CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Regular City Commission Meeting
Monday, February 22, 2021

The City Commission met in formal session Monday, February 22, 2021 at 5:00 P.M. in the Alcazar Room at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Tracy Upchurch, and the following were present:

1. Roll Call: Tracy Upchurch, Mayor/City Commissioner
Nancy Sikes-Kline, Vice Mayor/City Commissioner
Roxanne Horvath, City Commissioner
John Valdes, City Commissioner
Barbara Blonder, City Commissioner

John Regan, City Manager
Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney
Darlene Galambos, City Clerk
Meredith Breidenstein, Assistant City Manager
David Birchim, Director, Planning and Building
Melissa Wissel, Communications Director
Corey Sakryd, Grants Administration Coordinator
Stephen Lauber, Information Technology Manager
Barry Fox, Police Chief
Laura Morse, Recording Secretary

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pastor Hunter Camp, Memorial Presbyterian Church, delivered the invocation, and Commissioner Sikes-Kline led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

2.A. Modification and Approval of Regular Agenda

(None)

MOTION

Commissioner Sikes-Kline MOVED to approve the Regular Agenda. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Valdes and APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

3. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

(None)

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS OR FOR AGENDA ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A SEPARATE PUBLIC HEARING

The Commission heard from the following members of the public:

- Shawn Morrison
- Doug Russo
- Lynn Wettach
- Chris Fulmer
- Gail Wisler
- Lauren Giber
- BJ Kalaidi

Public comment was closed.

Mayor Upchurch stated the City would always have the public's best interest in mind and the circa 1880s Alcazar Room was not constructed for public meetings; therefore, staff had worked hard to make the room safe and conducive to the health of those attending. He reiterated the only requirement to publicly speak within the Alcazar Room was to wear a mask.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

John Regan, City Manager, read the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA–FEBRUARY 22, 2021

CA.1. Preview of upcoming Commission meetings.

CA.2. THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES ARE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR SECOND READING ON MARCH 8, 2021:

(None)

CA.3. Reminder of Upcoming Meetings:

- March 8, 2021 - 5pm - Regular City Commission Meeting
- March 22, 2021 - 5pm - Regular City Commission Meeting
- April 12, 2021 - 5pm - Regular City Commission Meeting

CA.4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR COMMISSION MEETINGS:

(None)

CA.5. RELEASES OF LIEN FOR UNIT CONNECTION FEE MORTGAGE(S):

- 1061 N. Orange Street - Kevin Spiling and Gina Baker
- 1302 Eisenhower Drive - Janet T. and Brian D. Martinez
- 925 Collier Boulevard - Robert M. Bush
- 3762 Old Lewis Speedway - Craig Rowe
- 6 Helen Street - Tara Ganson

CA.6. PROPOSED PROCLAMATIONS, CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION/RECOGNITION. (COMMISSION APPROVAL REQUIRED). (TO BE READ AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING).

(None)

CA.7. NOTIFICATION OF PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION ISSUED:

- Proclamation 2021-02: Recognizing the 502nd birthday of Don Pedro Menendez de Aviles.

CA.8. January financial report. (*M. Simpson, Director Finance*)

CA.9. Approval of invoices to Cavendish Partners, P.A. for legal services regarding the MASCI General Contractor, Inc. v COSA matter in the amount of $3,127.00 and for legal services regarding the Marlowe v COSA matter in the amount of $928.00. (*I. Lopez, City Attorney*)

End of Consent Agenda

<u>5.A.</u> Additions, deletions or modifications to Consent Agenda

(None)

<u>5.B.</u> Approval of Consent Agenda

MOTION

Commissioner Horvath MOVED to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Sikes-Kline and APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

6. APPEALS

(None)

7. GENERAL PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS, ITEMS OF GREAT PUBLIC

IMPORTANCE, AND OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING PUBLIC HEARINGS

7.A. General Public Presentations

7.A.1. Presentation by representatives of the Lightner Museum regarding the plans for the southerly garden landscape design and an addendum to the lease agreement between the City and the Board of Trustees of the Lightner Museum of Hobbies, Inc.

Meredith Breidenstein, Assistant City Manager, reviewed the topic and noted the design was approved by the Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) and contingent upon the transfer of two parking spaces into the Lightner Museum's (Museum) controlled space. She introduced the following individuals:

- David Bagnall, Executive Director of the Lightner Museum
- Elijah George, Senior Associate with Marquis Latimer + Halback, Inc. who stepped in for Jeremy Marquis

Mr. George provided an illustrated project overview and design impact of the two-parking space inclusion and reviewed the unimproved condition and improved plans, which included an event lawn, expanded fountain plaza, updated sidewalks, garden and accent paving. He noted project goals were to honor architecture, heritage and history.

