

The Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Panama City Beach, Florida, and when permitted or required by the subject matter, the Panama City Beach Community Redevelopment Agency, held on September 14, 2017.

**ROLL**

**MAYOR MIKE THOMAS**

**COUNCILORS:**

**JOHN REICHARD  
JOSIE STRANGE  
PHIL CHESTER  
HECTOR SOLIS**

**CITY MANAGER:**

**MARIO GISBERT**

**DEPUTY CITY CLERK:**

**JO SMITH**

**CITY ATTORNEY:**

**AMY MYERS**

Mayor Thomas called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. with all Council members, City Manager, Deputy City Clerk and City Attorney present.

Shaddai Shrine Temple Recorder Phil D'Albertis gave the invocation and Councilman Chester led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor announced the upcoming Community Events. Mr. Skip Stoltz announced the upcoming Beach Care Services benefit dinner at Spinnaker on October 17<sup>th</sup> and invited everyone.

The Minutes of the Regular Meetings of August 10 and August 24, 2017 were read and approved as written per motion by Councilman Reichard. Second was by Councilman Chester. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:

<b>Councilwoman Strange</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Solis</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Reichard</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Chester</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Thomas</b>	<b>Aye</b>

Mayor Thomas asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda. There were none. Councilman Reichard made the motion to approve the Agenda as prepared. Second was by Councilman Solis and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:

<b>Councilwoman Strange</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Solis</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Reichard</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Chester</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Thomas</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**PRESENTATIONS**

**1 BOYS & GIRLS CLUB CIVIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD.** Councilman Chester introduced Ms. Taylor Ballew and presented her with the Civic Achievement Award for exemplary service to the Beach Boys and Girls Club. He then congratulated Taylor and presented with a bag from the Council. Ms. Latina Reed presented Taylor with a gift card donated by a local business. The audience responded with applause.

**2 SHADDAI SHRINE TEMPLE MEMBERS.** Shaddai Shrine Temple members Bill Castor and Phil D' Albertis spoke of the contributions of the Shaddai Shriners and their support for the burn hospital. They also thanked the Council for their support in closing the roads for the annual Fall Ceremonial Parade.

**3 INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP AT RUSSELL-FIELDS PIER 9/16/17 AND BAY COUNTY AUDUBON BEGINNERS BIRD WALK AT PCB CONSERVATION PARK 9/23/17.** Ms. Jennifer Toll, assistant to Mr. Dale Colby, explained the purposes of the International Coastal Cleanup and the Bay County Audubon Beginners Bird Walk, and invited the public to attend.

**4 FDOT PRESENTATION REGARDING PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY (PD&E) FOR THE PARKWAY FROM MANDY LANE TO THOMAS DRIVE.** The Mayor invited Ms. Suzanne Lex to the podium, joined by Mr. Rudy Gotmare, project manager, to explain the capacity improvement project for the Parkway. Mr. Gotmare explained the future improvements and invited the public to the Public Hearing at the Lyndell Senior Center August 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:30 P.M.. Ms. Lex and Mr. Gotmare responded to numerous questions from the Council members concerning construction funds, the lengthy right-of-way acquisition process to obtain Federal funds, the project timeline, and the potential SIS corridor designation. Mayor Thomas explained his efforts in working with St. Joe and Secretary Phillip Gainer in expediting the project. Mr. Gisbert explained the partnership between St. Joe, the County and potentially FDOT in the construction of Bay Parkway to Nautilus.

#### **SCHEDULE HEARINGS**

**1 CONSIDER A HEIGHT INCENTIVE REQUEST FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 13623 AND 13626 FRONT BEACH ROAD.**

**2 APPEAL OF A LARGE-SITE DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 13623 AND 13626 FRONT BEACH ROAD.** Ms. Myers explained that the City Council had the final approval for the Height Incentive Request and the notices needed fifteen days. She stated it was also tied to the Appeal Item #2, both procedural matters. Mr. Gisbert suggested October 12, 2017 at 4:00 P.M. to hear both items before the regular 6:00 P.M. City Council meeting. There were no objections.

**3 PLANNING BOARD DENIAL OF VARIANCE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 502 PETREL.** Ms. Myers said the applicants had waived their 45 day requirement and asked for a later Hearing date. Mr. Gisbert suggested November 9, 2017 at 5:00 P.M. before the regular 6:00 P.M. City Council meeting. There were no objections.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS (Consent and Regular Items only)**

The Mayor opened the Public Comments portion of the meeting at 6:39 P.M. and reminded that the speakers were limited to three minutes.

