

# City of Clearwater

*Main Library - Council Chambers  
100 N. Osceola Avenue  
Clearwater, FL 33755*



## Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, March 18, 2021**

**6:00 PM**

**Main Library - Council Chambers**

## **City Council**

**Roll Call**

**Present:** 5 - Mayor Frank Hibbard, Councilmember Hoyt Hamilton, Vice Mayor David Allbritton, Councilmember Mark Bunker and Councilmember Kathleen Beckman

**Also Present:** William B. Horne II – City Manager, Micah Maxwell – Assistant City Manager, Michael Delk – Assistant City Manager, Pamela K. Akin City Attorney, Rosemarie Call – City Clerk, and Nicole Sprague – Deputy City Clerk.

*To provide continuity for research, items are listed in agenda order although not necessarily discussed in that order.*

Unapproved

**1. Call to Order – Mayor Hibbard**

*The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.*

**2. Invocation – Pastor Cezar Monterroza from First Baptist Church/Safety Harbor****3. Pledge of Allegiance****4. Special recognitions and Presentations (Proclamations, service awards, or other special recognitions. Presentations by governmental agencies or groups providing formal updates to Council will be limited to ten minutes.) – Given.**

- 4.1 American Red Cross Month Proclamation, March 2021 - Eric Corliss, Regional CEO American Red Cross of Central Florida and US Virgin Islands
- 4.2 March for Meals Month Proclamation, March 2021 - David Lomaka, Executive Director of the Neighborly Care Network
- 4.3 Florida Food Waste Prevention Week Proclamation, April 5-9, 2021 - Sheridan Boyle, Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Clearwater
- 4.4 Centennial Year of Celebration for the Nancy and David Bilheimer Capitol Theatre Proclamation, 2021 - Ms. Susan Crockett, President and CEO of Ruth Eckerd Hall & Mr. Michael Bollenback, Chairman of the Board.

*Ms. Crockett provided a video presentation and thanked the City for its continued support.*

## **5. Approval of Minutes**

- 5.1** Approve the minutes of the March 4, 2021 City Council Meeting as submitted in written summation by the City Clerk.

**Councilmember Hamilton moved to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2021 City Council Meeting as submitted in written summation by the City Clerk. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.**

## **6. Citizens to be heard re items not on the agenda**

*Jerry Maguire said the City is doing a good job with bringing people to Downtown but expressed concern with the number of individuals who attended a recent event.*

*Pamela Iusi said the Community Dental Clinic is in the business of providing smiles to those in the community who do not have the resources to receive needed dental services. She thanked the City for its continued support and partnership.*

*Jack Schafer submitted an email expressing his dislike on how Clearwater has changed since the 60s that was read into the record by the City Clerk (see page 14).*

## **7. Consent Agenda – Approved as submitted.**

- 7.1** Approve the 2021 Federal Legislative Priorities. (consent)
- 7.2** Approve revised Fiduciary Investment Committee Charter for the City's defined contribution retirement plans. (consent)
- 7.3** Approve the purchase of Excess property insurance, including Bridges, Boiler and Machinery and Terrorism coverages, from April 1, 2021 through April 1, 2022, at the level of insurance provided for in this agenda item, at an amount not to exceed \$2,800,000 and at the property rate of \$0.3476 through April 1, 2022, and authorize the appropriate officials to execute same. (consent)
- 7.4** Award a construction contract to CROM Coatings and Restorations, a division of CROM, LLC. of Gainesville, FL, in the amount of \$149,437.75 for MS WRF Chlorine Contact Chamber per Invitation to Bid (ITB) 18-0060-UT; approve Engineer of Record (EOR)

Supplemental 1 Work Order to Tetra Tech in the amount of \$168,157, increasing the work order from \$43,481 to \$211,638 and authorize the appropriate officials to execute same. (consent)

