

CITY OF LARGO CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION

September 10, 2019
Minutes

COMMISSION PRESENT: Commissioners Smith, Fenger, Holmes, Robinson, Holck, Carroll, Mayor Brown

PARTICIPATING STAFF PRESENT: City Mgr. Schubert, City Clerk Bruner, Economic Dev. Coor. Rojas-Norton, Community Standards Mgr. Schofield, Public Educator Mahr

The Work Session began at 4:00 pm.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Business Spotlight – Kim's Family Restaurant

Kim's Family Restaurant is located at 2101 Starkey Road, in Units L4 and L5 in the Rodgers Business Park. Owner Kim Cortes opened the business in August, after it was previously known as Peter's Family Restaurant. Kim was a server with the former restaurant for nine years, and in 2019 the restaurant closed. Kim loved her job and cared for her coworkers, and it was always a long time dream for her to own and operate her own restaurant. Kim decided she would take matters into her own hands. Armed with many years of experience and knowledge in the restaurant industry, she decided she would open her own restaurant with the goal of hiring her old coworkers. Kim now has eight (8) staff members and has a cheerful reception for her clients. She has a diverse menu and reasonable prices. The restaurant is open everyday from 6am-2pm and serves breakfast and lunch meals. For more information, call 727-330-6048.

Discussion:

Ms. Cortes stated that her challenges included learning new parts of the business. She stated that everyone told her that permitting would be difficult, however her experience with Largo staff has been very good. Mayor Brown thanked her for coming to the meeting and stated that he received a recommendation about the restaurant. Vice Mayor Carroll questioned the seating capacity, which Ms. Cortes stated was about 96. She stated that they could accommodate early meetings and also did catering.

PRESENTATIONS

Connecting Our Community: Using Transportation To Link People To Jobs, Housing And Training

On behalf of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners (BCC), County Administrator Barry Burton will present a PowerPoint presentation entitled: Connecting our Community: Using Transportation to Link People to Jobs, Housing and Training.

Pinellas County, in partnership with Forward Pinellas and the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, has been evaluating transportation funding options for transportation-related capital projects and PSTA transit. On July 18, 2019, the BCC held a work session to discuss these funding options and directed County staff to meet with municipalities to determine their priorities for funding. In June, the City of Largo sent a letter (attached) to Pinellas County in response to their request for the City's transportation priorities. City staff from Administration, Community Development, Public Works, and Engineering met with Assistant County Administrator, Rahim Hardji, on August 27, 2019 to discuss these priorities.

Discussion:

Vice Mayor Carroll stated that transportation is an issue for students at the Suncoast Hospital nursing school, and that another problem was a lack of sidewalks along Indian Rocks Road. He invited Mr. Burton to make the presentation to the Suncoast League of Cities. Mr. Schubert stated that Pinellas County was soliciting projects from the cities. He stated that staff was in the process of developing a list of projects. Commissioner

Smith suggested making the presentation to state Legislators. Mr. Burton stated that the presentation would depend on the path going forward and that he would like to get direction from the Board of County Commissioners first. Commissioner Smith questioned plans to invest Penny for Pinellas funds in affordable housing. Mr. Burton stated that there is a task force working on refining how the money will be spent on affordable housing and economic development. Mayor Brown stated that Largo has focused on its own roadways and activity centers, however many of the larger roadways were outside of the City's control. He stated that this included sidewalk projects to connect residents to destinations without using their cars.

City Commission Direction:

No direction requested.

NOTE: Vice Mayor Carroll left the meeting at 4:45 pm and returned at 4:49 pm.

Pride In Your Park Event Update

The Community Standards Division has created an information and resource sharing program for the mobile home communities within the City of Largo. A project team made up of City staff worked to create the "Pride In Your Parks" event. Invitations were sent to representatives from every mobile home community within the City of Largo and dozens of communities accepted our offer to provided them with information and resources. The project team included members from Community Standards, Housing, Economic Development, Fire Department, Police Department, Solid Waste Division and outside agencies including Chore Services, Mosquito Control, Animal Control and Pinellas County Construction Licensing.