**1 Ms. Lorraine Lechner, 127 Biltmore Place.** Ms. Lechner spoke of her opposition to the water rate increase and gave her reasons. She stated she just opened a small retail business and questioned the amount of the store's first water bill as compared to her home billing.

**2 Mr. Burnie Thompson, 8317 Front Beach Road.** Mr. Thompson questioned the misrepresenting residency Ordinance and how addresses would be checked. He entered a Public Records Request email into the record concerning HTS Ventures and made comments concerning Resolution 17-133.

**3 Mr. Patrick Rietkerk, 3648 Oakbrook Lane.** Mr. Rietkerk thanked the Aquatic Center swimming lessons organizer Ms. Suzanne and suggested reinstating the voluntary contribution to the Parks on the water bills. He said he felt they were part of this community because they used our facilities and paid sales taxes.

**4 Ms. Genese Hatcher, 203 South Wells Street.** Ms. Hatcher stated she would make her comments at the end of the meeting concerning her 3 story home.

**5 Mr. Peter Fischetti, 308 Tarpon Street.** Mr. Fischetti questioned only allowing two hours for the Height Incentive Request and Appeal, and if all speakers who attend would be able to speak. Ms. Myers said the Height Incentive would be a Public Hearing and open to everyone. Regarding the Appeal, it may be somewhat limited to the adversely affected parties. Mr. Fischetti said there would be a presentation made during the Appeal, not just a few people talking. He suggested starting the Hearing at 2:00 P.M. instead or place the Hearing on a different date not to conflict with the regular City Council meeting. With no further comments, the Public Comments were closed at 6:49 P.M.

Mayor Thomas asked Mr. Shortt to respond to Ms. Lechner's comments. Mr. Shortt said generally a single-family residence would be approximately \$18.00 per month and a commercial meter would be approximately \$28.00 per month. There was a difference in the base meter charges but the cost per 1000 gallons was the same for everyone. Mayor Thomas asked Ms. Lechner to meet with Mr. Shortt and discuss her billing.

6 Mr. Jim Smith, 506 Tarpon Street. Mr. Smith asked when reclaimed water would be piped down to Front Beach Road. Mayor Thomas said an answer would be made at the next meeting.

Ms. Myers responded to a question by Mr. Thompson that Florida law stated there could only be one legal residence which was the person's abode.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Smith read the Consent Agenda items by title.

**1 RESOLUTION 17-127, DEWBERRY ENGINEERS TASK ORDER #2017-02 FOR GLADES/LAIRD BASIN STORMWATER FEASIBILITY STUDY.** "A Resolution of the City of Panama City Beach, Florida, approving Task Order #2017-02 to the Master Services Agreement with Dewberry Engineers, Inc., related to the Glades/Laird Basin Stormwater Feasibility Study in an amount of \$69,925 to be paid by both City and County as more particularly set forth in the body of the Resolution."

**2 RESOLUTION 17-132, "PIRATES OF THE HIGH SEAS FESTIVAL" ROAD CLOSURES.** "A Resolution of the City of Panama City Beach related to the "Pirates of the High Seas Festival"; authorizing closure of portions of L.C Hilton Jr. Drive, Sea Monkey Way, Longboard Way, and Pier Park Drive on October 6 and 7, 2017, for the Event; and authorizing temporary closure of a portion of Powell Adams Road and the temporary usage of a portion of Front Beach Road on October 7 to permit the Event's Parade."

**3 RESOLUTION 17-134, "IRONMAN FLORIDA TRIATHLON" ROAD USAGE.** "A Resolution of the City of Panama City Beach, Florida, related to the "Ironman Florida Triathlon"; authorizing extraordinary traffic control on portions of South Thomas Drive, Thomas Drive, Surf Drive, Front Beach Road, West Pier Park Drive, Pier Park Drive, Bay Parkway and SR 79 on Friday, November 3, 2017 and Saturday, November 4, 2017 for the Event as more particularly set forth in the body of the Resolution".