- 7.5** Approve amendment to the construction contract between the City of Clearwater and Construction Manager at Risk J. Kokolakis Contracting, Inc. of Tarpon Springs, Florida, for the Solid Waste Transfer Station (Project 15-0007-SW) to include an extended bonded warranty covering the top one and a half inches of asphalt and authorize the appropriate officials to execute same. (consent)
- 7.6** Accept FDOT Grant Agreement Amendment (No. 435222-1-94-01) in the amount of \$100,000 for the Clearwater Airpark Hangar-C Replacement Project and authorize the appropriate officials to execute same. (consent)
- 7.7** Authorize a purchase order to multiple vendors as listed, for the maintenance, purchase and rental of generators, transfer switches, replacement parts, and services, in the annual not-to exceed amount of \$1,000,000 through January 2022 with one renewal option through January 2023, in accordance with City Code of Ordinances Section 2.564(1)(b) Sole Source and 2.564(1)(d) Other Government Entities Bids and authorize the appropriate officials to execute same. (consent)

**Vice Mayor Allbritton moved to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted and authorize the appropriate officials to execute same. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.**

### **Public Hearings - Not before 6:00 PM**

## **8. Administrative Public Hearings**

- 8.1** Approve the City of Clearwater's Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). (APH)

The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) is the principal administrative report documenting the City's expenditures for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) programs to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). For Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020, the City's entitlement allocation was \$764,043 in CDBG and \$383,978 in HOME program funds, \$1,682,755 of Prior Year funds, \$102,286 of Program Income and \$1,192,174 in CDBG Revolving Loan funding for a total budget of \$4,125,236 from federal funds.

Through the CDBG and HOME program activities, total expenditures were \$869,395 in FY 2019-2020, which included program income and funding from the prior year reprogrammed funds. Those funds not expended from this year's budget will be programmed in future years.

In addition to reporting activities carried out with federal money, a summary of activities conducted with the Florida State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program and Pinellas County Housing Trust Fund (PCHTF) Program is also included in the narrative section. For FY 2019-2020, SHIP fund expenditures totaled \$1,185,451 and PCHTF fund expenditures totaled \$97,154.

The report provides HUD with necessary information for the Department to meet its requirement to assess each grantee's ability to carry out relevant Community Planning and Development programs in compliance with all applicable rules and regulations. It also provides information necessary for HUD's Annual Report to Congress and it provides grantees an opportunity to describe to citizens their successes in revitalizing deteriorated neighborhoods and in meeting objectives stipulated in their Consolidated Planning document.

The City of Clearwater's FY 2019-2020 CAPER contains information on the City's assessment of the following activities:

- Assessment of Four-Year Goals and Outcomes
- Resources and Investments
- Affordable Housing
- Homeless and Other Special Needs
- Public Housing
- Other Actions to Address Barriers to Affordable Housing
- Monitoring
- CDBG
- HOME

A list of notable accomplishments utilizing federal, state, and local funds for FY 2019-2020 include:

- Provided one down payment & closing cost assistance loan totaling \$20,725
- Provided \$278,308 for the rehabilitation of eight owner-occupied units
- Assisted Community Service Foundation with the rehabilitation of two multi-family rental units
- Assisted Lexington Club at Renaissance Square with the rehabilitation of seven multi-family rental units
- Provided \$115,992 to Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas County for the acquisition of land and construction of one single-family home
- Completed construction and lease-up of Woodlawn Trail Apartments, an 80-unit family rental complex

- Completed construction and lease-up of Madison Point Apartments; an 80-unit senior rental complex
- Committed \$208,904 for three Public Facilities projects: Directions for Living, Homeless Empowerment Program and RCS Pinellas and completed a Public Facilities Project with Arc of Tampa Bay carried over from the previous fiscal year.
- Provided \$98,855 to assist 4,804 individuals through partnerships with ten public service providers: Intercultural Advocacy Institute, Pinellas Opportunity Council, Safety Harbor Neighborhood Family Center, Gulfcoast Legal Services, WestCare GulfCoast of Florida, Homeless Emergency Project, Religious Community Services (now, Hope Villages of America), Kimberly Home, Directions for Living and Miracles Outreach.
- Provided \$51,575 for technical assistance services to Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of Florida, Inc. dba Prospera and Tampa Bay Black Business Investment Corporation that assisted 83 entrepreneurs and businesses
- Provided \$5,530 to three organizations to provide homebuyer education to assist 79 Clearwater residents: Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services, Tampa Bay Community Development Corporation, and Bright Community Trust.

