

**MINUTES
CITY OF ORMOND BEACH
CITY COMMISSION
HEALTHCARE AND BRAINSTORMING WORKSHOP**

October 17, 2017

5:00 p.m.

City Commission Conference Room

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bill Partington called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present were Mayor Bill Partington, Commissioners Dwight Selby, Troy Kent, Rick Boehm, and Rob Littleton, City Manager Joyce Shanahan, Human Resources Director Claire Whitley, and Jessica Scott, Vice President, Brown and Brown Insurance.

II. HEALTH INSURANCE STRATEGIC PLAN – HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT FUNDING

Ms. Joyce Shanahan, City Manager, stated that the City Commission had discussed health savings account (HSA) funding and providing incentivized HSA dollars at their previous workshop. She noted that the Commission had directed staff to bring options for funding and incentives back to the Commission for discussion.

Ms. Claire Whitley, Human Resources Director, stated that she had worked with Ms. Jessica Scott, Vice President at Brown and Brown Insurance, on some recommendations. She stated that their recommendations also gave consideration to what would happen in future years as well. She stated that the city had been funding \$1,350 annually in the HSAs for employees. She noted that they recommended keeping that consistent; explaining that they did not know what would happen with renewals in future years and they would not want to need to take away funding in future years if they received an unfavorable renewal. She stated that in the current year, the city was providing incentive programs to earn an additional \$250 towards HSAs. She noted that they recommended keeping that consistent so that employees became familiar with the programs and knew what to expect.

Ms. Whitley stated that they also recommended adding additional wellness incentives to further build the incentivizing program. She noted that they recommended offering additional incentives which would total an additional \$200; noting that that figure was up for discussion. She stated that they wanted to have multiple options so that no employee would necessarily be excluded. She explained that the one of the two options they identified was to create a “Lunch and Learn” program, where educational seminars would be held on a variety of health and wellness issues.

Commissioner Kent asked who would lead those programs; whereby, Ms. Whitley stated that they would feature community consultants through Florida Healthcare Plans (FHCP) and different resources. She noted that they would be led by qualified experts in the field, not human resources employees.

Commissioner Kent asked if the city would be charged for those services; whereby, Ms. Whitley stated that it would not be.

Commissioner Selby asked if participants would be provided with a free lunch; whereby, Ms. Whitley replied that participants would need to bring their own lunches. She noted that sometimes consultants would bring in fruit, granola bars, or other snacks.

Ms. Whitley stated that the other option they discussed was an incentive for addressing tobacco usage and smoking. She explained that an employee could sign an affidavit that they were tobacco free to become eligible for the incentive. She further explained that if an employee was not tobacco free, they could become eligible for the incentive by completing a free cessation program. She noted that the participant did not need to successfully complete the program; explaining that the goal was engagement. She stated that the participant would have access to several programs throughout the state of Florida through FHCP. She noted that the programs had varying levels of interaction. She reiterated that the goal was participation in the cessation program.

Ms. Shanahan noted that studies had demonstrated that most tobacco users needed to go through several cessation programs or attempts before they could successfully become tobacco free.

Commissioner Selby asked if the participant would only receive the incentive for participating once per year; whereby, Ms. Whitley replied that was correct. She explained that the participant would still have access to the programs multiple times.

Commissioner Boehm asked what the cost of these incentives would be to the city.

Ms. Jessica Scott, Vice President, Brown and Brown Insurance, stated that the city was saving around \$50,000 from a decrease to their plan rates. She noted that the additional \$200 in incentives would equal about that \$50,000 figure. She stated that that was based on the type of participation she had seen in the programs offered in 2017. She noted that if everyone eligible to participate did, which she highly doubted would happen, the total cost would be somewhere around \$67,000.

Ms. Whitley noted that she would expect around a 70 percent participation rate.

Commissioner Kent stated that it would be great if 100 percent of those eligible participated. He asked who came up with the new incentive program ideas.

Ms. Whitley stated that she, Ms. Scott, and Human Resources Generalist Heather Kidd had discussed them over the last two years; whereby, Commissioner Kent confirmed that it had been a combined effort.

Commissioner Kent stated that he loved both ideas and thought they were excellent; whereby, Commissioner Boehm and Commissioner Selby agreed with Commissioner Kent.

Commissioner Kent stated that the Lunch and Learn programs were a good opportunity to get employees together and share things with them that they might not know. He noted that he was a little curious about the non-tobacco affidavit. He asked what would be done if someone signed it but then was caught smoking. He asked if there was a way to recoup those funds.

Ms. Shanahan noted that there was a puff test for smoking.

Ms. Scott stated that the city could explore testing if they wanted to.

Commissioner Kent noted that he was not in favor of that.

Ms. Whitley stated that the important thing was to start shifting the culture.

Commissioner Selby stated that he did not think there were many individuals who smoked cigarettes who wanted to. He noted that he did not believe people were very glad to be cigarette smokers.

Ms. Shanahan noted that it had been a generational thing years ago and that her mother smoked and passed away from lung cancer.

Commissioner Selby stated that he thought most people smoking now lamented spending money on it and wished they were not addicted. He stated that anything the city could do to help them move away from that habit was a positive thing.

Ms. Shanahan noted that the tobacco affidavit included chewing tobacco as well, and not just smoking.

Commissioner Kent asked if cigars and pipes were also included; whereby, Ms. Shanahan stated that they were.

Ms. Shanahan explained that the HSA funding was on the agenda for the Commission meeting following the workshop. She noted that she did not include a funding amount in the resolution.

Ms. Whitley stated that the resolution is worded per staff's recommendation, but noted that the Commission would have had the ability to revise it. She explained that that item was listed as a Staff Action Item on the agenda, as they were not certain whether the Commission would agree with the recommendation prior to putting out the agenda packet for the meeting.

III. BRAINSTORMING SESSION

Ms. Shanahan noted that the brainstorming sessions were work sessions just for the Commission; explaining that it was the time for the Commission to pitch ideas and speak to each other about them.

