

CITY OF PALM BAY, FLORIDA

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING 2022-03

Held on Thursday, the 3rd day of February 2022, at the City Hall Council Chambers, 120 Malabar Road, SE, Palm Bay, Florida.

This meeting was properly noticed pursuant to law; the minutes are on file in the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Palm Bay, Florida.

The meeting was called to order at the hour of 7:02 P.M.

Pastor David Trexler, Peace Lutheran Church, Palm Bay, gave the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL:

MAYOR:	Rob Medina	Present
DEPUTY MAYOR:	Kenny Johnson	Present
COUNCILMEMBER:	Randy Foster	Present
COUNCILMEMBER:	Donny Felix	Present
CITY MANAGER:	Suzanne Sherman	Present
CITY ATTORNEY:	Patricia Smith	Present
DEPUTY CITY CLERK:	Terri Lefler	Present

CITY STAFF: Joan Junkala-Brown, Deputy City Manager; Alexandra Bernard, Growth Management Director; Frank Watanabe, City Engineer.

ANNOUNCEMENT(S):

Deputy Mayor Johnson announced the following vacancies and terms expiring, and solicited applications for same:

- 1. Two (2) vacancies on the Community Development Advisory Board (represents 'low-income and essential services personnel' positions).+**
- 2. One (1) vacancy on the Bayfront Community Redevelopment Agency (represents 'at-large' position).+**
- 3. Two (2) terms expiring on the Youth Advisory Board (represents 'at-large student member' positions).++**
- 4. Three (3) terms expiring on the Youth Advisory Board (represents 'adult member, 30 years and older' positions).++**

- 5. Two (2) terms expiring on the Planning and Zoning Board (represents 'at-large' positions).++**
- 6. Two (2) terms expiring on the Sustainability Advisory Board (represents 'at-large' positions).++**
- 7. One (1) vacancy on the Youth Advisory Board (represents 'at-large student member' position).++**
- 8. One (1) vacancy on the Disaster Relief Committee.++**

AGENDA REVISION(S):

1. Ms. Sherman advised of the following revisions:
 - a. A co-sponsorship request from United Coalition Council, Inc. for a Covid Testing and vaccine pop-up clinic was added to the agenda as Item 3, under New Business.
 - b. Item 4, under Consent Agenda, was withdrawn from the agenda.

PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS:

The proclamation was read.

- 1. Proclamation: Black History Month - February 2022; honoring Elizabeth Johnson, Author. (Deputy Mayor Johnson)**

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)/RESPONSE(S): (Non-agenda Items Only)

Individuals made general comments and asked about the vetting process and qualifications for candidates running in the special municipal election.

1. Bill Battin, resident, commented on the amount of land that was zoned RR (Rural Residential District). He reviewed the draft of the City's Comprehensive Plan and said that RR properties had decreased from two percent (2%) to one percent (1%).
2. Butch Orend, resident, questioned the elevation height of new construction in historical neighborhoods. He said the home behind him was elevated six (6) feet above his property. He was concerned about flooding onto his property and asked about septic tank placement, erosion and sediment control, etc.

Mrs. Lefler responded to the comments regarding candidate qualifications. She said that each candidate was required to complete a Residency of Candidate Affidavit which stated that they met the qualifications to run for office. If anyone wanted to challenge a candidate's qualifications, they would have to do so by filing a Declaratory Action through the court system. Ms. Smith added that this was preempted to the state. The City did not have the ability to have a procedure to vet the qualifications of someone running for office, and the City Clerk's duty was completely ministerial. The Circuit Court would determine if a candidate was actually qualified or not.

PUBLIC HEARING(S):

1. Ordinance 2022-15, vacating a portion of the side public utility and drainage easement located within Lots 27 and 28, Block 9, Port Malabar Holiday Park Unit 1 (Case VE-1-2022, Teresa Linton), final reading.

The City Attorney read the ordinance in caption only. The public hearing was opened. The applicant presented the request to Council. The public hearing was closed.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Johnson, seconded by Mr. Felix, to adopt Ordinance 2022-15, subject to the staff comments and condition contained in the Staff Report. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea; Councilman Felix, Yea.

