airport Director, Todd Scher; Assistant City Attorney, Jenny Flanigan and Deputy City Clerk, Sherri Philo

Excused Absences: Louis Vocelle and Carlos Halcomb

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Vice 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) March 5, 2021

Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2021 Airport Commission meeting. Mr. Hodge seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. NEW BUSINESS

None

5. OLD BUSINESS

None

6. AIRPORT DIRECTOR'S MATTERS

- A) Current Capital Project Status**
- B) Items Recently Approved by City Council**
- C) Items Expected to go Before City Council**
- D) Leasing / Property Management**
- E) Elite Airline Operation**
- F) Other Staff Activities**

*Please note that the above items were discussed together.

Mr. Todd Scher, Airport Director, gave a Power Point presentation on the capital projects recently completed, the capital projects currently underway, the capital projects that would be beginning soon, the items recently approved by the City Council, the items expected to go before City Council, leasing at the Airport, the Elite Airline operation, and other staff activities (attached to the original minutes).

Mr. Calcagno asked what is the current status of the Airport from a financial standpoint. He asked are they now considered a GA Airport again.

Mr. Scher reported that because they tripped the 10,000 passenger enplanement threshold in 2018, the Airport's funding changed from a General Aviation (GA) Airport to a primary air service Airport, which meant that they went from an 80/20 grant match to an 80/50 grant match. They tried to get the legislation changed during the last Legislative Session, but they were not successful. He said that they would be trying again at the next Legislative Session, but in the meantime airline enplanements has gone down below 2,500, which is the threshold that you become a GA Airport again. Therefore, currently the Airport is considered a GA Airport in the eyes of both the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Department of Transportation (FDOT) so they are eligible for 80/20 funding. He said that he wasn't sure how long that was going to last and they would have to wait and see what happens when Elite Airlines starts up again. He reported that they are moving ahead with trying to get the Florida Statute changed and they would be looking at hiring a lobbyist in Tallahassee to help push this through.

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

A) FAA Concern about Trailer Park

Mr. Scher briefly went over the FAA's concerns regarding the Citrus Mobile Home Park with the Commission members (attached to the original minutes).

Mr. Calcagno asked does the City Attorney's office have an opinion on this.

Ms. Jenny Flanigan, Assistant City Attorney, reported that the City Attorney's office reviewed the Letter of Inquiry from the FAA and the grant provisions that the FAA asserted is that the Mobile Home Park might have violations and they did not feel that anything in the Airport Plan violates any of the land uses that have been approved by the FAA. She said the Florida Statutes has a pretty detailed way for any mobile home park evictions to occur so there would be a lengthy procedure that the City would have to follow if the FAA decided that this use of the property was not in line with the Airport's grant assurances. At this point the Airport has been transparent and has supplied all the documents to the FAA and they are now waiting to hear back from the FAA.

Mr. Scher noted that it is the intent of the City and the intent of the Airport to continue to operate the Mobile Home Park as long as they are allowed to.

Ms. Flanigan noted that the issue is not that it is a Mobile Home Park, but residential use.

B) City Attorney's Airport Office

Mr. Scher reported that the City Attorney's office has to review all Airport leases so in an attempt to streamline the process they now have an office at the Airport to use when reviewing Airport leases.

C) Upcoming Airport Events

1. Car Show

Mr. Scher reported that the Wings and Wheels event would be held on November 27, 2021, and there is no cost to the public to attend.

Mr. Phil Canal handed out a flyer on the Wings and Wheels Exhibition to the Commission members (on file in the City Clerk's office).

2. 5k Run

Mr. Scher reported that the 5K Run is sponsored by the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce and the Running Zone. He stated that they held this event for the first time last year with over 100 participants and they expect to have over 200 participants this year. The event will take place on December 8, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Calcagno noted that Mr. Vocelle will be leading the 5k Run.

D) Natural Gas Line

Mr. Scher gave a brief update on the natural gas line. He noted that the project was funded 50/50 by the FDOT and Florida City Gas.

E) Economic Development

This item was discussed earlier on today's agenda under Airport Director's Matters.

8. MEMBER'S MATTERS

None

9. CITY ATTORNEY MATTERS

None

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) December 3, 2021

The next Airport Commission meeting will be held on Friday, December 3, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., in the City Hall, Council Chambers.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

/sp