

# CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

321 WALNUT STREET, GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA  
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023 – 7:00 PM



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## MINUTES

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Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag - **Pastor Phil Jacobs, Praise in the Park**

Roll Call

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Connie Butler, Vice Mayor Steven Kelley, Council Member Ed Gaw, Council Member Matt Johnson, Council Member Thomas Smith

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** L.J. Arnold, III, City Attorney, Steve Kennedy, City Manager, Mike Null, Assistant City Manager, Kimberly Thomas, Executive Assistant

Mayor to call on members of the audience wishing to address the Council on matters not on the Agenda.

1. Donna Snelling 504 North St. GCS speaks concerning the storm water fee and how the increase will be hard on citizens. Ms. Snelling also advises she tried to get others to come but they are afraid they will be targeted if they come and speak out.  
Council discussion followed speaking about concerns for the storm water fee, explaining what the fee will contribute to, and the benefit of the fee for the citizens and city.
2. Joe Sobotta 212 North St. GCS speaks concerning the drain blockages. Mr. Sobotta thanks the Council for giving a key to the city to Williams Spires.

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Second and Final Reading of Ordinance O-13-2023 and Adoption Hearing to amend the Comprehensive Plan to incorporate Multimodal and Mobility Fee Policies. **Michael Daniels** City Attorney Arnold reads Ordinance No. O-13-2023 by title.  
Development Services Director Michael Daniels presents on the ordinance.  
Mayor Butler opens the public hearing.  
Following no comments, Mayor Butler closes the public hearing.  
Council Member Gaw asks Mr. Daniels about when this item will take affect.  
Mr. Daniels advises there is a 90 day notice so the date will be September 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion to approve Ordinance O-13-2023 to adopt the proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments to the Future Land Use, Transportation and Capital Improvement Elements to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.**

Motion made by Council Member Smith, Seconded by Vice Mayor Kelley.

Voting Yea: Mayor Butler, Vice Mayor Kelley, Council Member Gaw, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Smith

2. Second and final reading Ordinance O-18-2023 which amends the residential solid waste monthly rates for City provided services from \$19.00 to \$19.95 monthly and for governmental, industrial commercial and the like noncontainerized services from \$25.75 to \$27.04 effective October 1, 2023. **Mike Null**

City Attorney Arnold reads Ordinance No. O-18-2023 by title.

Assistant City Manager Mike Null presents on the ordinance and advises there has not been an increase in residential in five years and commercial in nine years. Mr. Null advises this is being requested to cover the increase in operational costs and the debt service on a new recycle truck that is needed.

Mayor Butler opens the public hearing.

Following no comments, Mayor Butler closes the public hearing.

**Motion to approve Ordinance No. O-18-2023 on second and final reading.**

Motion made by Council Member Johnson, Seconded by Council Member Smith.

Voting Yea: Mayor Butler, Vice Mayor Kelley, Council Member Gaw, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Smith

3. Second and final reading City Ordinance No. O-19-2023 which increases the base charge and usage charge for the City stormwater utility. **Mike Null**

City Attorney Arnold reads Ordinance No. O-19-2023 by title.

Assistant City Manager Mike Null presents on the ordinance and advises this is being requested to cover the increase in operational costs and the increase cost of capital construction projects.

Mr. Null advises this will also cover debt service on a Vac-Con truck.

Mayor Butler opens the public hearing.

Robert Cook 434 Cove Ct. advises something does need done with the storm water but questions if this is the correct way to increase the fee. Mr. Cook questions the basis of the charge and are there any other models being used by other cities or counties to fund storm water other than a flat fee. Mr. Cook asks the Council not to give up effort on researching a more equitable solution that helps the residents.

Mr. Null advises other municipalities are looking to using a MSBU's and advises ad valorem taxes used to be used for storm water but as more credits are issued on taxes it decreases the amount the municipalities receive. Mr. Null advises there was a study completed in 2020.

Following no further comments, Mayor Butler closes the public hearing.

Council discussion followed concerning the fee and projects.