Overall, federal, state, and local funding assisted 4,388 persons and 169 households

On March 9, 2021, the Neighborhood and Affordable Housing Advisory Board (NAHAB) recommended City Council approve the CAPER as written. The CAPER is due annually to HUD no later than December 31; however, HUD granted a 90-day extension as the workload of participating jurisdictions was impacted by the pandemic.

*Economic Development and Housing Assistant Director Chuck Lane provided a PowerPoint presentation.*

**Councilmember Beckman moved to approve the City of Clearwater's Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.**

- 8.2** Approve the request from the owner of property addressed as 1068 Eldorado Avenue, Clearwater to vacate a platted 5-foot Utility Easement, described as the west 5 feet of lot

5, Block 70, Mandalay, recorded in Plat Book 14, Pages 32 to 35, of the Public Records of Pinellas County, Florida, and pass Ordinance 9439-21 on first reading.

The property owner at 1068 Eldorado Ave., Clearwater, has requested that the City vacate a 5-foot platted Utility Easement along the rear of their property. The purpose of this vacation will be to allow construction of a pool and pool deck.

There are no utilities present within this easement. Staff reviewed this vacation and have no objection.

*In response to questions, Engineering Director Tara Kivett said other properties along the easement have been vacated. After evaluating the easement in question, staff decided to process the vacations as each property owner submitted the request. She said there are at least five vacation requests being processed.*

**Councilmember Bunker moved to approve the request from the owner of property addressed as 1068 Eldorado Avenue, Clearwater to vacate a platted 5-foot Utility Easement, described as the west 5 feet of lot 5, Block 70, Mandalay, recorded in Plat Book 14, Pages 32 to 35, of the Public Records of Pinellas County, Florida. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.**

**Ordinance 9439-21 was presented and read by title only.**

**Councilmember Hamilton moved to pass Ordinance 9439-21 on first reading. The motion was duly seconded and upon roll call, the vote was:**

**Ayes:** 5 - Mayor Hibbard, Councilmember Hamilton, Vice Mayor Allbritton, Councilmember Bunker and Councilmember Beckman

## **9. City Manager Reports**

- 9.1** Amend the City's fiscal year 2020/21 operating and capital improvement budgets at first quarter and pass Ordinances 9446-21 and 9447-21 on first reading.

The fiscal year 2020/21 operating and capital improvement budgets were adopted in September 2020 by ordinances 9408-20 and 9409-20. Section 2.521 of the City's Code of Ordinances requires the City Manager to prepare a quarterly report detailing income, expenditure estimates, collections, the explanation of significant variances, as well as the financial status of all capital

improvement projects.

**Vice Mayor Allbritton moved to amend the City's fiscal year 2020/21 operating and capital improvement budgets at first quarter. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.**

**Ordinances 9446-21 was presented and read by title only. Councilmember Beckman moved to pass Ordinance 9446-21 on first reading. The motion was duly seconded and upon roll call, the vote was:**

**Ayes:** 5 - Mayor Hibbard, Councilmember Hamilton, Vice Mayor Allbritton, Councilmember Bunker and Councilmember Beckman

**Ordinance 9447-21 was presented and read by title only. Councilmember Bunker moved to pass Ordinance 9447-21 on first reading. The motion was duly seconded and upon roll call, the vote was:**

**Ayes:** 5 - Mayor Hibbard, Councilmember Hamilton, Vice Mayor Allbritton, Councilmember Bunker and Councilmember Beckman

