CITY OF LARGO
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
June 18, 2019
Minutes

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

COMMISSION ABSENT: Commissioner Robinson


Mayor Brown called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:58 pm.

Invocation was given by Reverend Randy Morris, Gulf Coast Church of Largo, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CEREMONIAL

Presentation Of Check By The Kiwanis Club of Mid-Pinellas

The President of the Kiwanis Club of Mid-Pinellas, Mr. Bruce Blazij, will present a check to the City of Largo from funds raised during Pawfest 2019.

Mr. Blazij stated that there has been a Kiwanis Club in Largo since the 1930’s and that each year the club held an event to help children’s programs in the community. He stated that the Pawfest event included programs for children and pets and proceeds helped to support Kiwanis service projects. He presented a check for $1,650 to Mayor Brown, who accepted on behalf of the City Commission. Mayor Brown asked how residents can become members. Mr. Blazij stated that residents can attend one of their twice monthly meetings.

Swearing In Of New Assistant Fire Chief, Paramedic and EMTS

Fire Rescue is proud to introduce our newest members:

Assistant Fire Chief Hillary Sanford
Firefighter/Paramedic Leonardo Rubin
Firefighter/EMT Brittany Bliss
Firefighter/EMT Andrew Ploski
Firefighter/EMT Jason Mulhall

Please join Fire Administration in congratulating our team.

Chief Pittman introduced Asst. Chief Sanford, Firefighter Rubin, Firefighter Mulhall, Firefighter Bliss and Firefighter Ploski. Mr. Zimmet administered the oath of office and badges were pinned on by family members. They were congratulated by the Mayor and City Commission, City Manager and City Attorney.

Swearing In Of Police Officers

Before an individual may assume the duties of a sworn Police Officer for the City of Largo, it is necessary that an oath of office be administered by the City Attorney. This is done before the City Commission as a means to introduce the new Officers to the City Commissioners and the community:

Kipper Connell
Jasmine Kynion
Giulia Neely

Chief Undestad introduced Officers Connell, Kynion and Neely. Mr. Zimmet administered the oath of office and badges were pinned on by one family member and Chief Undestad. They were congratulated by the Mayor and City Commission, City Manager and City Attorney.

**Employees Of The Quarter Recognition**

The “Employees of the Quarter” program recognizes up to four (4) employees quarterly for exemplifying, contributing to, and upholding the City of Largo’s Mission, Vision, and Values. Additionally, up to one (1) Operational Manager of the Quarter can be recognized. Nominations were received through November 23, 2018. The Selection Committee is comprised of employees representing all departments. Periodically a team of employees is recognized for particular work accomplishment. Each Employee of the Quarter receives 8 hours of Personal Option time and a $50 gift card. The committee selected the following employees:

- **Employees of the Quarter**
  - Steve Calderone- Police Officer, PD
  - William Murphy- FF/Paramedic, FD
  - Linda Smith- Office Administrator, IT
  - Katrina Lunan Gordon- Planner II, CD

- **Manager of the Quarter**
  - Lara Khoury- Recreation Business Manager, RPA

Employee of the Quarter Selection Committee Chair, Justin Meetoo will be presenting the awards at the meeting.

- **Employees of the Quarter:**
  - Steve Calderone- Police Officer, Police Department
  - On April 18, 2019, the Largo Police Department had the unfortunate job of responding to a serious injury crash on East Bay Dr. The crash resulted in several parties being transported to the hospital. Officer Calderone made contact with a husband and wife that were involved and at the hospital. They were an elderly couple that live in Sun City Center and this was their only car. The couple were able to get back to Sun City Center but were unable to drive the rental car due to the wife's injuries and the husband's inability to locate his much needed glasses. Officer Calderone took it upon himself to go to the impound lot and look through the crashed car to find the glasses. He located the glasses and, unbeknownst to anyone at the department, delivered those glasses to the husband in Sun City Center. Officer Calderone made this delivery on his day off because he knew how much they needed transportation. The only reason that I, his supervisor, was made aware of the delivery was that the wife called and left a tearful message about what a wonderful officer and person he was. She stated that she tried to give him gas money but, of course, he refused to take it. She was grateful for his kindness and his willingness to help in a bad situation. She stated that this act of kindness was a bright spot when it seemed as if nothing was going right. Officer Calderone is one of those officers that keeps a gas can in his trunk so that he can help stranded motorists. This is not standard equipment but it is his willingness to go above and beyond for the citizens of this community as well as the visitors that stands out. His compassion and dedication to being a true public servant is commendable and worthy of employee of the quarter. Thank you.