Councilwoman Strange made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Second was by Councilman Chester and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Strange	Aye
Councilman Solis	Aye
Councilman Reichard	Aye
Councilman Chester	Aye
Mayor Thomas	Aye

### **REGULAR AGENDA- DISCUSSION/ACTION**

**1 ORDINANCE 1428, UPDATING SIGN CODE, 2<sup>ND</sup> READING, PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION.** Ms. Myers read Ordinance 1428 by title. Mayor Thomas opened the Public Hearing at 6:55 P.M. and asked if there were any questions.

Ms. Genese Hatcher asked how this would apply to VRBOs with different zonings and her thoughts that the signs should be the same size. With no further questions, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing at 6:57 P.M.

Mr. Leonard explained this Ordinance would standardize the non-commercial signs. He said the sizes were different in the various zoning districts and signs in Residential zoning were typically smaller. The Mayor asked if there were further questions and there were none. Councilman Solis made the motion to approve Ordinance 1428. Second was by Councilman Reichard and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Strange	Aye
Councilman Solis	Aye
Councilman Reichard	Aye
Councilman Chester	Aye
Mayor Thomas	Aye

**2 RESOLUTION 17-118, NUISANCE ABATEMENT ASSESSMENT FINAL ASSESSMENT RESOLUTION, PUBLIC HEARING.** Ms. Myers read Resolution 17-118 by title and confirmed the total assessment was \$10,361.29 for the six parcels. The Mayor opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 P.M. and called for questions or comments. There were none. He closed the Public Hearing at 7:00 P.M. Councilman Reichard

made the motion to approve Resolution 17-118. Second was by Councilman Chester and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Strange	Aye
Councilman Solis	Aye
Councilman Reichard	Aye
Councilman Chester	Aye
Mayor Thomas	Aye

**3 RESOLUTION 17-120, STORMWATER SERVICES ASSESSMENT FINAL ASSESSMENT RESOLUTION, PUBLIC HEARING.** Ms. Myers said a revised copy had been placed at each Council seat and read Resolution 17-120 by title. She identified the revisions, indicating some language in the methodology of the assessment had been clarified. She said the fundamental philosophy of the program remained the same. The Mayor called for questions.

Councilwoman Strange asked if this meant a \$79 assessment for a single-family home even if not in a flood zone, and Ms. Myers replied yes. With no further questions, the Mayor opened the Public Hearing at 7:02 P.M.

Mr. Burnie Thompson asked if the fees would be raised if funds had not been moved for the new City Hall, if it impacted non-residents, and if ZHA did the Stormwater Rate Study. Ms. Myers said the Stormwater Assessment only applied to City residents. Mayor Thomas replied to Mr. Thompson's questions as yes, no, and no. With no further questions, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:05 P.M. **Councilman Solis made the motion to approve Resolution 17-120. Second was by Councilman Reichard and the motion passed by majority roll call vote recorded as follows:**

Councilwoman Strange	Nay
Councilman Solis	Aye
Councilman Reichard	Aye
Councilman Chester	Aye
Mayor Thomas	Aye

**4 ORDINANCE 1419, AMENDING POLICE OFFICERS' PENSION PLAN REGARDING BENEFIT IMPROVEMENTS, 1<sup>ST</sup> READING.** Ms. Myers read Ordinance 1419 by title. The Mayor asked if there were any questions and there were none. **Councilwoman Strange made the motion to approve Ordinance 1419. Second was by Councilman Chester and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

Councilwoman Strange	Aye
Councilman Solis	Aye
Councilman Reichard	Aye
Councilman Chester	Aye
Mayor Thomas	Aye

**5 ORDINANCE 1424, WATER, SEWER, AND RECLAIMED WATER 2017-2018 RATE INCREASE, 1<sup>ST</sup> READING.** Ms. Myers read Ordinance 1424 by title. The Mayor called for questions. Councilwoman Strange asked how the utility rate increase would affect the average homeowner. Councilman Solis said it would be less than \$.80 based on the charts provided. Mr. Gisbert added that the City had the lowest water rate in the County. Councilwoman Strange said she did not believe the rates should be raised every year. Councilman Solis asked when the last rate increase occurred and Ms. Myers replied two years ago. Councilman Solis said it was important for the citizens to know Panama City was 50% more, Lynn Haven 35% more, Mexico Beach 72% more, and Bay County 130% more than the City residents. **Councilman Solis made the motion to approve Ordinance 1424. Second was by Councilman Reichard and the motion passed by majority roll call vote recorded as follows:**

