

**MINUTES
LONGBOAT KEY TOWN COMMISSION
REGULAR WORKSHOP (IN-PERSON/VIRTUAL)
JANUARY 19, 2021**

Present: Mayor Ken Schneier, Vice Mayor Mike Haycock, Commissioners Jack Daly and Ed Zunz

Participating by

Remote Access: Commissioners B.J. Bishop, Sherry Dominick, George Spoll

Also Present: Town Manager Tom Harmer, Town Clerk Trish Shinkle, Information Technology Director Jason Keen

Also Participating by

Remote Access: Town Attorney Maggie Mooney

1. Call to Order

Mayor Schneier called the January 19, 2021, Regular (hybrid) Workshop to order at 1:00 p.m. in the Town Commission Chamber, Town Hall, 501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, Florida, with limited Staff members present.

2. Roll Call

Town Clerk Trish Shinkle called roll for attendance by in-person and remote participation with all Commissioners present.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Daly led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Pledge of Public Conduct

Mayor Schneier noted the Town's Civility Policy and read the Pledge of Public Conduct.

5. Statement of Hybrid Meeting Protocols

Town Manager Tom Harmer reviewed the hybrid meeting protocols.

6. Public to be Heard

Opportunity for Public to Address Town Commission
No items were presented.

7. Reports

A. Committee Reports

Organizations

Mayor Schneier noted attendance at the Manatee County Legislative Delegation meeting on January 6, 2021, and the Sarasota Council of Governments meeting on January 14, 2021, and reviewed issues presented.

B. Introduction of New Sarasota County Sheriff Kurt Hoffman

Town Manager Tom Harmer noted the introduction of Sheriff Hoffman would be rescheduled.

C. COVID-19 Update

The Town Manager will brief Commissioners on the Town's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Recommended Action: None, informational only.

Town Manager Tom Harmer gave a PowerPoint presentation updating the Commission and public on the COVID-19 pandemic. Fire Chief Paul Dezzi commented on the positivity rate and

the importance of getting the second vaccine dose when it is available to provide adequate immunization. Discussions were held on the following topics/issues:

- “mutual” vaccinations (spouses/significant partners)
- utilization of additional vaccines by others outside of the immunization parameters
- compliance enforcements for Longboat Key businesses
- staffing requirements for successful vaccination process
- possible future need for volunteers to assist in a vaccination clinic
- lack of prioritization of individuals older than 65
- option for Commission/Mayor to raise the issue of age with Governor’s office.

There was consensus for the Town to share their opinion on prioritization based on age with the Governor’s office.

Discussions continued on the following topics/issues:

- lack of flexibility for Counties to modify Governor’s orders
- statistics relating to deaths due to age
- long term plans for vaccination sites by Sarasota County
- issues to raise in a request to the State
- proposed locations in Sarasota County
- state-wide sign up available (patientportalfi.com)
- ability to utilize vaccination sites throughout the State.

8. Discussion Items

A. Midblock Crosswalk Safety Update

As a result of citizen concerns, Town staff reached out to FDOT to investigate opportunities to improve the safety and visibility of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) crosswalks on Gulf of Mexico Drive. Recommended Action: None, informational only.

Following comments by Town Manager Tom Harmer, Public Works Director Isaac Brownman gave a PowerPoint presentation on the midblock crosswalks. Discussions were held on the following topics/issues:

- number of crosswalks currently in place (six)
- estimated cost of crosswalks
- lack of State funding for internally illuminated raised pavement markers (iiRPM)
- option to lower the speed limit (reduction would have to be authorized by FDOT)
- use of flashing yellow lights
- request for FDOT to include a presentation on crosswalks during their scheduled March Workshop presentation regarding roundabouts
- current initiative for Country Club Shores roadway improvements
- options for stepped up enforcement in crosswalk areas
- past request regarding the speed limit on Gulf of Mexico Drive (GMD)/history behind the request
- volume on use of crosswalks
- impact of adding additional signage/lighting on GMD
- new lighting at each pedestrian crossings
- consideration of installing iiRPM systems at the Town’s expense
- consideration of speed limit.

Mayor Schneier noted receipt of written comments, and Town Clerk Trish Shinkle read comments received from the following individuals:

- Mr. Arthur Wood, Harbour Oaks Drive
- Mr. Jeff Redding, Sarasota, Florida
- Mr. Bryan Forrester, Gulf of Mexico Drive.

