



Meeting Minutes City Commission

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order on the above date by Mayor Bill Ganz at 7:04 p.m., in the City Commission Chambers, City Hall, Deerfield Beach.

Present: 5 – Commissioner Todd Drosky – via Zoom
Commissioner Michael Hudak
Commissioner Ben Preston
Vice Mayor Bernie Parness – via Zoom
Mayor Bill Ganz

Also Present: 3 – City Manager David Santucci
City Attorney Anthony Soroka
City Clerk Samantha Gillyard

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

There was a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CITY BOARD MINUTES

Code Compliance Meeting Minutes - October 6, October 21, November 3, November 18, & December 8, 2020

MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Parness, seconded by Commissioner Hudak, to acknowledge the board minutes. Voice Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Commissioner Drosky, Commissioner Hudak, Commissioner Preston, Vice Mayor Parness and Mayor Ganz

Nays: 0

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

February 16, 2021

MOTION was made by Commissioner Hudak, seconded by Commissioner Preston, to approve the agenda as amended. Voice Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Commissioner Drosky, Commissioner Hudak, Commissioner Preston, Vice Mayor Parness and Mayor Ganz

Nays: 0

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

1. Certificate of Recognition presented to Maverick Entertainment Group for their accomplishments in the African American feature length film genre.

Mayor Ganz presented a certificate to Doug Schwab for the outstanding accomplishments as the number one distributor of African American cinema in the United States. In 1997, Doug Schwab formed a company that has called Deerfield Beach home for 24 years, with the intention to satisfy a demand that was underserved and often overlooked - Black cinema. Since then, Maverick Entertainment Group has aided hundreds of Black independent filmmakers with directing, producing, and learning about the business of films, and has also served as a facilitator for the marketing and exhibition of more than 900 independent Black films on all the major home entertainment outlets, including Netflix, Tubi, Redbox, Sling and YouTube with more than 1 million subscribers.

Mr. Schwab thanked the Commission for recognizing him and the company. He advised that Maverick has released over 900 films in the last 24 years, acquired over 100 films and funded 20 plus films just last year. Mr. Schwab said Maverick serves as an outlet for people to share their visions and stories throughout the world. Furthermore, their business model has been and always will be centered around offering opportunity, diversity and helping filmmakers tell their story. Lastly, Maverick plans to bring more projects to Florida; whereas, some have already been done in Deerfield Beach.

2. Presentation by Ihesha O'Neal, Mark Your Path Mentoring, regarding the Little Sidewalk Library.

Commissioner Preston said Ms. O'Neal set up a library to help children in the African-American community. He thanked her for being a visionary and making books accessible to the children.

Ms. O'Neal provided a photograph of her library and explained her reasoning for implementing the Little Sidewalk Library, which is directly in front of her home. She said her success was achieved through reading, so allowing a child access to books places them on a path to bring positivity in the community and world. Ms. O'Neal thanked the Commission for acknowledging her and hopes to see additional sidewalk libraries in the City.

Commissioner Preston suggested monetary donations to help Ms. O'Neal with this project.

In response to Mayor Ganz's question, Ms. O'Neal replied yes, she does accept book donations, which can be dropped off at 262 SW 1st Terrace, Deerfield Beach.

3. Proclamation presented to the City of Sunrise in recognition of American Heart Month.

Mayor Ganz read the proclamation recognizing American Heart Month. The first proclamation recognizing American Heart Month was issued by President Lyndon B. Johnson in February 1964, nine years after he had a heart attack. Since then, February has been declared American Heart Month, and is observed to raise awareness on the importance of maintaining a healthy heart and to encourage healthy habits that help reduce the risk of heart disease. Heart disease kills over 600,000 Americans each year and is the leading cause of death, higher than all forms of cancer combined; and it affects all ages, genders, and ethnicities. Risk factors include high cholesterol, high blood pressure, smoking, diabetes, and excessive alcohol use.