2. Ordinance 2022-16, amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 55, Police and Firefighters Retirement Pension Plan, by modifying definitions to include firefighter longevity pay earned on or after October 1, 2021, final reading.

The City Attorney read the ordinance in caption only. The public hearing was opened and closed as there were no comments.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Johnson, seconded by Mr. Felix, to adopt Ordinance 2022-16. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea; Councilman Felix, Yea.

3. Resolution 2022-08, granting a conditional use to allow a car wash in CC (Community Commercial District) zoning on property located west of and adjacent to Minton Road, in the vicinity south of Palm Bay Road (1.04 acres) (Case CU-1-2022, Summit Shah, M & R United Inc.). (Quasi-Judicial Proceeding)

The Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval of the request.

The City Attorney read the resolution in caption only. The public hearing was opened. Kristhian Morales, Bowman Consulting, and representative for the applicant, presented the request to Council.

Mr. Foster asked if a traffic study had been performed due to the location being on one of the city's busiest corridors. Mr. Morales said the study would be submitted during the site plan review. He said the current site had two (2) driveways leading into the property. The proposed project would have one right in/right out access to the site. Mr. Foster asked the hours of operation. Mr. Morales responded that daily hours would be from 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. Mr. Foster expressed concern about the neighboring residential properties located behind the site.

Mayor Medina concurred with Mr. Foster's comments regarding traffic. He was concerned about the excessive traffic that utilized the two (2) right-turn lanes onto Emerson Drive but wanted to give the business an opportunity to succeed.

Butch Orend, resident, spoke against the request. He agreed that traffic was an issue and there was an existing carwash less than one mile away.

Mr. Morales said the proposed use was less intense than the existing gas station and removing one of the exit points would decrease the number of times that drivers slowed down and backed up traffic.

The public hearing was closed.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Johnson, seconded by Mr. Foster, to adopt Resolution 2022-08, subject to the staff comments contained in the Staff Report. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea; Councilman Felix, Yea.

4. Ordinance 2022-17, rezoning property located east of and adjacent to Dixie Highway, and west of and adjacent to Ridge Road, from HC (Highway Commercial District) to BMUV (Bayfront Mixed Use Village District) (0.34 acres) (Case Z-54-2021, Alfred and Murine Agarie), first reading. (Quasi-Judicial Proceeding)

The Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval of the request.

The City Attorney read the ordinance in caption only. The public hearing was opened. The applicant presented the request to Council.

Mr. Felix asked about the plans for the site since gas stations were prohibited in BMUV zoning. Mr. Agarie said he was under the impression that he could add a residence or office space as the top level of the existing building which was the convenience store of the gas station.

Ms. Bernard confirmed that gas stations were a prohibited use in the proposed zoning. Ms. Smith said the gas station would be grandfathered in but if an event occurred that destroyed the existing gas station, the applicant would not be able to rebuild and would have to comply with the Code of Ordinances.

The public hearing was closed.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Johnson, seconded by Mr. Felix, to approve Ordinance 2022-17, subject to the staff comments contained in the Staff Report.

Mr. Foster was concerned about a residence being above a gas station with onsite hazardous materials.

Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea; Councilman Felix, Yea.

5. Ordinance 2022-18, amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 185, Zoning Code, Subchapter 'District Regulations', by including Contractors' Offices as a permitted use in HC (Highway Commercial District) zoning (Case T-2-2022, Cody Lafferty), first reading.

The Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval of the request.

The City Attorney read the ordinance in caption only. The public hearing was opened. Tony Masone, representative for the applicant, presented the request to Council. The public hearing was closed.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Johnson, seconded by Mr. Felix, to approve Ordinance 2022-18. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea; Councilman Felix, Yea.

6. Ordinance 2022-19, amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 185, Zoning Code, Subchapter 'District Regulations', by including canine training and similar uses as a permitted use in NC (Neighborhood Commercial District) zoning (Case T-3-2022, Kimberly Mayes), first reading.

The Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval of the request.

The City Attorney read the ordinance in caption only. The public hearing was opened. The applicant presented the request to Council. The public hearing was closed.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Johnson, seconded by Mr. Felix, to approve Ordinance 2022-19. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea; Councilman Felix, Yea.

7. Ordinance 2022-01, providing for the annexation of certain real property located south of and adjacent to Malabar Road, and east of and adjacent to Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District Canal 7, into the City (27.91 acres) (Case A-2-2022, The William F Slentz Trust / Bart and Amy Ferguson), first reading.

The City Attorney read the ordinance in caption only. The public hearing was opened. Jack Kirschenbaum, Gray Robinson P.A., and representative for the applicant, presented the request to Council and advised that his comments would also apply to Items 8 and 9, under Public Hearings.

Nathan White, resident, spoke against the request and future annexations when there was so much land that was undeveloped. He expressed concern about safety for children going to school and the additional traffic to a two-lane roadway.

Bill Battin, resident, supported the request, stating it provided an option for residents to rent when they could not afford to purchase a home. He would rather see the tax value coming into the City rather than the County and questioned if any tax credits or abatements would be given to the developer.

Mr. Kirschenbaum said additional right-of-way was included in the site plan to allow for widening of the roadway.

Ms. Sherman said that no credits or abatements would be given, and the project was being fully funded by the developer. She added that staff was actively working with the Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization on currently funded planning for the widening of Malabar Road. The next step was to fund the design phase, then move into the construction phase. A plan would be presented to Council within the next few months. Signalization at the intersection of the Parkway and Malabar Road were also ongoing.

The public hearing was closed.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Johnson, seconded by Mr. Felix, to approve Ordinance 2022-01. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea; Councilman Felix, Yea.

8. Ordinance 2022-20, amending the City's Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map to change the designated use of property located south of and adjacent to Malabar Road, and east of and adjacent to Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District Canal 7, from RES-1, Residential 2 Unit Per Acre (Brevard County) to Multiple-Family Residential Use (27.91 acres) (Case CP-2-2022, The William F Slentz Trust / Bart and Amy Ferguson), only one reading required.

The Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval of the request.

The City Attorney read the ordinance in caption only. The public hearing was opened. Jack Kirschenbaum, Gray Robinson P.A., and representative for the applicant, presented the request to Council.

The public hearing was closed.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Johnson, seconded by Mr. Felix, to adopt Ordinance 2022-20. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea; Councilman Felix, Yea.

9. Ordinance 2022-21, rezoning property located south of and adjacent to Malabar Road, and east of and adjacent to Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District Canal 7, from AU, Agricultural Residential (Brevard County) to RM-10 (Single-, Two-, Multiple-Family District) (27.91 acres) (Case CPZ-2-2022, The William F Slentz Trust / Bart and Amy Ferguson), first reading. (Quasi-Judicial Proceeding)

The Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval of the request.

The City Attorney read the ordinance in caption only. The public hearing was opened. Jack Kirschenbaum, Gray Robinson P.A., and representative for the applicant, presented the request to Council. He asked that the staff report be made part of the record.

Nathan White, resident, did not feel that the project should be considered as affordable housing and did not fit with the vision that City Council had spoken of at recent meetings.

The public hearing was closed.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Johnson, seconded by Mr. Felix, to approve Ordinance 2022-21. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea; Councilman Felix, Yea.

10. Ordinance 2022-22, amending the City's Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map to change the designated use of property located at the southwest corner of Pospisil Avenue and Dixie Highway, from Bayfront Mixed Use Village to Bayfront Mixed Use (7.56 acres) (Case CP-4-2022, Space Coast Marina LLC), only one reading required.

The Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval of the request.

The City Attorney read the ordinance in caption only. The public hearing was opened. Bruce Moia, P.E., MBV Engineering, Inc. and representative for the applicant, presented the request to Council. The public hearing was closed.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Johnson, seconded by Mr. Felix, to adopt Ordinance 2022-22. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea; Councilman Felix, Yea.

