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# ROCKLEDGE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 19, 2023 ♦ 6:00 p.m.

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## 1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The Rockledge City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at Rockledge City Hall, 1600 Huntington Lane, Rockledge, Florida.

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Thomas J. Price	Mayor
	Dr. Michael A. Cadore	Councilmember, Seat #1 <i>(arrived at 6:11 p.m.)</i>
	Dr. R. Shaun Ferguson	Councilmember, Seat #2
	Frank T. Forester	Councilmember, Seat #4
	Duane A. Daski	Councilmember, Seat #5 <i>(arrived at 6:07 p.m.)</i>
	Ted J. Hartselle	Councilmember, Seat #6
	Joseph E. Miniclier	City Attorney
	Dr. Brenda Fettrow	City Manager
	Jennifer M. LeVasseur	City Clerk & Public Relations Officer
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Sammie Brown Martin	Councilmember, Seat #3
<b>STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Matthew Trine	Assistant City Manager & Finance Director
	John Cooper	Planning Director
	Joseph P. LaSata	Public Safety Director/Chief of Police
	Victor "VJ" Karycki	Public Works Director
	James Elmore	Wastewater Treatment & Water Reclamation Director
	James H. Wilson	Deputy Fire Chief
	Donna Seyferth	Deputy Chief of Police

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Thomas J. Price.

## 2. INVOCATION

- The invocation was given by Councilman Ferguson in Councilman Cadore's absence.

### 3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- A salute was given to the flag, and the Pledge of Allegiance was repeated in unison.

### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting on June 21, 2023

***Councilman Forester moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on June 21, 2023; seconded by Councilman Ferguson. The motion carried unanimously (4).***

### 5. PRESENTATIONS

#### A. Mayor Price

##### 1. Special Recognition

##### a. 35 Years of Service

- William "Bill" Nolen, Line Maintenance Technician III – Wastewater Treatment & Water Reclamation Department

Mayor Price recognized William "Bill" Nolen, Line Maintenance Technician III in the Wastewater Treatment & Water Reclamation Department, for 35 years of service and presented him with a Certificate of Commendation, Letter of Congratulations and a gift card.

### 6. FINANCIAL / BUDGET REPORT

- June 2023

***Councilman Ferguson moved to be in receipt of the Financial/Budget Report for the month of June 2023; seconded by Councilman Hartselle. The motion passed without objection (4).***

### 7. PUBLIC HEARINGS / ORDINANCES / RESOLUTIONS

#### A. Public

Hearing: Application VE-23-01, Vacating Utility Easement, 1027 Jacaranda Circle, Lot 63 of Sabal Grove, Unit Two

Chairman Price introduced the Vacate Easement application for 1027 Jacaranda Circle and declared the matter open for public hearing. There being no public comment, Chairman Price closed the public hearing.

#### B. Resolution: Vacating Utility Easement, Lot 63 of Sabal Grove, Unit Two

***Councilman Ferguson offered a Resolution entitled "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ROCKLEDGE, BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, VACATING, ABANDONING, RENOUNCING, AND DISCLAIMING ALL RIGHT, TITLE AND INTEREST OF SAID CITY, AND OF THE***

PUBLIC, IN AND TO THE UTILITY EASEMENT BEING 7.5 FEET IN WIDTH RUNNING SOUTH TO NORTH FOR 150.48 FEET THEN WEST TO EAST FOR 24.65 FEET ALONG THE WEST AND NORTH LOT LINE OF LOT 63 OF SABAL GROVE, UNIT TWO AS SHOWN ON THE PLAT RECORDED IN THE PLAT BOOK 39, AT PAGE 74 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA; RECORDATION OF A CERTIFIED COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION AND RECORDATION OF THE PROOFS OF PUBLICATION OF THE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING WITH RESPECT TO THIS RESOLUTION" **and moved to waive the reading and adopt the Resolution; seconded by Councilman Hartselle. Voting for the motion: Mayor Price and Councilmembers Ferguson, Forester, and Hartselle. The motion carried by unanimous vote (4).**

## 8. REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

**Councilman Ferguson moved to be in receipt of the minutes of the following meetings:**

- Council Finance and Budget Committee, Minutes of Meeting on June 14, 2023
- Council Finance and Budget Committee, Minutes of Meeting on June 21, 2023
- Council Finance and Budget Committee, Minutes of Meeting on July 12, 2023

**and to consider independently any recommendation(s) contained therein; seconded by Councilman Hartselle. The motion carried unanimously (4).**

*\*\*Chairman Price noted for the record that Councilman Daski arrived at 6:07 p.m.*

A. Council Finance and Budget Committee, Minutes of Meeting on June 14, 2023

1. Recommendation: Salary Increase of Nine Percent for Employees  
...recommend to the full Council a salary increase of nine percent for non-union City employees, with the understanding that negotiations with the unions will be required and to authorize the City Manager to address any salary compression issues that may result from said increases...

City Manager Fettrow reiterated that the recommendations presented during the meeting were built into the most recent budget as presented in the most updated budget document for consideration. Councilmembers discussed the overall budget percentage increases.