Additionally, Mayor Ganz said the warning signs for heart disease have been known to appear when people are as young as 18 years old. Red flags such as high blood pressure should be taken seriously. Healthy habits like getting 30 minutes of exercise every day and talking with your doctor to develop healthy eating habits that promote heart health should be adopted. With organizations such as the American Heart Association, and other cities like the City of Sunrise and Deerfield Beach working together, millions of people are enjoying longer, healthier lives.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION - CONTINUED

Assistant Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Guzman, City of Sunrise, thanked the Commission for supporting the proclamation. She is a two (2) time heart attack survivor and at the age of 30, she suffered a silent heart attack and a week later, a massive heart attack. Now, nine (9) years later, she is a huge advocate and again, thanked the Commission for the proclamation.

4. Presentation by Steve Biernoski regarding the Utility Service Partners Private Label Inc. d/b/a Service Line Warranties of America.

Mr. Biernoski provided a brief PowerPoint presentation of upcoming initiatives and services provided.

Who We Are - Mr. Biernoski said they have serviced over 4.4 million households through over 1,000 municipal, utility and association partners in the United States. He also commented on their customer service and attentiveness to the customers.

What We Do: Customer Benefits - Mr. Biernoski said when residents enroll in their program, they receive 24-hour coverage, no deductible or service fee for any contractor work. Utility Service Partners makes it easy for residents to address covered repairs.

Partnership Overview (Since Inception in 2013) - Mr. Biernoski said they are currently partnered with Deerfield Beach, but will be relaunching the program and mailing literature to residents by the end of February. Right now, there are 214 customers covered by the plan; whereby, customers have saved over \$72,000.

Creating Program Awareness - Mr. Biernoski provided a rendering of the mailer that will go out and advised that it explains the homeowners' responsibilities. Residents can enroll using the mailer, but may do so anytime. Furthermore, he said they work with the City to promote through social media and website content during the upcoming campaign and illustrate what is available to the residents.

Communication & Training - Mr. Biernoski said training is provided to City staff that respond to customer phone calls or come in to pay a bill; general information and background is provided.

The HomeServe Cares Foundation - Mr. Biernoski outlined four (4) different programs but promoted Caring for People. This program is for any resident of the City that does not have another program for emergencies; whereby, Utility Service Partners works with a contractor to have the repair done at no cost to the resident. Also, they team up with Vets for apprenticeship programs for those interested in that field.

Commissioner Drosky said he has had a lot of exposure to this program through the National League of Cities and while this is a good program, each homeowner must decide whether this program is good for them. Nevertheless, allowing residents an opportunity to participate is long overdue so he is happy a campaign is going forward.

Commissioner Hudak said he has signed up, but has not had to use the program. He said every month he was receiving different mailers and it was confusing as he is unsure which program he did or did not have.

Mr. Biernoski said the mailer going out soon will only include water coverage; residents may seek other coverages on the website. He said changes can be made so if residents are enrolled in one program, they will only receive mailers for programs they are not currently involved.

5. Certificate of Appreciation presented to Jethro Eliezaire and Cesar Osegueda for their hard work and outstanding service at the shredding event held on January 16, 2021.

Commissioner Drosky applauded Mr. Eliezaire and Mr. Osegueda for handling approximately 200 residents at the shredding event. He said they did an exceptional job and wanted to recognize them for their professionalism.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION - CONTINUED**6. Certificate of Recognition presented to Suzan Scott for 17 years of dedicated service as the Administrative Assistant in the Department of Legislative & Community Affairs.**

Mayor Ganz said Ms. Scott has been a dedicated and caring Administrative Assistant for the Department of Legislative & Community Affairs, formerly known as the Community Development Department, for over 17-years. She has been a hard-working employee that always had the residents and her team's best interests at heart. Also, Ms. Scott has always dedicated herself to assuring staff have resources available to improve the department's performance, to support the team, and to provide outstanding service to our residents; she would never hesitate to assist with projects to ensure that deadlines are always met.

Ms. Scott thanked the Commission for recognizing her and said it is time to move on to the next phase of her life and she will greatly miss everyone.

7. Certificate of Recognition presented to Cassi Waren for 8 years of dedicated service as the Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation.

Ms. Waren started her Deerfield Beach career on October 1, 2012 as a Manager I for Special Events. Over the years, Cassi remained focused on delivering good community programming and received several promotions leading to her current title as Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation. During her 8-year tenure with the City, Ms. Waren was key in developing new events such as Ocean Brews and Blues. She was instrumental in transforming the Country Music Fest to Boots N Bourbon and had direct influence on bringing Pioneer Days and Ocean Way Holiday Lighting to new levels. She also worked with KABOOM! to have a grant funded playground installed at the Hillsboro Technology Center.