Mr. Brownman commented on proposed future crosswalks and discussion ensued on the following topics/issues:

- Town's position on FDOT installing additional crosswalks (eight proposed)
- consideration of moving under-performing crosswalks
- lack of use of some existing crosswalks
- FDOT's intent to provide lighting at additional crosswalks.

RECESS: 2:30 p.m. – 2:42 p.m.

B. Town Center Phase 3 Discussion

At their December 14, 2020, Regular Workshop Meeting, the Town Commission held discussion on Phase 3 planning for the Town Center property. Following staff presentations and discussion, the Commission requested this item be scheduled for additional consideration at their January 19, 2021, Regular Workshop Meeting. Recommended Action: None, informational only.

Following comments by Town Manager Tom Harmer, Public Works Director Isaac Brownman gave a PowerPoint presentation on Phase 3 of the Town Center. Discussions were held on the following topics/issues:

- language in the "Concept" statement relating to consideration of multi-story buildings in development of the Town Center
- language in "Overall Principles" statement relating to "no cost to the Town"
- two-story over parking versus one-story versus instituting height limitations
- inclusion of Sarasota County Library program in the "Overall Principles" statement
- restricting versus including specificity in the "Overall Principles" statement
- intent to leave "Overall Principles" statement as a general statement
- lack of a Concept Plan for the project
- lack of private-public partnership
- inclusion of the word "minimal" in the statement relating to cost.

There was consensus to modify the last sentence in the "Concept" statement to reflect "one or two stories" deleting the word "multi-story" and to add the phrase "and the surrounding area" after the word "site."

There was consensus to modify the "Overall Principles" statement to reflect "minimal" cost to the Town in lieu of "no" cost to the Town.

Discussion continued on the following topics/issues:

- option for inclusion of additional language on the "Role of the Town" to include a building concept, defining relative costs, and general dimensions of the building
- limiting activities to Town residents
- inclusion of language in the final brochure relating to costs and approximate square footage.

There was consensus to approve the “Role of the Town” page.

Discussion continued on the following topics/issues:

- Potential Programming based on 2020 Citizen Survey
- lifelong learning as first item
- number of participants in the Citizen Survey
- negotiation/flexibility with potential partners
- initial programming events
- inclusion of current education programs offered on island (Learning Center)
- other elements/events to be considered for inclusion
- event review postponed for current year (2021) due to pandemic/staff working on events for 2022
- inclusion of specific budgeting information, building concept, and programs in the marketing information
- inclusion of a performing arts program
- Town’s versus a private partner’s vision
- ultimate role of the Town
- consideration to schedule additional discussion.

Town Manager Harmer inquired and Mayor Schneier noted additional discussion could be provided at the February 2021 Regular Workshop.

C. Utilities Undergrounding Project Update

At each Regular Workshop Meeting, the Town Manager and staff provide an update on various components of the Utilities Undergrounding Project. Recommended Action: None, informational only.

Following comments by Town Manager Tom Harmer, Public Works Project Manager James Linkogle and Public Works Director Isaac Brownman gave a PowerPoint presentation providing an update on the Utilities Undergrounding Project. Discussions were held on the following topics/issues:

- interest rate charged on assessments
- consideration of refunding when project is complete.

Mayor Schneier noted receipt of a request to speak.

Mr. Pete Rowan, Broadway Street, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the type of preferred light poles in the Longbeach (Village) area.

9. Town Commission Comments

A. Financial Institutions

Mayor Schneier commented on his discussions with Bank of America, noted that a list of branches that will not be reopened has been developed, and advised that the Longboat Key branch is not on the closure list.

B. Planning, Zoning, and Building

Commissioner Spoll inquired as to support to consider prohibiting gas leaf blowers, requiring individuals/businesses to utilize electric blowers to reduce noise exposures.

Subsequent to individual comments, there was consensus to discuss the issue at a future meeting.

10. Town Attorney Comments

No items were presented.

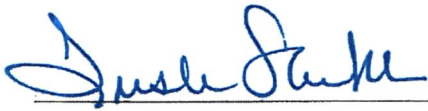
11. Town Manager Comments

Town Manager Tom Harmer commented on the following items:

- 2021 Citizens Survey/responses received to date (650) compared to total received in 2020
- difficulty in filling pedestrian monitor positions for the St. Armands Circle traffic/pedestrian control program
- Sarasota County COVID-19 registration update.

12. Adjournment

Mayor Schneier adjourned the January 19, 2021, Regular (hybrid) Workshop at 4:54 p.m.



Trish Shinkle, Town Clerk



Kenneth Schneier, Mayor

Minutes Approved: 2/1/2021