11. Ordinance 2022-23, rezoning property located at the southwest corner of Pospisil Avenue and Dixie Highway, from BMUV (Bayfront Mixed Use Village District) to BMU (Bayfront Mixed Use District) (7.56 acres) (Case CPZ-4-2022, Space Coast Marina LLC), first reading. (Quasi-Judicial Proceeding)

The Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval of the request.

The City Attorney read the ordinance in caption only. The public hearing was opened. Bruce Moia, P.E., MBV Engineering, Inc. and representative for the applicant, presented the request to Council. The public hearing was closed.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Johnson, seconded by Mr. Foster, to approve Ordinance 2022-23. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea; Councilman Felix, Yea.

12. Ordinance 2022-24, amending the City's Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map to change the designated use of property located south of and adjacent to Orange Blossom Trail, in the vicinity west of Dixie Highway, from Bayfront Mixed Use Village to Bayfront Mixed Use (5.05 acres) (Case CP-5-2022, Marvin and Donita Miller / Steve and Marisela Berman), only one reading required.

The Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval of the request.

The City Attorney read the ordinance in caption only. The public hearing was opened. Bruce Moia, P.E., MBV Engineering, Inc. and representative for the applicant, presented the request to Council. He said the applicant did not want to take any action on the east twenty-five feet (25') of Whipperman Avenue as it was owned by another party. He asked that the area be removed from the request.

Ms. Smith asked if the modification to the request had been incorporated into the current legal description or if a new legal description would be provided. Mr. Moia said a revised legal description would be provided to staff. Ms. Smith advised that Council would be approving the request based on the new legal description as announced by Mr. Moia, but the legal description had to be provided to staff and incorporated into the ordinance or it would not be signed off by the Mayor, City Clerk and City Attorney.

The public hearing was closed.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Johnson, seconded by Mr. Foster, to adopt Ordinance 2022-24, with the revised legal description. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea; Councilman Felix, Yea.

13. Ordinance 2022-25, rezoning property located south of and adjacent to Orange Blossom Trail, in the vicinity west of Dixie Highway, from BMUV (Bayfront Mixed Use Village District) to BMU (Bayfront Mixed Use District) (5.05 acres) (Case CPZ-5-2022, Marvin and Donatina Miller / Steve and Marisela Berman), first reading. (Quasi-Judicial Proceeding)

The Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval of the request.

The City Attorney read the ordinance in caption only. The public hearing was opened. Bruce Moia, P.E., MBV Engineering, Inc. and representative for the applicant, presented the request to Council. He asked that this request also be approved less the east twenty-five feet (25') of Whipperman Avenue. The public hearing was closed.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Johnson, seconded by Mr. Foster, to approve Ordinance 2022-25, with the revised legal description. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea; Councilman Felix, Yea.

CONSENT AGENDA:

All items of business under the 'Consent Agenda' heading were enacted by the following motion:

Motion by Deputy Mayor Johnson, seconded by Mr. Felix, that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented with the removal of Item 9 from consent. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea; Councilman Felix, Yea.

1. Adoption of Minutes: Regular Council Meeting 2022-01; January 6, 2022.

The minutes, considered under Consent Agenda, were approved as presented.

2. Adoption of Minutes: Regular Council Meeting 2022-02; January 20, 2022.

The minutes, considered under Consent Agenda, were approved as presented.

3. Award Bid: Culvert pipe replacement, Knecht Road and Northeast Area - IFB 12-0-2022 - Public Works Department (Timothy Rose Contracting, Inc. - \$398,123).

Staff Recommendation: Approve the award of culvert pipe replacement for Knecht Road and Northeast area to Timothy Rose Contracting, Inc. (Vero Beach) in the amount of \$398,122.84.

The item, considered under Consent Agenda, was approved as recommended by City staff.