Ms. Waren thanked the Commission for recognizing her. She said she has grown a lot in her career and looks forward to coming to City events and being a participant.

8. Proclamation presented to Alliance for Eating Disorders in recognition of National Eating Disorder Awareness Week.

Mayor Ganz read and presented a proclamation recognizing February 22 - February 28, 2021 as National Eating Disorder Awareness Week. The Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is a leading, national eating disorders organization, headquartered in the State of Florida and dedicated to the outreach, education, support, and early intervention for all eating disorders. Eating disorders affect 28.8 million Americans during their lifetime and include the specific disorders of anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, binge eating disorder, and avoidant/restrictive food intake disorder. Eating disorders are associated with serious physical health consequences, including irregular heartbeats, heart disease and failure, kidney failure, osteoporosis, gastric rupture, tooth decay, obesity, gallbladder disease, diabetes, and death.

Additionally, Mayor Ganz said at least once every 52 minutes, someone dies as a direct result of an eating disorder, resulting in 10,200 deaths per year. Eating disorders know no boundaries with respect to genders/gender identity, ages, races, ethnicities, body shapes and weights, abilities, sexual orientations, and socioeconomic statuses. The yearly economic cost of eating disorders is \$64.7 billion, but with early detection and intervention, full recovery from an eating disorder is possible.

Emily Like, Advocacy Intern, Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness, thanked the Commission for its support and recognition. Ms. Like said the Alliance is having their first national event to celebrate peoples' recovery from February 26th through February 28th.

PUBLIC HEARING - SECOND READING

9. **P.H. 2021-033: ORDINANCE 2021/001 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF DEERFIELD BEACH, FLORIDA, REZONING APPROXIMATELY .8688 GROSS ACRES LOCATED AT 111, 121, 131 & 141 SW 2ND TERRACE FROM RESIDENCE, SINGLE-FAMILY (RS-7) TO RESIDENCE, MULTI-FAMILY (RM-10) (APPLICATION 19-R-186); PROVIDING FOR A MAXIMUM OF EIGHT TOWNHOUSE DWELLING UNITS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

The Ordinance was read by title only.

Kaitlyn Forbes, Mellgren Group, waived the quasi-judicial proceeding. Thereafter, she provided a brief PowerPoint presentation regarding the rezoning and plat note amendment request for Southern Dream Properties.

Plat Note Amendment - Ms. Forbes said the amendment is to ensure that the note on the face of the plat is consistent with the proposed plat. Currently, it covers both their four (4) lots and the four (4) lots across the street. She explained that the change to the current note from eight (8) single family detached units to the proposed note of eight (8) townhouse units on lots 1 through 4 and four (4) single-family detached units on lots 5 thru 8. After City Commission consideration, the amendment would go to the County, reviewed for impact and any additional fees.

Rezoning Request - Ms. Forbes said the rezoning request is to change the current zoning designation from RS-7 to RM-10.

Mayor Ganz opened the public hearing.

Terry Scott, 180 SW 3rd Avenue, Deerfield Beach, asked that the Commission listen to the community as no one agrees with townhome units. For anyone who does not live in District 2, it is hard to decide when you do not live there; whereas, the community is not against development, but does not support the townhomes.

Thereafter, there was a brief discussion between Mayor Ganz and Mr. Scott regarding the height of the townhomes.

Shirley Sands, 182 SW 1st Court, Deerfield Beach, spoke in opposition to the project as she supports single-family homes.

Cornelia Wright, 163 SW 1st Court, Deerfield Beach, spoke in opposition to the project as the height of the townhomes will not look appropriate with single-family homes.

Laura Parrish, 130 SW 2nd Terrace, Deerfield Beach, said she built the house directly across from the townhomes and her main concern is parking. She advised that there are already parking issues in the area as people are parking over the sidewalks and it will be the same problem with the townhomes.

Mayor Ganz closed the public hearing. Thereafter, Mayor Ganz explained the zoning for the area; whereas, a single-family home can be built as high as three (3) stories. He also commented on the quad-plexes and other antiquated structures that need improvement; whereas, bringing the project to the community will help with revitalization.

