

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

PRESENT: Members: Louis Vocelle, Melvin Wood, Carole Jean Jordan, Arthur Hodge and Carlos Halcomb **Also Present:** Airport Director, Todd Scher; City Attorney, John Turner; City Clerk, Tammy Bursick and Deputy City Clerk, Sherri Philo

1. CALL TO ORDER – CITY CLERK

Mrs. Tammy Bursick, City Clerk, called today’s meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS – CITY CLERK

The City Clerk administered the Oath of Office en masse.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A) Chairman

Mr. John Turner, City Attorney, opened the floor for nominations for Chairman of the Airport Commission.

Mr. Hodge nominated Mr. Buck Vocelle for Chairman of the Airport Commission. Mr. Wood seconded the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

The nomination for Mr. Buck Vocelle to serve as Chairman of the Airport Commission passed unanimously.

B) Vice Chairman

The Chairman opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman of the Airport Commission.

Mr. Wood nominated Mr. Carlos Halcomb for Vice Chairman of the Airport Commission. Mrs. Jordan seconded the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

The nomination for Mr. Carlos Halcomb to serve as Vice Chairman of the Airport Commission passed unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. CITY ATTORNEY MATTERS

A) Sunshine Law Presentation

Mr. Turner briefly went over the Sunshine Law and the Public Records Law with the Commission members. He asked that if they have any questions to please call the City Attorney's office or the City Clerk's office.

Mr. Wood asked if he wanted to ask the Chairman a question, could he send it via email to the City Clerk's office to send to the Chairman.

Mr. Turner explained that the City Clerk's office would email it to every member of the Commission.

Mr. Turner said that he did have a Power Point presentation that he was going to give the Commission members, but his hard drive went out on his computer and he lost everything. He also didn't think it was needed since the Commission members previously served on the Commission for several years.

Mr. Vocelle asked Mr. Turner if he is able to recover the Power Point presentation that he email it to the Commission members.

Mr. Turner said that he has a copy of last year's presentation that he would email to the Commission members.

Mr. Vocelle asked Mr. Scher to give the Commission members a brief update on recent activities that have occurred at the Airport and the status of the runway.

Mr. Todd Scher, Airport Director, reported that the Wings and Wheels event that was held this past weekend was well attended. They had good weather, a lot of very nice cars and airplanes and he felt that everyone had a great time.

Mr. Scher reported that the rehabilitation of the runway was progressing very well. They are confident that the runway would be open sometime in the middle of March and Elite Airways should be able to resume their flights again. He then reported that Phase II of the north ramp project should be completed around December 17, 2021.

Mr. Scher reported that there has been an incredible demand on new leases, amended leases, extended leases, etc. Because of this they formed a Leasing Team to handle all leases rather than just having one (1) person handle them.

Mr. Vocelle asked for an update on the Citrus Mobile Home Park.

Mr. Scher reported that they received a letter of investigation from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) at the regional level requesting a lot of information because they felt that residential use of Airport property was not an appropriate use. Therefore, Airport staff sent a lot of information to the FAA, including documentation showing that the Citrus Mobile Home Park has been there for many years and that it appeared as a Mobile Home Park on Airport layout plans that were approved by the FAA. He reported that the FAA had not responded until a few days ago when he received an email from a

different FAA person from the Airport District Office in Orlando who asked for a copy of the City's response letter to the FAA so they have it on their records because the person who they were initially dealing with no longer works for FAA.

Mr. Halcomb said there are several Airports in Florida who have Mobile Home Parks on their property. He asked is it just the Vero Beach Regional Airport that they are questioning or are they going around the State asking the same question.

Mr. Scher said that he did not know. However, he has spoken with other Airport Managers who have Mobile Home Parks on their property who stated that they have not heard anything.

Mr. Turner said when FAA requested Airport leases as they relate to the American Disability Act (ADA) requirements the question came up as to would those leases include the Mobile Home Park. He said FAA is trying to make sure that Airport land is complying with FAA requirements. He said it is the City's position that the Mobile Home Park was approved by FAA in the past without conditions or requirements.

Mrs. Jordan questioned the funding issue that is going before the Florida Legislature.

Mr. Scher reported that Senate Bill 780 would change the amount of enplanements from 10,000 where it is now to 100,000 enplanements before grant funding would change from 80/20 matching grants to 50/50 matching grants. It appears that this Bill has support from other Airports and from the Florida Airport's Council. He reported that State Representative Erin Grall has also introduced a companion Bill in the House, which is identical to Senate Bill 780.

Mr. Turner reported that staff is going to request that City Council adopt a Resolution supporting both the Senate Bill and the House Bill and that they also circulate the Resolution to the other municipalities in the County, as well as to the County Commission, asking that they also adopt a Resolution of support.

Mr. Halcomb asked for an update on the U.S. Customs Office at the Airport.

Mr. Scher reported the one-hundred percent plans have been sent to the United States Customs for their approval. Once approved, Corporate Air would go to bid for the construction of the facility, which they hope would occur within the next few months.

6. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Airport Commission will be held on Friday, March 11, 2021, in the City Hall, Council Chambers.

Mr. Wood reported the new leasing process has increased the revenue of the Airport considerably and has put the Airport in really good shape. He encouraged the Commission members to drive around the Airport and look at all the projects that are making the Airport incredible. He said it is really a Gold Star Airport in the State of Florida.

Mr. Vocelle thanked Mrs. Mary Wood for her many years of service as an alternate member of the Commission. He said it was good to see her sitting in the audience. He then wished everyone a happy Holiday Season.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hodge made a motion to adjourn today's meeting at 9:56 a.m. Mrs. Jordan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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