4. Resolution 2022-09, urging the Florida Legislature to oppose House Bill 531, proposed legislation that would require the Brevard County Supervisor of Elections to print on the ballot the party designation for all candidates for municipal elections. (Deputy Mayor Johnson) (WITHDRAWN) (AGENDA REVISION)

This item, addressed under Agenda Revisions, was withdrawn.

5. Resolution 2022-10, directing the City Manager to create or revise administrative policies that govern ride-along programs and prohibit the granting of exemptions from application and liability requirements. (Councilman Foster)

The City Attorney read the resolution in caption only.

The item, considered under Consent Agenda, was approved as recommended by City staff.

6. Consideration of transferring funds from the Tree Mitigation account to the Recreation Other Services account for the purchase of a tree to be used for the annual Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony (\$4,250).

Staff Recommendation: Approve the transfer of funds in the amount of \$4,250 from the Tree Mitigation account to the Recreation Other Services account for the purchase of a tree to be used for the annual Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony.

The item, considered under Consent Agenda, was approved as recommended by City staff.

7. Consideration of reallocating capital funding to the lease vehicle program and increase spending authority against the Master Lease Agreement for the Police Department (\$65,000).

Staff Recommendation: Approve reallocating the projected savings of \$65,000 to the additional funding needed to outfit the original Fiscal Year 2022 marked patrol vehicles (\$31,416) and to the lease vehicles for Command Staff (\$33,584); and authorize the increase to the spending authority against the Master Walkaway Lease from competitive solicitation 39-0-2019.

The item, considered under Consent Agenda, was approved as recommended by City staff.

8. Consideration of submitting an application for Victims of Crime Act grant funds.

Staff Recommendation: Approve the submission of an application for the Victims of Crime Act grant for 2022-2023.

The item, considered under Consent Agenda, was approved as recommended by City staff.

9. Consideration of expenditures from the Palm Bay Police Department's Law Enforcement Trust Fund (\$5,100).

Staff Recommendation: Approve the expenditure of funds as specified in the City Manager's memorandum.

Bill Battin, resident, asked if the training was for Palm Bay officers. Ms. Sherman confirmed same.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Johnson, seconded by Mr. Felix, to approve the expenditure of \$5,100 from the Palm Bay Police Department's Law Enforcement Trust Fund. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea; Councilman Felix, Yea.

10. Consideration of travel and training for specified City employees (Police Department).

Staff Recommendation: Approve the travel and training as specified.

The item, considered under Consent Agenda, was approved as recommended by City staff.

11. Consideration of travel and training for specified City Employees (Fire Department).

Staff Recommendation: Approve the travel and training as specified.

The item, considered under Consent Agenda, was approved as recommended by City staff.

A brief recess was taken after which time the meeting resumed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration of the GO Road Bond Paving Program, Phase 4. (CONTINUED FROM 01/20/22 RCM)

Staff Recommendation: Approve the GO Road Bond Paving Program, Phase 4, as endorsed by the Infrastructure Advisory and Oversight Board.

Mr. Watanabe provided an overview of the program to date. He stated that the program did not include the area known as the Compound and noted that Unit 49, slated for Year 5 of the program, needed full depth reclamation which would require a significant amount of funding (original estimate was \$12,622,650); however, Council had agreed to move the paving of Madden Avenue and Osmosis Drive to Year 3. He said that options for Unit 49

could be to apply a thin lift overlay, micro surfacing, or repair only some streets. Mr. Watanabe added that Unit 49 did not have a lot of homes, but the road conditions were a lot worse in that area. Mr. Watanabe answered questions posed by councilmembers.

Mayor Medina said that as costs were constantly changing, he wanted to have frequent presentation updates regarding the Road Bond Paving Program so that Council and the public were fully aware of what was occurring on a regular basis. Deputy Mayor Johnson said there were ninety-six homes in Unit 49 and an option would be to engage with those homeowners and get their feedback.

Deputy Mayor Johnson wanted to ensure that monies were allocated towards the maintenance fund. He did not want funding to be supported solely by the sale of surplus properties. Mr. Watanabe advised that Council had given direction that \$3.4 million per year would be placed into the Road Maintenance Fund.

