

# **CITY OF PALM BAY, FLORIDA**

## **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING 2024-07**

Held on Thursday, the 4<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024, 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 Beau Di Frenna, Trinity Church, 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>	Donny Felix	Present
<b>COUNCILMEMBER:</b>	Kenny Johnson	Present
<b>COUNCILMEMBER:</b>	Randy Foster	Present
<b>COUNCILMEMBER</b>	Vacant	
<b>CITY MANAGER:</b>	Suzanne Sherman	Present
<b>CITY ATTORNEY:</b>	Patricia Smith	Present
<b>DEPUTY CITY CLERK:</b>	Terri Lefler	Present

**CITY STAFF:** Juliet Misconi, Deputy City Manager; Joan Junkala-Brown, Deputy City Manager.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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

- 1. Four (4) vacancies on the Youth Advisory Board (represents ‘student member’ positions).++**
- 2. Three (3) vacancies on the Youth Advisory Board (represents ‘adult member’ positions).++**
- 3. Two (2) vacancies on the Disaster Relief Committee Executive Board.++**

### **AGENDA REVISIONS:**

- Ms. Sherman announced the following:
  - A proclamation for Water Conservation Month had been added as Item 3, under ‘Proclamations and Recognitions’.

B. The Infrastructure Solution Services Task Order was added to Item 5, under Consent Agenda.

C. Item 17, under Consent Agenda, was inadvertently placed on consent and staff requested to consider the item with the accompanying Item 1, under Presentations.

D. The requestors for Items 2, 3, and 4, under New Business, requested that the items be considered earlier in the meeting, prior to Presentations.

E. The applicant for Items 7 and 8, under Public Hearings, requested that Cases CP23-00020 and PD23-00008 be continued to the May 2, 2024, regular Council meeting.

Motion by Mr. Foster, seconded by Deputy Mayor Felix, to remove Item 17, under Consent Agenda, and consider it with Item 1, under Presentations; consider Items 2, 3, and 4, under New Business, prior to Presentations; and continue Items 7 and 8, under Public Hearings, to the May 2, 2024, regular Council meeting. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Felix, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea.

#### **PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS:**

The proclamations were read.

- 1. Proclamation: Sustainability Awareness Month – April 2024.**
- 2. Proclamation: National Community Development Month –April 2024.**
- 3. Proclamation: Water Conservation Month – April 2024.**

Council concurred to consider Items 2, 3, and 4, under New Business, at this time.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 2. Consideration of a co-sponsorship request for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Christmas Extravaganza at Fred Poppe Regional Park.**

Staff Recommendation: Approve the City's co-sponsorship with the House Church for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Christmas Extravaganza at Fred Poppe Regional Park, approving for \$6,230 of in-kind wages (labor) and authorizing \$5,757.50 in rental and fee waivers for Fiscal Year 2025, subject to budget approval.

Ms. Smith explained that Mayor Medina would abstain from voting on the item due to his affiliation with The House Church. Mr. Foster asked if he could question Mayor Medina. Ms. Smith said that the representatives in attendance should answer the questions rather than the Mayor.

Bill Battin, resident, did not agree with using tax dollars to pay for events; however, he did note that they were the only group that returned a donation back to the City to help offset costs.

Motion by Mr. Foster, seconded by Deputy Mayor Felix, to approve the co-sponsorship request for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Christmas Extravaganza.

Motion carried with members voting as follows:

Mayor Medina	Abstained
Deputy Mayor Felix	Yea
Councilman Johnson	Yea
Councilman Foster	Yea

### **3. Consideration of a co-sponsorship request for the Brevard Public School Career and Technical Education Department's Recruitment Fair.**

Staff Recommendation: Approve the City's co-sponsorship with the Brevard Public School Career and Technical Education Department's Recruitment Fair, approving for \$210 of in-kind wages (labor).

Bill Battin, resident, felt that anyone not paying taxes should get a break and that he did not see the application for the event in the agenda packet. Ms. Sherman apologized for the oversight and advised that she would send the application to Mr. Battin.

Mr. Johnson said he was excited and encouraged by the upcoming event to create generational knowledge and get young people into the workforce in the City.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Felix, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve the co-sponsorship for the Brevard Public School Career and Technical Education Department's Recruitment Fair. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Felix, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea.

