



City Council Worksession

Meeting Minutes – Planning Conference Room – 1st Floor

October 26, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

5:01PM

Mayor Stephen D. Murray III

Members of Council in attendance (Phil Cromer, Neil Lipsitz, Mike McFee, Mitch Mitchell, and Mayor Murray)

II. PRESENTATIONS

A. Downtown Marina Improvements Update - David Rogers, Safe Harbor.

Linda Roper, Downtown Operations and Community Services Director, introduced David Rogers, Regional Vice President, and Marc Bellatone, General Manager with Safe Harbor. He reported that Sun Communities merged with Safe Harbor in October 2020. With this merger, there were increased Capital Expenditure Funds that were available to be utilized. He went over some of the expenditures to date and what they were for. \$10,050.00 was spent on the installation of new Fire Extinguisher boxes and bringing others up to code. There were electrical upgrades on power pedestals, receptacles, and breakers for \$27,194.00. They also replaced 16 moorings in Phase 1 for \$124,500.00, and another 14 will be done in Phase II.

Mayor Pro Tem, McFee, inquired about the life expectancy of a mooring. Mr. Rogers stated that 7 years is a good estimate.

Councilman Cromer, asked about the type of wood being used for the decking. Mr. Rogers replied that they went back to pine. The goal, later on, will be to look for something more durable.

Mr. Rogers, stated that the primary purpose is to replace, reconfigure and expand an aging floating wet slip marina. The purpose-designed floating dock system will be outfitted with new, reliable, state of the art utilities. The existing gangway also must be updated as it is not ADA compliant. This will be corrected by installing an 8-foot wide, by 80-foot long, aluminum gangway.

Mr. Rogers went over the Big P Funding Award. This is a Tier II grant that was awarded in the amount of \$1,500,000.00. SCDNR will partner with Safe Harbor to construct 1,503 linear feet of new side-tie berthing and 8 wet slips that will be dedicated to transient vessels. The total replacement/expansion is \$7,572,192.00. Total Federal Funding and Match is \$3,924,963.00.

Councilman Cromer, asked about the angles on the proposed layout of the new dock. Mr. Rogers said that this is because of the tides and how they run. Mr. Bellantone added that this will also help protect the inner docks.

Mr. Rogers said that the anticipated completion of the work will be July 2023.

B. 2021-2022 Strategic Plan Update.

Reece Bertholf, Deputy City Manager, went over each section of the Strategic Plan and gave an update on the four key focus areas, A Safe and Vibrant City, Economic Development and Innovation, Growth and Natural Resources, and Organizational Excellence.

Of the 20 initiatives under A Safe and Vibrant City, 17 are in progress or accomplished. Of the 14 initiatives under Economic Development and Innovation, 11 are in progress or accomplished. Of the 9 initiatives under Manage Growth and Protect Natural Resources, all are in progress or accomplished, and of the 15 initiatives under Organizational Excellence, 13 are in progress or accomplished.

He then went over the completed percentages under each objective and initiative.

Councilman Cromer asked if under initiative 2.1, Complete inventory of needs of existing neighborhood parks, does this include an inventory of hazardous trees.

Bill Prokop, City Manager, said no, but Public Works has started generating a list.

Mayor Murray, inquired about the timeline on initiative 4.4, Create connectivity study of pedestrian/bike paths.

Bill Prokop, City Manager, stated Julianna Smith with Beaufort County will be giving a presentation on Beaufort County Connects during a worksession in November.

Mayor Murray stated that under initiative 7.1, Apply Beaufort Code to ensure balance land-use mix, he realizes that this is done on a daily basis. He stated that when the code was passed in 2017, that a commitment was made to bring code issues forward every six months for public discussion with stakeholders. There have not been many code changes brought forth or suggested. He would like to see this process started within the next six months.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Proposed Projects for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds.

Bill Prokop, City Manager, started off by stating that the city has received \$3,254,000.00 of the \$6,545,119.00 that is anticipated to be received. The remaining funds should be received in September 2022. All funds must be obligated on how they are to be spent by December 31, 2024. 100% of the funds must be spent by December 31, 2026. Mr. Prokop stated that the money can only be spent from a specified list that was provided.

Mayor Murray stated that the money has been placed in a bank account and that Council will be approving any expenditures. There will be public notice, and it will be a completely transparent process.

Kathy Todd, Finance Director, went over the proposed list of items. They were broken down into four categories. Public Health Emergency, Lost Revenue, Personnel, and Water/Sewer Infrastructure. Under Public Health Emergency, included in this category, is \$40,425.00 for Paramedic and Advanced Emergency Medical Technician Training, and \$1,000,000 for Pandemic Impact Grants, which includes Affordable Housing. Lost Revenue includes

\$91,024.00 for Body Cameras for the Police Department, and \$114,470.00 for License Plate Readers. Water/Sewer Infrastructure had \$4,000,000.00.

Mayor Murray is looking to see what is going to have the greatest community impact. His understanding of the Recovery Act is that it focuses mainly on people, how we make investments in the people of the city. He feels that we should be engaged in workforce development as well, and that we are making great strides in providing departments with funding for tools that they need during the regular budgeting process.

Councilman Mitchell, quoted from a handout on the American Rescue Plan that stated, “one of the focuses is to provide funding that directly responds to the needs created by the COVID pandemic within the communities, and populations hit by the national health crisis.” Moving forward, he stated that we need to focus on this.

IV. ADJOURN

6:58 PM

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