

**MOORE HAVEN CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
MAY 21, 2024, AT 7:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL
299 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, MOORE HAVEN, FLORIDA, 33471.**

Council Members Present:

Wayne Browning, Mayor
Jacob Eighner, Vice Mayor, Financial Officer
Marcus “Marc” Decker
Alisha Beck
Bradley Smith

Others Present:

Ashley Wills, City Clerk
Larry Tibbs, City Manager
Brad Simmons, Public Works Director
Steve Ramunni, Attorney

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL:

Given by Browning.

ITEM 2: INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Invocation given by Beck. Pledge lead by Browning.

ITEM 3: ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, AND CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:

NONE.

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

MAY 7, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: By Decker to approve May 07, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes seconded by Smith.
Motion carried.

**ITEM 5: REQUEST RATIFICATION OF CHANGE ORDER #6 FOR THE AVENUE K
PARKING FOR THE DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT
OF \$14,941.94:**

MOTION: By Eighner to approve the ratification request of change order #6 for the Ave K parking for the Downtown Improvement Project in the amount of \$14,941.94, second by Beck.
Motion carried.

Tibbs states I have updated our sheet, adding change order #6 in the amount of \$14,941.94. That makes our new amount now \$204,432.14. We can use ARPA funding for it.

MOTION: By Eighner to commit to using the ARPA funding to pay change order #6, seconded by Decker. Motion carried.

ITEM 6: DISCUSS AND/ OR APPROVE PAYING THE FOLLOWING INVOICES FROM THE ARPA FUNDS:

BOX INV #11839039 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$900.00 FOR THE CLOUD STORAGE FOR 5/3/2024-5/2/2025:

MOTION: By Decker to approve Box Inv#11839039 in the amount of \$900.00 for the cloud storage for 5/3/2024-5/2/2025, seconded by Beck. Motion carried.

ACLARIAN INV#2287 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$420.00

MOTION: By Eighner to approve Aclarian Inv#2287 in the amount of \$420.00, seconded by Smith. Motion carried.

ITEM 7: DISCUSSION CONCERNING A CITY SKATE PARK:

Tibbs states I was contacted by councilman Smith concerning a skate park.

Citizen Taylor states I have started this discussion within our community with some of the council members. My kids are homeschooled, and they really like alternative sports, I am also on the GCYAA board, and we have an awesome program for the kids that has baseball/ softball and soccer. My kids like motocross, BMX, and skateboarding, and that is kind of a gap that is missing in our community. We have to travel to Okeechobee or Sebring to a skate park. I think it would be an awesome opportunity year-round for kids that can benefit from this and socialize. I have made a few contacts in Highlands County with Frank Breka. He helped restore the Sebring skate park, he is more than willing to help us, He put me in contact with a contractor that does concrete work for skate parks. There are grants available for rural areas like ours for skate parks. I know that is an opportunity we can try to get funding for it.

Decker states we would have to look into how that would affect our Liability Insurance.

Citizen Taylor states I'm sure we can get in contact with our neighboring communities that have skate parks and see what they do. I know the ones we have visited have massive "skate at your own risk", "wear your gear" and "we are not liable" signs.

Ramunni states we can investigate the insurance side of it first.

Council agrees.

ITEM 8: DISCUSS AND/OR APPROVE MOVING FORWARD WITH DRAFT ORDINANCE #357 INCREASING GARBAGE RATES:

Ramunni states for this ordinance and the next you all may want to take a look at it first and we can come back at the next meeting and go ahead and do the first reading because it can always be amended upon second reading. If there are any issues or changes, we can talk about them.

Eighner states I was curious on why the School complex, is distinguished on there and not the Jail/Court House.

Ramunni states a lot of it goes back to the ordinance is so old and we are working form that draft. That is why I got ahold of it for my first edit so I will go back through it and term it as a public facility.

Eighner states on page 3 it states “there should be no garbage containers installed” or nothing permanent should be placed on the City right of way to hold garbage cans. I did not see in there where it states “the cans should be placed and removed from the roadway the day of the services” that might need to be put in there. I would like to add in “do not place the cans right next to or in front of a light pole/mailbox.”

ITEM 9: DISCUSS AND/OR APPROVE MOVING FORWARD WITH DRAFT ORDINANCE #358 UPDATING GARBAGE RULES:

Discussed on Item 8.

