

# **CITY OF PALM BAY, FLORIDA**

## **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING 2025-01**

Held on Thursday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2025, 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 6:00 P.M.

Pastor Ken Delgado, The House Church, Palm Bay, gave the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### **ROLL CALL:**

<b>MAYOR:</b>	Rob Medina	Present
<b>DEPUTY MAYOR:</b>	Mike Jaffe	Present
<b>COUNCILMEMBER:</b>	Kenny Johnson	Present
<b>COUNCILMEMBER:</b>	Mike Hammer	Present
<b>COUNCILMEMBER:</b>	Chandler Langevin	Present
<b>INTERIM CITY MANAGER:</b>	Scott Morgan	Present
<b>CITY ATTORNEY:</b>	Patricia Smith	Present
<b>DEPUTY CITY CLERK:</b>	Terri Lefler	Present

Councilman Johnson attended the meeting via teleconference.

**CITY STAFF:** Joan Junkala-Brown, Deputy City Manager; Juliet Misconi, Deputy City Manager; Brian Robinson, Information Technology Director; Mariano Augello, Police Chief; Richard Stover, Fire Chief; Clinton Hatcher, Community and Economic Development Director; Gabriel Bowden, Utilities Director.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Deputy Mayor Jaffe announced the following vacancies and solicited applications for same:

- 1. One (1) vacancy on the Community Development Advisory Board to represent one (1) of the following fields relating to affordable housing: ('banking industry', 'residential home building', 'actively engaged in home building', or 'for-profit provider' positions).++**
- 2. One (1) vacancy on the Disaster Relief Committee Executive Board.++**

**AGENDA REVISIONS:**

There were no agenda revisions.

**PUBLIC COMMENT(S)/RESPONSE(S): (Non-agenda Issues and Items Listed Under ‘Approval of Consent Agenda’ Only)**

Individuals made general comments.

1. Ken Delgado, resident, asked Council to consider adding a traffic light at Palm Bay Road and Bottlebrush Drive. He was concerned with the amount of traffic that frequented the Thrifty Grocery Store, the number of U-turns made in that area, and the addition of future Fire Station 7 to be constructed directly across the street.

Mayor Medina agreed and asked staff to research a new traffic light and report back to Council.

2. Pat Dalpra, resident, asked about the pickleball courts that were discussed and approved by Council six (6) months ago.

Mr. Morgan explained that funding was available to develop a Master Plan for Fred Poppe Regional Park which included pickleball courts.

3. Robert Stise, resident, said that he had met with staff some time ago from the City Attorney’s Office and Fire Rescue Department to walk the area around his home and the golf course. He asked what was going to be done to mitigate the area of the weeds and brush as he was concerned about lightning strikes and wind starting brush fires.

Mayor Medina asked staff to communicate with Mr. Stise regarding his concerns.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

All items of business under the ‘Approval of Consent Agenda’ heading were enacted by the following motion:

Motion by Deputy Mayor Jaffe, seconded by Mr. Langevin, that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented with the removal of Items 6 and 8, from consent. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Jaffe, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Hammer, Yea; Councilman Langevin, Yea.

**1. Adoption of Minutes: Special Council Meeting 2024-29; November 20, 2024.**

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

**2. Adoption of Minutes: Regular Council Meeting 2024-30; November 21, 2024.**

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

**3. Adoption of Minutes: Regular Council Meeting 2024-31; December 5, 2024.**

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

**4. Ordinance 2025-01, amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 52, Boards, Subchapter 'Youth Advisory Board', by repealing the subchapter in its entirety, first reading.**

The City Attorney read the ordinance in caption only.

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

**5. Acknowledgment of the City's quarterly Budget Monitoring Report for the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2024 (Unaudited).**

The item, considered under Consent Agenda, was acknowledged by City Council.

**6. Consideration of an agreement with CERA Software Inc for a real-time threat management system software.**

The item was removed from Consent Agenda and heard after Public Hearings under Consideration of Items Removed from Consent Agenda.

**7. Consideration of submitting an application for law enforcement technology through the Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (\$50,000).**

Staff Recommendation: Approve submitting an application for law enforcement technology through the Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, in the amount of \$50,000.

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

**8. Consideration of a Canine Purchase Agreement for the transfer of ownership for the Belgian Malinois (Zeke).**

The item was removed from Consent Agenda and heard after Public Hearings under Consideration of Items Removed from Consent Agenda.

**CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:**

**6. Consideration of an agreement with CERA Software Inc for a real-time threat management system software.**

Staff Recommendation: Approve the acceptance of an agreement with CERA Software Inc for a real-time threat management system software.

Mr. Robinson presented the item and explained the security processes and details that were involved with choosing the software. Chief Augello provided further details regarding how the software would be used and felt the software would be an essential tool moving forward for all first responders and the School Board. He added that it was an option by every user to utilize the software.

Motion by Mr. Langevin, seconded by Mr. Hammer, to approve the agreement with CERA Software Inc. for real-time threat management system software. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Jaffe, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Hammer, Yea; Councilman Langevin, Yea.

**8. Consideration of a Canine Purchase Agreement for the transfer of ownership for the Belgian Malinois (Zeke).**

Staff Recommendation: Approve a Canine Purchase Agreement for the transfer of ownership for the Belgian Malinois (Zeke), in the amount of \$11,000.

Chief Augello presented the item to Council.

Mr. Langevin suggested lowering the price to \$1,000 to be paid by the officer and the City would pay \$10,000. Mr. Morgan suggested a payment plan as an alternative to recoup the value. Officer Blackledge, Zeke's handler, said she would rather pay the full amount as that was the amount initially paid by the Police Department to purchase the dog.

