



CITY OF NORTH MIAMI BEACH
City Commission Special Meeting
Julius Litman Performing Arts Theatre
17011 N.E. 19th Avenue
North Miami Beach, FL. 33162

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Mayor Anthony F. DeFillipo
Vice Mayor Michael Joseph
Commissioner McKenzie Fleurimond
Commissioner Daniela Jean
Commissioner Barbara Kramer
Commissioner Fortuna Smukler
Commissioner Paule Villard

City Manager Esmond K. Scott

City Attorney Dan Espino
Weiss Serota Helfman Cole and Bierman

City Clerk Andrise Bernard, CMC

City Commission Special Meeting Minutes

1. ROLL CALL OF THE CITY OFFICIALS

The Special City Commission Meeting was called to order at 5:18 p.m. Present at the meeting in Theatre were Mayor Anthony F. DeFillipo, Commissioner Daniela Jean, Commissioner Barbara Kramer (arrived after roll call due to attending the General Employees Retirement Board Meeting in progress), and Commissioner Fortuna Smukler. Vice Mayor Michael Joseph and Commissioner McKenzie Fleurimond were present on the zoom virtual platform. Commissioner Paule Villard was absent. Manager Esmond Scott, City Attorney Dan Espino, and City Clerk Andrise Bernard were also present.

Mayor DeFillipo asked City Attorney Dan Espino if the meeting could proceed without having a quorum of five members present in person. City Attorney Espino responded that it was appropriate to proceed with this water transition update meeting with a combination of members in person and zoom.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by the Mayor and Commission.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor DeFillipo opened the meeting for **PUBLIC COMMENT**.

City Clerk Andrise Bernard read the rules of public comment.

There were no public speakers.

The meeting was closed for **PUBLIC COMMENT**.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greg Williams, Public Affairs Manager, announced the upcoming events: December 8, 2020 Tree Lighting Ceremony in Memory of Miguel Acevedo at 6 p.m. in front of City Hall; December 12, 2020 Drive Through Distribution for 1,500 residents at the Nova Parking Lot commencing at 11 a.m. in partnership Chen Medical where recipients will receive toys, masks, COVID testing and a 30 pound box of food, that is open to the public; recipients will receive a Holiday Delivery commencing at 8 a.m.; and a Golden Sleigh Drive Delivery for 150 recipients at Washington Park and Highland Village Delivery commencing at 8 a.m.; December 13, 2020 NMB Holiday Family Traditions at the NMB Library from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; December 14, 2020 Holiday Book Giveaway at NMB Library from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; December 19, 2020 Holiday Toy Drive Through at Uleta Community Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and December 19, 2020 Open Air Movie at NMB Library from 6 to 9 p.m. These events are open for all City residents.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

5.1. Resolution R2020-116 Approving Purchase of WaterSmart Software Solution (Jafeth Baez, P.E. MSCE, Director of NMB Water)

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, PURSUANT TO SECTION 3-4.3 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCE, APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF THE WATERSMART SOFTWARE SOLUTION, VIA THE MOUNT PLEASANT WATER UTILITY CONTRACT, IN THE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$55,000.00; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT AND TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS, IN FURTHERANCE HEREOF; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion to approve the Water Consent Agenda made by Commissioner Smukler, seconded by Commissioner Fleurimond.

Commissioner Smukler asked if the program had been previously purchased; asked about customers who cannot use the app; what other utility companies are using this system; the contract duration, to ensure the City is satisfied with the program; and if Jacobs had previously planned on implementing this system. She is concerned that older customers will have challenges with the system. Jafeth Baez, Water Plant Director, responded that the software will be used in conjunction with the existing Itron and other systems; that the City will be starting a campaign to inform and explain the system to users; that the system is an app as well as a website, and that customer service will continue to be provided via the phone and in person as usual; that the contract term is for two years; that other municipalities using the system are happy with it; and that Jacobs had envisioned implementing the system three years ago, but that those efforts were poorly coordinated. Donna Rockfeld, Purchasing Manager, shared the list of some of the other agencies currently using the software, and that the City is using a piggyback contract with Mount Pleasant Water Utility.

Mayor DeFillipo asked when the system will begin, when a notice will go out with the water bills, and if the water agency customer service agents are equipped to explain and teach customers how to use the system when a customer calls them. Jafeth Baez, Water Plant Director, responded that the customer service representatives will be trained to fully assist customers, and that email addresses and phone numbers will be added into the system when there is customer contact.

Commissioner Jean asked how many users are anticipated to be registered into the system. Jafeth Baez, Water Plant Director, responded that the initial goal is to register 25% of users, with a goal to increase registered users to 50% by the end of 2021.

Voice Vote

MOTION PASSED 5-0. Commissioner Kramer and Villard were absent.

Commissioner Kramer arrived at the meeting. Vice Mayor Joseph was experiencing technical difficulties.

Mayor DeFillipo asked City Attorney Dan Espino if the meeting could proceed without have five members present in person or on the virtual zoom meeting platform. City Attorney Espino responded that it was appropriate to proceed with the announcement section of the meeting with a combination of members in person and zoom. Announcements were heard while Vice Mayor Joseph was logging back on to the meeting.

6. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

6.1 NMB Water Transition Update

Vice Mayor Joseph asked about the hiring transitions, pay scales and benefits being offered, to ensure that both the City employees, as well as the City and City taxpayers, are being treated fairly. City Manager Scott responded that the compensation study that was completed has benefited the City employees with fair market salaries and benefits. Mayor DeFillipo also wants to ensure that the taxpayers and residents are treated fairly when it comes to paying those salaries and benefits.

City Manager Esmond Scott provided an update to the Commission. Carrollo Group representative Juan Oquendo reviewed the actions taken since the last City Commission Meeting with a presentation and reported that the NMB water customer service was fully transferred back to the City on November 16, 2020. Francisco Rios, Human Resources, provided an update to the Commission on the transition hiring process to date.

Mayor DeFillipo asked if background checks and vetting of new employees is still occurring, and City Manager Scott responded that this process was still being strictly followed, as well as other prescreening employment measures.

Commissioner Smukler asked what percentage of employees need to be hired for the City to be fully operational at the water plant. City Manager Scott responded that job offers have been made to some of the outstanding positions, and that the City is on track and confident that all the positions will be fully hired by the time the City is fully managing the water plant operations. Donna Rockfeld, Procurement Manager, and Pete Dominguez, Fleet Manager, also provided updates to the Commission.

The majority of the Mayor and Commission shared that they are unavailable for a water transition update meeting on December 22, 2020 due to the holidays, so the next update meeting will occur in January 2021.

Commissioner Smukler announced that there is an important PUC meeting on December 9, 2020, and she urged the Mayor and Commissioners to watch it.

Commissioner Jean asked when it was anticipated to have all the recruitments complete, as many of the positions require specialized skills. City Manager Scott responded that the City is on track to have all the positions hired on time and that recruitments are in process.

Commissioner Kramer wished the community a Happy Hanukah and Happy Holidays and wished Mayor DeFillipo and her husband a Happy Birthday on December 7, 2020 who share the same birthday.

7. NEXT REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING is December 15, 2020.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Kramer, seconded by Commissioner Fleurimond.

MOTION PASSED 6-0. Commissioner Villard was absent.

ATTEST:

(SEAL)

Andrise Bernard, CMC, City Clerk