Fence code

Commissioner Littleton stated that off of Fleming Avenue there were streets entitled Lakeview Circle and Laurel Oaks Circle. He noted that there was a retention pond located in that area. He explained that an elderly couple wanted to put a vinyl white fence on the back of their property. He stated that part of the city's code did not allow them to do this because it obstructed the visibility. He noted that he went in their yard and checked it out. He stated that about 16 people lived in that area around that retention pond. He noted that Planning Director Ric Goss was aware of this situation. He stated that several individuals back there were not following the code. He noted that there was a history of previous Planning Directors writing things off without going through the proper channels. He stated that the part of the code relating to visibility

being obstructed with the fence did not, in his opinion, keep with the high standards of Ormond Beach.

Commissioner Littleton noted that he was in favor of modifying the code, specifically the portion restricting it to between three and ten feet, and changing it to between over six and ten feet. He explained that his thinking was that a six foot fence could then be placed there. He stated that the affected couple could put up the desired fence through a variance, but noted that the variance process cost at least \$800. He stated that the homeowner did not want to be punished.

Commissioner Selby asked what the purpose of that provision in the code was.

Ms. Shanahan stated that it was for aesthetic purposes so that viewing corridors were not blocked.

Commissioner Selby stated that if this property put up a solid six foot fence, the neighbors located to the right and left would have a severely diminished view of the pond.

Commissioner Boehm asked if this provision was only meant to apply if one was located next to a body of water; whereby, Commissioner Littleton replied that this portion only was.

Commissioner Boehm noted that his backyard was fully fenced, as he had a swimming pool and that was required; whereby, Commissioner Kent noted that his was as well.

Commissioner Kent stated that this was applicable to those living near a body of water. He stated that the provision made a lot of sense to him. He noted that if you bought property alongside water, and your neighbor put up a fence, your view would be gone.

Commissioner Littleton explained that he did not want to eliminate the provision entirely, but raise it to prohibiting fences over six feet. He noted that that way one could look over the fence.

Commissioner Kent asked how someone would look over a six foot fence; whereby, Commissioner Littleton replied that he believed someone could see over the fence.

Mayor Partington asked why the particular resident wanted a six foot fence; whereby, Commissioner Littleton replied that she did not want to pay for a variance.

Commissioner Kent clarified that the resident could get the fence if she went through the variance process. He noted that he believed she likely did not want to spend the \$800 and possibly get denied.

Commissioner Littleton stated that it was an elderly couple on a fixed income. He explained that one of the major issues was that many of the other neighbors had violated the code. He noted that 12 of the 16 neighbors had fences.

Commissioner Kent asked if those fences were in place legally.

Commissioner Littleton noted that those fences were put in place 20 years ago. He stated that all of those fences had been put up many years prior; explaining that one

fence was put in place in 1994 and signed off by the Planning Director at the time. He noted that that fence did not go through a variance.

Commissioner Kent stated that he was concerned with a six foot fence; noting that he did not think anyone would be able to see over it. He noted that he installed a six foot vinyl fence in his home, after receiving a permit to do so, and he could not see over it. He stated that it would obstruct anyone's view around him. He noted that that was the very point of him putting it up.

Commissioner Boehm stated that he also had a six foot fence on his property. He explained that the only way he could see over it would be to stand right beside it and get up on his toes and peer over. He explained that he would be concerned with changing the ordinance, as a change would apply to the entire city. He noted that he would not want to make a change which would affect the whole city for one case. He stated that he felt for the homeowners not wanting to pay the \$800 for the variance process, but he explained that he did not think that the code should be altered at the request of one person.

Commissioner Kent noted that it was interesting if someone lived on a corner lot. He stated that someone on a corner lot could not have a six foot fence at certain parts. He explained that he saw someone putting up a fence which dropped down to three feet around the corner. He noted that he did not like that, but knew that corner lots had certain rules in place.

Mayor Partington stated that the variance process was very hit or miss; whereby, Ms. Shanahan clarified that the costs associated with it were for advertising.

Florida Hospital Oceanside Closure

Commissioner Kent stated that he was extremely concerned that Florida Hospital Oceanside would not reopen; explaining that it had been closed after damage from Hurricane Irma. He noted that he had occasion to speak to Mayor Derrick Henry from Daytona Beach about it, who also shared that concern as his constituents also benefited from that emergency room (ER). He stated that this would keep him up at night. He stated that he was interested in knowing the extent of the damage; noting that Florida Hospital did not have to tell the city that. He noted that he lived behind the hospital. He explained that on the west side of the hospital there was a ten foot by eight foot area where it appeared that the side of a lower wall popped off and was repaired. He noted that something had been placed there to stop water from coming in. He stated that that was in the cafeteria area; noting that it was nowhere near the ER. He noted that there were still sandbags up in front of the ER which had not been removed.

Commissioner Kent explained that his concern was for the city's high volume of senior citizens and young families living on the beachside. He noted that if they had a life or death emergency, they would have to be taken to Florida Hospital Memorial on Williamson Boulevard or Halifax Hospital on Clyde Morris Boulevard – both of which were some distance away. He stated that he believed that the city needed an answer from Florida Hospital regarding their timeline for reopening. He noted that after that, the city could see if any other hospitals were potentially interested in opening an emergency center. He explained that Florida Hospital Oceanside had been in its location since he was born. He noted that it used to be a full-fledged hospital, but had recently been just a rehabilitation center with an ER.

Commissioner Selby stated that there had been hospice located there as well and asked if it still was; whereby, Commissioner Kent noted that he was not certain but did not think so.

Commissioner Kent noted that the rehabilitation center was busy. He stated that as a resident living nearby, he preferred it being operated as a rehabilitation center because there was less traffic. He noted that it had been a busy functioning business with a security guard patrolling. He stated that it was a nice addition to the community.

Commissioner Selby stated that it seemed like they had made somewhat of a decision already by not reopening yet.

Ms. Shanahan stated that she had spoken to Florida Hospital personally, as had Mayor Partington. She noted that they had not received much more information from them than what could be found in the newspaper. She stated that talking to another hospital might be leverage. She noted that she agreed that it was a critical service for the community. She noted that she did not know how they could get the pertinent information from Florida Hospital.