## **9.2 Confirm COVID-19 Emergency Proclamation and adopt Resolution 21-12.**

**Councilmember Hamilton moved to confirm COVID-19 Emergency Proclamation. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.**

**Resolution 21-12 was presented and read by title only. Vice Mayor Allbritton moved to adopt Resolution 21-12. The motion was duly seconded and upon roll call, the vote was:**

**Ayes:** 5 - Mayor Hibbard, Councilmember Hamilton, Vice Mayor Allbritton, Councilmember Bunker and Councilmember Beckman

## **10. City Manager Verbal Reports**

### **10.1 PSTA/Forward Pinellas Update - Vice Mayor Allbritton**

*Vice Mayor Allbritton said Forward Pinellas considered a change in land use associated with a light-industrial site to allow a company to construct a swimming area and a recreational use but some of the surrounding*



*neighborhoods wanted an Amazon trucking center. PSTA staff recommended the Amazon trucking center would be a better use. The PSTA Board recognized that March is Florida Bike Month and unanimously approved a resolution to support the Pinellas Safe Streets Action Plan. He said the TMA Leadership Group approved a name change; the group will be known as the Suncoast Transit Planning Alliance.*

## **10.2 Cult City Tours - Councilmember Bunker**

*Councilmember Bunker said there has been a lot of consternation about Cult City Tours. The tours sprung forth from a suggestion he made regarding Scientology tourism, where individuals who were leery of the Church could tour downtown and experience what it has to offer. Ted Reinhard obtained the business license for Cult City Tours. He said there was a huge flap this weekend and an article in the Tampa Bay Times correctly criticized Mr. Reinhard for negatively reviewing a couple of Downtown restaurants on Trip Advisor. He said the reviews were removed after he spoke with Mr. Reinhard. Councilmember Bunker said he has reached out to the restaurant owners about the incident. He has spoken with several individuals who have taken the tour; the individuals had a positive perception of Downtown and expressed a desire to return. He said he hoped Mr. Reinhard would reconsider the name as branding the City as a "cult" is horrible.*

*One individual spoke in support of Cult City Tours and said that in one month, 300 reservations were made. He thanked Councilmember Bunker for calling him and making it clear that the cooperation was necessary. He said the recent Charity Super Fan tour raised over \$1,200 for the Aftermath Foundation and attracted participants nationwide.*

*One individual said the criticism heard about Cult City Tours was fair and he hoped that the concerns raised will be addressed by the tour operators, who wish to demystify Scientology and direct tour participants to downtown restaurants. He expressed concerns with how Scientology representatives visited the downtown restaurants to spread falsehoods about the charity event.*

*One individual opposed the tours and expressed concerns regarding the fake negative reviews Mr. Reinhard posted about a couple of restaurants.*

*Discussion ensued with comments made that the negative reviews were wrong, the businesses in downtown deserve to be supported, and that the*

*name of the tour is horrible.*

## **11. City Attorney Reports – None.**

## **12. Other Council Action**

### **12.1 Amend City Charter to Require Candidates Receive 50% of the Vote to be Elected - Councilmember Hamilton**

*Councilmember Hamilton questioned if there was interest to schedule a presentation by Dr. Scott Paine on the different voting methods. It is typical to have local officials be elected with less than 50% of the vote in smaller municipalities. Historically, Clearwater has two candidates run for a seat but Clearwater deserves to have officials elected with more than 50% of the votes casted.*

*Discussion ensued with comments made that the charter review committee is an advisory committee that makes recommendations to council, that the presentation by Dr. Paine regarding the types of voting conducted by cities Clearwater's size would be helpful. Concerns were expressed that the matter should wait for the next charter review process and that having a primary election would require a lot of fundraising by the candidates.*

*In response to questions, the City Attorney said the City is required to have a charter review every four years. The city council may place an item on referendum without charter review at any time.*

*One eComment in opposition was submitted and was read into the record by the City Clerk (see page 13).*

