

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF MOORE HAVEN MEETING ON  
AUGUST 16, 2022, AT 7:00PM, IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL,  
299 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, MOORE HAVEN, FLORIDA, 33471.**

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Council Members Present:

Bret Whidden, Mayor  
Jacob Eighner, Vice Mayor, Financial Officer  
Marcus "Marc" Decker  
Clay Browning  
Jan Gunn

Others Present:

Ashley Wills, City Clerk  
Larry Tibbs, City Manager  
Brandon Roberts, Public Works Director (CALLED IN)  
Steve Ramunni, Attorney

**ITEM 1: ROLL CALL:**

Given by Whidden.

**ITEM 2: INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:**

Invocation given by Miller. Pledge lead by Gunn.

**ITEM 3: ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

NONE.

**ITEM 4: DISCUSS AND/OR APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MEETING MINUTES:**

**AUGUST 02, 2022, Regular meeting minutes.**

**MOTION:** by Decker to approve the meeting minutes for August 02, 2022, seconded by Gunn.  
Motion Carried.

**ITEM 5: PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ON THE DOWNTOWN ROAD  
RECONSTRUCTION AND DRAINAGE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT:**

**Craig A. Smith:** We came up with two alternates to route the traffic in the downtown area. Alternate one routes traffic one way down 1<sup>st</sup> street and to get onto Ave J the traffic would have to loop around 1<sup>st</sup> street than Ave K and come up Riverside Dr to turn into Ave J. the challenges with that, if some wants to go out east on Riverside Dr you would have to make more than a 3-point turn to get out of there additionally this option gives us less parking spaces than alternate two. Alternate one gives us about 48 spaces including 8 handicap spaces scattered around.

Alternate Two with a full roundabout allows traffic to go two ways on 1<sup>st</sup> street, the roundabout allows traffic to come onto Ave J, Ave J becomes a one-way road and gives you 56 parking spaces with 10 handicaps included, It requires less looping around to get onto Ave J. It does maintain traffic flow in one direction so it keeps the traffic safer it will require proper signage at Riverside Dr and Ave J intersection to ensure traffic does not come in through that road. It gives you full access on 1<sup>st</sup> street.

**Gunn** states when we talked about this before, we talked about not putting a roundabout in there why is the roundabout back in there? There have been businesses on that road and its just going to be more money.

**Decker** states that's exactly right why would we have to spend the money.

**Whidden** states when the roundabout first came up its because of the redevelopment of the downtown Moore Haven Marina District so if this property that we have all agreed to put money back and voted to put money aside to develop this area that's why we brought up the roundabout. There are places taking away round abouts due to them being confusing. But if it ever gets developed there is going to be more traffic and engineers come up with these roundabouts when things get developed.

**Eighner** states one of the issues when people come here and want to develop is they back away because of the road itself.

**Gunn** states we can fix the roads and not add a roundabout its wasteful money we don't need it.

**Whidden** states I think we need to study the proposals and decide which one you all want. If you don't want any of these proposals than I suggest you not consider redeveloping downtown Moore Haven because that puts us in compliance with what can be built. I know we have a deadline on this, but I think we need to wait until another meeting because we have to put this on another agenda

**Ramunni** is there a way by Monday to identify the cost of the roundabout. That might be a way to move forward so we can do a special meeting on the 8/22/2022 after the CCPWA meeting.

**MOTION:** by Browning to continue the discussion on the downtown road reconstruction and drainage development project on 08/22/2022 after the CCPWA meeting, seconded by Gunn. Motion carried.

**ITEM 6: DISCUSS AND/OR APPROVE PAYING INVOICE #128159 TO ACLARIAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$420.00 FROM THE ARPA FUNDS:**

**MOTION:** By Decker to approve paying invoice #128159 to Aclarian in the amount of \$420.00 from the ARPA funds, seconded by Gunn. Motion carried.

**ITEM 7: REPORT OF OFFICERS:**

**CITY MANAGER:**

I would like to schedule a budget workshop on the 22<sup>nd</sup> after the CCPWA meeting, we still don't have all the insurance numbers in, yet they should be in tomorrow. After the last meeting we did stop taking the City vehicles home outside of the City limits, so we need schedule a workshop to talk about updating the personnel policy.

**CITY ATTORNEY:**

NONE.

**CITY CLERK:**

NONE.

**CRAIG A. SMITH**

NONE.

**CAS GOVERNMENT SERVICES:**

NONE.

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:**

**Decker** states why have you discontinued the painting on the docks at the Marina?

**Roberts** states I asked the guys to stop because I wanted to wash down the walkways and I would like to schedule a time with Wills to see if the boat owners could pull their boats out of there, my fear is when we start painting there is a lot of staining that hits the water, and I don't want to damage any of the boats. I talked to our guys, and I want to pressure wash and paint the docks and we are thinking it will take 2-3 days. I will get with Wills, and they can move their boats to the side we already painted.

**Whidden** states some of them people are not here to move their boat. Pressure washing the roof to keep birds out right now not the time to remove that, right now is time to paint the docks and it got painted before with boats in there and no boats had any damage. Them docks can be painted with the boats there now without any paint getting on them.

**Roberts** states okay I was just walking with precaution, but yeah, we will get going on it.

**Decker** states the dock where you launch from needs some repairs on the north side some of the boards are coming lose while you are over there (City ramp on 1<sup>st</sup> street).