Commissioner Littleton stated that he had heard some hearsay about it. He stated that Mr. Kevin Tilley, who served on the city's Budget Advisory Board, had told him at church that a doctor friend of his had said it would be a year before it reopened.

Commissioner Kent stated that he could see how that could happen; noting that he never saw anyone there working on repairing and cleaning up the hospital.

Commissioner Selby asked what could possibly take that much time; noting that it seemed obvious to not be a priority.

Ms. Shanahan stated that she understood that those who had been there at the rehabilitation center had already been absorbed into the other hospital location.

Commissioner Boehm noted that Florida Hospital had a large network of hospitals. He stated that Florida Hospital Oceanside was likely one of their smallest hospitals, if not the smallest. He noted that they could have potentially not even made a decision yet as to whether they wanted to repair it or not.

Commissioner Kent asked if there were any ideas anyone had as far as how the city could facilitate the reopening, or a decision about it, in a quicker fashion. He noted that the city's residents needed and deserved it.

Mayor Partington stated that Ms. Shanahan could work with staff to think of some ways to address it. He stated that his discussions with Mr. Ed Noseworthy, CEO of Florida Hospital Memorial, indicated to him that a final decision had not been made and that Florida Hospital was still working with its insurance adjusters and construction contacts. He noted that there were a lot of factors involved. He stated that from the city's perspective, he agreed with Commissioner Kent that the city needed to do their best to provide those services to its residents, whether from Florida Hospital or another provider. He noted that he was unsure whether Halifax Health would have an interest in providing that service; noting that Halifax Health and Florida Hospital competed fiercely against one another in the area. He stated that Florida Hospital Oceanside was also

extremely important for Ormond-by-the-Sea residents, who would need to travel a long way to the other area hospitals.

Commissioner Boehm suggested getting the county involved in the issue; noting that Ormond-by-the-Sea was county territory.

Ms. Shanahan suggested that the Commission should consider sending a letter or passing a resolution. She noted that the weight of the collective body would mean more than a singular staff person.

Commissioner Kent stated that that was a fine idea. He noted that Florida Hospital Oceanside, as the Mayor had mentioned, was vitally important for county residents in Ormond-by-the-Sea. He stated that that was also an aging population.

Mayor Partington suggested that a letter be drafted and signed by the entire Commission. He noted that they could also potentially approve a resolution. He suggested letting Florida Hospital know that would be coming so that they were not surprised by it. He stated that it should stress the importance of those services in the community and the city's desire to see them maintained.

Ms. Shanahan asked if the city should speak to the county as well and see if they wished to support that; whereby, Mayor Partington suggested that that would probably be a good idea.

Mayor Partington stated that part of the issue was that they did not want to launch some other organization into motion and jeopardize the existing relationship.

Commissioner Boehm stated that he did not think that Florida Hospital would disclose it if there was an insurance issue. He referenced Houligan's restaurant, which had been closed since Hurricane Matthew, had been closed for over a year because of an insurance issue. He noted that it was not an issue of them not having the means to reopen, but because they were fighting to resolve issues with the insurance company. He stated that Florida Hospital may have a similar issue, but he doubted that they would tell the city that.

Commissioner Kent stated that the difference was that every time he saw Mr. Tim Curtis, President of Houligan's, he reassured him that Houligan's was working towards reopening. He noted that that was not what he was hearing from Florida Hospital. He stated that if he heard that, he would be reassured.

Commissioner Boehm noted that decision was probably above Mr. Noseworthy, who Mayor Partington had spoken to. He stated that the board of directors of Florida Hospital would probably decide this branch's fate.

Granada Bridge Painting

Commissioner Kent stated that he wanted to look into some options for painting the Granada Bridge. He noted that he was not in favor of it before when Mayor Partington had mentioned it, but now was. He explained that he was thinking of painting the concrete interior median part and the concrete barrier on either side. He noted that he would be interested in exploring options for that.

Commissioner Selby clarified that Commissioner Kent was speaking of areas visible when driving on the bridge and not painting the outside of the bridge; whereby, Commissioner Kent confirmed that was correct.

Commissioner Selby noted that it was not very attractive presently; whereby, Commissioner Kent explained that he noticed how drab it looked when driving over it to come to that very workshop.

Mayor Partington stated that he was still on board with exploring options.

Ms. Shanahan noted that the Granada Bridge was a Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) bridge so they would need permission from them to do anything. She stated that she did not think they would object to painting it.

Commissioner Selby stated that he would like to have input on the color it was painted.

Ms. Shanahan stated that typically those types of projects would be discussed with Ormond Beach MainStreet ("MainStreet") to get their input.

Ormond Memorial Art Museum Expansion

Commissioner Kent stated that he had been speaking with Dr. Tom Brown of the Ormond Memorial Art Museum. He stated that he was interested in the city looking at the expansion project that the art museum wished to do. He explained that they wanted to extend the building towards the east and add a second story. He noted that they were interested in doing a public-private partnership. He stated that he would be in favor of using Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) funds in that project, if possible. He noted that there was a definite need for expansion, given the programs offered at the art museum. He stated that he thought the expansion would be a positive thing for Ormond Beach.

Commissioner Boehm stated that he met with Dr. Brown and Museum Director Susan Richmond. He noted that he liked public-private partnerships, but stated that they needed some figures and concrete ideas. He stated that once a project was designed and engineered, they would have a better idea of the reality of it.

Commissioner Selby noted that they met with him as well. He stated that his understanding was that they had some concerns about their lease, which was for a one-year term.

Ms. Shanahan stated that City Attorney Randy Hayes had spoken with their attorney. He explained that their issue had been that a short term lease would prohibit them from issuing debt or applying for a Volusia County ECHO Grant, as they did not have long term custody of the property. She noted that engineering staff had also been working with the art museum to help them understand how they could plan the project and receive grant funds.

Commissioner Selby noted that he believed there had been some discussion of modifying the windows which faced Granada Boulevard on the existing building. He stated that he was confident that they did not want to get rid of those, noting that those same types of windows had been a part of the MacDonald House discussion.

Commissioner Kent stated that he felt those windows were beautiful and he liked them.