Commissioner Preston said he has received a lot of calls from residents opposing the project. The single-family home projects bring more stability as townhomes can be turned into rentals. The community is not opposed to development and should participate in what comes to the community. Commissioner Preston said the residents are asking for single-family homes and for him, that is important.

PUBLIC HEARING - SECOND READING - CONTINUED

Vice Mayor Parness said the lot has been vacant for approximately 50 years and this is an opportunity to add new homes. Vice Mayor Parness provided a brief history on how Century Village was once farmland and is now housing for 16,000 people; whereby, for 50 years, these lots have been left vacant and no builder has offered single-family homes.

Commissioner Hudak commented on the concerns expressed by the residents; whereas, height was most recently discussed. He said a builder could develop four (4) three-story single-family homes, and for 50 years, no one has. The City is looking for ways to improve the area, through business opportunities or workforce housing, a developer wants to now improve the area. Commissioner Hudak advised that anyone can buy a home there and rent it just as others have done. Furthermore, he offered that other issues can be addressed later at the proper stage; therefore, he supports the item.

Commissioner Preston explained that District 2 was left behind for 50 years and should not have been. He said the development is based on property availability and is not about revitalization. Had there been an economic pace in the district, as the city grew, the topic would be revitalization. He said the property was left behind because of the area, lack of business and the opportunities available to other districts were not available to District 2.

Mayor Ganz said other districts don't reject townhomes; thereafter, he commented on other issues within the district, i.e. illegal dumping. He advised that the project would be a huge improvement and he has fought against projects that hurt communities in the past; however, this project does not.

Commissioner Preston said the community is concerned about the project, not that it is a bad project. He further commented on the how the area was not incorporated into a plan to uplift the area and was systematically left behind.

Mayor Ganz agreed that certain areas in the City were left behind and change starts by approving reasonable, attractive development. He said shooting down projects like this keeps the area stagnant; this is an opportunity to improve the area.

Commissioner Preston said he is not trying to scare projects away and welcomes the conversation. He said the project will be approved whether the community wants it or not, and reiterated the community being against it.

Vice Mayor Parness agreed that District 2 was left behind many years ago. He said unless a city grows, it dies and this is an opportunity to develop a lot vacant for 50 years. This will not hurt the neighborhood, but will help it and it is better than nothing.

Commissioner Drosky agreed with Vice Mayor Parness. He further commented on the negative effects of denying this project as the Urban Land Institute (ULI) agreed on this type project for the community.

MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Parness, seconded by Commissioner Hudak, to approve Item 9, adopted Ordinance 2021/001. Roll Call:

Yeas: 4 - Commissioner Drosky, Commissioner Hudak, Vice Mayor Parness and Mayor Ganz

Nays: 1 - Commissioner Preston

QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARING**10. P.H. 2021-034: APPLICATION NO. 19-P-220 (Southern Dream Properties Plat Note Amendment)**

Applicant: Southern Dream Properties, LLC. represented by Kaitlyn Forbes of Mellgren Planning Group.

Proposal: Plat Note Amendment Application requesting approval to amend the restrictive plat note on the "Laura & Glenda Estates" Plat (Plat Book 183, Page 100)

QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARING - CONTINUED

Location: The properties are generally described as several parcels of land in LAURA & GLENDA ESTATES 183-100 B LOTS 1,2,3, & 4 and located at **111,121, 131, & 141 S.W. 2nd Terrace.**

Mayor Ganz opened the public hearing.

Shawn Cover, 224 SW 1st Street, Deerfield Beach, agreed with Commissioner Preston. Mr. Cover also commented on how the area has been cleaned up.

Felicia Poitier, 148 NE 5th Street, Deerfield Beach, asked what is the restriction for the property and what is being amended.

Terry Scott, 180 SW 3rd Avenue, Deerfield Beach, provided a brief history of District 2 and how it was on the east side then moved west of Dixie Highway. Thereafter, Mr. Scott expressed opposition to the proposed project and asked that the community be respected by allowing their input. Lastly, he said the community wants development and applauds projects recently done.