ITEM 10: REPORT OF OFFICERS:

CITY MANAGER:

Tibbs states today we had a meeting with the local technology planning team at the County, their main focus is on broadband. Back in February of 2023 Comcast submitted a broadband fiberoptic application to the State, and they were awarded a \$6 million dollar grant to install broadband in Moore Haven, Lake Port and Ortona. I asked the representative of Comcast today about the status of their project and they stated they are still trying to select subcontractors to go out and do the work. One other question that came up was. Glades Electric us using Conexon to build their system and that is putting the fiberoptic on their poles. And then once they’re done, Glades Electric leases it back to Conexon to run the services. Conexon does offer to install the network for other entities that are not in the Glades Electric service areas, but we would have to fund the installation of that system, there may be some grants to help fund it. If this is an option, we would like to look into that. We would need to do a feasibility study to see what the cost is and what would all have to be done to install the system. If we did this the City would actually own the system.

Beck states do you know if we would be the same thing. Once we are connected, they will take over the services just like they are with Glades Electric.

Tibbs states yes Conexon would operate the system.

Eighner states one thing that has been discussed. The company that has the contract to do us will do all the other contracts before they get to our 1 square mile. They are going to do all the other bigger contracts. So, it could be a year or possibly 2 years.

Tibbs states since there are so many contracts throughout the state, I guess they are trying to get subcontractors in each area. Do we want to approach Conexon to do a feasibility study to have our own fiberoptic network.

Beck states I would like to see how much it would cost us to do it, you can see those guys are here working, I think it will be the fastest way to get broadband in the City while they are here.

Eighner states how would we fund this.

Tibbs states this would probably fit very well in the ARPA program. When they enacted the ARPA program one of the purposes was for broadband expansion.

MOTION: By Eighner to approve Conexon to do a fiberoptic broadband feasibility study, seconded by Smith. Motion carried.

Tibbs states I distributed a letter to each of you earlier about changing my schedule with the product of saving a little money without having to make a couple contributions. It would not change any kind of duties, just the schedule.

Eighner states I spoke with the council and with Tibbs. By this change Tibbs is not saying he won't be here on Fridays, it will just give in the option if there are more important things happening then that is what he will be attending. We can give it 6 months and if it's not working out then we can go back and change it. I personally don't have an issue will it.

Council agrees.

Tibbs states as for the project, they are planning on starting to pave next week. The concrete crew will be back before the pavers get here.

CITY ATTORNEY:

Ramunni states I did finally get the paperwork back from the Church for the land swap. Wills is going to have that recorded tomorrow. We had our deed recorded today, So, everything should be done by tomorrow.

Decker states they have their paperwork completed.

Ramunni states yes, I had prepared a resolution that I attached as an exhibit to the deed. I did go ahead and send out a letter to the new owner of the Moore Haven Restaurant to try and see if there is change is to avoid the lien or to see if the census is to do something with the property.

CITY CLERK:

Wills states we did have two people that came to us about setting up a tent for Firework sales for 4th of July. This is the first time this has come up since I have been here, one wants to set up by the fruit cup place where the Spa used to be and the other wants to set up in the Seacoast parking lot.

Browning states do they have approval from the owners.

Wills states he is working on that and the other gentleman does have approval from the owner to use it June 20th until July 5th. They said the City of Clewiston and a couple of other Cities do not allow them to set up in the City limits. That is why I wanted to bring it to the Council's attention.

Ramunni states we will probably want to run this by Mr. Larue.

Council agrees to speak to Mr. Larue and to continue until the next meeting.

Eighner states did anyone contact you about taking the dedication plaque from the cypress tree.

Wills states no.

Eighner states our dedication plaque for the cypress tree is gone and there is a letter there from the State Historical Society and you can't read the whole letter. What I could read is that they are going to redo the plaque and bring it back, but I did not see a date on when they were going to bring it back. But, I did not know if they came in and said anything. But if you can, please look into it.

CRAIG A. SMITH

NONE.

CAS GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

Vanassche states I just want to bring you all up to date on the grants we are doing. The water quality grant portal is open, I have started inputting the water treatment plant expansion project in. they added some new questions, some of them I can't answer but I have reached out to C.A.S to help me with a formula for nutrient reductions. The Florida Commerce grant, we signed the time extension agreement at the beginning of May, So it is in the process. The DEP Feasibility study quarterly report was submitted back in April, we are in compliance and the next reporting period will be in June. The DEP portion for the storm water improvement, we are working on a payment request and legislative wise the budget is still not signed.

