

# **Town of Melbourne Beach**

## **TOWN COMMISSION WORKSHOP MARCH 1, 2023 MEETING AT 6:00 p.m. COMMUNITY CENTER – 509 OCEAN AVENUE**

### **MINUTES**

#### **Commission Members:**

Mayor Wyatt Hoover  
Vice Mayor Joyce Barton  
Commissioner Sherri Quarrie  
Commissioner Corey Runte  
Commissioner Marivi Walker

#### **Staff Members:**

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro  
Town Clerk Amber Brown

#### **1. Call to Order**

Mayor Wyatt Hoover called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### **2. Roll Call**

Town Clerk Amber Brown conducted roll call

#### **Commission Members Present**

Mayor Wyatt Hoover  
Vice Mayor Joyce Barton  
Commissioner Sherri Quarrie  
Commissioner Corey Runte  
Commissioner Marivi Walker

#### **Staff Members Present**

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro  
Fire Chief Gavin Brown  
Town Clerk Amber Brown

#### **Commission Members Absent**

### **3. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

Mayor Wyatt Hoover led the Pledge of Allegiance

### **4. Public Comments**

After being acknowledged by the Mayor, members of the public should state their name and address for the record. The Commission encourages citizens to prepare their comments in advance. Each individual will have three (3) minutes to address the Commission on any topic(s) related to Town business, not on the Agenda.

**George Ann  
416 Ocean Ave**

George Ann wanted to speak about lifeguard cover, but because that is on the agenda she was asked to wait until that agenda item.

### **5. New Business**

- A. Review and discuss options related to a fire department boat lift off the main pier or a new dock and boat lift in the southwest corner of Ryckman Park

Fire Chief Gavin Brown spoke about the Fire Department previously bringing the Commission the idea of installing a boat lift and dock for their Marine Rescue boat on the southwest corner of Ryckman Park. After receiving feedback the Fire Department put together a different option for a boat lift off the main pier. Fire Chief Gavin Brown presented the new proposal.

Mayor Wyatt Hoover asked about the security of the boat and lift on its own pier versus on the main pier.

Jeff Boos, Captain of the Melbourne Beach Fire Department, spoke about security being a concern, but they can put up cameras and there would be a gate.

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie asked if there would be any additions to it such as a jet ski or an additional boat, and what about the lighting.

Jeff Boos spoke about not having any additions to it. The Jet Ski and the other boat mentioned are for ocean rescue. The majority of the lights are on the boat itself, so there would not be significant lights on all the time.

Commissioner Corey Runte asked what the preference is between the first proposal for a new dock versus the second proposal for a lift on the existing pier. He would prefer having a matching roof to the main pier rather than the canvas and having the lift on the south side. The south side looks shorter than the north side, so could it be extended to match the north side and keep it further away from the public.

Jeff Boos spoke about his preference would be on the main pier for many reasons which include the depth being out farther, having a wider walk path to get down there, and maintenance.

Fire Chief Gavin Brown spoke about an additional reason being a significant cost saving on the construction which would then be put towards a new boat. The idea for having a canvas roof was it would be less obstructive to the view, but they are open to having a matching roof.

Mike Kalajian the structural engineer from Shoreline Marine who created the plans spoke about additional things to think about if you extend the dock or put a solid roof on you would need a lot more permitting which could take six months instead of six weeks.

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie spoke about permitting issues for solid roofs because of the seagrass.

Mike Kalajian spoke about a seagrass study would be required if you went with a solid roof. Whereas the canvas roof is considered temporary so the seagrass study would not be required.

Commissioner Marivi Walker spoke about agreeing with using the south side but would prefer the solid roof rather than the canvas.

Mayor Wyatt Hoover spoke about seagrass or oyster restoration that might be on the south side.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro asked if you can put a canopy on now and then later when the permits go through install a solid roof.

Jeff Boos spoke about another consideration is the north side of the pier is private property.

Mayor Wyatt Hoover spoke about having general support for the main pier, matching the existing roof, and putting it on the south side.

***Jim Simmons***  
***409 Avenue B***

*Jim Simmons spoke about recommending holding off on permitting until it is brought before the residents.*

***Paula Panton***  
***809 Riverside Dr***

*Paula Panton spoke about being in favor of it, but it should be on its own dock. The public dock gets packed with people. If the pier was built with State or Federal funds would that affect this?*

***Haley Conrad***  
***2011 Oak St***

*Haley Conrad asked about how the Fire Department would get all of the people and equipment from the station to the boat.*

Fire Chief Gavin Brown spoke about transporting the people using the ATV and all of the equipment is already on the boat. There is enough room for the ATV to drive down the pier.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about the pier being reconstructed several times. There are no restrictions related to the pier.

Commissioner Corey Runte asked roughly what the cost difference would be between building a new pier versus using the existing pier.

Jeff Boos spoke about getting two quotes for the original plan which included building a dock for around \$90,000.00 plus roughly 10% to run water and electricity. It would be significantly less to put it on the main pier maybe \$30,000.00 plus roughly an additional \$10,000.00 for the solid roof.

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie spoke about her concern about a dock being built in the limited view of the river while sitting in the park.

Fire Chief Gavin Brown spoke about the diagram not being exact. There is a hidden area further south of the open area that has an opening between the mangroves.

Commissioner Marivi Walker asked if the ATV drives down the pier what happens to the people that are on the pier.