*\*\*Chairman Price noted for the record that Councilman Cadore arrived at 6:11 p.m.*

***Councilman Daski moved to authorize a salary increase of nine percent for non-union City employees, with the understanding that negotiations with the unions will be required and to authorize the City Manager to address any salary compression issues that may result from said increases; seconded by Councilman Ferguson. The motion passed without objection (6).***

2. Recommendation: Authorization to Adjust Hourly Base Rate to \$16.00 and to Handle Compression Issues

...recommend to the full Council authorization for the City Manager to adjust the hourly base rate to \$16.00 and to address any salary compression issues that may result from said increase...

City Manager Fettrow explained that the proposed increase will surpass the Federal law requiring minimum wage to be \$15.00 per hour by 2026 and will also help to continue efforts to hire and retain quality employees.

***Councilman Ferguson moved to authorize the City Manager to adjust the hourly base rate to \$16.00 and to address any salary compression issues that may result from said increase; seconded by Councilman Cadore. The motion carried by unanimous vote (6).***

3. Recommendation: Addition of Two (2) Full Time Employee Positions (Finance Division and Multi-Purpose Facility)

...recommend to the full Council approval of the addition of two full time employees (one Finance Specialist and one Multi-Purpose Facility Coordinator)...

City Manager Fettrow reiterated the need for employees in these areas.

***Councilman Daski moved to approve the addition of two full time employees (one Finance Specialist and one Multi-Purpose Facility Coordinator); seconded by Councilman Ferguson. The motion passed without objection (6).***

4. Recommendation: Approval of Capital Improvement Plan and Authorization to Draft Ordinance and Transmit to the State

...recommend to the full Council approval of the Capital Improvement Plan as presented...

City Manager Fettrow noted that this review and transmittal is an annual requirement.

***Councilman Ferguson moved to approve the Capital Improvement Plan as presented and to direct the City Attorney to draft the***

***requisite Ordinance for transmittal to the State; seconded by Councilman Hartselle. The motion passed unanimously (6).***

5. Recommendation: Approval of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Expenditure List

...recommend to the full Council approval of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) expenditure list...

***Councilman Daski moved to approve the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) expenditure list; seconded by Councilman Ferguson. The motion carried unanimously (6).***

- B. Council Finance and Budget Committee, Minutes of Meeting on June 21, 2023

1. Recommendation: Consideration of Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget as Presented

...recommend to the full Council consideration of the Fiscal Year 2024 proposed budget as presented...

City Manager Fettrow explained that, per the Finance & Budget Committee's direction, the millage rate that was recommended at the July 12<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting triggered an adjustment of a few line items in the budget. Additionally, the City received word that the budgeted amount for the 2023 election would need to be increased based on the estimate provided by the Brevard County Supervisor of Elections. As a result, an updated budget was provided to the full Council for consideration.

***Councilman Ferguson moved to accept the Fiscal Year 2024 updated proposed budget as presented and to direct the City Attorney to draft the requisite Ordinances; seconded by Councilman Cadore. The motion passed by unanimous vote (6).***

2. Recommendation: Approval of Loan from General Fund to Wastewater Fund

...use a loan from the General Fund to take care of needs for the Sewage Treatment Facility at an amount of \$3 million dollars to be amortized over 10 years at a rate of 4 percent...

City Manager Fettrow explained that the Council Finance & Budget Committee thoroughly vetted this as an option and determined that this would be preferable for both the General Fund and the Wastewater Fund and more cost effective over securing a note from a bank.

**Councilman Daski moved to authorize a loan from the General Fund to the Wastewater Fund at an amount of \$3 million dollars to be amortized over 10 years at a rate of 4 percent; seconded by Councilman Ferguson. The motion carried without objection (6).**

3. Recommendation: Approval of Salary Increase for Mayor and City Councilmembers

...recommend to the full Council a salary increase of \$50 per month for the Mayor and City Councilmembers...

City Manager Fettrow noted that Rockledge's City Council salary is in the mid-range for Brevard County.

**Councilman Ferguson moved to authorize a salary increase of \$50 per month for the Mayor and City Councilmembers and to direct the City Attorney to draft the requisite Ordinance; seconded by Councilman Hartselle. The motion passed with five (5) in favor and one (1) in opposition (Forester).**

- C. Council Finance and Budget Committee, Minutes of Meeting on July 12, 2023

1. Recommendation: Consideration of Tentative Millage Rate

...recommend to the full Council consideration of a tentative millage rate of 5.55 mills...

