

**MINUTES  
CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION  
CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBER  
TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021 - 6:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Resch on the above date at 6:07 PM in the City Commission Chamber located at City Hall, 7 North Dixie Highway, Lake Worth Beach, Florida.

**ROLL CALL:** Present were Mayor Betty Resch; Vice Mayor Robinson and Commissioners Sarah Malega, Christopher McVoy and Kimberly Stokes. Also present were City Manager Michael Bornstein, City Attorney Glen Torcivia and City Clerk Deborah M. Andrea.

**INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** led by Commissioner Kimberly Stokes.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** led by Commissioner Sarah Malega.

**AGENDA - Additions/Deletions/Reordering:**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**PRESENTATIONS:** (there is no public comment on Presentation items)

A. Presentation by Denise Sanon, Principal of Barton Elementary School

Ms. Sanon gave an overview of Barton Elementary and stated their Mission and Vision. She discussed the school profile showing the ethnicities of the students and years of experience for the teachers. She announced that the school grade was on an upwards trend, only six points away from a B grade. She spoke about the Instructional Programs which included tutorial programs and book camps and would add Planning for Gifted and Spanish Dual Language in 2023. She said that VPK would have three classrooms in 2022 with hand-on learning and engagement with technology, and that there were many extracurricular activities such as the Garden Club, cheerleading, chorus and Leadership Club. She stated that there were great community outreach programs; they worked with TeamWork USA and For the Children as well as others. She listed the school's strengths, that 80% of students had returned in person and the math data showed the second most growth in the district during the first trimester, the barriers including a transient population and loss of instruction because of the pandemic. She said that focusing on attendance, developing capacity of teachers to differentiate instruction for all students, planning for whole and small group instruction and providing additional learning opportunities for students (tutorial) were some opportunities for growth.

Mayor Resch asked about parental involvement.

Principal Sanon said that there were ample opportunities for the parents who attended in large numbers.

Mayor Resch announced that there would be an educational committee and she asked Principal Sanon to reach out to the commission for any of the school's needs.

B. Presentation regarding the Cottages of Lake Worth Beach by Wes Blackman

Wes Blackman, President of Cottages of Lake Worth, Inc., spoke about the origins of the 501c3 and explained that a cottage was an approximate 1,000 square foot structure built on a small lot of various materials and styles and often contained smaller buildings on the same lot. He relayed that the Cottages of Lake Worth book had been published in 2016 and had been a finalist for coffee table/photography book in 2019. He said that the popular cottage tours would be back in 2022 and that the organization was seeking \$2,000 of the \$10,000 in funding from the city for a mural designed by Sami Makela.

Commissioner Malega said that she and her wife would donate \$500 towards the mural.

Mayor Resch stated that she would donate \$500 for the mural.

C. Mayor Resch read the Proclamation declaring May 16-22, 2021 as National Public Works Week and presented it to Jamie Brown, Public Works Director and Felipe Lofaso, Public Works Assistant Director.

D. Mayor Resch read the Proclamation for Ocean Rescue and presented it to Doug Yoakum, Aquatics Manager and Mat Botts, Chief Lifeguard.

E. Mayor Resch asked Commissioner Malega, due to her involvement with Healthier Lake Worth, to read the Proclamation declaring May 2021 as Mental Health Awareness Month and present it to Carmelle Marcelin-Chapman, Project Director, Healthier Lake Worth.

**COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Stokes: said that she had joined Lois Frankel for her COVID update and reported that there were many initiatives for vaccinations; there would be an informational Town Hall regarding the importance of the vaccine. She stated that she attended the opening of the Ben Carson Reading Room at Barton Elementary and the LWB Education Task Force name has been changed to Voices for LWB Schools and would be up and running soon. She said that she attended the Mango Groves neighborhood meeting where the positive steps to combat crime in the area was discussed.

Commissioner McVoy: reported that he knocked on doors to see if citizens needed help getting vaccinated and some communities were on the edge regarding vaccinations. He said that there was a need for mobile units at odd hours. He expressed gratitude to Ed Liberty, Electric Utility Director, for arranging a tour of Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center regarding the ocean current technology and suggested the commission support the initiative.

Commissioner Malega: reported that there was a good turnout for the Pineapple Beach clean-up. She announced that the CRA would be doing their small business spotlight videos and told anyone who was interested to contact the CRA.

Vice Mayor Robinson: said that he did not look forward to City Manager Bornstein's departure and was happy that City Hall was opening up a bit. He requested that the noise complaints be dealt with as they were a quality of life issue. He said that the PBSO contract would be coming up for renewal and expressed hope that it would contain verbiage about body cams. He requested that Joan Oliva, CRA Director, provide a quarterly report to the commission. He

spoke about establishing a vision for the city by having each commissioner list three priorities. He announced that the deadline to submit applications for the Charter Review Committee would be May 21; it would be an important task. He said that flood insurance would be increasing substantially and should be purchased now, Leisure Services had Water Day and the raft race would be held on July 4.

Mayor Resch: thanked City Manager Bornstein for lighting the flag poles and said that things were perking up around the city. She reported attending a ribbon cutting at a Guatemalan store and said that new businesses were good for the city. She stated that she met with Joan Oliva several times to develop a series of public workshops. She announced that she attended the South Florida Fair as a part of the mayoral parade and there were many shout outs for LWB.