Mr. Bagnall stated the renovation would honor Henry Flagler and Arthur Lightner's legacies, who saw the Hotel Alcazar and Museum as a sight of engagement, enrichment and enjoyment for residents and visitors. He expressed the importance of parks to the community, discussed the Museum's financial commitment, and noted the project design's economic contribution and support for the City's cultural, architectural, and historical depth.

Teresa Radzinski, Chairperson for Board of Trustees of the Museum, expressed appreciation for efforts made to complete the design, advised she gifted funds to begin the project, and noted her intent to fundraise. She commended Mr. Bagnall's knowledge and invited the Commission to visit the site to see the renovations made thus far.

Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney, corrected an error detected by Ms. B.J. Kalaidi in the first 'Whereas' clause of the Addendum to Lease Agreement, and stated the attribution of the sculpture to Faith Tiberio was incorrect and should have been stricken in the Commissioner's version.

Mr. Regan stated that Commissioner Horvath questioned whether the spaces could be decreased in size. He noted the spaces measured ten feet but could be restriped to nine-foot spaces to be equivalent with the rest of the lot which would gain one parking space.

Ms. Breidenstein noted the proposed Addendum to Lease Agreement for the two parking spaces was ready for Commission consideration; however, the photographs provided did not properly represent the parking spaces.

The Commission discussed:

- One parking space would be gained and one lost based on dimensions
- Approximately $4,500 would be lost annually for one space
- Gate opening and closing was Museum's staff responsibility during their schedule, and the public could access during open hours
- Garden space operated similar to Alcazar building and courtyard schedule; open in morning and closed at day's end
- Museum's terrace entrance would be new entrance
- Planned to repair original walls that detached from building and would ensure resiliency
- Paving would be permeable and a mix of brick, concrete and grass

- Museum was amiable to adding 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM in Addendum
- Design was stronger if parking spaces given to the Lightner
- Other lots, Granada included, were reviewed for another parking space
- Option to reduce spaces to eight and one-half feet for compact vehicles
- Museum would return four parking passes for lot behind Lightner to secure space around sculpture

Commissioner Horvath affirmed the value of the parking spaces to citizens and the Museum and supported the Addendum.

Commissioner Sikes-Kline noted her appreciation of the Museum's work and plans, and the intended positive community influence; however, she expressed the following concerns:

- City's Parking and Traffic Committee master plan identified area south of Plaza as critical concern for parking
- Parking spaces drove economic success and revitalization
- International Parking and Mobility Institute estimated in 2012 that one on-street parking space generated $20,000 annually to local businesses and government
- Value existed other than just land
- Concerned about impact to other businesses
- Lot used for tenants of Museum
- Museum was leased to lessen taxpayer burden
- Spillover parking occurred into neighborhoods
- How was loss of space mitigated for local small businesses
- Re-striping and re-metering would cost citizens and Museum should contribute

Mayor Upchurch clarified the area transferred to the Museum was already approved and the question before the Commission was the two parking spaces.

Mayor Upchurch quoted "All great cities have a great museum" and stated discussions of community dynamics, vibrancy, cultural resources, historic preservation, open spaces and walkability were key elements. He noted the opportunity to historically preserve the rear of the Lightner building in an environmentally responsible and resilient way allowed enjoyment for Museum patrons and the community and would have a ripple effect to surrounding businesses. He was amiable to grant the spaces in recognition of the tremendous financial resources the Museum extended, their compelling offer and an effective public-private partnership.

Commissioner Sikes-Kline inquired about the Museum contributing to costs for re-striping the parking spaces and asked Mayor Upchurch to consider authorizing the City Manager to work out provisions for re-striping and re-metering one side to save a parking space.

Mayor Upchurch noted his unfamiliarity with re-striping costs, the sum was inconsequential since over one-half a million dollars was being spent, and it was inappropriate to request the Museum to contribute.

Mayor Upchurch stated his intended motion to approve the Agreement, and if seconded, these items would be considered as individual amendments on which to vote.

MOTION

Mayor Upchurch MOVED to approve the Addendum to the Agreement. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Horvath.