Fire Chief Gavin Brown spoke about there being plenty of room for people to stand off to the sides while the ATV drives down it. Public works drives down the pier for maintenance and there is plenty of room on both sides.

Jeff Boos spoke about being open to any concerns people have and changing things to make it work.

**B. Discuss lifeguard coverage options**

Mayor Wyatt Hoover spoke about an increase in ocean incidents, lifeguard coverage, and the increase in tourists.

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about pursuing the County to fund the coverage for a year-round lifeguard.

***Dan Maloney***  
***1403 Pine***

*Dan Maloney spoke about not speaking for the County but speaking as a resident. He would like to see a resolution for this issue best case would be a year-round lifeguard. Indialantic seems to be in the same boat. Maybe get with Indialantic to coordinate something. Another consideration is the time of day of the incidents and what is the beach population after 5 pm. He is happy this discussion is happening. People do tell the lifeguards that they go to areas because a lifeguard is present.*

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie asked about the protected coverage area of a lifeguard, and what are his thoughts on the placement of the life ring stations.

*Dan Maloney spoke about the coverage area being 100 yards north and south of the tower, but they go where ever they are needed and keep eyes on outside of the area. The placement of the life rings is good.*

**George Ann  
416 Ocean Ave**

*George Ann spoke about working as a lifeguard since 2008. There is an increase in population. There have been three drownings in the past week alone and she will not go to the beach on her days off without her can. When a lifeguard has to respond outside of their area then that heavily populated area is down a lifeguard. Lifeguards are important and there's more population in this area. Something needs to change, and it is really important to have this discussion.*

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro asked if there is a lifeguard shortage.

Mayor Wyatt Hoover asked if George Ann thinks a year-round lifeguard is needed or just on the weekends.

*George Ann spoke about there always being a shortage, but there is even more of a shortage now. With the increase in population, and the warmer water there should be a lifeguard every day year-round.*

Commissioner Corey Runte asked about where the funds come from for the lifeguards at beaches that are not funded by municipalities.

**Jim Simmons  
409 Avenue B**

*Jim Simmons spoke about some of the life-guarded beaches are in the County's jurisdiction.*

**Paula Panton  
809 Riverside Dr**

*Paula Panton spoke about getting more education by bringing in industry experts such as United State Lifesaving Association or Florida Beach Patrol to know the*

*industry standards. Are there signs to explain what the flags mean and put the flags out in public more. Maybe there are grants available for lifeguards.*

Dan Maloney who works for Brevard County Ocean Rescue was asked about the details of the flags.

Dan Maloney spoke about the flags are flown on the lifeguard towers and there are condition signs on the tower that explain what the flags mean. In addition, there is a flag pole in Ocean Park where they display the flag when they are on duty.

Commissioner Corey Runte asked if it would be a big burden to have staff man the flags when lifeguards are not on duty.

Fire Chief Gavin Brown spoke about conditions changing constantly throughout the day so the flags get changed frequently. Plus it would add more liability if the conditions changed quickly and the flag didn't get changed right away.

***Haley Conrad***  
***2011 Oak St***

*Haley Conrad spoke about this being a great discussion and the lifeguard shortage is across the entire US. Maybe a way to help would be to have the flags on the life ring towers and have someone with the lifeguards that is not trained as a lifeguard to change out the flags.*

**NEW ACTION ITEM** – Fact-finding about funding from other municipalities. Collaborate with Indialantic to start a dialogue. Reach out to US Lifeguard Association and Florida Beach Patrol to see what other heavy-traffic beaches are doing. Make sure the flag signs are up to date. Options and costs to get a lifeguard at our beach year-round.

C. Discuss having all Town parking stickers expire yearly

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about issuing more parking stickers than we have residents. Stickers are peeling off, people are moving in and out of Town, or selling their vehicles. The thought was it would be more convenient for residents to come once every five years for a new sticker, but they have never stopped coming.

Commissioner Marivi Walker spoke about all of the people that have stickers that no longer should.

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about having people preregister and doing a bulk mailing.

Further discussion ensued

***Jim Simmons***  
***409 Avenue B***

*Jim Simmons spoke about being in favor of a yearly pass. The issue would be to make sure they have a valid registration so if they request online they would need to scan in their registration.*

**NEW ACTION ITEM** – Timing for when residents can start requesting the new sticker, look at alternate vendors for the sticker for higher quality, and how to differentiate the sticker from year to year.

D. Discuss Citizen of the Year

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about continuing to keep it secret so it is a surprise to whoever gets citizen of the year.

***Jim Simmons***  
***409 Avenue B***

*Jim Simmons spoke about not just going based on the nomination form, but calling the person that nominated the individual to see if they provide more details.*

Email Town Clerk with the first and second choice by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Commissioner Sherrie Quarrie provided a document related to a possible density increase in south Melbourne Beach. She spoke about someone trying to increase the density in south Melbourne Beach. It is not in our jurisdiction, but every increase will affect us because they will be driving through our Town. It was on the County's Planning and Zoning agenda, but it was taken off and that might happen a few times till the person thinks they can get it passed. She spoke about putting a game plan together.

Mayor Wyatt Hoover spoke about having some sample language prepared for the Regular Town Commission Meeting.

**6. Adjournment**

**Commissioner Sherri Quarrie moved to adjourn; Commissioner Corey Runte seconded; Motion carried 5-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

ATTEST:



**Wyatt Hoover, Mayor**



**Amber Brown, Interim Town Clerk**

