

CITY OF OPA-LOCKA
“The Great City”

CLERK’S ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES

Workshop

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

5:30 p.m.

1. WELCOME/OPENING REMARKS:

Mayor Matthew A. Pigatt called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at Sherbondy Village, 215 Perviz Avenue, Opa-locka, Florida.

2. ROLL CALL:

The following members of the City Commission were present: Commissioner Chris Davis, Commissioner John H. Taylor Jr., Vice Mayor Veronica Williams and Mayor Matthew A. Pigatt. Also in attendance were: Assistant City Manager George Ellis, City Attorney Burnadette Norris-Weeks and City Clerk Joanna Flores. Commissioner Alvin Burke arrived at 5:40 p.m. and City Manager John E. Pate was not in attendance.

3. INVOCATION:

The Invocation was delivered by Commissioner John H. Taylor Jr.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Clerk Flores stated the protocols for public participation at public meetings.

There were no public comments for this meeting.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Mayor Pigatt explained that over the last few months, in anticipation of the most recent election, he wanted to make sure that the city provides an orientation to the newly elected officials. He said he wants to make sure the newly elected officials are briefed on certain things like how to propose legislation, roles and responsibilities of appointed officials, and the best practices of being a leader. He went on to say that it is important to orient the elected officials and make sure they are one of the most informed and prepared Commissions. This is a young Commission, facing one of the greatest challenges in State of Florida, to turn the City around. They need to make sure they are aware of the challenges and plan for them. As a part of that, two years ago he requested that the City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk provide an orientation which consisted of a

presentation by every city department, the City Attorney's office and the City Clerk's office. There is legislation being presented to make this orientation a law in the City of Opa-locka.

a) STRATEGIC PLANNING

Assistant City Manager George Ellis informed the City Commission that he would come back to strategic planning at a later time.

b) FOUR MAJOR CHALLENGES

Roads & Streets / Flooding

Airia Austin, Director of the City of Opa-locka Public Works & Utilities and Capital Improvement Projects appeared before the Commission and explained the responsibilities of both the Public Works & Utilities Department and Capital Improvement Division. He provided an overview of the pending projects from 2020 which consisted of the Citywide sidewalk improvements, sidewalk beautification, landscaping, milling and resurfacing, NW 139th Street, NW 141st Street, pothole repairs initiative, Sanitary Sewer Pump Station 5 (lining of gravity lines), Sanitary Sewer Pump Stations 4, 7 and 8 (lining of gravity lines), Sherbondy Village HVAC systems replacement, Storm water Master Plan Phase I, SSES Phase III (rainy season flow testing) for pump stations 4, 7 and 6, Cairo Lane and NW 127th Street design assessment, Ingram Park relighting, Ingram Park restrooms reroofing, Fleet Management reroofing, and Historic City Hall condition assessment.

He further provided an overview of the FY 2021 projects which consisted of the sidewalk repair project, Pump Station No. 6 gravity system relining, new sidewalk installation, NW 30th Avenue swale improvement, Storm Water Masterplan Phase II, Cairo Lane & NW 127th Street construction phase, Glorieta Apartment detention pond improvement, sanitary sewer modeling, DERM consent agreement, Citywide beautification, Citywide bus benches/shelters, railroad crossing repairs at NW 22nd Avenue and Opa-locka Boulevard, NW 131st Street CDBG / City project, and Burlington Street Canal project.

Mayor Pigatt said he would hope that in the near future the slide presentation could be made available to the public on the city's website and shared via the city's social media sites, so that the public is able to see the progress of the city as it relates to road projects.

Mr. Austin addressed questions from the Commission relating to the railroad crossing repairs and Burlington Street Canal.

Vice Mayor Williams requested to be provided with the list of FY 2021 projects by order of top priority.

Mr. Austin advised that he would provide the list in a prioritized order because as of now, the list is not in any order.

As the city goes through strategic planning, Mayor Pigatt encouraged his colleagues to make a note of those items of interest, and over the next weeks they can flush out what their priorities are as a Commission. This is what he hoped to be accomplished to hold

themselves and the government accountable, and to getting this done in an excellent fashion.

FY 2021 Budget, Five Year Plan and Operational Audit

Robert Anathan, Budget Administrator for the City of Opa-locka came forward and provided an overview / update of the FY 2021 Budget, Five Year Plan and the status of the operational audit.

Mayor Pigatt thanked Mr. Anathan for his presentation of the budget and Five Year Plan. He said the city is under financial oversight and how they manage their budget and get out of the financial crisis is key and critical.

Finances

Gerri Lazarre, Financial Consultant for the City of Opa-locka came forward and reported on the finances relating to the city's debt, financials, opportunity and compliance.

Ms. Lazarre addressed questions from the Commission relating to the CARES Act.

Vice Mayor Williams requested a copy of Ms. Lazarre's presentation and suggested that this information is posted on the city's website for public access.

Mayor Pigatt said that Trimerge CPA, who Ms. Lazarre represents, has been the foundation of the city moving out of the financial crisis and getting the audits completed. He stated that earlier this year there was talk in the State about dissolving the city and the three levers used against the city were that they were behind in the audits, the city had not submitted its Five Year Recovery Plan and the outstanding operational audit. Ms. Lazarre has worked diligently to get those audits done, but the city is still behind one audit and by the time that one is completed, the city may be behind on another audit. The highest priority now is to get those audits completed and Ms. Lazarre is leading on that. He went on to say that Mr. Anathan was the foundation for making sure the city got the Five Year Recovery Plan submitted which is a huge accomplishment. The most important thing to consider outside of the audits is the renegotiation of the city's debts.

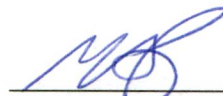
Ms. Lazarre stated that the audit process is a team effort by the entire city.

Mr. Ellis thanked all directors for their presentations under the leadership of Mr. Pate.

Mayor Pigatt thanked all those involved in this presentation, which is one of the few they will have over the next months to orient the Commission and create a strategic plan as they move forward as a City.

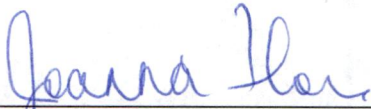
7. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the City Commission, it was moved by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Davis to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m.



Matthew A. Pigatt
Mayor

ATTEST:



Joanna Flores, CMC
City Clerk