**ITEM 8: APPROVAL OF BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$57,330.02:**

**MOTION:** By Eighner to approve the bills in the amount of \$57,330.02, seconded by Browning. Motion carried.

**ITEM 9: CITIZENS COMMENTS/GENERAL CONCERNS:**

**Bob Morris** states we are a 55 or older community and I have had a lot of input from the residents, and they want to go gated 55 or older community and I'm here to ask what is the City's opinion that is.

**Whidden** states that's a homeowner's association there so y'all make your own rules.

**Bob Morris** states I was told its the City's streets.

**Whidden** states it is City streets once that organization got developed and brought the roads to our standards, we accepted them we paved them, and they reimbursed us for the initial paving. We do have water meters/sewer and electric in there and we do have to read meters and go in there to do repairs so the City would have to have access at all times.

**Ramunni** states you would have to vacate them as public streets and turn them back over to the association so that they could be gated because otherwise you could not prohibit the public from traveling those roads. For utilities you could work that out.

**Whidden** states when you make it gated it will go back to your roads and you will have to maintain them.

**Eighner** states why do you want to make it gated?

**Bob Morris** states just more secure we have upper age residents, and they feel more secure, the Sheriff's department does a really good job, we have updated our cameras.

**Ramunni** states we would have to reclassify the streets and turn them back to the Yacht Club so there needs to be an ordinance.

**Joseph Rouse** states he as information for the council to look at.

**Ramunni** states I understand where he is coming from, but this is for the City manager.

**Tibbs** states we have already meet and there was a period in 2019-2022 where he indicated he was promised a raise it was processed, but it was not processed in the way he is talking about, but the documentation is there. we processed it and turned in it in so basically at time there is nothing we can do. He is indicating he was promised \$1.00 per hour plus a 3% the paperwork that was processed by Mr. Miller at that time gave him a 3% raise plus 0.52 cents per hour.

**Whidden** states when they do the budget that's handled by the Managers we approve the budget, we approve what they ask for a raise or we cut it, but it's up to them to distribute that however they see fit. The cost of living is always the same but that other raise they have that flexibility to give a percentage to wherever they see fit. I did not know anything about it. Maybe you can talk with Mr. Tibbs and if he thinks there may have been a discrepancy, maybe he can get with Mr. Miller and find out.

**Glades County School Board** states we would like to change the student drop and the bus drop off. The traffic is insane so in the back we would like to change it to parent drop off and have them line up on 10<sup>th</sup> street, we have already talked to the Sheriff's department, and they approved it, but we had to come before the City to make sure it was okay.

**Whidden** states I thought it was already approved. the council was all for it. The day before school stated Mr. Tibbs contacted me and then I had a person contact me. Tibbs and I's conversation was about 10<sup>th</sup> street going one way and I had an issue about that I said the whole council needs to talk about that. But it was the day before school started and no one from the Sheriff's department or administration at the school contacted me. So, I said sorry they waited that late but if its 10<sup>th</sup> street the whole council would have to talk about it because of the Post Office. So, when I got off the hone that evening I rode and looked and thought there was no way they are talking about 10<sup>th</sup> street, so I contacted the person who contacted me and told them we didn't have a problem with it we are good we already approved that. So, I think that's where the confusion is coming from.

#### **ITEM 10: MAYOR COMMENTS/ GENERAL CONCERNS:**

**Eighner** states on this Code Enforcement list the ones that are back in December, Morales has had violations since he worked for the City and when he moved out and Felicia came along it's been the same code enforcement infractions that are there now.

**Littles** states I will send them citations and send them to Ramunni. The one on Ave K, I have something from the building officials and on his inspection, letter saying he is in compliance now. But I see the skirting is falling off.

**Eighner** states it's our job to set the rule, and our rule is you must have skirting, so now the building inspector must enforce our rules. I just want to see some of these that are repetitive to be done with.

**Gunn** states on Hough I see it says for sale does that mean he is not violating I was just wondering at that.

**Littles** states yes, it's for sale Eighner wanted to know the status on that case, I spoke with them yesterday and they are going to sale the land and demo the house.

**Whidden** states when was the last time the other side of the river was mowed it was mowed with a Grasshopper and not the tractor?

**Roberts** states we mow the median on U.S 27 and where you exit U.S 27 we use to bushhog as well as the grasshoppers, we mow 20 foot from the road that is what we bushhog.

**Whidden** states we mow the median, and Kelly has for years and the guy who drives the tractor now mows it. I was just curious of why a grasshopper was mowing it and not the tractor. My other question on that is why was Joe mowing it?

**Roberts** states I have had Joe giving us a hand with mowing.

**Whidden** states with the Sewer and Water plants and the amount of money we justify doing the maintenance and their own mowing and running the plant. The Water plant operators need to be at the Water plant, Joe doesn't need to come to town to mow. If you're in a tight with employees, you have to make a decision on hiring someone or have someone who doesn't mow normally fill in and mow. But Joe needs to be at the plant along with the other operators.

**Roberts** states the Water plant operators stay at the Water plant and they work at the Water plant, Joe is not a Water plant operator he is a maintenance operator just like Van is. We do have a guy as soon as his drug test comes back, and we will be back to a full staff.

**Whidden** states also the last two times they mowed the Seawall they did not weed-eat under the benches.

**ITEM 11: DISCUSS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS IF NEEDED:**

NONE.

**ITEM 13: ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** By Eighner to adjourn, seconded by Gunn. Motion carried.

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**Ashley Wills, City Clerk**  
Meeting adjourned at 8:04 P.M.

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**Bret Whidden, Mayor**