**Councilmember Hamilton moved to direct the City Clerk to schedule a presentation. The motion was duly seconded and carried with the following vote:**

**Ayes:** 3 - Mayor Hibbard, Councilmember Hamilton and Vice Mayor Allbritton

**Nays:** 2 - Councilmember Bunker and Councilmember Beckman

## **13. Closing comments by Councilmembers (limited to 3 minutes)**

*Councilmember Beckman said she was elected to the Council a year ago yesterday. It has been an exciting year and she is looking forward to continuing the work and learning the next three years.*

*Vice Mayor Allbritton said he asked the City Clerk to put on our legislative priority list Senator Hooper's Fire Prevention and Control bill, which authorizes the use of radio communication enhancement systems to comply with new fire code requirements for buildings taller than four stories.*

*Councilmember Hamilton said spring break is in full swing and traffic is what it is. He wished everyone a Happy Easter.*

*Councilmember Bunker said he attended a Jazz Holiday event in Station Square Park a couple weekends ago. He said the volunteer who greeted him was a scientologist, and he made a donation to the festival. He said it was a great evening and he is looking forward to future years.*

#### **14. Closing Comments by Mayor**

*Mayor Hibbard reviewed recent and upcoming events. With Spring Break underway, he reminded all that alcohol is not allowed on the beach or sidewalk.*

#### **15. Adjourn**

*The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.*

Attest

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor  
City of Clearwater

# City Council on 2021-03-18 6:00 PM

Meeting Time: 03-18-21 18:00

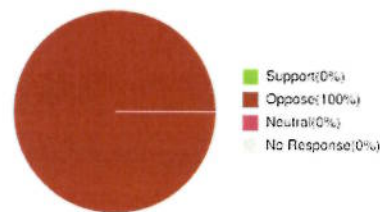
## eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
City Council on 2021-03-18 6:00 PM	03-18-21 18:00	36	1	0	1	0

### Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

#### Overall Sentiment



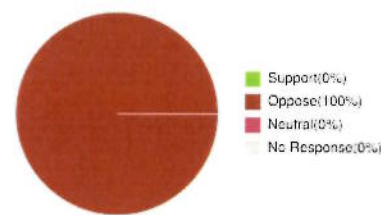
**City Council on 2021-03-18 6:00 PM**  
**03-18-21 18:00**

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
12.1 ID#21-8958 Amend City Charter to Require Candidates Receive 50% of the Vote to be Elected - Councilmember Hamilton	1	0	1	0

**Sentiments for All Agenda Items**

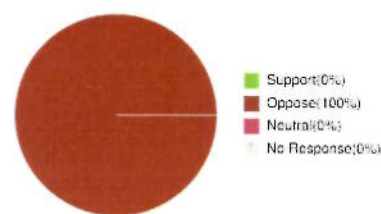
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

**Overall Sentiment**



**Agenda Item: eComments for 12.1 ID#21-8958 Amend City Charter to Require Candidates Receive 50% of the Vote to be Elected - Councilmember Hamilton**

**Overall Sentiment**



**Beth Davis**

Location:  
Submitted At: 5:09pm 03-18-21

This will restrict a diverse, representative council. Money will be a driver to compete with the possibility of a runoff. perhaps the person should win 40% of the vote, but find a compromise to maintain and keep an open field of candidates.

## Call, Rosemarie

---

**From:** Jack Schafer <jackxschafer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 16, 2021 10:13 PM  
**To:** ClearwaterCouncil  
**Subject:** What I think...

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Clearwater. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Everything about the Clearwater that I grew up in back in the 60's is gone.  
Scientology took over the city, and I recall both Hubbard in the 60's and David M. In the past 4 years calling Clearwater (city) their campus.  
They believe they own our city - anything that takes that thought away from them is Good- This City belongs to the citizens that live here... not our politicians, and certainly not a single church.  
This city needs to grow a pair, and kick them in theirs !

My Best... always,  
Jack Schafer