- **William Murphy- FF/Paramedic, Fire Department**
  - Months ago, Will Murphy was asked to come up with a mental health program for the firefighters of Largo Fire Rescue. Since Will has taken on this passion project, the program has begun to take shape and has expanded by leaps and bounds. Will continues to stay motivated in this task and keeps everyone involved motivated as well. Will has taken personal time to get goals accomplished and his work will have lasting effects on Largo Fire Rescue for decades to come. Will’s tireless efforts, passion, motivation, and dedication to this city and Largo Rescue is the reason I would like to nominate him for employee of the quarter.
Linda Smith- Office Administrator, IT Department

Linda Smith is one of the most dedicated and enthusiastic employees that I have encountered within the city of Largo. Initially hired as an Operational Secretary for the IT Department, she assumed the role of the Telecom Administrator to fulfill the shortage of a full time IT Telecom position within our department. Since then, she has taken the charge on maintaining a phone system that was holding on by a string as well as coordinating employee events and luncheons to help boost department moral and completing the purchasing for the entire IT Department. It wasn’t until 2018 when the IT Department officially hired a full time Telecom person.

Currently, Linda always makes time to assist the telecom division with any questions, ideas, and assistance. She never gives the answer or reply “Sorry, I’m no longer doing telecom anymore. You’ll have to figure that out yourself”. On numerous occasions the telecom division has experienced several issues that were unique and odd in nature. Linda without hesitation has offered her insight and technological experience on said matters. With all of the oddities that have occurred since her departure from telecom, she has still retained her knowledge and experience on how to assist with troubleshooting and gives advice on where to look within the phone system to correct the issues at hand. For someone who was hired in a non technical position she very quickly adapted to being placed in a technical role that was critical to the City overall has done a fantastic job without any recognition and complaints. Linda is a true team player to get any task done at anytime. She is a true asset to the IT department and to the city of Largo citizens.

Katrina Lunan Gordon- Planner II, Community Development Department

Katrina demonstrates a sincere passion in the advancement of the City’s goals throughout the organization. In addition to her remarkable work in the Planning Division, she significantly contributes to several Citywide committees including the Sustainability Team for Environmental Preservation and Youth Leadership Council.

Sustainability Team: Katrina has brought energy and enthusiasm to the Sustainability Team resulting in the City Hall cafeteria being transformed into a more environmental friendly, appealing and dynamic multipurpose space that has inspired the team to consider redesigning other spaces, such as the conference rooms. Since then, it has become much more than a place for breaks, and has transformed into a more inviting, collaborative space with greenery, improved seating and charging stations to support a more sustainable organization. Highlighting the room’s improved ability to inspire innovation and creativity, it was named the Innovision Cafe to celebrate our organization’s commitment to high performance and vision to be the community of choice in Tampa Bay.

Additionally, she played a very active role in the roll out of the Largo’s Environmental Action Plan.
Youth Leadership Council: As a mentor to the Youth Leadership Council, Katrina played a key roll in the “Only Rain Down the Drain” painted stormwater drain initiative. Katrina secured paint donation and led Youth Leadership Council volunteers to paint two stormwater drains on a Saturday in April and represented the City and its sustainability goal exceptionally well on media outlets that covered the event. On another occasion, she accompanied the members for a daylong program at the Florida League of Cities Legislative Action Day in Tallahassee, FL. She facilitated group discussions with the young leaders on the various topics from environmental degradation and urban sprawl, guns in school, to the influence of social media on youths and helped prepare them to meet and educate legislators about the issues affecting their communities, schools and their peers.

Comprehensive Plan Award: Katrina was one of the primary project managers for the preparation of the Comprehensive Plan: Forwarding Our Future 2040. The Comprehensive Plan provides long-range goals, objectives and strategies that focus on the community’s vision for future development. Going above and beyond her typical work responsibilities, Katrina made a successful proposal to get the Plan recognized by the Suncoast Section of the American Planning Association. The award will be featured among other award winning planning projects around Tampa Bay at the organization’s annual awards banquet in June.