Mr. Hammer suggested tabling the item and hold a fundraising event with all proceeds going towards the purchase of the dog, and the officer would then pay the remaining balance, if any.

Ms. Smith suggested holding a fundraiser with funds going directly to the City and as something of this nature had never occurred, a policy should be implemented as well.

Deputy Mayor Jaffe suggested approving the item with payment being paid in full and Mr. Hammer could work with Officer Blackledge to create a Go-Fund Me account. Council concurred.

Motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Jaffe, to approve the agreement as prepared by staff, in the amount of \$11,000. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Jaffe, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Hammer, Yea; Councilman Langevin, Yea.

## **PROCUREMENTS:**

**1. Award of Bid: Modular/Relocatable Fire Station(s) - 04-IFB-25 - Fire Rescue Department (Elite Aluminum Corporation – \$3,186,102); consideration of issuing a purchase order for one Modular/Relocatable Fire Station (plus furniture package) – \$1,539,051.**

Staff Recommendation: Approve the award for two Modular/Relocatable Fire Stations with Elite Aluminum Corporation in the amount of \$3,186,102.04; and approve the purchase order issuance of one of the Modular/Relocatable Fire Station plus add alternate optional furniture package in the amount of \$1,593,051.02, in accordance with 04-IFB-25.

Mr. Morgan presented the item to Council. Chief Stover responded to questions posed by councilmembers.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Jaffe, seconded by Mayor Medina, to approve the award of bid and purchase order issuance. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Jaffe, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Hammer, Yea; Councilman Langevin, Yea.

**2. Contract: Engineering Services During Construction, South Regional Water Reclamation Facility – TO 20-05, Amendment 4 – RFQ 68-0-2007 – Utilities Department (Wade Trim - \$523,155).**

Staff Recommendation: Approve Task Order 20-05 for the South Regional Water Reclamation Facility engineering services during construction with Wade Trim in the amount of \$523,155.

Motion by Mr. Langevin, seconded by Mr. Hammer, to approve Task Order 20-05. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Jaffe, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Hammer, Yea; Councilman Langevin, Yea.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. Discussion and direction on economic development programs.**

Staff Recommendation: Council direction on proposed economic development programs.

Ms. Junkala-Brown provided history of the direction given from previous Council which was to proceed with exploring all the opportunities presented at the August 22<sup>nd</sup> Council workshop and bring back each of those programs for Council's consideration. The programs included the Site Readiness Program which provided incentives for developers to get a site pad ready and encouraged commercial industrial development; the weVenture Ignite 360 Program which was a sponsorship program for businesses in Palm Bay; efforts to facilitate development in the area known as the Compound; additional staff for economic development efforts; and attendance at conferences, trade shows and other training opportunities.

Mr. Johnson did not feel that any new positions should be created until a permanent City Manager was hired but would move forward with the other programs. Mr. Langevin agreed. Mr. Hammer wanted to include marketing potential to attract new businesses. He felt that input should be received from the new Director for Community and Economic Development before moving forward. Mayor Medina felt site readiness was critical for economic development. Deputy Mayor Jaffe agreed and said that the issue with Palm Bay were the costs to acquire land, and to pay the impact fees and construction costs. He suggested mitigating impact fees or incentivizing through the Ad Valorem Tax Abatement Program to get more commercial developers into the area. Deputy Mayor Jaffe added that he was not in agreement with the weVenture Program.

Mayor Medina requested staff provide the numbers of those businesses that had benefitted from the weVenture Program. Council concurred to move forward with the other programs as noted, with the exception of the weVenture Program until further information was provided to Council.

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

### **2. Discussion and direction on fluoridation of the City's Potable Water System (Councilman Langevin).**

Staff Recommendation: Council direction and approval to modify the City's Florida Department of Environmental Protection permit to end fluoridation of the City's potable water system.

Gabriel Bowden, Utilities Director, presented the item to Council. He advised that the City's fluoridation system at the North Regional Water Treatment Plant became inoperable and had not fed fluoride since 2016. Mr. Bowden responded to questions posed by councilmembers.

Numerous individuals spoke in support of the removal of fluoride in the water system and stated their reasons for same.

Motion by Mr. Langevin, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to no longer add fluoride to the water and to transition existing fluoride tanks/equipment to hold liquid ammonia. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Jaffe, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Hammer, Yea; Councilman Langevin, Yea.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Councilmembers addressed various subject matters.

1. Mr. Hammer made the following reports:

A. Appointed Patric McNally to the Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization Citizens' Advisory Committee.

B. Advised that he was still working with staff on the ordinance to establish the Citizens Budget Advisory Board and would be bringing it forth for discussion soon.

C. Advised that he wanted to discuss the abandoned apartment buildings on Pinewood Drive at a future meeting.

2. Mayor Medina made the following reports:

A. Advised that he wanted to discuss the GO Roads Paving Program at a future meeting. He wanted to delve deep into the low quality workmanship of the recently completed Jupiter Boulevard northwest area.

B. Stated he had recently requested that the times for the regular meetings start at 7:00 P.M., but asked if Council would entertain starting at 6:30 P.M. There was no consensus from Council.

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL REPORTS:**

1. Ms. Smith requested an Executive Session on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 5:30 P.M., to discuss settlement negotiations pertaining to Mahmoud Hamdan v. City of Palm Bay, Case No. 05-2022-CA-045505. She said the session would last approximately thirty (30) minutes and announced the individuals that would be in attendance. Council concurred.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at the hour of 9:20 P.M.

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Rob Medina, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Terri J. Lefler, DEPUTY CITY CLERK