Councilwoman Strange	Nay
Councilman Solis	Aye
Councilman Reichard	Aye
Councilman Chester	Aye
Mayor Thomas	Aye

**6 ORDINANCE 1430, WIRELESS FACILITIES IN PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAYS, 1<sup>ST</sup> READING.** Ms. Myers read Ordinance 1430 by title and stated it came with recommendation from legal staff in response to recent comprehensive legislation. She said staff felt the City maintained the authority to set the design, spacing and height requirements so this Ordinance set those design standards. Councilwoman Strange asked if the small cell towers were allowed in neighborhoods with HOAs. Ms. Myers said the Statute suggested that HOAs could set their own rules for the spacing requirements. **Councilman Chester made the motion to approve the Ordinance 1430. Second was by Councilman Solis and the motion passed by majority roll call vote recorded as follows:**

<b>Councilwoman Strange</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Councilman Solis</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Reichard</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Chester</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Thomas</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**7 ORDINANCE 1433, CAMPING ON THE BEACH, 1<sup>ST</sup> READING.** Ms. Myers read Ordinance 1433 by title and explained this regulation had existed since the City was formed, and the Police Department asked for clarification on the time window. Councilwoman Strange said she had asked for clarification from Chief Whitman if she would be stopped by the Police while walking her dogs at 2 A.M. Ms. Myers said it applied to everyone outdoors after 1 A.M. Councilman Reichard said this was not a curfew. **Councilman Reichard made the motion to approve Ordinance 1433. Second was by Councilman Solis and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

<b>Councilwoman Strange</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Solis</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Reichard</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Chester</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Thomas</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**8 PLANNING BOARD, CIVIL SERVICE BOARD, AND PENSION BOARDS APPOINTMENTS.** Mr. Gisbert said these were the appointments to the various boards. For the three Pension Boards, Ms. White was on Police Officers and Firefighters and Ms. Jenkins on the General Employees Board. **Councilman Solis made the motion to reappoint Ms. White and Ms. Jenkins. Second was by Councilman Chester and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

<b>Councilwoman Strange</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Solis</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Reichard</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Chester</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Thomas</b>	<b>Aye</b>

For the Planning Board, only one resident, Mr. David Scruggs, applied for the seat left vacant by the resignation of Mr. Craig Duran. **Councilman Reichard made the motion to appoint Mr. Scruggs to the Planning Board. Second was by Councilman Chester and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

<b>Councilwoman Strange</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Solis</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Reichard</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Chester</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Thomas</b>	<b>Aye</b>

For the Civil Service Board, two residents applied for the seat, current Board member Mr. Michael Jarman and retired City employee Mr. Michael Moring. **Councilman Chester made the motion to appoint Mr. Jarman to the Civil Service Board. Second was by Councilwoman Strange and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

<b>Councilwoman Strange</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Solis</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Reichard</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Chester</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Thomas</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**9 ORDINANCE 1431, MISREPRESENTING RESIDENCY, 1<sup>ST</sup> READING.** Ms. Myers read Ordinance 1431 by title. Councilwoman Strange asked about enforcement and proof required. Ms. Myers responded if there was a question of residency, a driver's license, voter registration or other tangible proof of residency would be requested. Councilwoman Strange mentioned this stemmed from only City residents being allowed to speak during the Council meeting. Ms. Myers said it also addressed disputes between two people claiming the same residence in a water billing dispute, and during an election with a challenge of qualification and residency. Regarding the Public Comment period, a driver's license would be requested if there was a question of residency, and if proof could not be provided, the speaker could be invited to address their comments to the Council via email or telephone. The Mayor called for further questions and there were none. **Councilman Solis made the motion to approve Ordinance 1431. Mayor Thomas passed the gavel to Vice-Mayor Strange and seconded the motion. She passed back the gavel and the motion failed by majority roll call vote recorded as follows:**