Manager of the Quarter:
Lara Khoury- Recreation Business Manager, RPA
Whenever I call Lara for help with Rec Trac or any other miscellaneous issues she is always patient and understanding. No matter how busy she is she takes the time to listen to me and quickly comes to to rescue with her problem solving abilities. She gives me a feeling like she values my problem and wants to help in any way she can. Her response time on solution is fast and respectful and she spends more time on issues than most and does it with a smile.

Mr. Meetoo introduced Officer Calderone, Firefighter Murphy, Ms. Lunan-Gordon and Ms. Khoury (Linda Smith was not in attendance) and read from the employees’ nomination forms. Mayor Brown presented each with a Certificate. They were congratulated by the Mayor and City Commission, City Manager and City Attorney.

**CITIZEN COMMENT**

1. William Drugash stated that his neighborhood needed road and drainage improvements. He stated that the improvements needed were both safety and environmental in nature. He stated that the street did not have sidewalks and the patched potholes on the road were a trip hazard. He stated that any planned repairs should be done sooner rather than later.

2. April Susnicki stated that she also lived in the neighborhood and they have been having problems with holes opening up in their yard near the storm drain. She stated that the divots in the yard were a safety hazard. She stated that she started a petition with 75 signatures to expedite the process of getting improvements made.

3. Geoff Moakley stated that the City should not support or endorse the LGBTQ community by flying the LGBTQ flag at City Hall as tax dollars should not be spent on the flag, nor staff time spent raising it.

4. Mark Klutho stated that his neighbor started a petition process to get traffic calming in his neighborhood. He stated his concern for the City’s carbon footprint.

Mayor Brown requested a report on the 127th and 122nd neighborhood road and drainage issues.

**AGENDA – APPROVED**

Approval of the Regular Commission Meeting agenda of June 18, 2019.

Discussion:

None

Motion was made by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Vice Mayor Carroll, to approve the agenda for the Regular Meeting of June 18, 2019.

Vote:

Voting Aye: Commissioners Smith, Fenger, Holmes, Holck, Carroll, Mayor Brown

Absent: Commissioner Robinson

Motion carried 6-0.

**MINUTES – APPROVED**

Approval of the Regular City Commission Meeting minutes of June 4, 2019 as on file in the City Clerk’s Office.
Discussion:

None

Motion was made by Commissioner Fenger, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 4, 2019.

Vote:

Voting Aye: Commissioners Smith, Fenger, Holmes, Holck, Carroll, Mayor Brown

Absent: Commissioner Robinson

Motion carried 6-0.

CONSENT DOCKET – APPROVED

Resolution No: 2239 – Approval Of Technical Revisions To The FY 2019-2022 State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Local Housing Assistance Plan

The Largo City Commission approved the FY 2019-2022 State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Local Housing Assistance Plan by Resolution No. 2229 on March 19, 2019. The Plan is a requirement of the City’s annual SHIP grant funding for affordable housing and it details the strategies (programs) that will be utilized with SHIP funding. Upon adoption, the Plan was submitted to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC), which serves as the administrator for the SHIP Program. The Florida Housing Finance Corporation completed its committee review of the proposed plan and requested revisions to the Plan in order to receive their final approval and acceptance of the Plan. This request for approval of Resolution No. 2239 incorporates these changes into the FY 2019-2022 Plan.

The requested changes are identified in the attached copy of the Plan (strike-through/underline). Changes in blue text were made by FHFC and changes in red text were changes made in response to comments from FHFC. The following list summarizes the revisions:

- Established a maximum amount of $5,000 for project delivery costs (applicable to all strategies).
- Clarified the definition of “Essential Services Personnel” – the revised version reflects the same definition used in Pinellas County’s Local Housing Assistance Plan.
- Removed information deemed by FHFC as unnecessary in the strategies.
- Clarified loan terms and repayment calculations in the strategies.
- Clarified the owner’s equity calculation for the Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Strategy.
- Added language to permit the Purchase Assistance Program to purchase properties in community land trusts.
- Added details about the equity sharing provision for the Owner-Occupied Affordable Housing Program. The language is similar to the existing LHAP except it has changed from a five-year period to a ten-year period.
- Decreased the Maximum Award per unit on the Rental Affordable Housing Development Strategy from $250,000 to $200,000.
- Clarified application review criteria for the Rental Affordable Housing Development Strategy.
- FHFC recommended including “moderate income households” as eligible under the Rental Affordable Housing Development Strategy; however, due to the limited grant amount and required set-aside requirements for lower income levels, the Department declined this recommendation to focus funds for rental housing on very-low and low-income households. FHFC acknowledged the City may restrict the income level as proposed.
- Reduced the Maximum Award for the Disaster Strategy from $15,000 to $10,000.
Adjusted Chapter 14 (Affordable Housing) of the Largo Comprehensive Development Code.
- Revised Housing Delivery Goals Charts: The new maximum purchase prices were released from FHFC between first submittal and resubmittal of the Plan. The charts must reflect the most current maximum purchase prices issued by FHFC. The maximum purchase price for new and existing homes in the SHIP Program is $271,165.

Homes must still be affordable to the homebuyer and therefore the City’s clients are not likely to purchase homes at that maximum purchase. The maximum purchase price is established based on 90% of the average area purchase price. FHFC established higher levels for certain counties; however, Pinellas County is included in the general average for the State of Florida. This is an increase of over $17,000 from the 2018 maximum purchase price for Pinellas County.

Upon adoption of Resolution No. 2239, the Community Development Department will submit the final version of the Local Housing Assistance Plan to the FHFC. This Plan takes effect on July 1, 2019 and would remain in effect through June 30, 2022.

Designation Of A Voting Delegate For The Florida League Of Cities 93rd Annual Conference To Be Held In Orlando, Florida, August 15-17, 2019

The Florida League of Cities (FLC) will be holding the 93rd Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida, August 15-17, 2019. Under the Bylaws of the FLC, each member municipality sending delegates to the Annual Conference must designate one of their officials to cast their votes at the annual business meeting. The voting delegates will make decisions that determine the direction of the League. A voting delegate must be designated and the FLC notified by August 9, 2019.

Mayor Woody Brown is planning to attend the Annual Conference and has agreed to serve as the voting delegate, with the City Commission’s consent.


This item requests approval for the purchase of regularly scheduled replacement vehicles for the Departments of Public Works (DPW), Fire Rescue, Community Development and Environmental Services. The DPW Fleet Management Division has consulted with the end users to ensure that the requested replacements are economical, safe and mission appropriate. Standard policy is that as vehicles are replaced they are replaced with similar vehicles unless the users needs have changed. Included in this request:

- Vehicle 60-33-34 is being upgraded to an F350 crane body utility truck needed to accommodate the increased requirements for servicing Solid Waste trash compactors as that business expands.
- In furtherance of the City’s environmental sustainability goals, six Escape SUV’s are being replaced with RAV4 hybrid models.
- The Ford Econoline Vans (E250) have been upgraded and rebranded as Transit Vans (T250).

Authorization To Purchase Light Duty Vehicle Tires From Goodyear Auto Service Center #2452 In The Estimated Amount of $350,000 In Accordance With Florida State Contract No. 25172500-19-ACS Through March 31, 2024

The Fleet Management Division replaces tires on the City’s light duty vehicles and equipment such as automobiles, pick-up trucks and patrol cars. Tires, tubes and related services are purchased by the Fleet
Management Division and then billed back to customer departments as the services are provided.

The Florida State Contract provides for the purchase of tires, tubes, and related services at established fixed pricing. The previous contract period expired, and the new contract runs through March 31, 2024. This request will authorize expenditures under this contract through the renewal period. Based on historic costs, the City’s total cost over this period will be approximately $350,000: (approximately $70,000 annually).

The City’s fiscal non-funding clause will apply to this purchase. The clause reads, “In accordance with the City Charter, all purchase contracts that extend beyond the fiscal year include a fiscal non-funding clause”; if the City Commission does not appropriate the necessary funds the purchase contract terminates on the last day of the current fiscal year without penalty or expense to the City.