Commissioner Valdes concurred with the concerns of Commissioner Sikes-Kline, noted value was pursued with heritage and cultural tourism which was rapidly being lost and Museum was one of few remaining institutions in City that purveyed these qualities. He concluded the area behind Museum required attention and project costs far outweighed the loss of one parking space; therefore, he supported the Addendum.

Commissioner Sikes-Kline restated her request for an amendment to state hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. to accommodate the loss of public space and was advised by Ms. Lopez the last sentence of 2(a) in Addendum stated "Any doors or gates providing access to the Lightner Museum area will be managed by the Trustees and open to the public as determined by the Trustees."

Ms. Lopez noted this was left open-ended due to the long-term lease and uncertainty while drafting the document whether hours might change; therefore, this was not negotiated in detail.

MOTION

Commissioner Sikes-Kline MOVED to amend the Addendum to express 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. open hours during the daytime, except during special events as needed.

MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Mr. Bagnall noted there were mitigating circumstances for open hours.

MOTION

Mayor Upchurch MOVED to amend the Addendum by stating an assumption, presumption that the park would be available to the general public during normal operating hours; the Museum except during special events. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Blonder and APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

Mayor Upchurch reverted to his motion regarding the approval of the Addendum to the Agreement, including the correction to the attribution of the sculpture.

VOTE ON MOTION

AYES: Upchurch, Horvath, Valdes, Blonder, Sikes-Kline
NAYES: None
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

7.B. Items of Great Public Importance

(None)

7.C. Other Items Requiring Public Hearing

7.C.1. Public hearing regarding the City's eligibility to apply for a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant - Coronavirus.

Corey Sakryd, Grants Administration Coordinator, reviewed the topic and noted the following:

- City was eligible to apply for the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity under special funding cycle for Small Cities Community Development Block Grant for Coronavirus
- Just under $42 Million dollars was available through a competitive application process to prevent, prepare or respond to the Coronavirus pandemic
- Eligible applicants could apply for a minimum of $200,000 and a maximum of $5 Million dollars with no match requirement
- Pre-application cycle opened February 1st and extended through March 15th
- Selected pre-application projects would be invited to submit complete applications for final selections
- Grant funded activities must meet one of the national objectives:
    - Benefit low to moderate income persons and individuals or households
    - Include indirect benefit activities that at least 51% of the beneficiaries were low to moderate
    - Include direct benefit activities which 100% of beneficiaries must be low to moderate income

- Must address prevention or elimination of slum or blight
- Address an urgent need

Mr. Sakyrd noted that project activities must prepare for and respond to Coronavirus and demonstrate at minimum that costs were directly associated with prevention, preparation or response. He used example of rehabilitation as creation of additional quarantine or isolation rooms for pandemic, or an indirect effect through economic housing market disruptions such as small businesses and assistance programs.

Mr. Sakyrd stated this was a public hearing for public comment with opportunity to discuss the needs desired to be seen and establish potential relationships with community partners, as the Grant could have sub-applicants and sub-recipients to the City, including local charities. He noted the potential success of the project.

Public hearing was opened and the Commission heard from the following:

- Judith Dembowski, Executive Director, St. Augustine Society who operated St. Francis House and the the Port and the Storm, noted the CDBG CV Grant money would greatly benefit the following:
  - Rehabilitation of homeless shelters to better protect homeless citizens from contracting or spreading Coronavirus
  - Assistance needed with adding 39 beds to the St. Francis House
  - Over 200 people experienced unsheltered homelessness in community
- BJ Kalaidi noted the following:
  - Importance to rehabilitate homeless shelters with replacement of HVAC system and / or installing air purification system
  - Expressed concern on finishing building on Washington Street
  - Importance of expanding capacity of homeless shelters to accommodate social distancing and isolation
  - Concerned about the use of monies for homeless and not just City buildings
- Steve Fricke, Board of Directors, St. Francis House, noted the importance of the St. Francis house and stated once the facility was renovated, it would house families and through a Flagler Hospital partnership, would have space for individuals released but required medical care

Public hearing was closed.

8. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS – PUBLIC HEARING REQUIRED

8.A. Ordinances – Second Reading
(None)

8.B. Ordinances – First Reading (only if required by law)

(None)

8.C. Resolutions – Public Hearing (only if required by law)

(None)

9. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS - NO PUBLIC HEARING REQUIRED

9.A. Ordinances – First Reading

9.A.1. Ordinance 2021-04: (Request for Continuance) Amends the Sebastian Inland Harbor Planned Unit Development.