### **4. Consideration of purchasing four (4) parcels (0.79 acres) owned by Evans Center Inc. generally located at 1361 Florida Avenue NE (\$500,000).**

Staff Recommendation: Approve a budget allocation of \$500,000 and authorize the City Manager to negotiate a purchase contract and closing with Evans Center Inc. to acquire four (4) parcels, not to exceed \$500,000.

Bill Battin, resident, stated that the City had already donated money to the Evans Center, and it still failed. He asked if the property could be sold after purchase to another entity that could generate revenue back to the City as a business rather than a charitable organization taking money out of the City.

Mayor Medina wanted to see the site used as a community center with a focus on youth which would offer programs and mentorship.

Motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Felix, to approve a budget allocation of \$500,000 and authorize the City Manager to negotiate a purchase contract and closing with Evans Center Inc. to acquire four (4) parcels, to include items inside the Evans Center, not to exceed \$500,000.

Mr. Johnson agreed with the Mayor's suggestions and added that a Request for Information should be distributed to see what options could be provided by other non-profit organizations. Deputy Mayor Felix felt a model similar to the Boys and Girls Club of America would be ideal. Mr. Foster supported the comments made by councilmembers.

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

Council resumed the consideration of items in order as shown on the agenda.

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

### **1. Brenda Defoe-Surprenant, East Central Florida Regional Planning Council – Existing Land Use Analysis Report for the Compound.**

Ms. Defoe-Surprenant explained the context, methodology and the recommendations that came out of the analysis. She said that pre-platted communities were a problem all over the state and no communities had found an ideal solution to the issue. The challenges with the Compound were the absence of north to south connectors, multiple property owners and the average lot sizes were small. Based on the existing conditions, the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECFRPC) developed a concept plan and focused on four (4) major areas: availability of larger parcels, contiguous property ownership, opportunities for infrastructure connections and existing land uses. Ms. Defoe-

Surprenant advised of the best development opportunities for the Compound area, such as developing an industrial or business park in the northeast quadrant, designating the west side as conservation, and developing a mixed-use center south of the northeast quadrant. She provided details of all recommendations from the ECFRPC.

Mr. Johnson was encouraged by the presentation and saw the potential offered by the analysis. He felt solar farms should be explored for the area as well as opportunity zones.

Ms. Junkala-Brown provided an update on the ECFRPC's Economic Development Strategic Plan for the City pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) approved by City Council in 2022. The Strategic Plan focused on several areas throughout the city where commercial and industrial growth was prime but did not detail a plan for the Compound. At the request of Council, there was an addendum to the MOU to specifically study the Compound. A list of recommendations produced from the study included:

- Land entitlement changes
- City initiated administrative zoning of parcels
- Land acquisitions, specifically along J.A. Bombardier Boulevard southwest
- Targeted investment in infrastructure along the J.A. Bombardier Boulevard corridor
- Adoption of a transfer of development rights ordinance
- Dedication of land for future Florida Power and Light substation
- Establishment of a special assessment or Community Development District incorporating the westernmost segments of the Compound in the Parks Master Plan to meet the City's concurrency for open space and recreation in the City's Comprehensive Plan
- Coordination with the Planning Council on Brownfields Assessment Grant

Mayor Medina was pleased with the recommendations from the study, especially as it would be enticing to businesses and creating jobs.

Mr. Foster asked about eminent domain. Ms. Smith explained that the City could not acquire private properties for any purpose. A public purpose and public benefit must be provided.

Bill Battin, resident, asked if the City had plans to use its property in the Compound as a "seed" to begin the process of development in the area. He did not agree with monies being taken from 32908 for use in 32907 when those monies could have been dedicated for the Compound.

Members of Brevard Alliance Rescuing K9's (B.A.R.K.) asked if solar cameras could be installed at the various entrances and exits to the Compound as it would assist the police when crimes were committed in the area.

Council concurred to consider Item 17, under Approval of Consent Agenda, at this time.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

**17. Consideration of the final draft of the City's existing Land Use Analysis Report for an area of Palm Bay known as 'the Compound', as prepared by the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council.**

Staff Recommendation: Adopt the existing Land Use Analysis Report for an area of Palm Bay known as 'the Compound', as prepared by the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council.

Motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Felix, to adopt the existing Land Use Analysis Report for an area of Palm Bay known as 'the Compound', as prepared by the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council.