**Special Magistrate Contract And Appointment Of Special Magistrate And Alternate Special Magistrate**

On May 10, 2019, the City of Largo received written notice from Special Magistrate Maggie D. Mooney of the law firm Persson, Cohen & Mooney that they were exercising their right to terminate their contract to serve as the City’s Special Magistrate, effective July 12, 2019. Upon consultation and guidance from the City Attorney, the Community Development Department has selected the law firm of Lewis, Longman & Walker, PA to serve out the remainder of the initial Special Magistrate contract effective August 1, 2019 and is set to expire on December 21, 2019.

As part of this process, Attorney Jennifer Cowen has been selected to act as the Special Magistrate. AttorneyCowenhas extensive experience in Government law, Land Use and Real Estate, and local government matters and is qualified to hold this position. If Attorney Cowen is unavailable to serve, then Alternate Special Magistrate, Attorney Kevin Hennessy will preside. Attorney Hennessy has 30 years experience in Government Law, Environmental and Land Development laws. Attorney Hennessy is qualified to hold this position.

**Approval Of Change Order No. 5 for RFQ No. 17-Q-604, Consultant Services For The Hurricane Hermine Sanitary Sewer Collection System Engineering Evaluation Project, To McKim And Creed, In The Amount of $131,500**

This agenda item requests City Commission approval of Change Order 5 to the Request For Qualifications (RFQ) No. 17-Q-604 for engineering services for the Hermine Sanitary Sewer Collection System Engineering Evaluation project to McKim & Creed, in the amount of $131,500.

This change order provides additional design, survey and subsurface utility locating and permitting services for five (5) of the six remaining sanitary sewer hydraulic bottlenecks that have been identified.

On August 15, 2017, the City Commission approved the scope and fee for the engineering evaluation for the four (4) locations to McKim & Creed, in the amount of $1,147,029. All of the evaluation efforts and surcharge reduction recommendations have been completed.

On September 18, 2017, Change Order No. 1 to RFQ No. 17-Q-604 was issued to McKim & Creed for $19,500 to provide additional stormwater asset inspections within two of the five Hermine sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) locations. All of the evaluation efforts in the two areas have been completed.

On October 3, 2017, Change Order No. 2 to RFQ No. 17-Q-604 was issued to McKim & Creed for $273,830 to add a fifth sanitary sewer SSO location to the original four (4) areas that experienced surcharged conditions which inhibited flow to a number of lift stations during Hurricane Hermine. All of the evaluation efforts and surcharge reduction recommendations for this fifth area have been completed.

On June 14, 2018, Change Order No. 3 to RFQ No. 17-Q-604 was issued to McKim & Creed for $250,000 to provide additional professional engineering services for design, hydraulic modeling, CCTV evaluation and
On September 4, 2018, Change Order No. 4 to RFQ No. 17-Q-604 was issued to McKim & Creed for $19,110 to provide additional stormwater asset inspections within a third of the five Hermine SSO locations. All of the evaluation efforts in the third area have been completed.

In summary, this engineering evaluation has inspected 242,264 linear feet of gravity sewer lines, 4,234 public service laterals and 956 manholes. By the end of calendar year 2019, the Engineering Services Department expects to have rehabilitated 558 manholes and 299 public service laterals as well as lined 38,300 linear feet and replaced 14,337 linear feet of gravity sewer pipe.

Approval Of Loan Servicing Agreement With Covey Financial Limited Liability Company

Staff is recommending approval of a one year servicing agreement with Covey Financial Limited Liability Company to act as the loan servicer for the Housing Division’s payback loans. Currently there are 36 loans that are making monthly principle and interest payments, 20 of which are also making escrow payments to our current loan servicer. Covey is requesting Limited Power of Attorney to act on the City’s behalf as a full service loan company. Although the contract is below the cost threshold required for City Commission approval, City policy requires any request for Power of Attorney on behalf of the City be approved by the City Commission.

On April 18, 2019, the current loan servicer, Multi Financial Services, Co, Inc, advised the Housing Division that they are closing the business effective June 17, 2019. The Housing staff was able to request an extension to the final date of loan servicing by Multi Financial until July 3, 2019 in order to permit time to obtain quotes from new companies and get an agreement reviewed by the City Attorney’s Office. The Housing Division, in coordination with the Finance Department, obtained quotes from and interviewed two companies based on the City’s Purchasing Policy requirements. The current fees with Multi Financial are $11 per month for loan accounts that also have escrow accounts and $10 per month for non-escrow accounts. Multi-Financial also had a $40 one-time fee for each new loan. Covey Financial had the best pricing and stated they would be more customer service oriented than the other company that was quoted. Covey Financial charges a flat $15 per month for escrow and non-escrow accounts. Covey does not charge a separate new account fee.