David Birchim, Director, Planning and Building, reviewed the Ordinance. He advised that the applicant had submitted a request to continue the item and the Commission could take the following actions:

- Grant continuance as requested
- Grant continuance to a time certain
- Approve first reading and move to second reading and a public hearing
- Deny first reading request

Mayor Upchurch analyzed the options.

Mr. Birchim noted the Commission's ability to waive the one-year delay for re-filing if they chose to deny the ordinance.

Ellen Avery-Smith, Esq., Counsel for Developer, advised that the Developer requested a continuance due to lack of time to properly assimilate all information and submit a revised package. She encouraged Commissioners to see the value in maintaining the pending application but requested a waiver of the one-year rule if the continuance was denied.

MOTION

Commissioner Sikes-Kline MOVED to grant the continuance to March 22, 2021.

MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Commissioner Sikes-Kline questioned the sufficiency of time for the Developer to finalize the package; therefore, she was amiable to granting more time if necessary.

The Commission discussed the allocated time for Ms. Avery-Smith to return with an update as they preferred a quality well designed project versus a rushed one.

Ms. Avery-Smith requested an allowance of time until the April 26, 2021 Commission meeting.

MOTION

Mayor Upchurch MOVED to continue the first hearing until April 26, 2021. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Horvath. The motion was APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Birchim advised the option existed to continue to a future time certain, should the Developer require more time beyond April 26th.

9.B. Resolutions

9.B.1. Resolution 2021-04: Opposing SB 522 and HB 219 regarding short-term vacation rental preemption.

Ms. Lopez reviewed the Resolution and noted it was first in the Commission's legislative priorities for enacting resolutions in opposition or support for specific Senate and House bills.

Commissioner Blonder expressed her deep appreciation to the City Clerk and Legal department for preparing the voluminous committee materials. She stated at least five bills reflected re-instatement or removal of local control and questioned legislative efforts to remove home rule. She noted the City's inability to implement a widespread mask wearing ordinance to protect citizens, that Florida's diverse counties and municipalities were not 'one size fits all', and St. Augustine as 'The Nation's Oldest City' should maintain local control to the greatest extent possible.

In response to questions from Commissioner Sikes-Kline, Darlene Galambos, City Clerk, advised the Clerk's office worked closely with the legislative liaison and individually addressed letters were sent to each committee member hearing the discussed bills.

MOTION

Commissioner Sikes-Kline MOVED to pass Resolution 2021-04. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Valdes.

VOTE ON MOTION

AYES: Sikes-Kline, Valdes, Horvath, Blonder, Upchurch
NAYES: None
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

9.B.2. Resolution 2021-05: Supports SB 594 and HB 6027 regarding the removal

of the preemption on the regulation of plastic bags and polystyrene.

Ms. Lopez reviewed the Resolution.

MOTION

Commissioner Sikes-Kline MOVED to pass Resolution 2021-05. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Blonder.

VOTE ON MOTION

AYES: Sikes-Kline, Blonder, Valdes, Horvath, Upchurch
NAYES: None
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

9.B.3. Resolution 2021-06: Supports SB 514 and HB 315 supporting the establishment of a statewide office of resiliency.

Ms. Lopez reviewed the Resolution.

MOTION

Commissioner Sikes-Kline MOVED to pass Resolution 2021-06. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Blonder.

VOTE ON MOTION

AYES: Sikes-Kline, Blonder, Horvath, Valdes, Upchurch
NAYES: None
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

9.B.4. Resolution 2021-07: Opposes SB 62 regarding the elimination of regional planning councils.

Ms. Lopez reviewed the Resolution.

MOTION

Commissioner Horvath MOVED to pass Resolution 2021-07. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Sikes-Kline.

VOTE ON MOTION

AYES: Horvath, Sikes-Kline, Blonder, Valdes, Upchurch
NAYES: None
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

9.B.5. Resolution 2021-08: Supports SB 596 and HB 6023 regarding the repeal of tree permit preemptions.

Ms. Lopez reviewed the Resolution.

MOTION

Commissioner Blonder MOVED to pass Resolution 2021-08. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Sikes-Kline.

VOTE ON MOTION

AYES: Blonder, Sikes-Kline, Valdes, Horvath, Upchurch
NAYES: None
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

9.B.6. Resolution 2021-09: Opposes SB 266 and HB 403 regarding the regulation of home-based businesses.

Ms. Lopez reviewed the Resolution.