The Pride In Your Parks event supports a number of areas within the City's Strategic Plan to include the value of "Collaboration" by bringing both internal and external partners together to help create more attractive and safe mobile home communities. This event also addresses the Public Health & Safety Focus Area initiative of Building safe & healthy neighborhoods.

The primary goal of the program was to educate the property owners and managers about the most frequent type code violations (outdoor storage and work without permits) and calls for service and how to avoid these situations. The program was set up to help the property managers take a more active role in managing their parks through education and resource assistance. We are hopeful that this in turn may reduce the numbers of calls for service from many of the City departments who support these communities. The program also provided information about services available from the outside agencies.

The Community Standards Division will follow up with all mobile home communities to verify compliance with the City's codes and to reinforce the open lines of communication created through the program.

Discussion:

Mayor Brown questioned the parks that were represented at the event and whether any were the problem parks. Mr. Schofield stated that many were the ones that are in good shape. He stated that staff have been busy distributing information to the parks that are more of a problem and did not attend. Commissioner Fenger thanked staff for their work. Vice Mayor Carroll stated that Environmental Services has been a part of mobile home park efforts in the past and Mr. Schofield stated that he would reach out to them. Commissioner Holmes questioned the number of parks with private sewer systems. Mr. Schubert stated that they had private collection systems that discharged into the City's sewer system. He stated that these systems were regulated and were supposed to be permitted. Commissioner Smith suggested taking the same approach to apartment complexes. Commissioner Holck stated that duplexes should also be included. Commissioner Smith questioned whether staff worked with other jurisdictions, to which Mr. Schofield stated that they did. He further stated that Code Enforcement managers throughout the County met monthly. Mayor Brown stated

that his contacts at a medium sized park have been very complimentary of staff's work.

City Commission Direction:

No direction requested.

BOARD/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Forward Pinellas – Commissioner Smith stated that they would be meeting the next day.

Homeless Leadership Board – Commissioner Holck stated that data collected from schools indicated that there are 8,900 homeless students 18 and over and 4,000 homeless children under the age of 17. She stated that the Board also hired two new employees and was awarded a \$35,000 grant from the City of St. Petersburg for the diversion program.

Suncoast League of Cities – Vice Mayor Carroll stated that on September 20th there will be a Chamber of Commerce Breakfast, followed by a Suncoast League of Cities business meeting in St. Pete Beach and a Florida League of Cities meeting in Clearwater. He stated that he forwarded the response to the 5G letters to the Suncoast and Florida leagues.

Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority – Commissioner Fenger stated that tomorrow night will be their budget public hearing.

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council – Mayor Brown stated that they met yesterday and discussed the Citrus Parkway extension study, looking at intersections and projecting development. He stated that he will attend the Agency for Bay Management meeting on Thursday.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSION, MAYOR, CITY MANAGER

Vice Mayor Carroll stated that the Pinellas Legislative Delegation will meet on September 12th, and he will attend on behalf of the Suncoast League at SPC Clearwater Campus. He stated that he attended Charlie Crist's town hall meeting at the Community Center and that Rep. Crist and his staff were very pleased with the facility and staff.

Commissioner Smith stated that he also attended the town hall meeting and that attendance was approximately 300 people.

Commissioner Robinson welcomed Gloria Gonzales, the new Executive Assistant to the Mayor and City Commission.

Commissioner Holmes stated that 78 years ago tomorrow the Pentagon officially opened and the eighteenth anniversary of September 11th.

Commissioner Fenger requested a copy of Mr. Burton's PowerPoint.

Mayor Brown welcomed Gloria Gonzales. He stated that he participated in the Largo Sports Challenge over the weekend and that it was a very well run event.

Action Items

1. Request by Commissioner Fenger that the City Commission be provided with a copy of Mr. Burton's PowerPoint presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:28 pm.