The other company from which a quote was obtained was SN Servicing Corporation, which charges $21 per month per account.

After interviewing Covey and viewing their website that housing clients can use to manage their accounts, staff expects a higher level of customer service than has been received in previous years with Multi Financial. Covey has indicated they will contact each of the City’s loan clients after the loan transfer has been completed from Multi Financial as a courtesy call introduction. Covey has the ability to assist clients with online access to make monthly payments as well as review their accounts online.

Staff is requesting approval of the loan servicing agreement, which includes Limited Power of Attorney, to act on City’s behalf as a full service loan company.

Proclamation Recognizing Shirley Frick’s Retirement after 30 Years With The City Of Largo

Shirley Frick, Office Administrator to the Mayor and City Commission, will be retiring as of June 28, 2019. Over the course of the past 30 years Shirley has organized meetings and events, juggled the schedules of seven different individuals at the same time, tracked and responded to citizen requests for information and assistance, interacted with County, State and Federal officials, prepared travel forms for 6 Mayors and 29 City Commissioners to attend conferences, trainings and legislative sessions and ensured that advisory board appointments were made and the City Commission kept apprised of their work.

It is now time for Shirley to step back and enjoy a richly deserved retirement with her husband, Ron. Thank
you Shirley, for all you have given to the City, its residents and your City Hall family.

Mayor Brown read the Proclamation aloud.

Motion was made by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner Fenger, to approve the Consent Docket without City Commission discussion and including staff background provided in the Commission packets.

Vote:

Voting Aye: Commissioners Smith, Fenger, Holmes, Holck, Carroll, Mayor Brown

Absent: Commissioner Robinson

Motion carried 6-0.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT DOCKET

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinance No. 2019 – 64 - Second Reading - Appropriating Expenditures In The Amount Of $25,000 Within The Administration Department General Fund Budget For Automated Document Creation Software – ADOPTED

This budget amendment is requesting appropriation of $25,000 within the Administration Department General Fund budget for the purchase of an automated document creation software. The Annual Budget, Capital Improvement Program, and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) are essential reporting, compliance, and financial communication tools produced by the Office of Performance & Budget (OPB) and Finance Department annually. The initial purchase price is estimated at approximately $25,000, with an annual recurring cost of $21,000.

The current manual process for producing these documents is labor-intensive, inefficient, and does not meet the desired accessibility standards. This funding will provide for an automated document creation tool that will improve the digital accessibility of both the budget and CAFR documents and reduce staff time for production of those documents.

It is intended that this software will be used by OPB and Finance for numerous applications, including the Annual Budget, CIP, CAFR, fund projections, and has the flexibility to provide automated document creation for other applications within the City as well.

Ms. Bruner read Ordinance No. 2019-64 by title only.

Public Hearing/Questions:

None

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Fenger, to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-64 on second and final reading.

Vote:

The amendment to Chapter 9, Section 9-72 establishes and clarifies procedures and criteria for fine reduction hearings for both the Code Enforcement Board and Special Magistrate.

Ms. Bruner read Ordinance No. 2019-67 by title only.

Public Hearing/Questions:

None

Motion was made by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner Fenger, to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-67 on second and final reading.

Discussion:

None

Vote:

Voting Aye: Commissioners Smith, Fenger, Holmes, Holck, Carroll, Mayor Brown

Absent: Commissioner Robinson

Motion carried 6-0.

Ordinance No. 2019-61 – Second Reading - Approving Project B5121447367 As A Qualified Applicant For The Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program And Providing City Financial Support - ADOPTED

The Economic Development Division requests City Commission consideration of Project B5121447367 for participation in the Qualified Target Industry (QTI) Tax Refund Program. QTI is an incentive program administered through the State of Florida that allows Florida communities to encourage quality job growth in targeted high value-added businesses. The program provides tax refunds for each new job created to new or expanding businesses in targeted industries or a corporate headquarters. The amount of the tax refund for this project is $5,000 per new job created. The business has submitted an application to the State of Florida and demonstrated that the tax refund is necessary for it to locate and expand in the community.