Anthony Soroka, City Attorney, advised that Item 10 is a plat application amendment which consists of eight (8) lots. The plat restriction reads that it is limited to eight (8) single-family detached units and the proposal is an amendment to the restriction to provide for eight (8) townhome units on lots 1 thru 4 on the west side of the street, and four (4) single-family detached units on lots 5 thru 8 on the east side of the street.

Irene Billingslea, 108 SW 1st Court, Deerfield Beach, said she is not against development, but would like the community to be heard.

Ihesha O'Neal, 262 SW 1st Terrace, Deerfield Beach, said she is not against development, but would like the community to be heard. Furthermore, many residents inherited property and are trying to keep up with their responsibilities. She also spoke in favor of revitalizing the area, especially after having been vacant for more than 50 years.

Shirley Sands, 182 SW 1st Court, Deerfield Beach, said the property was vacant because the owner did not want to sell it.

Terisha Lee, 179 SW 1st Court, Deerfield Beach, said within the last six (6) years, she has seen beautiful homes built with great families occupying them. She spoke in support of the project as it would be great for the neighborhood aesthetically. Further, townhomes would be a beautiful entrance into the neighborhood coming from Hillsboro and there should be more developers and projects like this.

Ms. Poitier resumed her time and asked various questions regarding Items 9 and 10; whereby, Mr. Soroka reiterated previous comments.

Mayor Ganz closed the public hearing. Thereafter, he commented on various properties in the neighborhood where some are taking care of their property and others are not. Mayor Ganz acknowledged some of the issues the community has presented; i.e. height, properties being used as rentals and other dwellings that are not single-family homes. Lastly, he advised that he supports the project because nothing has been presented to decline.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Hudak, seconded by Vice Mayor Parness, to approve Item 10, adopted Resolution 2021/018. Roll Call:

Yeas: 4 - Commissioner Drosky, Commissioner Hudak, Vice Mayor Parness and Mayor Ganz

Nays: 1 - Commissioner Preston

PUBLIC COMMENT

Leonard Arabia, 2051 SE 3rd Street, Deerfield Beach, said instead of focusing on public safety, which is the issue and as Mayor and Commissioners is your most important duty, the Mayor has avoided that issue as demonstrated by his convoluted, unilateral rant in responding to what are clearly non-issues. He commented on a six-year-old local newspaper article Mayor Ganz referenced, regarding dogs walking on the sidewalk and relieving themselves. Mr. Arabia asked for an explanation on how that relates to public safety when he has not been asked to vacate or alter the existing dog ordinance so that he can provide public safety. Mr. Arabia continued to outline various discussions during the City Commission meetings: inconvenience to diners eating at the Wyndham Hotel outdoor restaurant patio because someone walks with their dog seven feet away and four feet below on the street.

Continuing, Mr. Arabia said as an official of the City, Mayor Ganz should not allow his personal feelings to dictate public policy. Truth of the matter is, per the restaurant manager Matthew, they actually allow dogs in the eating area. Furthermore, the Mayor then stated his personal feelings that a person has no need or right to walk along South Ocean Way with their dog. This is another example of his self-serving unilateral personal opinion, which is clearly prejudicial and a form of discrimination, and an abuse of his authority, taking precedent over public safety. Mr. Arabia opined that Mayor Ganz's concern regarding the diners at the Wyndham is misplaced. If he was concerned with their wellbeing, he would ban the hundreds of cars and motorcycles with radios blaring so loudly that any person within 20 feet of the vehicle vibrates as they go by; in addition to the unmuffled exhaust noise and fumes causing people to choke. Moreover, the Mayor indicated at the last commission meeting that he places more importance on the potential loss of revenue from 18 parking spaces rather than afford the public a safe way to walk. The Mayor has established through his actions, and therefore the City of Deerfield Beach, not only discrimination but absolutely no concern for the safety of people who choose to walk with their dog along a public way, which is their right. I am totally baffled by the lack of interaction and concern by all of the Commissioners regarding this issue.

In closing, Mr. Arabia said if the Mayor and the commissioners are incapable of performing their required duties to ensure public safety, then a commission needs to be formed to address this issue on South Ocean Way. Lastly, before the next Commission meeting, he asked that the Commission be polled as to whether or not they believe there is or is not a safety issue by people walking in the street with their dog.