Deputy Mayor Felix supported the comments made by councilmembers. He agreed with the idea of the City starting first in the Compound as the City owned 2.7% of the properties in that area.

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

Council resumed the consideration of items in order as shown on the agenda.

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

Individuals made general comments.

**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 Felix, seconded by Mr. Johnson, that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented with the removal of Item 13, from consent. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Felix, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea.

**1. Adoption of Minutes: Meeting 2024-05; March 7, 2024.**

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

**2. Award of Bid: Road bond paving, Country Club 1-10 and Cimarron Circle – IFB 17-0-2024 – Public Works Department (Timothy Rose Contracting, Inc - \$8,894,381).**

Staff Recommendation: Approve the award for road bond paving, Country Club 1-10 and Cimarron Circle, with Timothy Rose Contracting, Inc. (Vero Beach), in the amount of \$8,894,381.30.

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

**3. Award of Bid: Road bond paving, Minton Road and Waco Boulevard – IFB 24-0-2024 – Public Works Department (Ranger Construction Industries, Inc. - \$2,810,558); and approve transfer of funding from Undesignated Fund Balance (\$465,000).**

Staff Recommendation: Approve the award for road bond paving, Minton Road and Waco Boulevard, with Ranger Construction Industries, Inc. (Fort Pierce), in the amount of \$2,810,557.77; and approve the transfer funds in the amount of \$465,000 from Undesignated Fund Balance.

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

**4. Award of Bid: Digester 1 rehabilitation, North Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant – IFB 29-0-2024 – Utilities Department (L7 Construction, Inc., \$227,000).**

Staff Recommendation: Approve the award for the North Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Digester 1 rehabilitation with L7 Construction, Inc. (Longwood), in the amount of \$227,000.

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

**5. Contract: Rehabilitation and upgrades final design and permitting, Lift Stations 14 and 73, Task Order 24-06-IS – Utilities Department (Infrastructure Solution Services, \$117,900).**

Staff Recommendation: Approve Task Order 24-06-IS for Lift Stations 14 and 73 rehabilitation and upgrades final design and permitting, against Master Agreement 36-0-2020, with Infrastructure Solution Services, in the amount of \$117,900.

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

**6. Miscellaneous: ‘Piggyback Purchase’, concrete pipe (Brevard County contract) – Public Works Department (Hydro Conduit, LLC, d/b/a Rinker Materials - \$160,000 estimated annually).**

Staff Recommendation: Approve the award of polyethylene pipe with Hydro Conduit, LLC, d/b/a Rinker Materials (Apopka), through the Brevard County Contract, in an estimated annual amount of \$160,000.

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

**7. Resolution 2024-11, adopting the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement between the City of Palm Bay and the State of Florida, to provide reciprocal emergency aid and assistance in the event of a disaster or emergency.**

The City Attorney read the resolution in caption only.

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

**8. Resolution 2024-12, authorizing the City Manager and the Police Chief to execute a Concurrent Enforcement Zone Interlocal/Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Melbourne.**

The City Attorney read the resolution in caption only.

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

**9. Ordinance 2024-18, amending the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget by appropriating and allocating certain monies (second budget amendment); first reading.**

The City Attorney read the ordinance in caption only.



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

**10. Consideration of two (2) new full-time Human Resources Generalist II positions within the Human Resources Department (\$98,261 for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2024).**

Staff Recommendation: Approve the addition of two (2) new full-time Human Resources Generalist II positions within the Human Resources Department; and approve the appropriation of funds on the next scheduled amendment in the amount of \$98,261 for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2024.

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

**11. Consideration of reclassifying one (1) part-time Stock Clerk to full-time (\$14,379 for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2024, Fleet Service Fund) and the addition of one (1) new full-time Administrative Secretary position (\$22,733 for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2024, General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance) within the Public Works Department.**

Staff Recommendation: Approve the reclassification of one (1) part-time Stock Clerk to full-time, in the amount of \$14,379 for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2024 (Fleet Service Fund) and the addition of one (1) new full-time Administrative Secretary position, in the amount of \$22,733 for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2024 (General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance) within the Public Works Department.