Project B5121447367 has filed a QTI Program application with the State of Florida, Pinellas County and the City of Largo and has requested confidentiality under Section 288.075, Florida Statutes. Project B5121447367 is an existing aviation/aerospace manufacturer that has been in the Largo market for 24 years. The manufacturer is looking at a program consolidation that will bring 47 new full-time jobs along with the expansion of their existing facility. The aviation/aerospace sector is recognized as a Largo target industry based on the Largo Economic Development Plan. The company will be investing more than $6.95 million over a two year period.

The QTI program is performance based, and as such, mitigates risk to local participating communities. The tax refund requested by the company is based on a Program award of $5,000 per job for 47 new jobs. The total QTI
amount for Project B5121447367 is $235,000. The City would be responsible for providing 10% of the amount approved by the State of Florida or a maximum of $23,500 over a six years. Pinellas County is willing to accept financial responsibility for the other portion of the required local match ($23,500). The QTI tax refund amount would be reimbursed to the business by the State of Florida, only after the company has documented the required job creation and state tax payments made.

The funds for reimbursement for the incentive will be in the FY 2020 budget ($1,250) and will be requested in subsequent budgets based upon the amounts shown in the matrix below.

While Project B5121447367 creates a $23,500 obligation for the City of Largo, it also generates new revenue streams. The 47 new positions create a direct and indirect earnings impact of approximately $4 million and the construction/renovations and new equipment would produce another $6 million. This information was generated by the Regional Input-Output Modeling System designed for Pinellas County.

The City of Largo would be under a financial obligation for this incentive over a six (6) year period. The payment matrix provides a breakdown of the required funds from the City of Largo starting in the State’s FY 2020 budget which begins on July 1, 2019. All identified payments would be in future budgeted years, and would be made from the General Fund.

Ms. Bruner read Ordinance No. 2019-61 by title only.

Public Hearing/Questions:
None

Motion was made by Commissioner Fenger, seconded by Commissioner Holmes, to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-61 on second and final reading.

Discussion:
None

Vote:
Voting Aye: Commissioners Smith, Fenger, Holmes, Holck, Carroll, Mayor Brown
Absent: Commissioner Robinson

Motion carried 6-0.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Resolution No. 2237 – Approving Project B5121447367 As A Qualified Applicant For The Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program And Identifying Local Financial Support - APPROVED

On June 18, 2019 the City Commission will consider Ordinance No. 2019-61 authorizing the City’s financial commitment of $23,500 towards the community match portion of Project B5121447367 for a Qualified Target Industry (QTI) Tax Refund Program award. The Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) requests that Largo provide a Resolution for the support of Project B5121447367.

Resolution No. 2237 stipulates that the City of Largo will be a fifty percent (50%) participant along with Pinellas County in the local financial support to the twenty percent (20%) community match of $47,000. The funds will be allocated as per the guidelines set forth by the DEO.
Ms. Bruner read Resolution No. 2237 by title only.

Questions:

Mayor Brown requested updates on the status of project when information becomes available.

Motion was made by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve Resolution No. 2237.

Vote:

Voting Aye: Commissioners Smith, Fenger, Holmes, Holck, Carroll, Mayor Brown

Absent: Commissioner Robinson

Motion carried 6-0.

Ordinance No. 2019-68 – First Reading - Authorization To Update The Employees Of The Quarter Recognition Program To Include Sustainability As An Additional Criteria For Receiving The Employee Of The Quarter Award – APPROVED

The City of Largo has provided an Employee of the Quarter/Operational Manager of the Quarter program since 2008 to recognize employees for their efforts and accomplishments in providing superior service and exhibiting work performance consistent with the City’s Mission Vision and values. With the City’s focus on Sustainability efforts and programming, it is being recommended to include language that supports exemplary employee contributions regarding Sustainability as a criteria to be nominated for the Employee of the Quarter/Operational Manager of the Quarter Award.

Ms. Bruner read Ordinance No. 2019-68 by title only.

Public Input:

1. Jasmin Cruz stated that she was a public policy student at St. Petersburg College. She stated that recognition was important for maintaining employee morale and including sustainability was consistent with the City’s values. She stated that a local government can set an example for the community as well as raise awareness of the importance of sustainability.