Lawanda Pack, 262 SW 1st Terrace, Deerfield Beach, said her daughter, Ms. Ihesha O'Neal has done a wonderful thing with the sidewalk library. She said Ms. O'Neal's goal was to return to Deerfield Beach and make a difference as she grew up here. Ms. Pack continued to applaud the changes occurring in the community.

Felicia Poitier, 148 NE 5th Street, Deerfield Beach, asked what redevelopment has been planned for the District 2 opportunity zone, Dixie corridor and its effect on other zoning through development.

Mayor Ganz replied that it can be discussed later as it was not something set for tonight's agenda.

Terry Scott, 180 SW 3rd Avenue, Deerfield Beach, asked that Mayor Ganz walk the City with him.

Shirley Sands, 182 SW 1st Court, Deerfield Beach, commented on the traffic light turning east at 2nd Avenue, near Deerfield Beach Elementary; there needs to be a turn arrow and she believes someone will get hurt.

Commissioner Preston said he would like to find out what Mr. Arabia desires of the City.

Commissioner Hudak left the dais temporarily at 8:47 p.m. and returned at 8:49 p.m.

Mayor Ganz opened discussion between the Commission and Mr. Arabia to determine how to resolve the issue.

Leonard Arabia, 2051 SE 3rd Street, Deerfield Beach, gave his name and address for the record.

Commissioner Preston said the Mayor is not the problem as he is one of five persons on the board to help. He asked what the Commission can do collectively to resolve the issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT - CONTINUED

Mr. Arabia replied that his frustration at this point is despite a safety issue, Mayor Ganz has provided reasons he thinks someone with a dog would not have a reason to walk along South Ocean Way on the west side. He said he understands why there is a dog ordinance and being allowed to dog walk on the west side of South Ocean Way. There are two (2) areas, north of the Embassy Suites where no sidewalk exists and people have to walk in the street. The distance between where the cars are parked at an angle and the area where people cannot walk is approximately 11 feet. A parking spot in a shopping center is 9 feet wide; therefore, how does one walk with a dog on a leash in this area with cars going by in a two (2) foot area. He said he should be able to walk along the beach with his dog. Additionally, Mr. Arabia commented on the north side of the Wyndham, there is no sidewalk at all and the 19 parking spots on the east side of South Ocean Way.

Continuing, Mr. Arabia said he spoke with the City's engineer and there is a right-of-way that belongs to the City, but it does not exist as it is landscaping running along the Wyndham; therefore, there is no place to walk. He said there are a lot of cars and he has been struck by a side view mirror walking with his dog south and the car going north. He has spoken with other city residents who have been hurt in the area. Mr. Arabia said he would like the City to provide a safe walking area on South Ocean Way; if the ordinance bans dogs being on the sidewalk, then another safe method should be provided on the street. Mr. Arabia said there is nothing indicating that people must walk their dogs in the traffic, although there is a place for people to walk on the other side of the street. He said he is not asking for the ordinance [to be changed], but wants an accommodation. There is a simple solution to this, but will require losing the revenue for the 18 parking spaces. Mr. Arabia suggested a corridor such as temporary fencing so no construction is involved. Then another issue is no place for bicycles, from the Wyndham to the south corner of the next street there is no bike lane.

Commissioner Preston thanked Mr. Arabia for the explanation and asked that he contact him to discuss further. He also explained that the attacks against the Mayor are unfair as he does not make decisions autonomously and reiterated the opportunity to work with Mr. Arabia to find a solution.

Mr. Arabia advised that he has tried and is not getting a response. If there is a safety issue, it needs to be addressed; if not, someone needs to say it. Mr. Arabia continued to voice his concerns with the walkability on South Ocean Drive.

Mayor Ganz said when people choose to walk in the street, there is a safety issue; however, it is a choice. Although Mr. Arabia has said he does not want to discuss the ordinance being changed, he originally tried to address and research the issue but was unable to reach him within the two (2) week time span. He asked for a legal opinion on the topic.

Anthony Soroka, City Attorney, replied that there is no unqualified right to walk a dog wherever desired on a property that is not yours and that includes city property. There has been case law which upheld restrictions like no dogs on the beach or certain sidewalks/portions of a park. The section relevant to this topic is Section 10-10 of the City Code which explicitly makes it unlawful to walk dogs along the sidewalk abutting the public beach, in the grass area and sidewalk abutting that beach in that public-right-of-way Mr. Arabia spoke on today.