Mr. Felix felt that Council and staff should deliver on what was promised to the voters. Mr. Foster said this should be a top priority and agreed that regular updates on the road projects were needed. He said everyone deserved to have a road in front of their house.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Johnson, seconded by Mr. Felix, to approve the GO Road Bond Paving Program, Phase 4, as endorsed by the Infrastructure Advisory and Oversight Board. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea; Councilman Felix, Yea.

2. Consideration of authorizing a Request for Information (RFI) for the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to address homelessness and affordable housing.

Staff Recommendation: Authorize the City to issue a Request for Information (RFI) related to use of American Rescue Plan Act funds for addressing homelessness and affordable housing.

Mrs. Junkala-Brown presented the request to Council. Mayor Medina said he wanted to see the mental health component added under Project Overview. He said it could be interpreted as part of case management, but he preferred to see it specifically listed.

Mrs. Junkala-Brown asked that the deadline be modified to reflect April 4, 2022. Council concurred.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Johnson, seconded by Mr. Felix, to authorize the City to issue a Request for Information (RFI) related to use of American Rescue Plan Act funds for

addressing homelessness and affordable housing, with revisions to include mental health as part of Public Services, and changing the deadline to Monday, April 4, 2022. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea; Councilman Felix, Yea.

3. Consideration of a co-sponsorship request from United Coalition Council, Inc. for a Covid Testing and Vaccine Pop-Up Clinic. (AGENDA REVISION)

Staff Recommendation: Approve the co-sponsorship request from the United Coalition Council, Inc., for a testing and vaccination pop-up clinic.

Santa Isabel Wright, President of the United Coalition Council, Inc, presented the request to Council.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Johnson, seconded by Mr. Foster, to approve the co-sponsorship request from the United Coalition Council, Inc., for a testing and vaccination pop-up clinic. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea; Councilman Felix, Yea.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilmembers addressed various subjects.

1. Mr. Felix said he attended the monthly luncheon hosted by the Greater Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce. The guest speaker was David Jones, of Diversity of Thought, Inc., and the organization partnered with agencies to identify inclusion, equity and diversity opportunities. Mr. Felix suggested bringing forth a similar initiative for the city which he felt would benefit not only staff, but Council as well. Ms. Sherman advised that the Human Resources Department had recently met with Mr. Jones and were already exploring options for team building exercises.

2. Mr. Foster urged the public to pay attention to the proposed legislative bills and contact state legislators on those they support or oppose.

3. Deputy Mayor Johnson made the following reports:

a. Requested the number of employees from each department that had left the city and the reason why, if applicable. He said the city could not continue to hire or build on the current foundation when the foundation was not sound.

b. Asked Council to complete performance evaluations for the Charter Officers.

4. Mayor Medina provided an update on the Mayor's Business Roundtable and announced the upcoming Mayor's Ball to be held on Saturday, March 26, 2022.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL REPORTS:

1. Ms. Sherman requested a letter from the Mayor thanking Florida Institute of Technology for hosting the Mayor's Business Roundtable. Council concurred.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/RESPONSES:

1. Santa Isabel Wright, resident, felt that employee salaries needed to be addressed, especially police and fire employees.

2. Bill Battin, resident, addressed Item 4, under Consent Agenda (House Bill 531) and supported the resolution opposing the bill. He preferred to vote based on a candidate's character, not their political party. He mentioned that staff should look at federal infrastructure funding should monies run low for the road paving program.

Ms. Sherman addressed Ms. Wright's comment and advised that Council had recently approved the union contracts for Police and Fire, which included significant salary revisions for both teams. As far as the salary study, Ms. Sherman stated that the city had contracted with Evergreen to perform the study. She said that salary ranges had not been updated in close to a decade and adjustments could not be made all at once, but staff would be working on a phased approach once the results were received later this month.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at the hour of 10:18 P.M.

Rob Medina, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Terri J. Lefler, DEPUTY CITY CLERK