Questions:

Commissioner Fenger thanked Ms. Cruz for her comments. She stated that the changes the City has already made created a system of change.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fenger, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve Ordinance No. 2019-68 on first reading and schedule a second reading and public hearing on July 2, 2019.

Vote:

Voting Aye: Commissioners Smith, Fenger, Holmes, Holck, Carroll, Mayor Brown

Absent: Commissioner Robinson

Motion carried 6-0.
Ordinance No. 2019 – 71 - First Reading - Amending The FY 2019 Budget In The Amount Of $24,000 Within The Legislative Department General Fund Budget For Salary And Benefit Costs And Amending The Pay Plan To Include An Executive Assistant to The Mayor And City Commission Position – APPROVED

During FY 2018, the City Commission approved an early retirement program for a two-year period. This program was approved in anticipation of an additional homestead property tax exemption that was expected to reduce General Fund tax revenues. The Early Retirement program is in its final year with approximately 10 individuals per year utilizing the program.

This budget amendment is requesting funds to cover costs in the Legislative Department associated with the only full-time position in the Department that has elected to participate in the early retirement program. Those costs include a payout of accumulated vacation benefits, salary and benefits for a 6 week period, and salary and benefits costs associated with recruiting a replacement position. Typically, positions must remain vacant until the early retirement payouts are complete; however, staff is requesting to begin recruitment of this position immediately due to the critical role this position plays in handling community correspondence and providing support to the City Commission and advisory boards on a regular basis. Additionally, this position plays a vital role in supporting the City’s advocacy efforts during the annual State Legislative Session, which is set to begin early next year in January, rather than March. The preparations for the session will begin in July/August with the establishment of the 2020 legislative priorities, a legislative delegation round table with the City Commission, and committee meetings in Tallahassee beginning in September.

Ms. Bruner read Ordinance No. 2019-71 by title only.

Questions:
None

Motion was made by Commissioner Holmes, seconded by Vice Mayor Carroll, to approve Ordinance No. 2019-71 on first reading and schedule a second reading and public hearing on July 2, 2019.

Vote:
Voting Aye: Commissioners Smith, Fenger, Holmes, Holck, Carroll, Mayor Brown
Absent: Commissioner Robinson

Motion carried 6-0.

STAFF REPORTS

None

ITEMS FROM CITY ATTORNEY, COMMISSION, MAYOR, CITY MANAGER

Commissioner Fenger congratulated the new Police Officers and Firefighters. She thanked Ms. Cruz for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Holmes stated that a policy was needed for flying non governmental flags, which he did not support. He stated that the Warrior Games will begin on Friday, with most of the events being free. He stated that he rode his bike on Ridge Road today and that many drivers were speeding. He suggested four way stop signs along the intersections. Mayor Brown stated that state law required a specific number of cars going the other direction in order to have a four way stop and there were not sufficient cars going east/west in the area.
Commissioner Holmes suggested traffic calming in lieu of four way stops.

Commissioner Holck thanked the Kiwanis Club and welcomed the new Firefighters and Police Officers. She congratulated the Employees of the Quarter.

Vice Mayor Carroll congratulated the new Firefighters and Police Officers. He complimented Ms. Cruz’ presentation.

Commissioner Smith congratulated the new Police Officers, Firefighters and Employees of the Quarter. He invited everyone to look at the Pride flag and thanked the City Commission for its support.

Mayor Brown also congratulated the new Police Officers, Firefighters and Employees of the Quarter.

Mr. Schubert stated that a recognition policy, which will include flags, will be on the July Work Session agenda. He stated that an item was added to tonight’s agenda and then removed regarding a property downtown to be offered at auction tomorrow. He stated that staff hoped to potentially purchase the property for redevelopment at a fair price, however the owner paid the back taxes today. He stated that staff monitor this type of opportunity in the downtown area.

**SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS**

1. Request by Mayor Brown that staff prepare a report for the City Commission on the 127th Place neighborhood road and drainage situation and any upcoming projects.
2. Request by Mayor Brown that staff provide updates on the status of Project B5121447367 when the facility expansion and job creation have been implemented.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.

Diane L. Bruner, CMC, City Clerk