Transportation Lobbyist

Commissioner Kent stated that he had a good conversation that day with Ms. Maryam Ghyabi, discussing the amount of money in the city's FDOT district. He noted that it was staggering to hear some of the numbers. He stated that they discussed something that he felt was important enough for him to bring to the Commission. He noted that the city had a lobbyist in Tallahassee, Mr. Doug Bell. He stated that the idea was to engage a second lobbyist for transportation issues and funding only. He noted that they could give that individual six to eight months, or a year, and see what they could do on the city's behalf. He explained that they could not continue on with it if the lobbyist did not perform. He stated that there were huge amounts of funding available. He noted that after speaking to Ms. Ghyabi, he believed the city could be successful if they had someone advocating on the city's behalf who knew the system and the channels to go through.

Ms. Shanahan stated that she believed the main areas they were discussing were the US-1 corridor and the Interstate 95 interchange; whereby, Commissioner Kent agreed.

Commissioner Kent stated that when he spoke to Ms. Ghyabi he learned about the funds that FDOT had to spend in the district. He noted that Ms. Ghyabi questioned why they were not changing things if they had not been particularly successful in that area in the past. He stated that he would be in favor of going out to bid for a transportation lobbyist in Tallahassee.

Commissioner Boehm asked Ms. Shanahan if she had a decent relationship with the local FDOT district. He asked if it was necessary to go above their head. He noted that the city had received several million dollars in landscaping funds through FDOT in recent years.

Ms. Shanahan explained that the frustration was that the US-1 interchange was crucial to the city's economic development in that corridor. She stated that that area had a worse accident history than the LPGA Boulevard interchange, but the LPGA Boulevard interchange was receiving funding first. She noted that there were funds available, but the city needed the horsepower to get them.

Commissioner Boehm stated that that interchange had been an issue for a long time, with little real movement on it. He asked whether the federal government become involved when it concerned Interstate 95, or if they left it all up to the state.

Ms. Shanahan stated that she did not have an answer about that. She explained that there had been an interchange justification report and an interchange modification report performed. She noted that she believed that FDOT had some study dollars available for looking at that. She explained that the real barrier to improve in that location had been the purchasing of the right-of-way. She noted that there was some of that right-of-way which she would probably like to see purchased, so that it was not what existed there presently. She stated that the city received a lot of police calls for center areas around that interchange. She noted that the right-of-way only become more expensive as time went on.

Commissioner Selby stated that as Security First Insurance moved in, and Ormond Crossings developed, all of the US-1 frontage would change and go into play. He noted that higher value projects would be built there. He noted that the acquisition of those

would be very expensive. He stated that now was the time to work on that. He suggested also working on the Hand Avenue extension. He explained that Latitude Margaritaville would be booming; noting that it now had 90,000 to 100,000 people registered on their website. He noted that he heard Daytona Beach City Manager Jim Chisholm say that he thought that 600 to 900 homes could be built as quickly as within five years. He stated that Ormond Beach would get the brunt of the traffic from that development going to the ocean. He noted that anyone living in there would head out to State Road (SR) 40 if they wanted to get to the coast. He stated that he knew the development was building its own beach club and would have a shuttle for it.

Commissioner Boehm noted that that beach club was to be located in Ormond-by-the-Sea.

Commissioner Selby stated that if those residents wanted to go have dinner and drinks by the ocean, or not use the shuttle, they would be heading down SR 40 to get there. He noted that it would generate a lot of traffic. He stated that if the city were to engage a transportation lobbyist, he would also like to see them advocate for alternate east-west routes such as the extension of Hand Avenue.

Ms. Shanahan stated that a lot of local residents presently now used Hand Avenue as an alternative because Granada Boulevard had a lot of traffic.

Commissioner Boehm noted that both Daytona Beach and Volusia County seemingly had no plan to address the traffic impacts from that development. He stated that LPGA Boulevard was a disaster in waiting. He noted that they were permitting a development which would have an incredible number of people, but was just connected to a two-lane road. He stated that there were no plans to widen the road; noting that those entities claimed to not have any funding to do so. He noted that Williamson Boulevard also needed to be widened. He stated that he agreed with Commissioner Kent that if there was some specific help they could get, he would be in favor of seeking it.

Ms. Shanahan stated that she would explore adding a transportation lobbyist.

Mayor Partington noted that Commissioner Kent suggested keeping them on a rather short leash at first. He suggested trying them for a year and seeing how it went. He explained that he was comfortable with having them focus on the US-1 and Interstate 95 interchange area for the first year. He further explained that he was not sure that he wanted to wade into the issue of Hand Avenue yet, as he saw bigger issues on the horizon with Daytona Beach over the Minto project. He noted that he was not sure he wanted to give up the bargaining chip of agreeing to extend Hand Avenue just yet. He stated that there were water rights in that area which there had been significant battles in the past over which led to multi-year litigation, noting that what the city received had not been particularly great for them. He stated that he could see in the future where it would be necessary to address Hand Avenue, but he was unsure of going there presently.

Commissioner Kent stated that Mayor Partington brought up a valid point. He noted that he was pleased that Mayor Partington reminded them of some of the truly historic meetings that the city had had with Daytona Beach.

Ms. Shanahan stated that she believed there were different pools of money for the interchange and the extension.

Mayor Partington noted that he believed that Daytona Beach's predictions were wildly fantastic. He stated that he thought there was adequate time to work on the issues.

Ms. Shanahan stated that if a Request for Proposals (RFP) was to be issued for transportation lobbying services, it would come back to the Commission for review and approval.

Septic & Sewer on the North Peninsula

Commissioner Selby stated that he and staff had been doing some research on the issue of changing septic systems to sewer on the north peninsula. He noted that he believed the white paper regarding that had been previously shared with the Commission. He stated that he also believed that the Commission had previously received copies of the health department study of all of the septic systems in the county. He explained that in it, the health department had divided the north peninsula into three different sections and those accounted for three of the top-five such areas in the entire county. He stated that high scores indicated where sewer conversion was most necessary. He noted that those areas actually saw their scores lowered because of their access to municipal water. He stated that if the municipal water access scoring was removed, the three north peninsula areas would be the top-three areas in the county needing sewer. He noted that there was no question about how poor the situation was.