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

**12. Consideration of one (1) new full-time Assistant Director position, one (1) new Construction Project Manager position, two (2) new Maintenance II Worker positions, and six (6) vehicles within the Parks and Facilities Department (\$599,778 for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2024).**

Staff Recommendation: Approve the addition of one (1) new full-time Assistant Director position, one (1) new Construction Project Manager position, two (2) new Maintenance II Worker positions, and six (6) vehicles within the Parks and Facilities Department, in the amount of \$599,778 for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2024.

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

**13. Consideration of submitting an application for the Fiscal Year 2023 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program for thirty-three (33) new Firefighter positions.**

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

**14. Consideration of submitting an application for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Victims of Crime Act grant funds.**

Staff Recommendation: Retroactively approve the submission of an application for the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Victims of Crime Act grant.

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

**15. Consideration of a Commercial Property Enhancement Program (CPEP) grant for Trattoria Bella, LLC, relating to improvements to commercial property located at 2155 Palm Bay Road NE, Unit 1, Palm Bay (\$9,774).**

Staff Recommendation: Approve a Commercial Property Enhancement Program (CPEP) grant award in the amount of \$9,774 to Trattoria Bella, LLC, for eligible improvements to commercial property located at 2155 Palm Bay Road NE, Unit 1, Palm Bay, FL 32905; and authorize the City Manager to execute the grant agreement.

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

**16. Consideration of a funding request through the State Housing Initiative Program (SHIP) for South Brevard Women's Center relating to special needs transitional housing rehabilitation for homeless and at-risk families who are victims of domestic violence (\$270,802).**

Staff Recommendation: Approve the funding request from South Brevard Women's Center, Inc., for monetary support from the City of Palm Bay in the amount of \$270,802 from the State Housing Initiative Program (SHIP) funds for the rehabilitation of four (4) rental units at the Transitional Housing Facility which houses homeless and at-risk families who are victims of domestic violence.

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

**17. Consideration of the final draft of the City's existing Land Use Analysis Report for an area of Palm Bay known as 'the Compound', as prepared by the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council.**

The item was removed from Consent Agenda and heard with Item 1, under Presentations.

**18. Consideration of utilizing General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance to upgrade Public Safety Infrastructure (\$30,805).**

Staff Recommendation: Approve utilizing General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance to upgrade Public Safety Infrastructure, in the amount of \$30,805).

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

**19. Consideration of fund appropriation for the upgrade to the City's Lift Station 59 by the owner at the Eastshore Apartments (\$53,152).**

Staff Recommendation: Approve a budget amendment allocating \$53,152 from Utilities Operating Undesignated Fund Balance to Utilities Renewal and Replacement Reserves and to approve a budget amendment allocating the same \$53,152 from Utilities Renewal and Replacement Fund Balance (424-0000-392- 3006) to account 424-8032-535-6327, Project #24WS43.

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

**20. Consideration of expenditures from the Palm Bay Police Department's Law Enforcement Trust Fund to equip sworn officers with enhanced public safety equipment (\$172,100).**

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

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

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

Staff Recommendation: Approve travel and training as specified.

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

**PUBLIC HEARING(S):**

**1. Ordinance 2024-12, amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 110, Business Taxes, Subchapter 'Business Taxes; Tax Receipts; Receipts', by including a zoning compliance requirement prior to the issuance of a Business Tax Receipt, 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 Mr. Johnson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Felix, to adopt Ordinance 2024-12. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Felix, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea.

**2. Ordinance 2024-13 amending Palm Bay Code of Ordinances, Chapter 39, Community and Economic Development, by revising provisions contained therein, 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 Mr. Johnson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Felix, to adopt Ordinance 2024-13. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Felix, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea.

**3. Ordinance 2024-14, amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 52, Bayfront Community Redevelopment Agency, by repealing the Chapter in its entirety, 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 Mr. Johnson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Felix, to adopt Ordinance 2024-14. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Felix, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea.

**4. Ordinance 2024-15, vacating a portion of the rear public utility and drainage easement located within Lot 10, Block 2396, Port Malabar Unit 45 (Case VE-14-2023, Michael Lagratta Jr. and Gladys Hidalgo Lagratta), 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 Felix, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to adopt Ordinance 2024-15. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Felix, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea.

**5. Ordinance 2024-16, amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 185, Zoning Code, Subchapter 'District Regulations', by removing restrictions on permitted uses within the Bayfront Community Redevelopment District (Case T24-00002, City of Palm Bay), 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 Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Foster, to adopt Ordinance 2024-16. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Felix, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea.