MOTION

Commissioner Sikes-Kline MOVED to pass Resolution 2021-09. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Valdes.

VOTE ON MOTION

AYES: Sikes-Kline, Valdes, Blonder, Horvath, Upchurch
NAYES: None
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

9.B.7. Resolution 2021-10: Opposes SB 496 and HB 59 regarding growth management and property rights.

Ms. Lopez reviewed the Resolution.

MOTION

Commissioner Sikes-Kline MOVED to pass Resolution 2021-10. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Blonder.

VOTE ON MOTION

AYES: Sikes-Kline, Blonder, Valdes, Horvath, Upchurch
NAYES: None
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

10. STAFF REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

(None)

11. ITEMS BY CITY ATTORNEY

11.A. Discussion regarding 2021 legislative session update regarding priorities stated by the Commission as well as other legislative bill tracking which may impact the city.

Ms. Lopez reviewed the topic and updated the Commission on the following:

- Committee substitute bill for SB 522 / HB 219 (Vacation Rentals):
  - Requirements added regarding advertising platforms to collect and remit taxes
  - No changes concerning pre-emption of all regulations post 2011
  - Attempted pre-emption for anything enacted since 2011
  - Allowed pre 2011 regulations to be grandfathered
  - Local government attempts to have regulations regarding items addressed in last year short-term rental bill must be applied similarly through all residentially zoned properties
  - Removed City's ability to conduct licensing or inspection

- Committee substitute for SB 496 / HB 59 (Growth Management):
  - Amendment in committee substitute removed requirement for Comprehensive Plan language for property rights, but only for governments with population less than 10,000, so City not affected
  - Legislative session began March 2nd; therefore, week would be quiet

Ms. Lopez advised Commissioner Blonder, per her request, that SB 62 (Regional Planning Council) was approved, and now in Judiciary Committee.

At the request of Commissioner Horvath, Ms. Galambos advised the Regional Planning Council letter was sent to two separate committees, and once passed, moved to the next step. She stated the priority bills would send individually addressed letters at each step to each committee.

Mr. Regan informed the Commission the City's legislative consultant was working with key legislators.

12. ITEMS BY CITY CLERK

(None)

13. ITEMS BY CITY MANAGER

13.A. Discussion regarding the permitting of spring special events.

Mr. Regan discussed the topic, noted his Executive Order which cancelled permitting until recently, and requested Commission feedback on permitting those on the list of special events.[1] He mentioned the Seafood Festival did not intend to request a permit for 2021.

Mr. Regan provided a COVID status update for St. Johns County, along with safety plan ideas to assist the Commission with their decision. He suggested the use of the Center for Disease Control's (CDC's) new eight-page detailed guidance document titled 'Events and Gatherings Readiness

[1] Attached to original Commission packet

and Planning Tool', with checklist for each event if events permitting was approved.

Commissioner Blonder commented that Florida had highest level of Britain's most contagious variant. She noted with current vaccination levels, the CDC indicated if social distancing guidelines were maintained, herd immunity could be reached as early as July 2021 which could move the July 4th celebration forward. She stated with the CDC recognizing large events and gatherings, City events being outdoors, and full implementation of CDC safety guidelines, she would be supportive of permitting the spring events.

Commissioner Blonder inquired about festivals which served substantial quantities of food and convening with masks off. She was advised by Mr. Regan that events with concessions would be addressed through the CDC checklist, the City could revoke permits with flexible refund policies should changes occur with COVID, and the festivals were in a large space with ability to spread out to dine.

Commissioner Horvath stated that spring was too soon, she was hopeful for herd immunity, and was disappointed for the arts association who counted on the venue; however, St. Augustine was a unique tourist destination with people visiting from all over and spring events were not worth the risk.

Mayor Upchurch voiced his support to resume spring events and applauded the Commission and City staff. He added that the City was headed in the right direction with CDC guidance, and \events were crucial to the not-for-profit economy which suffered the past year. He expressed willingness to resume the spring events with expectation that event applications would have a COVID plan vetted by City staff.

Commissioner Sikes-Kline was amiable to proceed with the spring events based on start dates one month away, City guidelines put into place, and events outdoors where safety implementations could be instituted.

Commissioner Valdes stated he supported outdoor events, but struggled with spring events proceeding and noted the occurrence of spontaneous super spreader events. He addressed the non-profits' struggle. He acknowledged that lack of commerce could be just as harmful as the virus; therefore, he guardedly supported allowing spring events.