Commissioner Selby stated that this was an environmental issue and impacted the water quality of the Intracoastal Waterway. He noted that even a property operated septic tank would not remove nitrogen. He explained that nitrates were what caused algae blooms and did the most harm to the environment. He stated that the first phase of the conversion would impact 700 homes of the 5,000 to 6,000 on the north peninsula which were on septic tanks. He stated that he would like to see the city begin the process of funding the design for the project so that it could be shovel-ready. He noted that then they could talk to the other players who would be involved in funding it with certainty of the commitment needed.

Commissioner Kent stated that he was in favor of getting rid of every septic tank possible in the community. He noted that at one point, according to former Mayor Ed Kelley, the septic issue had been the sticking point with why Ormond-by-the-Sea residents did not want to be incorporated into the Ormond Beach city limits. He explained that due to the cost associated with transferring to a sewer line, those residents voted against coming into the city. He noted that they discussed creative ways to add the expense onto the city's utility bills over a long period, but the city was still not getting traction with them. He asked how much the conversion would cost.

Ms. Shanahan noted that she could not recall off the top of her head; noting that she believed the first phase would cost about \$6 million, and so the entire project would probably be around \$25 or \$30 million.

Mayor Partington asked whether that included hooking the residents up; whereby, Ms. Shanahan replied that the \$6 million would not. She noted that there were costs associated with impact fees and private connections to utility systems. She stated that it would be about \$1,000 to \$1,500 per home.

Commissioner Kent stated that he was in favor of it, but concerned with spending money on something that the city may end up spinning their wheels on because the other

parties that needed to be involved were not interested. He stated that if he had a better feeling that the other parties wanted to participate, he would be more inclined to do so. He noted that the environmental impacts were horrendous. He stated that he understood it could devolve into a 'chicken or egg' scenario, as some of the other parties involved might not feel comfortable until they knew the city was fully invested. He noted that he could be convinced to spend money on the issue, but reiterated that his concern was doing so only to be rebuked by the other parties involved.

Commissioner Boehm noted that this discussion had been had before. He stated that he remembered former Assistant City Manager and Public Works Director Ted MacLeod quoting a figure of \$25 million for the conversion of the north peninsula. He noted that he was in agreement with Commissioner Selby's remarks about the environmental impact. He stated that any septic tank which had been in place for 30 or 40 years was probably leaking out of the bottom and the owner would have no idea. He stated that his concern on this issue, as on many others, was that the county did not seem to care about what happened to that area. He noted that they did not seem to care what happened to Ormond Beach; explaining that Ormond-by-the-Sea was unincorporated county territory and those septic tanks were located there. He stated that they had no plan to do anything up there. He noted that he read that they were concerned about the environment as it related to the Indian River Lagoon south of New Smyrna Beach because Volusia County Vice Chair and District 3 Councilwoman Deborah Denys did a better job of arguing her case about that area than anyone had ever done for the Ormond Beach area.

Commissioner Boehm asked what the design would cost. He noted that this may be another case of the city doing the county's work for them, just like getting midblock crossings installed on A1A and mowing on Clyde Morris Boulevard. He stated that the county was not doing anything for Ormond Beach and was instead letting Ormond Beach do things that the county should be doing itself.

Commissioner Selby stated that the first phase involved basically rebuilding all of the roads in the area. He noted that sewer went down the middle of the roads and had to be placed deep below grade. He stated that that would cost several million dollars itself. He explained that he thought that that was what they should ask the county to fund. He suggested that this could be a joint venture. He stated that he believed that someday the light would come on and Ormond-by-the-Sea residents would realize they should be Ormond Beach residents. He stated that if the issues of annexation and sewer were grouped together, he believed it would be dead on arrival. He noted that he believed there were enough people who were anti-annexation that would just believe the sewer conversion was a ploy to force annexation. He stated that he believed they should just focus on the single more important issue, which was the environmental impact of septic.

Commissioner Selby addressed the cost of the engineering and stated that Utilities Manager Dave Ponitz guessed it to be approximately \$500,000 for the full design. He noted that a conceptual design could be explored for significantly less money, perhaps \$100,000. He stated that a conceptual design would be enough to show other parties and solidify some construction figures. He stated that it was also important to recognize that once those plans were created, they would have a very long shelf life. He noted that topography did not change.

Commissioner Boehm asked where the funding would come from specifically; whereby, Ms. Shanahan suggested letting staff determine that during the budget process so they could explore different options.

Commissioner Kent asked if any grants would be available; whereby, Commissioner Selby replied that St. John's River Water Management District (SJRWMD) would fund one-third of the cost of the construction up to \$2 million. He noted that of the \$6 million mentioned for phase one, they could get \$2 million from SJRWMD. He explained that the state of Florida funded five projects around the state the previous year, with the state putting in between \$500,000 and \$1 million for those. He noted that they were not vetoed by the Governor. He stated that he knew those funds would be tougher to receive in the coming year as the emphasis was on hurricane preparedness or hurricane response.

Commissioner Kent stated that he believed recalling that around 16 years ago the state completely funded Arroyo Parkway. He noted that residents living contiguously to Ormond Beach could request sewer services and annex into the city. He stated that some of those annexations had happened on John Anderson Drive and Plaza Drive. He explained that those property owners realized that some on the north peninsula did not, was that their taxes and water bill would decrease as Ormond Beach residents.

Commissioner Selby stated that he thought that they would figure that out over time. He suggested that if that was part of the discussion surrounding the septic conversion, he believed some would quit listening just because annexation was brought up.

Commissioner Kent noted that he met a lot of people who lived on the north peninsula who were shocked to discover that they were not residents of Ormond Beach.

Mayor Partington asked what percentage of the 700 homes in the initial phase was likely to take advantage of the conversion.

Ms. Shanahan stated that all of them would have to participate. She noted that the specifics would have to be worked out; explaining that she would have to discuss things like assessments with the City Attorney since those were not city residents. She stated that if the Commission was interested in the idea, the design could be performed and still sit on a shelf. She noted that the septic to sewer conversion had been in the city's long term master plan for many years.

Commissioner Selby stated that someone told him that once sewer was available, the health department could essentially force properties to hook up to it within a year.