Keith Sullivan, Webmaster, showed a video of Water Day.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OF NON-AGENDAED ITEMS AND CONSENT AGENDA:**

Deborah Andrea, City Clerk, read the comment submitted by the following:

Matthew Portilla wrote that the city's refuse department should look hard into shifting to contracted refuse collection or implement a strict risk management program.

Todd Townsend said that many downtown business owners were in favor of a parking garage and spoke about density in the downtown.

Richard Stowe said that Healthier Lake Worth had combined mental health with tree planting.

Lorien DeBruyn expressed concern about traffic patterns on Lake and Lucerne Avenues.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Action:** Motion made by Vice Mayor Robinson and seconded by Commissioner McVoy to approve the following minutes:

- A. Work Session - April 27, 2021
- B. Regular Meeting - May 4, 2021
- C. Work Session - May 6, 2021

**Vote:** Voice vote showed: AYES: Mayor Resch, Vice Mayor Robinson and Commissioners Malega, McVoy and Stokes. NAYS: None.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** (public comment allowed during Public Participation of Non-Agendaed items)

**Action:** Motion made by Vice Mayor Robinson and seconded by Commissioner Stokes to approve the Consent Agenda.

- A. Approval of Settlement with Martin Maldonado for \$30,000
- B. Approval of Settlement with Dinorah De La Cruz for \$30,000

- C. Resolution No. 27-2021 – approving submission of the City’s application to the Florida Department of State, Department of Cultural Affairs, Specific Cultural Project Grant Program for the proposed BiblioArte! 2023 Festival
- D. Bill of Sale by and between JSM Bermuda, LLC. and the City of Lake Worth Beach
- E. Bill of Sale by and between Hammon Park on the Ave, LLC. and the City of Lake Worth Beach
- F. Proclamation declaring May 2021 as Hepatitis Awareness Month
- G. Proclamation declaring May 2021 as Haitian Heritage Month
- H. Proclamation declaring May 17-24, 2021 as National Beach Safety Week
- I. Agreement with Gresco Supply Inc., for the purchase of two step-down electric power transformers
- J. Resolution 24-2021 and License Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for Right of Way improvements associated with FDOT Project No. 4471775 SR 805 Dixie, Lake & Lucerne Avenue Signalization & Street Lighting Improvements

**Vote:** Voice vote showed: AYES: Mayor Resch, Vice Mayor Robinson and Commissioners Malega, McVoy and Stokes. NAYS: None.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

There were no Public Hearings on the agenda.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

There were no Unfinished Business items on the agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Resolution 25-2021 – Amending City Commission’s Rules of Procedure

City Attorney Torcivia did not read the resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-2021 OF THE CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR LAKE WORTH BEACH CITY COMMISSION; REPEALING ALL RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

City Attorney Torcivia spoke about the revisions that had been made to the rules and procedures at the commission’s direction.

**Action:** Motion made by Vice Mayor Robinson and seconded by Commissioner Stokes to approve Resolution No. 25-2021 - amending the City Commission’s Rules of Procedure.

Comments/requests summary:

Discussion ensued regarding appointments to the advisory boards.

Commissioner Malega stated that she had spoke with City Attorney Goddeau who was still doing research on the issue.

Mayor Resch asked if there were any public comments. No one from the public commented.

**Vote:** Voice vote showed: AYES: Mayor Resch, Vice Mayor Robinson and Commissioners Malega, McVoy and Stokes. NAYS: None.

B. Resolution No. 26-2021 – Amending the Charter Review Committee membership selection and appointment process

City Attorney Torcivia did not read the resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-2021 OF THE CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE FOR COMMISSION SELECTION AND APPROVAL OF ALL APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES; AND PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

**Action:** Motion made by Vice Mayor Robinson and seconded by Commissioner Stokes to approve Resolution No. 26-2021 - amending the Charter Review Committee membership selection and appointment process.

Comments/requests summary:

1. Vice Mayor Robinson asked if the board members had resigned.
2. Commissioner Malega said that Wes Blackman withdrew his application and reapplied and would be interviewed via Zoom on May 25.
3. Vice Mayor Robinson expressed gratitude to the volunteers for their service to the boards and spoke in opposition to having all board members submit their resignations.

Mayor Resch asked if there were any public comments. No one from the public commented.

**Vote:** Voice vote showed: AYES: Mayor Resch, Vice Mayor Robinson and Commissioners Malega, McVoy and Stokes. NAYS: None.

**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

City Attorney Torcivia did not provide a report.

Commissioner McVoy requested that the city add its name to an amicus brief regarding an issue that was reported in the newspaper.

City Attorney Torcivia said that the issue was not as black and white as it seemed originally and would the city want to sign a brief against Boynton Beach, a sister city.

Mayor Resch iterated that upon reading the facts of the case, the issue was not what it seemed in the paper. She stated that she would not support having the city's name on the brief and would not be comfortable making a decision at 7:30, having just heard about the issue.

Vice Mayor Robinson urged caution against basing actions on articles in the paper.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

City Manager Bornstein did not provide a report.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Action:** Motion made by Commissioner McVoy and seconded by Commissioner Stokes to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 PM.

**Vote:** Voice vote showed: AYES: Mayor Resch, Vice Mayor Robinson and Commissioners Malega, McVoy and Stokes. NAYS: None.

  
Betty Resch, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Melissa Ann Coyne, Interim City Clerk

Minutes Approved: July 20, 2021