<b>Councilwoman Strange</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Councilman Solis</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Reichard</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Councilman Chester</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Mayor Thomas</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**10 RESOLUTION 17-133, DELEGATIONS/PUBLIC SPEAKING.** Ms. Myers read Resolution 17-133 by title and explained it codified the practice adopted at the last meeting, to limit the class of speakers for the second Public Comment period. She called it "delegations" to distinguish it from the first Public Comment period and explained the intention for Council to delegate a member of staff to follow up with the speaker if appropriate. Councilwoman Strange said the first Public Comment period was for Agenda Items and the second Public Comment period would be for non-Agenda Items and City business only. Ms. Myers replied affirmatively and that the speaker cards asked that the speaker prove that they lived in the City and were eligible to address the Council. She continued that the person could email or telephone the Council members if unable to speak. Councilman Reichard also questioned the 30 minutes time limit and Ms. Myers said the time could be extended by the Council. Councilman Reichard suggested changing the language that the time period could be extended by the moderator of the meeting versus the entire Council. **Councilman Reichard made the motion to approve Resolution 17-133 with the modification of the line "last no longer than 30 minutes subject to the discretion of the moderator or Chairman of the meeting". Second was by Councilman Solis and the motion passed by majority roll call vote recorded as follows:**

<b>Councilwoman Strange</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Councilman Solis</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Reichard</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Chester</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Thomas</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**11 ADDITIONAL LEGAL GOLF CART/ LSV CROSSING AT NAULITUS AND RICHARD JACKSON BLVD.** Councilwoman Strange said she had been contacted by residents in Breakfast Point and Seclusion about crossing the Parkway in their golf carts. Mr. Gisbert said FDOT had denied the request for the Nautilus intersection about a year, eighteen months ago. Councilwoman Strange asked if the request could be resubmitted. Regarding Breakfast Point, golf carts could not cross the Parkway because the speed limit changed. Chief Whitman confirmed the north part of Richard Jackson was 25 mph but South Richard Jackson was 35 mph. Councilwoman Strange mentioned the numerous requests by people wanting to take their golf carts onto Gayle's Trails. Chief Whitman said under the grant, no motorized vehicles were permitted. Councilwoman Strange suggested a study to see the cost of golf cart trails connecting the neighborhoods to relieve traffic congestion. Chief Whitman named the roads on which golf carts were outlawed and said any crossing of a State road would have to be approved by FDOT.

Chief Whitman said the City was golf cart friendly, with the Pier Park crossing used frequently but it was approved by the State. He said if a Study warranted a crossing at Nautilus, the traffic signal would not be modified because it was already longer due to pedestrian traffic. He opposed golf carts on Richard Jackson Blvd. He said LSVs could travel on Richard Jackson Blvd. because they could go 35mph.

Mayor Thomas said he opposed that idea because golf carts were not required to have insurance, fourteen year olds could drive the carts, and the City was asking FDOT to hurry the traffic yet asking them to allow slow vehicles to cross the roadway. He opposed the crossing. **Councilwoman Strange made the motion to direct Staff to prepare a Resolution of Support for just Nautilus for Council approval at a future meeting. Second was by Councilman Chester and the motion passed by majority roll call vote recorded as follows:**

<b>Councilwoman Strange</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Solis</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Councilman Reichard</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Chester</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Thomas</b>	<b>Nay</b>

**12 STANDARDIZATION OF PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS.** Councilwoman Strange said the City had received a lot of Public Records Requests and other cities had their rates posted on line. She suggested the fees be posted. Councilman Reichard said the emphasis would be providing the public service with the understanding that other residents should not pay for the request. Ms. Myers said this would not be a revenue raising scheme, though the Statute did allow for reimbursement of excessive service costs. Mr. Gisbert said the rate currently charged was 2 minutes per email, the first hour of labor free, and subsequent hourly rate at \$38.62 per hour. The hourly rate included benefits.

#### DELEGATIONS

Mayor Thomas read the language in full concerning delegations. that residents or tax-collectors, City employees, and water/sewer customers may address the Council after filling out a speaker card and speak for three minutes. Mayor Thomas asked if there were any speaker cards, and there were no speakers who had not already addressed the Council.

Mr. Cal Chester asked for clarification concerning Ordinance 1433, Camping on the Beach, on how far the coverage extended. Mayor Thomas said he would have Staff respond.

Mr. John Latham, 8727 Thomas Drive, said no law in Florida required an ID and mentioned freedom to travel.

Ms. Genese Hatcher mentioned the inspection of her homes which now prompted all three-story rental homes to have a sprinkler system and staircase from the top to the ground floor. She said it would affect all rental homes in the County with no exceptions. She mentioned videos of Edgewater Beach Resort and the Dunes of Panama without sprinklers, fire alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, and other safety items. She questioned when those properties would be inspected and required to be brought up to code. She mentioned hardships in requiring staircases and sprinklers for the entire County.