Ms. Shanahan noted that she believed the city presently had an ordinance which stated that if a property was within a certain amount of feet of sewer, then the property had to connect to it if it was available to them.

Commissioner Selby asked if the north peninsula was then exempt as it was not within city limits; whereby, Ms. Shanahan noted that the city did not have many customers like that. She stated that the city would need to assistance of the health department. She noted that people did not like to be coerced to do things.

Commissioner Selby stated that he did not foresee anyone fixing the problem other than the City of Ormond Beach. He noted that the North Peninsula Utilities District was not

going to do it; explaining that it was a modest operation which could not have 6,000 homes added to it. He stated that the county would not do it, leaving only Ormond Beach to fix the problem. He noted that he believed that ultimately the decision for most homeowners would come down to how much money they would have to put down and how much they would have to pay per month. He stated that a benefit to them would be the ability to use their entire property unrestricted; noting that they could even add pools. He stated that he was looking at how the connection to the sewer line could be funded, and then the property owners would pay monthly or annually for that.

Commissioner Kent stated that a lot of people lived paycheck to paycheck, and would need an option that did not involve putting money down upfront. He stated that there should also be an option to pay the whole cost in full upfront. He noted that he believed both options would be taken advantage of.

Commissioner Boehm asked if the county had to be a partner if the roads had to be rebuilt.

Commissioner Selby stated that he thought it would be crazy for the city to undertake the whole project itself. He noted that the county had to put some money in. He stated that the city's impact fees were \$2,647. He noted that the city would receive that from every home which connected. He stated that the city could charge 150 percent sewer rates for those residents, just like they were charged 150 percent of city resident rates for their water service.

Commissioner Kent stated that if this happened, it would be a huge win for Ormond Beach, Volusia County, the State of Florida, and the environment. He noted that Mayor Partington was a master at personal relationships who went to Tallahassee a few times a year on behalf of the city. He stated that any time Mayor Partington could bend the ear of Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam and Florida Senate President Jack Latvala about this problem; it would only help, particularly if either of those men was to be elected Governor.

Commissioner Boehm stated that he understood that Paul Renner was another individual to speak to, as he was to soon be Florida Speaker of the House in a future term. He noted that Florida Representative Tom Leek was supposedly close to him; noting that Representative Leek represented Ormond Beach.

Mayor Partington asked if a mini-study should be done or full engineering; whereby, Commissioner Boehm replied that he believed a mini-study should be undertaken first.

Mayor Partington asked if the study could be paid for out of the Wastewater Fund reserves; whereby, Ms. Shanahan suggested waiting until the budget process, but noted that there were funds that could be utilized.

Commissioner Selby stated that he believed the federal government was going to spend a trillion dollars on shovel-ready projects. He clarified that he did not believe it would all be federal funds, as he believed they would leverage private sector funds and other public sector funds. He stated that that encouraged him. He noted that the city would be better off if they were ready to receive some of that funding. He suggested that there would be a strong positive reaction to the project once the first phase was underway.

Commissioner Kent noted that there was a cost associated right now with septic tanks, as they could blow out or needed to be cleaned out. He stated that those were not cheap items to take care of, particularly if someone needed a new drain field. He asked whether a mini-study would be sufficient.

Commissioner Selby stated that he believed that was better than nothing. He explained that if the consensus was that this was something worth pursuing, he would be in favor of staff getting back to the Commission regarding the costs, funding source, and timing of a mini-study or full engineering. He noted that he did not want to discuss it with the county or anything before coming to the Commission.

Cassen Park

Commissioner Boehm stated that he felt that a breakwater needed to be put in, no matter what else happened in the Cassen Park area. He noted that a breakwater would better prepare the docks. He stated that money was going to be spent on a bathroom and the bait shop, and they needed to do what they could to protect them in the future. He noted that there had been flooding from Hurricane Irma. He stated that city property took almost a \$1 million hit in damage from the hurricane and needed to be protected. He noted that all that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) would fund is for them to rebuild in the existing footprint. He stated that they needed to creatively look at ways to protect that park from such future damage.

Commissioner Kent stated that he agreed wholeheartedly and was excited at the idea of a redesign making it better than it currently was. He noted that he was also excited to hear ideas from an engineering firm about what could be done. He stated that an individual over by Ormond Beach Middle School had to get the city's help to get funds from FEMA to raise his home, and subsequently did so. He noted that that made him think about the bait shop, which he felt needed to be raised up a few feet. He suggested letting FEMA fund that.

Ms. Shanahan stated that there were two pools of funding with FEMA. She explained that one was for repairs and one was for hazard mitigation. She noted that staff wanted to have a workshop with the Commission specifically about this issue. She stated that the city had been wonderfully successful in the past with regards to acquiring hazard mitigation funds; noting Hand Avenue and the Central Park Lake interconnects as examples of hazard mitigation funded projects. She explained that any time after a hurricane, the federal government set aside a certain percentage of the money they doled out for hurricanes for mitigating future damages. She noted that she believed that a breakwater, or something of that nature, may be eligible for those funds.

Commissioner Boehm stated that this was an opportunity to do something creative with that park and to save it.

Commissioner Kent noted that he was pleased that Ms. Shanahan mentioned the mitigation funds. He stated that that reminded him of when Mayor Partington, then Commissioner Partington, went out into the Central Park area after 35 inches of rain had fallen in three days in 2009, and the city had spent FEMA funds to connect the Central Park Lakes.

Ms. Shanahan stated that she would assume funds would be available for a breakwater as it would help mitigate damage.

Mayor Partington stated that the Ormond Yacht Club had an oyster bar serving as a breakwater, which had prevented some hurricane damage from waves.

Emergency Operations Center

Commissioner Boehm stated that the city's emergency operations center (EOC) was extremely inadequate. He noted that it was not really designed to cover hurricanes. He explained that it was in the wrong area, as it was located too close to the river and flood zones. He noted that city staff were sleeping on the floor and had nothing to make them even remotely comfortable. He stated that he did not have an answer as far as where to put it or what to do about it, but noted that it had been utilized the last two years for the hurricanes and was a tough place for employees to be. He explained that those employees that were there during hurricane events were the ones that the city deemed responsible for helping and saving the city. He noted that they did not have an adequate facility for that purpose.