Mayor Ganz said the problem becomes whether the City wants to give up 18 parking spaces that will deny 18 more residents the ability to park by the beach because someone feels it is their right to walk their dog near the ocean at the same time. He said there is a disagreement with how to approach it. Furthermore, there are space limitations on that corner; nevertheless, he asked the Commission for a poll on getting rid of the parking spaces.

Vice Mayor Parness said if everyone has the right to walk their dogs wherever desired, would it be prudent to walk on I-95 with a dog and the answer is no. The City has the right to restrict where people can go at certain times. Recently, there was a curfew imposed by the County for the safety of the citizens; whereas, walking a dog in the street, by the beach, where it is overcrowded with traffic is a personal thing that he wouldn't subject his dog. He said it does not make sense to walk a dog in a dangerous place. He said it is not about giving up parking spaces, but the City has the right to protect its citizens in the best manner possible. Thus, the owner must make the decision on where to walk the dog.

CONSENT - AGREEMENTS & EXPENDITURE REQUESTS

- 11. Resolution 2021/019 - A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Deerfield Beach, Florida, extending the State of Local Emergency regarding COVID-19 until March 17, 2021; authorizing the City Manager to take appropriate actions; providing an effective date.**
- 12. Resolution 2021/020 - A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Deerfield Beach, Florida, approving the submission of an application to the Florida Inland Navigation District for the Waterways Assistance Program for Pioneer Park Boat Ramp Pier Replacement in the amount of \$151,631.00; authorizing execution of a Grant Agreement; and providing for an effective date.**
- 13. Resolution 2021/021 - A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Deerfield Beach, Florida, authorizing the purchase of a replacement engine for the number two emergency generator for the West Water Treatment Plant from Pantropic Power Products, Inc. in the amount of \$297,275.00; providing for execution and an effective date. (*Funds from Account #413-5000-536-60-31 - Improvements Other than Buildings*)**

Mayor Ganz opened the public hearing; however, there were none to speak and the public hearing was closed.

There was no discussion amongst the Commission.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Hudak, seconded by Commissioner Preston, to approve Items 11 – 13 in concert. Roll Call:

Yeas: 5 - Commissioner Drosky, Commissioner Hudak, Commissioner Preston, Vice Mayor Parness and Mayor Ganz

Nays: 0

COMMENTS BY ADMINISTRATION & LEGAL

CITY ATTORNEY – No Report.

CITY COMMISSION BUSINESS**14. Discussion regarding a potential city charter review and committee.**

Commissioner Hudak said the City's Charter has not been reviewed since 2006 and believes it is a good practice for a committee to review the Charter every 10 years. He said he does not have any specific items that he believes should be updated, but opined that this would be good practice. Commissioner Hudak provided guidelines and logistics for selecting a committee and the amount of time given to review the Charter; one (1) member per elected official with 180 days to review.

Vice Mayor Parness agreed with Commissioner Hudak as it is important to make sure the Charter is up to date.

Commissioner Drosky disagreed as he believes the Charter is regularly discussed during the meetings. Furthermore, if residents are asked to review the charter, the first change will be repealing the height restriction on the beach as he gets this request all the time. Lastly, he said there should be tangible reasons to review it and fix it then.

Commissioner Preston agreed with Commissioner Drosky; if there is a question about specificity related to the Charter, the City Attorney can advise the Commission.

CITY COMMISSION BUSINESS - CONTINUED

Mayor Ganz agreed with Commissioner Drosky. He said based on his experience with a previous Charter Review Board, it was motivated by political gain. Mayor Ganz provided a detailed history of what occurred and recommended that certain items be reviewed when necessary.