Mr. Matthew Bush, 170 Crane Street. Mr. Bush made comments about people not being allowed to speak and urged the Council to stop making new rules instead of enforcing the existing laws.

There were no further comments.

For the Attorney report, Ms. Myers said a property owner at 257 Lullwater had approached her with a request that the City abandon a drainage easement that crossed her property. The owner was attempting to sell the property and the easement was within the buildable footprint, and she asked that the easement be relocated to the property line. Ms. Myers said this easement was dedicated via Ordinance so it would take an Ordinance to relocate it. The property owner asked if the Council was willing to fasttrack the process. Mayor Thomas said he had no problem if the new easement was the same size. There were no objections.

Ms. Myers said she had also been asked to solicit a proposal for a Fire Assessment program from a team who had worked with her firm, the City, and other cities in the past. She said Attorney Mark Lawson and Ennead had been contacted, and they had prepared a good simple system for other cities. She said a proposal had been received this morning to start the process and deliver a product within 30 days which would give the Council sufficient information to decide whether to move forward with the Fire Assessment. Councilwoman Strange asked if this would be another tax and Ms.

Myers responded yes, it would be an assessment on the tax bill and confirmed the Fire Department received Impact Fees which could not be used for operating expenses. Mr. Gisbert said the City did not have the funds to hire the additional 12-16 Fire personnel to operate an additional Fire Station.

Councilman Reichard said almost all the other cities and Bay County already had a Fire Assessment and Mr. Gisbert said that was correct. He asked why could the City not use the proposal used by the County rather than pay for a new report. Mr. Gisbert said the Bay County study would not justify the City assessing a Fire Assessment. Ms. Myers said this arrangement with Ennead being involved meant that a lot of the data was already known since that firm did the City's Stormwater Assessment. This information was specific to the City, and the only information they did not have was the Fire budget needs. She said this team was also recommended by the Florida League of Cities for their straight forward approach. Ms. Myers said the team proposed a task with a not-to-exceed fee of \$25,000, and if the Council elected to move forward with the Assessment, future work would be credited against the \$25,000. She said she and the City Manager would like the Council's approval to start the process to get the product in 30 days. Councilman Chester said he approved the request because the City was growing. Councilwoman Strange said the City needed more Firefighters but not a new City Hall, and that she opposed a tax on the people. Councilman Solis approved moving forward. **Councilman Reichard made the motion to move forward with the Fire Assessment Study. Second was by Councilman Solis and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

<b>Councilwoman Strange</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Solis</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Reichard</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Chester</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Thomas</b>	<b>Aye</b>

Mr. Gisbert reported on the jobs available and the two open Bids posted on the website.

Chief Whitman responded to Mr. Chester about the law for Ordinance 1433, and that enforcement would be on the sandy beach and any City property. He said the law had been on the books since 1970 and the time would be from 1 A.M. to 7 A.M.

Councilman Solis and Councilwoman Strange had no comments.

Councilman Reichard said Edgewater Beach Resort had 1,000 units which each paid a minimum water bill monthly even though the unit may be vacant for most of the year. He said if there was a Fire Assessment, there would be 1,000 payments.

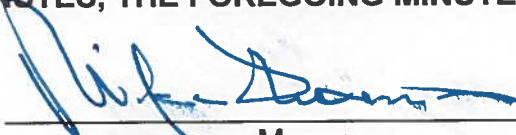
Councilman Chester said he had spoken with Chief Whitman about the Department sending officers to Tallahassee or Jacksonville. Chief Whitman said the Department was sending a group tomorrow morning at 5:00 A.M. to the Keys, and some were already in Tallahassee.

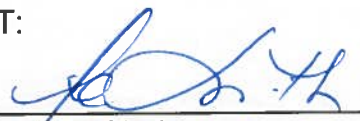
Mayor Thomas said the Veterans Memorial was 95% complete. He explained its new location and said Kilgore Pavers moved the bricks at the cost of the labor. Mr. Corky Denham did a magnificent job in moving the bricks without breaking anything. He continued that, in talking about the Police Department sending officers, that it would be hard not to feel blessed that Harvey or Irma had not hit our City.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

READ AND APPROVED this 28th of September, 2017.

**IN THE EVENT OF A CONFLICT BETWEEN THE FOREGOING MINUTES AND A VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF THESE MINUTES, THE FOREGOING MINUTES SHALL CONTROL.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy City Clerk