Commissioner Kent stated that he thought that was a wonderful idea and agreed with Commissioner Boehm that the current location was not acceptable. He explained that his immediate thought was to locate it at Nova Recreation Center, back where a dog park was at one time going to be located. He noted that that area was high and dry enough.

Ms. Shanahan explained that she did not think she could puncture the membrane of the ground there, as it was a former landfill location. She noted that she could not dig into that; explaining that they would not have been able to put lights there for the dog park.

Commissioner Kent suggested that it could be located east of the old landfill.

Ms. Shanahan stated that staff could look into options if that was something that the Commission was interested in looking into.

Commissioner Littleton noted that he recalled that an EOC was suggested as a part of a west side recreation center project; whereby, Ms. Shanahan confirmed that it had been discussed. She noted that the feasibility study for that project was not yet complete.

Commissioner Boehm asked whether it would be possible to retrofit the field house at the Ormond Beach Sports Complex. He noted that it had the capacity for 350 people and was a new building.

Ms. Shanahan explained that the bathroom facilities there were limiting. She noted that there were two single bathrooms and no shower facilities.

Commissioner Kent stated that that could easily be fixed. He noted that he thought that was a good location.

Mayor Partington asked if the Senior Center was where families went; whereby, Ms. Shanahan stated that they went to the Performing Arts Center. Mayor Partington noted that he was not sure that was a safe location either; whereby, Ms. Shanahan noted that there had essentially been a moat around that building after the last hurricane.

Ms. Shanahan suggested that there might be FEMA funds available for an EOC type facility.

Mayor Partington stated that Florida Power & Light (FPL) used air-conditioning semi-trucks to allow their workers to sleep during hurricanes.

Ms. Shanahan noted that when she was in the panhandle, a trailer with bathroom facilities was brought in.

Commissioner Boehm stated that he did not even know how an air-conditioning semi-truck could fit near the police department, where the current EOC was.

Mayor Partington stated that discussing building a new police station might be an acceptable conversation to have; noting that moving it would free up space for commercial property in the city's downtown.

Commission Terms / Elections

Commissioner Boehm stated that the Ormond Beach City Commission was the only elected body in central Florida which did not have staggered terms; noting that the entire Commission could turn over at one time. He noted that Marilyn Crotty, Director of the Florida Institute of Government at the University of Central Florida, was baffled by that. He stated that he was aware that the voters voted down a measure to change that. He noted that he did not know whether it was worth exploring taking it to the voters again.

Commissioner Kent stated that it had been resoundingly voted down.

Commissioner Selby asked what the proposal was; whereby, Commissioner Kent stated that it had been for the Mayor to be a two-year term, with the Commissioners on stagger four-year terms.

Ms. Shanahan asked if there was a time when there were four-year terms; whereby, Commissioner Kent stated that there was.

Commissioner Boehm noted that he did not know whether they wanted to spend the money to put it on the ballot or not.

Commissioner Boehm stated that before 2009, the Commission's municipal elections were held in odd years. He noted that he recalled the Volusia County Supervisor of Elections telling the city that they could save \$30,000 or so by putting them in even years. He stated that in his own experience, when a Commission candidate was running in a general election year, they would get buried. He noted that a lot of times individuals would not even get to the municipal part of the ballot. He stated that municipal candidates were buried and could not compete. He noted that parties were out spreading party messages in those election cycles about issues that they did not deal with on a municipal level. He stated that he brought all that up to suggest possibly considering going back to odd year elections.

Commissioner Kent stated that that was a tough sell for him. He noted that there was an under vote, but noted that the voter turnaround was much higher in Senate and Presidential election years.

Commissioner Boehm noted that he did not have an opponent in the last election, but that Commissioner Selby and Commissioner Littleton had to deal with campaigning. He asked if they had any thoughts on it.

Commissioner Kent asked Commissioner Boehm how long he had gone without an opponent; whereby, Commissioner Boehm stated that he had not had one for the last three elections, or the last six years. Commissioner Kent noted that that was his record for a streak without an opponent.

Commissioner Littleton stated that he ran a very grassroots campaign. He noted that he thought that odd year elections would benefit him greatly, because of his campaign style. He stated that those who could raise a lot of money might not want to do odd year elections.

Commissioner Littleton noted that he had spoken to Ms. Shanahan about what Ms. Crotty had said about their terms. He explained that he had not broached the subject with the Commission because he knew some people might be running for other offices. He stated that he was comfortable with four-year staggered terms, but felt that there had to be term limits if there were four-year terms. He noted that the current members could be grandfathered in, or there could be a three term limit – effectively allowing someone to serve for 12 years.

Commissioner Kent asked why there would need to be term limits for four-year terms; whereby, Commissioner Littleton stated that the power would be too much.

Commissioner Kent stated that if the citizens did not want someone in office, they would vote them out. He noted that when he spoke to citizens while advocating for four-year terms, they told him that they were comfortable with two-year terms and reelecting him based upon the job he was doing. He asked how he could argue with that.

Commissioner Selby noted that he looked at the under vote and was surprised that it was not that great. He stated that it was five or six percent in his zone. He explained that he was surprised it was even that high, which he thought was pretty minimal. He noted that he thought that voters in Ormond Beach would be informed and vote for their local Commissioner. He explained that he thought those who voted for national elections and not municipal ones were probably individuals who did not research the local elections and thus chose not to vote at all. He stated that he thought it would be difficult to convince citizens that it was a good idea to spend more money in order to have odd year elections.

Commissioner Boehm stated that while the electorate might not like it, he believed they could decide to move from even back to odd without an election being held.

Commissioner Selby noted that he believed the Commission would be criticized for doing that.

Commissioner Kent stated that he and Mayor Partington had both voted to go over to even year elections when it happened, and did so because of the money it would save.