**Councilman Daski moved to approve a tentative millage rate of 5.55 mills and to report said rate to the Brevard County Property Appraiser and the State of Florida; seconded by Councilman Ferguson. The motion passed unanimously (6).**

- a. Resolution: Advising the Brevard County Property Appraiser of the Rolled Back Millage Rate and the Proposed Millage Rate for the Taxable Year 2023, and the Time and Place of the First Public Hearing on the Proposed FY 2023-2024 Budget

**Councilman Ferguson offered a Resolution entitled "A RESOLUTION OF THE ROCKLEDGE CITY COUNCIL ADVISING THE BREVARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER OF THE ROLLED BACK MILLAGE RATE OF THE CITY OF ROCKLEDGE FOR THE TAXABLE YEAR 2023, THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE OF SAID CITY FOR THE TAXABLE YEAR 2023, AND THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET FOR SAID CITY" and moved to read the resolution in its entirety;**

***seconded by Councilman Cadore. The motion passed by unanimous vote (6).***

City Attorney Miniclier read aloud the entire Resolution.

***Councilman Hartselle moved for adoption of the Resolution; seconded by Councilman Cadore. Voting for the motion: Mayor Price and Councilmembers Cadore, Ferguson, Forester, Daski, and Hartselle. The motion carried by unanimous vote (6).***

D. Reappointments and Appointments

- None

## **9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- None

## **10. CONSENT BUSINESS**

***Councilman Daski moved for approval of these consent business items:***

- A. Approval: Agreement for Appraisal and Research Services, Tuttle-Armfield-Wagner Appraisals & Research, Inc. (Planning Division)
- B. Approval: Paving of Public Works Facility Main Lot and Reallocation of Funds for Project; Goodson Paving, Inc. (Public Works Department)
- C. Approval: Impact Fee Reimbursement for Carolina Pines, Angela Avenue (Planning Division)
- D. Approval: Multipurpose Center Project Permit Fees, Site and Shell Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP), Utilization of Owner-Direct Purchasing (ODP) Process, Waiver of City Procurement Requirements; W+J Construction Corp. (Planning Division)
- E. Approval: Multipurpose Center Project Building Interior Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP), Utilization of Owner-Direct Purchasing (ODP) Process, Waiver of City Procurement Requirements; W+J Construction Corp. (Planning Division)
- F. Approval: Multipurpose Center Project Additional Funds for Architectural and Engineering Design and Civil-Site Engineering Design Work; Architects RZK, Inc. (Planning Division)

***The motion was seconded by Councilman Hartselle and passed by unanimous vote (6).***

## **11. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT BUSINESS**

- None

## 12. NEW BUSINESS

- None

## 13. PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Stephanie Brown Booker, 900 Friday Road, Cocoa, offered a quick prayer for Rockledge. Councilman Cadore thanked Ms. Booker for attending the meeting.

## 14. REPORTS

### A. City Manager Report

- City Manager Fettrow:
  - Reported that Senator Mayfield toured the Wastewater Treatment Plant on June 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - Thanked Councilmembers for volunteering at the July 4<sup>th</sup> Picnic and noted that over 2,000 people were estimated to have been in attendance.
  - Wished a happy Pastoral Anniversary to Councilman Ferguson.
  - Offered condolences to Mayor Price on the recent passing of his mother.
  - Announced that Thrifty Specialty Produce & Meats will be hosting a one-year anniversary celebration on Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 a.m.
  - Received an email from Georganna Gillette with the Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization requesting a letter of support for a significant widening project on Ellis Road. Councilmembers directed City Manager Fettrow to transmit a letter of support, as this project has a regional impact.

### B. City Attorney Litigation Report

- July 2023

***Councilman Daski moved to be in receipt of the City Attorney Litigation Report dated July 8, 2023; seconded by Councilman Ferguson. The motion passed unanimously (6).***

City Attorney Miniclier provided a brief update on cases listed in the report.

### C. Reports from the Dais

- Councilmembers and staff offered condolences to Mayor Price on the recent passing of his mother.



- Councilmembers complimented City Manager Fettrow and City staff for hosting a successful and well-attended July 4<sup>th</sup> Picnic.
- Councilman Daski apologized for arriving late to the meeting.
- Councilman Ferguson:
  - Reminded Councilmembers of the next Space Coast League of Cities meeting on August 14<sup>th</sup> in Cocoa Beach.
  - Recently offered a letter of greetings from the Mayor and City Council to the Florida East Coast Baptist Association in Cocoa.
  - Thanked the Public Safety Department for its support during his anniversary party.
- Councilman Hartselle:
  - Recently returned from his honeymoon trip.
  - Attended the Space Coast League of Cities meeting in Melbourne Beach.
  - Will not be attending the upcoming Florida League of Cities Conference.
- Councilman Cadore:
  - Apologized for arriving late to the meeting.
  - Reported that his niece interned with him over the summer and toured the Public Safety Department headquarters as well as City Hall.
  - Noted that three Rockledge High School students recently participated in leadership training and held a fundraiser where they collected \$1,000.00 to help students attend Eastern Florida State College.
  - Will be meeting with Rockledge principals to offer encouragement as they enter a new school year.
  - Attended the most recent Space Coast League of Cities dinner.
  - Will be unable to attend the anniversary celebration for Thrifty Specialty Produce & Meats due to a prior commitment.
- Councilman Forester will be out of town from Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup> until Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Mayor Price thanked everyone for their condolences.

**15.ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chairman Price declared the meeting to be adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Council Chairman**

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City Clerk**