MOTION

Mayor Upchurch MOVED to authorize the City Manager to begin issuing special events permits with the understanding that the applicants must submit a CDC compliant COVID plan. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Sikes-Kline.

Commissioner Sikes-Kline was assured by Mr. Regan that the events calendar presented was set and new events would not be allowed for 2021.

VOTE ON MOTION

AYES: Upchurch, Sikes-Kline, Blonder, Valdes, Horvath
NAYES: None
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor Upchurch requested an update on the Kinsa thermometer program.

Mr. Regan stated that other than a few thermometers, the supply was depleted and approximately 900 were distributed which added to an existing network targeted towards underserved communities. He advised the actual quantity distributed throughout St. Johns County would be obtained.

<u>13.B.</u> Request for exception to the current special events policy allowing Rhythm and Ribs to move to October.

Ms. Breidenstein reviewed the topic and requested Commission approval for an exception from current policy, which prohibited consecutive weekend events, to permanently approve moving the Rhythm and Ribs Festival to the third weekend in October.

MOTION

Commissioner Sikes-Kline MOVED to pass the exception to allow Rhythm and Ribs to move to October. The motion was SECONDED by Mayor Upchurch and APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

Mayor Upchurch requested a status update on the St. Augustine Yacht Club (SAYC) sailing center proposal.

Ms. Lopez gave a brief chronology of the project, noting that after the Commission's approval of their original proposal, Mr. Paris and the SAYC decided not to proceed and instead, SAYC presented an application to the Planning and Zoning Board for a Rezoning and Use by Exception to allow for a Neighborhood Recreational Facility that would house the youth sailing program; however, the board voted to deny the application as they felt the use did not meet the definition of a Neighborhood Recreational Facility.

Mayor Upchurch questioned the perception of SAYC's project interest and noted the Commission unanimously voted favorably to the original proposal with understanding to work through details.

Mr. Regan advised he had recently met with Dr. Paris and SAYC representative who chose to return to the original concept which was a sailing center or a passive park.

There was consensus from all five Commissioners to revisit the SAYC project as originally envisioned and return with final form and details.

14. ITEMS BY MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Sikes-Kline noted the Lincolnville Museum had HB 3409 requesting funds for preservation and operations and she requested Commission consensus to write a letter of support.

Mr. Regan advised this was the Museum's second or third attempt, it was approved last year but vetoed by Governor DeSantis, but they were successful at looking at a budgeted line item. He noted the City's budget line item for West Augustine was also in play.

Mayor Upchurch requested that City staff place the topic as an agenda item for the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Blonder announced the Fish Island Preserve draft management plan meeting on Thursday, March 4th at 7:00 PM in the Alcazar Room to review and gather public comment and input, with ability to provide written comments through email or via the website.

Mayor Upchurch encouraged fellow Commissioners to consider briefly allowing unmasked speakers in the Alcazar Room to provide their public comment before being escorted back outside. He reasoned that this option would decrease the burden placed on law enforcement and mitigate negative perceptions regarding the current health and safety protocols.

Commissioner Horvath said procedures should be followed. She suggested placement of video and camera in the room and inquired about the possibility to speak through a laptop, such as done with Zoom.

Ms. Galambos conveyed the challenge to retrofit an exterior camera that integrated with the current audiovisual system. She noted equipment was ordered to provide a hybrid meeting level with planned installation on March 1st; however, capabilities of hybrid integration for outside the Room could not be answered until then, and she would update the Commission at the March 8, 2021 meeting.

Commissioner Blonder agreed with Commissioner Horvath's statements and stated City staff was most at risk. She added that her biggest concern was members of the public unable to have their voices heard and those that did not show up due to fear of sitting inside with those who willfully chose to not wear a mask.

Commissioner Valdes struggled with the topic and agreed with Commissioner Blonder's comments. He expressed personal concern for being around those that refused to wear a mask. He observed the differences between optional events and the meetings which City staff, the Commissioners and concerned citizens were required to attend. He concluded that a few individuals wanted to disrespect the lives and safety of meeting participants which convinced him not to approve the Mayor's requests.

Mayor Upchurch thanked his fellow Commissioners for voicing concerns and expressed appreciation for City law enforcement, adding that everyone would continue doing the best possible.

15. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 P.M.[2]

T. L. Upchurch

Tracy Upchurch, MAYOR

Darlene Galambos

Darlene Galambos, CITY CLERK

CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

[2] Transcribed by Laura Morse