Eighner states we have asked Vanassche to go to Tallahassee for different things and I'm grateful for everything she has done with is new project but if you step back and look at it, the project is not complete we did not finish going down the road. One of the drainage box are already in. I

would like to put it on the Councils priority list while Vanassche is here. With the stormwater and DEP grant we might be able to get funding for the road out front.

Decker states how far are you considering finished.

Eighner states from out here in Riverside to Ave L, we can call it Phase 2 of the Caloosahatchee storm water treatment project. We don't need much parking there, just maybe a few by the docks a sidewalk down the side and whatever Orlando thinks we need for drainage here.

MOTION: By Eighner to have Vanassche look into a Phase 2 for the Caloosahatchee Downtown improvements to finish Ave K and L down Riverside, seconded by Beck. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT:

Simmons states I did look at the property on Tobias, it is all overgrown and will take more equipment than what we have. As for the water park, I am going to look for someone else to get it repaired. I have sent numerus emails and have not gotten a response.

Ramunni states Code Enforcement will need to initiate with a citation first.

Beck states with hurricane season coming up can we just make sure we are good on the electric poles.

Wills states King has been on top of it, anything he has used, he has been coming in and replenishing it.

ITEM 11: APPROVAL OF THE BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$51,323.40:

MOTION: By Eighner to approve the bills in the amount of \$51,323.40, seconded by Smith. motion carried.

ITEM 12: CITIZENS COMMENTS/GENERAL CONCERNS, SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES:

Citizen Blake states you all spoke about the fiberoptic broadband, what would be your base, would it be your current customers that are on the City's utilities or Glades County also.

Beck states Glades Electric has already started the fiberoptic in Glades County, so if you have Glades Electric it should already be available to you. the City is going out to see if its available within the City, But it will be just for the City.

Citizen Blake states like in the case of the ditch on Tobias is City/County. So are you talking about City "proper" or the customers of City of Moore Haven utilities.

Eighner states it would be the City limits.

Citizen Blake states okay, so that would not include Washington Park.

Eighner states no, Washington Park is located in the County.

Citizen Blake states we pay City utilities, why would it not be with the City utilities since you'll be putting it on City poles, so the poles in Washington Park belong to the City.

Ramunni the Glades Electric owns the franchise for that territory.

Citizen Blake states okay, and the second thing is you spoke about the portal for the grants. Is that the same portal that you'll talk about voting on projects you would like to submit for grants like the sewer system in Washington Park.

Ramunni state no, that is different. He is talking about the phases on joint authority side for the sewer. As opposed to DEP portals. What you're talking about for septic to sewer would be through the joint authority not the City, it's a different board.

Vanassche states CCWPA has been asking for that project for 3 years.

Citizen Taylor states the reason I would like a skate park here is because we have to drive about an hour and a half to a skate park, I would not have anyway to go without my parents driving me, so I don't get to go as often, I would really want a skate park here. Thank you.

ITEM 13: MAYOR AND COUNCIL TO GIVE REPORTS:

Eighner states can we see about getting a bulldozer scheduled to clean up on Ave R by the ponds, some of those pipes are sticking out of there maybe we can get someone out there with a saw to cut them out of there. I would imagine that the School is going to want to put some of their material there once they start on their project. I would be willing to see what Ridgill would charge us for a days' worth of work with their bulldozer. I have been working on an irrigation plan, so I wanted to see if we can get Ian up here and get it turned on to see where it is leaking, we might be able to cap some of it. We are going to have to get an irrigation company here to do some work. The Street parking on the side is going to have 3 or 4 parking spots and there is going to be a little curved island and within that island there is supposed to be grass, that kind of defeats our purpose of blowing grass out here. So, what I would like to do since the concrete is coming this week I would like to cap those islands off with concrete instead of grass. It will take care of the maintenance.

MOTION: By Eighner to make change order #7 to cap the islands with concrete, seconded by Beck. Motion carried.

Beck states if we need to have a workshop for the dockage, I would really like to get that going so we can adjust those rates and if Tibbs can ask Mrs. Fisher about the meeting with the Sheriff's department in June and let us know.

ITEM 14: DISCUSS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS IF NEEDED:

NONE.

ITEM 15: ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: By Eighner to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Beck. Motion carried.

Ashley Wills, City Clerk
Meeting adjourned at 8:03 P.M.

Wayne Browning, Mayor

THESE MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM, IF ANYONE WISHES TO LISTEN TO THE MEETING IN ITS ENTIRETY, DIGITAL RECORDINGS ARE AVAILABLE.