COMMENTS BY ADMINISTRATION & LEGAL - CONTINUED**CITY MANAGER**

Water Outage - David Santucci, City Manager, advised that there is a major water outage in Broward County; whereby, anyone who is billed for water service by the County and is out of water will have to boil their water once restored. There was a major storm this evening and the Water Plant was struck by lightning several times. He advised that various areas throughout the City are affected, as well as Independence Bay.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR & CITY COMMISSION**COMMISSIONER HUDAK****DISTRICT 1**

Broward League of Cities - Commissioner Hudak said the Commission does a lot to promote the City and move forward behind the scenes. For the last four (4) years, Commissioner Drosky has gone over and above in developing relationships with the Broward League of Cities. Today, he was unanimously elected by the Board of Directors and will begin serving a role as secretary and in 2023, he will become the president. This is the first time a commissioner in Deerfield Beach has been given this honor.

Commission Camaraderie - Commissioner Hudak said there are times that the Commission will debate topics, but he is proud and honored to serve with all of them.

Mayor Ganz congratulated Commissioner Drosky on his appointment and said it is outstanding and huge accomplishment for the City.

COMMISSIONER PRESTON**DISTRICT 2**

Broward League of Cities - Commissioner Preston congratulated Commissioner Drosky for being selected to the Executive Committee.

Coyote Signs - Commissioner Preston asked for an update on the coyote signs discussed at the February 2nd City Commission meeting.

David Santucci, City Manager, advised that no signs have been posted yet, as staff is trying to coordinate a workshop with the Florida Wildlife Commission to provide educational information. He said he will see what signage they have available for City use and post in areas needed.

Commissioner Preston said the locations need to be identified and the signs need to be installed quickly.

Mr. Santucci asked that Commissioner Preston provide some of the locations to expedite the matter.

Black History Month - Commissioner Preston said February is Black History Month and commented on a man who served as a Tuskegee Airman who passed away. Commissioner Preston said Black history is American history and should not be isolated. Thereafter, he explained the circumstances surrounding the Tuskegee Airmen and how experiments were conducted against Black service men. Commissioner Preston said the diversity and contributions by all make us who we are. Lastly, he commented on Juneteenth and how many people were not aware of what occurred, making the educational component very important.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR & CITY COMMISSION - CONTINUED**VICE MAYOR PARNESS****DISTRICT 3**

World War II - Vice Mayor Parness explained how African-American service men worked together in enemy territory to keep the United States supplied with goods. Although the troops were segregated at that time, there were many outfits of many ethnic groups, Tuskegee Airmen, 442nd Infantry from Texas made up of Japanese American soldiers.

COVID Vaccinations - Vice Mayor Parness advised that over 4,000 residents in Century Village received vaccines and boosters.

COMMISSIONER DROSKY**DISTRICT 4**

Broward League of Cities - Commissioner Drosky thanked the Commission for its support and acknowledging his contributions; however, it is not about him, but the City. He said he is only the vessel to represent the City and the recognition is based on all of their hard work.

Saturday Office Hours - Commissioner Drosky said he will have office hours on March 6th via Zoom or phone from 10 am till noon.

Coyote Workshop - Commissioner Drosky said he looks forward to the workshop with the Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) as coyotes have been spotted in District 4 but has not heard of attacks. His understanding is that they are skittish by nature and if it approaches, it is rabid. Commissioner Drosky said if signs are going to be posted, they should be posted throughout, as coyotes are everywhere. Before moving forward with a citywide policy, he would like more information from the FWC.

MAYOR BILL GANZ

Jason Pierre-Paul - Mayor Ganz congratulated Mr. Pierre-Paul on the Super Bowl Championship. Mr. Pierre-Paul is a Deerfield Beach resident and former member of the Boys & Girls Club and during Christmas, he donated bikes to the children.

Broward League of Cities - Mayor Ganz congratulated Commissioner Drosky on his dedication and service on the Broward League. He said Commissioner Drosky has put in a lot of hard work to get the City recognized with various issues.

Commission Camaraderie - Mayor Ganz thanked Commissioner Preston for reminding the Commission of their purpose to help the residents after working through the anger and rhetoric.

Coyotes - Mayor Ganz said coyotes have been reported in the Waterways, but no reports of anyone being attacked.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no additional business to discuss.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Preston, seconded by Commissioner Hudak, to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. Voice Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Commissioner Drosky, Commissioner Hudak, Commissioner Preston, Vice Mayor Parness and Mayor Ganz

Nays: 0

CITY OF DEERFIELD BEACH

BILL GANZ, MAYOR

Samantha Gillyard, CMC, City Clerk