**Motion to approve \$300 per ESU per year moving forward with the usage fee being as listed in Ordinance No. O-19-2023 on second and final reading.**

Motion made by Council Member Gaw, Seconded by Council Member Johnson.

Voting Yea: Mayor Butler, Vice Mayor Kelley, Council Member Gaw, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Smith

4. Second and final reading of Ordinance O-17-2023 for parcel # 016450-001-01 for approximately 1.33 acres located on the northwest corner of US Highway 17 and SR 16 requesting a Zoning Amendment

From: Residential High Density, R-3 To: C-2, General Commercial **Michael Daniels**

City Attorney Arnold reads Ordinance No. O-17-2023 by title.

Development Services Director Michael Daniels presents on the ordinance.

Mayor Butler opens the public hearing.

Following no comments, Mayor Butler closes the public hearing.

Council Member Gaw questions the movement of a red light camera to that intersection.

City Manager, Steve Kennedy advises that was contingent on the authorization by the red light camera company and that was just approved.

Mark Shelton with Kimbly-Horn Associates speaks and advises they have no problem with the red light being placed at that intersection.

Council discussion followed concerning the ordinance.

**Motion to approve second and final reading of Ordinance O-17-2023 to amend the zoning of the property described therein from Residential High Density, R-3 to C-2, General Commercial.**

Motion made by Council Member Smith, Seconded by Council Member Johnson.

Voting Yea: Mayor Butler, Vice Mayor Kelley, Council Member Gaw, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Smith

**CONSENT AGENDA**

All matters under the consent agenda are considered to be routine by the city council and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion on these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered separately. Backup documentation and staff recommendations have been previously submitted to the city council on these items.

Council Member Gaw pulled item 6.

**Motion to approve Consent Agenda items 5 through 11 minus 6.**

Motion made by Council Member Smith, Seconded by Council Member Johnson.

Voting Yea: Mayor Butler, Vice Mayor Kelley, Council Member Gaw, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Smith

5. City Council approval of Pay Application #9 from EltonAlan, Inc. for construction of the Palmetto Trail Project in the amount of \$140,318.89 from the amended contract amount of \$1,551,660.92, leaving a balance of \$381,620.19 in the contract. **Mike Null**
6. City Council approval to issue a purchase order in the amount of \$60,495.50 to Tampa Crane & Body to install cameras on 17 large city trucks. **Mike Null**  
Council Member Gaw asks Assistant City Manager, Mike Null if the new recycle truck and new Vac-Con truck are included in this amount.  
Mr. Null advises those are replacement trucks so the old trucks will already have cameras until the new trucks are ready.  
May Butler asks Mr. Null if these cameras are being used to document as witnesses.  
Mr. Null advises these cameras will be used to document for any lawsuits.  
Discussion followed concerning the cameras and lawsuits.

**Motion to approve Consent Agenda item 6.**

Motion made by Council Member Gaw, Seconded by Council Member Smith.

Voting Yea: Mayor Butler, Vice Mayor Kelley, Council Member Gaw, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Smith

- 7. City Council approval to update City Code Section 113-190 Single and Three Phase service credits. *Andy Yeager*
- 8. City Council approval of the 4/18/2023 and 5/2/2023 Regular Session Minutes. *Erin West*
- 9. City Council approval of Task Order to Tocol Engineering to modify and update the West Street Drainage Project plans in the amount of \$36,000. *Steve Thomas*
- 10. City Council approval of the Eagle Scout Recognition Proclamation for Evan Crook. *Erin West*
- 11. City Council approval of the Eagle Scout Recognition Proclamation for Tyler Crook. *Erin West*

**COUNCIL BUSINESS**

12. City Manager & City Attorney Reports / Correspondence

The City Manager and City Attorney made comments regarding various city activities, events, operations, and projects.

13. City Council Reports / Correspondence

The City Council made comments regarding various city activities, events, operations, and projects.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA



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Constance W. Butler, Mayor

Attest:



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Erin West, City Clerk