Commission Compensation

Commissioner Boehm stated that there had never been a uniform pay raise for the Commission. He explained that he believed that the Commissioners' annual salary should be increased to \$15,000, and the Mayor's annual salary should increase to \$20,000. He noted that presently it the salaries were \$12,000 and \$15,000, respectively. He stated that the Mayor did a tremendous amount of additional work. He noted that the

total cost of doing that was about \$17,000. He stated that the Commission served as public servants and did not do it for the money. He explained that the city was growing, the budget was growing, and the responsibilities were growing. He noted that he did not feel strongly, but explained that he could not recall the last time it was even seriously discussed. He stated that the Commission members in Daytona Beach were paid three times what Ormond Beach Commissioners were paid.

Commissioner Kent noted that the Commission had voted to take a ten percent salary reduction back when the economy was in poor condition. He stated that they took that hit when city employees were not getting raises to show that they were in solidarity with them.

Commissioner Kent noted that he did not recall voting to rectify that; whereby, Ms. Shanahan explained that it had been rolled into the budget.

Commissioner Kent stated that he supported the idea of \$15,000 for the Commissioners and \$20,000 for the Mayor. He stated that it would be difficult to attract as many good people to serve on the Commission, which was a voluntary position, if the compensation was not adequate.

Commissioner Selby asked if the city had a Charter Review Committee; whereby, Commissioner Kent replied that one had met recently.

Ms. Shanahan stated that one put together about every ten years; whereby, Ms. Colby Cilento, Assistant City Clerk, indicated that the last one was convened in 2012.

Commissioner Selby asked if the timing was established in the charter; whereby, Mayor Partington and Ms. Shanahan replied that they thought it was just historically established.

Commissioner Boehm noted that there was never any discussion about what the Commission was paid.

Commissioner Kent stated that raises had been given to the city's employees. He stated that he agreed that a salary adjustment was needed. He noted that some would be unhappy to hear that, but others that would be astonished that the Commission served for \$15,000.

Mayor Partington noted that the Commission received small increases; whereby, Ms. Shanahan explained that the Commission's salary was generally adjusted by the same rate as the general employees' salaries were. She noted that that amounted to about three percent in the last couple of years, but there were many years where there had not been adjustments.

Commissioner Boehm stated that the city had grown, the agendas and work involved have grown, but the salaries had not been adjusted. He suggested making an adjustment once in a while if needed. He noted that Daytona Beach and Port Orange Commissioners were paid higher salaries, and that Ormond Beach's Commissioner salaries were more in line with Holly Hill.

Commissioner Kent asked if anyone else was in agreement with Commissioner Boehm's suggestion; noting that he was.

Commissioner Littleton stated that he felt like Ormond Beach was probably one of the most liberal city governments with regards to paying for the Commission's meals. He noted that he did not believe that Holly Hill paid for its Commission's meals and he thought that Volusia County Councilmembers had to pay for banquets they attended. He stated that in light of that, he was not quite in favor of increasing their salaries. He stated that if there was a comparison done, and the city's policy on meals was not as liberal as he thought it was, then he would be.

Ms. Shanahan noted that she felt that Ormond Beach's policies were pretty much in line with their sister cities. She stated that it was the same as the reimbursement for employees. She noted that she felt that paying for Florida League of Cities and the like was acceptable as it was part of the normal course of business of being a Commissioner.

Commissioner Littleton stated that a referendum in the last election about gas expenses for the Volusia County Council had failed; noting that he had actually been supportive of it because it cost a lot of money to drive around the county.

Commissioner Boehm stated that he was talking about paying five people a total of \$80,000 between them; noting that those five individuals oversaw a budget of \$78 million.

Commissioner Selby stated that he would love to have more information, such as an area wide pay and perk study. He noted that he did not know that being a Commissioner was a paid job initially.

Mayor Partington noted that, as Commissioner Littleton mentioned, county officials had just been seeking reimbursement for their millage for driving all over the county. He stated that it was a little shocking that voters would not grant them that.

Commissioner Littleton asked if the Commission was reimbursed for gas millage; whereby, Ms. Shanahan replied that they were not.

Mayor Partington stated that there was a vehicle and cell phone allowance. He noted that he had met individuals who served in cities of similar size to Ormond Beach who did not receive a salary.

Commissioner Boehm stated that Mayor Partington should determine how much he was paid per hour for all that he did.

Mayor Partington suggested that he thought the pay ranges were closer to what Commissioner Boehm was suggesting than they may even realize, once everything was added up. He stated that he did not think that a discussion about increasing the Commission's salaries would go over well publicly.

Commissioner Kent stated that he had always told himself that once he left the Commission, he would come back six months later and tell the new Commission that they were grossly underpaid for what they did. He stated that he understood Mayor Partington and Commissioner Littleton's position. He noted that he felt strongly enough about it that he felt he could debate anyone in the community who had an issue with the adjustment and could advocate for it.

Commissioner Littleton asked if changing the elections to staggered terms or adding term limits would have to go to a referendum for the voters to decide; whereby, Ms. Shanahan replied that she believed it would. She noted that there were some things in the charter that could be changed by ordinance, but she did not believe term limits was one.

Commissioner Littleton asked if that the Commission could go to staggered terms without it going to voters; whereby, Ms. Shanahan replied that she believed so but would have to check with the City Attorney.

Commissioner Boehm stated that if the Commission were to vote to adjust their salaries, they could explain that the Mayor spent 500 hours of the year working as Mayor, and the Commissioners spent 300 hours working as Commissioners, and their salaries would be adjusted by \$5,000 and \$3,000, respectively. He noted that he really did not think that the electorate in Ormond Beach would go too crazy about that – particularly if they disclosed that there had not been such an adjustment in 14 years or more. He stated that he did not think that there would be any outcry about that.

Mayor Partington asked Ms. Shanahan to provide the Commission with data from comparable cities; whereby, Commissioner Selby asked for an area-wide study of other cities' compensation. He asked when one was last performed; whereby, Ms. Cilento replied that one was done in 2012 for the Charter Review Committee.

Ms. Whitley noted that when the Pay and Classification Plan was reviewed by consultants a year prior, they also researched salaries.

Commissioner Boehm asked if they could determine when the last time the Commission had their salaries adjusted.

Commissioner Selby agreed that an actual history of adjustments would be helpful.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Transcribed by: Colby Cilento