**6. Ordinance 2024-17, repealing Ordinance 2019-40, which granted an Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Abatement to Midwest Dental Arts, Inc., 1490 Treeland Boulevard SE, final reading.**

The City Attorney read the ordinance in caption only. The public hearing was opened.

Bill Battin, resident, felt that although the business did not follow through with their commitment, there should be a penalty in place for failure to meet the provisions of the tax abatement versus just paying back the taxes.

The public hearing was closed.

Motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mayor Medina, to adopt Ordinance 2024-17. Mr. Johnson and Mayor Medina agreed with Mr. Battin's comments and suggested that

accountability and parameters be developed. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Felix, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea.

**7. Ordinance 2024-08, amending the City's Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map to change the designated use of property located west of and adjacent to Robert J. Conlan Boulevard, in the vicinity south of Commerce Park Drive, from Commercial Use to Neighborhood Center Use (26.5 acres) (Case CP23-00020, Palm Bay Development Group, LLC), only one reading required. (CONTINUED FROM 03/07/24 RCM)**

This item, considered under Agenda Revisions, was continued to the May 2, 2024, regular Council meeting.

**8. Resolution 2024-04, granting approval of a Preliminary Development Plan for a proposed mixed-use subdivision to be known as 'Palm Bay Suites and Residences' in HC (Highway Commercial District) zoning, which property is located west of and adjacent to Robert J. Conlan Boulevard, in the vicinity south of Commerce Park Drive (26.5 acres) (PD23-00008, Palm Bay Development Group, LLC). (Quasi-Judicial Proceeding) (CONTINUED FROM 03/07/24 RCM)**

This item, considered under Agenda Revisions, was continued to the May 2, 2024, regular Council meeting.

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

**13. Consideration of submitting an application for the Fiscal Year 2023 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program for thirty-three (33) new Firefighter positions.**

Staff Recommendation: Approve the submittal of an application for the Fiscal Year 2023 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program for thirty-three (33) new Firefighter positions.

Bill Battin, resident, appreciated the new Firefighter positions being considered but asked if next year's budget could handle the staffing request if the City did not qualify for the grant.

Ms. Sherman explained that the grant was to fully fund the positions for three (3) years, including salaries and benefits. The strategy was to ask for the thirty-three (33) new positions to bring the public safety to a level in which the City was growing. Ms. Sherman

said that timeline was important because it gave staff three (3) budget cycles to prepare the funding to cover the additional positions after the grant had expired.

Motion by Mr. Foster, seconded by Mayor Medina, to submit an application for the Fiscal Year 2023 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program for thirty-three (33) new Firefighter positions. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Felix, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Foster, Yea.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Consideration of rescheduling the first regular Council meeting in July 2024.**

Council concurred to reschedule the first regular Council meeting in July 2024 to Tuesday, July 2, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., due to the Independence Day holiday.

**2. Consideration of a co-sponsorship request for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Christmas Extravaganza at Fred Poppe Regional Park.**

This item was considered earlier in the meeting, after Presentations.

**3. Consideration of a co-sponsorship request for the Brevard Public School Career and Technical Education Department's Recruitment Fair.**

This item was considered earlier in the meeting, after Presentations.

**4. Consideration of purchasing four (4) parcels (0.79 acres) owned by Evans Center Inc. generally located at 1361 Florida Avenue NE (\$500,000).**

This item was considered earlier in the meeting, after Presentations.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Councilmembers addressed various subject matters.

1. Mr. Foster asked about recently passed House Bill 1365 regarding homelessness and how it would affect Palm Bay. Ms. Smith responded that a plan would need to be developed as the City did not have resources available for the homeless population. She said the new law would require the City to have a plan for placement of people, at least temporarily, until a permanent site was created.

2. Mr. Johnson wanted Council and staff to maintain intergovernmental relations at the County, State, Federal levels.

3. Deputy Mayor Felix said the City needed to look at funding for the six (6) additional firehouses that were essential because of the major increase in the City's population.

Mayor Medina agreed with the critical need for additional firehouses and related staffing. He said that all first responders needed the City's support, especially for the mental health component.

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL REPORTS:**

There were no reports.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS/RESPONSES:**

Individuals made general comments.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at the hour of 9:15 P.M.

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Rob Medina, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Terri Lefler, DEPUTY CITY CLERK