

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE COMMITTEE (EDZC) MINUTES  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2022 – 9:30 A.M.  
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA**

**PRESENT:** Joseph Cataldo, Chairman; Members: Bob DelVecchio and Sheila Schweitzer **Also Present:** John Turner, City Attorney and Sherri Philo, Deputy City Clerk

**Excused Absences:** Terry Torres and William Watkins

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairman called today's meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A) August 15, 2022**

**Mrs. Schweitzer made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2022 Economic Development Zone Committee (EDZC) meeting. Mr. DelVecchio seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Delvechio reported that he recently spoke with Mr. David Currey, Police Chief, about getting bike patrols back to the downtown area. He said that he would be meeting with Chief Currey at the end of the week to discuss this, as well as the homeless situation. He hoped to have some good news to report to the Committee at their next meeting.

Mr. Cataldo reported that last week there were two (2) accidents at the corner of Route 60 and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and one (1) of them involved a pedestrian. He said cities are not designed to have four (4) or five (5) feet of sidewalks adjacent to four (4) lane highways with businesses along them. He said going down to three (3) lanes, widening the sidewalks, creating greenways, etc., would have an aesthetic appeal and a safety appeal.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

**A) Lighting Project Update – Assistant City Engineer**

Mrs. Danessa Chambers, Assistant City Engineer, reported that since they last met the City has received the proposed locations of the lights. Staff would be sending their comments back to the designer who would provide the City with some additional information. She said they are working at getting some real numbers on the cost from Florida Power and Light (FPL) and as soon as she receives this information she would report back to the Committee so they can decide how they

want to move forward based on the funding that has been set aside for this year. She said it sounded promising that this could come in under budget, which could mean that instead of doing one (1) lighting location per year they could potentially do two (2) or three (3) locations this coming year. Their goal is to execute the contract for this project and get FPL to do the work in this current fiscal year.

**B) Update on Twin Pairs Project – Public Works Director**

Mr. Matthew Mitts, Public Works Director, reported that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is proposing to include this project in their tentative work plan, which would be brought before the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in December. Once that program enters the real work program the schedule for design is in fiscal year 2023/2024 and construction would take place in fiscal 2026/2027. FDOT asked the City to provide some initial feedback on what the City was looking for and the City cited some of the safety concerns and FDOT agreed they needed to be incorporated. The changes that FDOT has incorporated included reducing the speed to 35 mph through the corridor, narrowing the travel lanes, widening the bike lanes, increasing the time on the traffic signals to allow more time for pedestrians to safely cross the street, and adding a crosswalk on 12<sup>th</sup> Court. Not included is adding a crosswalk at the courthouse and extending the right turn lane further east.

Mr. Cataldo asked is the MPO on the same page as the City as to what improvements should be implemented.

Mr. Mitts reported that the City does have representatives on the MPO. He noted that throughout this process the MPO and FDOT have been looking to the City as to what the City wants. He said the City has echoed the safety issues, which is where they are getting support.

Mr. Cataldo questioned, but not the lane reduction.

Mr. Mitts said FDOT asked the City if they wanted to include it the City would have to pay for the work.

Mr. Cataldo said that is a project that the Committee could have taken on. He felt that 70% of the costs in any of these projects is traffic control and engineering. He said they would be looking at a one (1) block project for this Committee. He said if the engineering and traffic control was all part of the FDOT project then they would be talking about the cost of curbing, landscaping, or paving, which was something that he felt this Committee could take on.

Mr. Mitts said that he could bring those costs back to the Committee.

Mr. Cataldo said because the FDOT is not on board for the crossing that reducing the lanes just in that one (1) block between 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the Courthouse would make a huge difference. He felt that would be a great project for this Committee more so than the lighting project. This is a

safety and aesthetic issue. He asked if he was off track in thinking that the engineering and traffic control portion could be put into FDOT's budget.

Mr. Mitts explained that FDOT has been very black and white on this. If the City wants a lane reduction or any type of changes to the character of that corridor other than what they are proposing, it would be on the City.

Mr. Cataldo said what he heard from FDOT years ago was that the City needs to ask for it and the City has never asked for the lane reduction. He felt that they should at least try.

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mrs. Sue Gromis, Executive Director for MainStreet, reported that Mainstreet met with the City and asked about extending the sidewalks on the south side with a row of alternating trees and planter boxes. They also asked about wrapping white lights around the Palm Trees on the north side of Route 60 west. They met with Chief Currey regarding the homeless situation and they will be working with the Coalition for the Homeless, the Mental Health Agency, and several churches. They also requested that the Police Department increase the bike patrols through the Park, as well as asked that they enforce the speed limit along 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Mrs. Honey Minuse, Councilwoman, said they expect this to go before the MPO in December. She felt that FDOT had more public outreach these days by holding workshop meetings. She said if they want FDOT's attention to a particular issue then they really need to get the public to attend these workshop meetings.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

Today's meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

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