

MAYOR
Hal J. Rose

DEPUTY MAYOR
John Dittmore

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Daniel Batcheldor
Pat Bentley
Daniel McDow
Stephen Phrampus
Andrea Young



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CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

December 6, 2020, 9:00 AM
Promise Café and Bakery
3095 Fell Road
West Melbourne, FL

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rose called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Attending: Mayor Hal Rose, Deputy Mayor John Dittmore, and Council Members Pat Bentley, Andrea Young, Daniel Batcheldor, Stephen Phrampus and Daniel McDow.

Also present: City Manager Scott Morgan, City Attorney Morris Richardson, and City Clerk Cynthia Hanscom.

3. DETERMINATION OF JUSTIFICATION

Council Member McDow moved to determine the special meeting was justified. Deputy Mayor Dittmore seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. STRATEGIC WORKSHOP

Mayor Rose turned the meeting over to the facilitator, Jim Karas. Mr. Karas reviewed the things he hoped to accomplish and reminded Council that this meeting was informal with no actions.

Mr. Karas began by presenting information on improving effectiveness and collaboration. He shared several communication techniques and tools which included the three whys, yielding, and objective listening.

Mr. Karas reviewed leadership styles and how to collaborate, noting that just because Council was working together did not mean that there was agreement on all the issues. He reviewed the results of the DISC (dominance, influence, steadiness, and

compliance) personality tests conducted by Council Members as part of their homework assignment.

Council and the facilitator discussed public meetings and the need for Council to be corrected by staff so that good decisions could be made.

Council reviewed several opportunities which were broken into seven categories, which included: City and Staff interaction, City management, the City's independence and authority, improving communication with citizens, traffic, growth and economic development, and collaboration with the business community.

Next, Council considered challenges, which included flooding in older neighborhoods and traffic congestion.

Council discussed future development, building hubs, and what makes West Melbourne unique. They also reviewed those strategies with general agreement, undecided, or objection.

Mr. Karas asked Council to come up with a vision statement. Following review, Council appeared to prefer "the City of West Melbourne is committed to being a vibrant, growing and caring community that continually seeks excellence for residents. Our vision is to grow West Melbourne into the Space Coast premier location for homes, careers, and families." Other important visions for the City included community park expansion, sustaining tomorrow's families today, building a green and safe community of diverse individuals that is responsive to the needs of the community, where families come first, and an environmentally-sensitive community filled with high tech engineering and manufacturing employment opportunities with a strong focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) in a highly rated school consortium.

One Council Member suggested doing something with the amphitheater that draws people in with beer trucks and expanding the number of events that are held at the there.

Council recessed for lunch at 12:00 noon and reconvened at 12:27 p.m.

Mr. Karas presented a list of strategies that were developed from individual meetings with Council Members as well as the comprehensive plan. Council discussed those strategies dealing with development and the impacts on traffic. All agreed that the issues with traffic were region-wide and should be addressed through the Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization. Many suggestions were made in regards to annexations to insure that good decisions were being made for continuous delivery of services.

Council discussed having a sustainable community and local representation on the county-wide sustainability committees.

Council also discussed developing a communication plan with attention to social media, which may require additional staff or help from outside the organization.

Lastly, under strategies, Council discussed efficient government and recovery from the negative economic impacts from the pandemic, which may require some changes within City staff.

Mr. Karas concluded the session noting that he would be making a presentation before Council at their January 19, 2021 meeting.

Other Business

City Attorney Richardson indicated a follow-up was needed for litigation and he was asking Council to schedule a shade meeting for 6:00 p.m. on December 15, 2020

Council Member Phrampus left the room at 2:29 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Dittmore moved to advertise a shade session for 6:00 p.m. on December 15, 2020. Mayor Rose seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Council Member Phrampus returned to the room at 2:35 p.m.

Council Members asked for additional information on the recent article on Council Member McDow and his desire to work towards a human rights ordinance. Council Member McDow explained he would propose an ordinance for fair housing that would include those categories not provided in federal law.

Council also discussed expanding the rules for West Melbourne Community Park to allow for larger events.

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.