

Treasure Coast Regional League of Cities, Inc.
February 16, 2022
SLC Chamber of Commerce Office
Minutes

Board Members attending: Mayor Linda Hudson, Councilman Rey Neville, Councilwoman Jolien Caraballo, Mayor Brian Foley, Commissioner Kaija Mayfield, Councilman Ed Dodd, Commissioner Mike Meier, Mayor Karen Ostrand, Mayor Robert Gibbons and Alderman Ingrid Van Hekken

Absent: Councilman Bob Jarriel, Alderwoman Ingrid Van Hekken and Councilwoman Janet Hernandez

Others Present: Jeannette Weiss, Solutions Partnership, Frank Moerhle, Asst. Attorney from Port St. Lucie.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Jolien Caraballo at 10:02 am.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Vice Mayor Caraballo led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mayor Joel Tyson led the Invocation.

Self-Introduction of Board Members, Alternate Members and Guests: President Caraballo asked for a self-introduction of members and guests.

Additions and deletions to the Agenda: There were no changes to the agenda. Mayor Tyson moved to approve the agenda with no changes, Mayor Foley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda: A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Mayor Tyson, seconded by Commissioner Meier. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report: President Caraballo spoke about Legislative Action Days in Tallahassee. TCRLC Advocacy Team with Commissioner Meier, Councilwoman Hernandez, Mayor Ostrand, Councilman Fred Jones and City Manager Paul Carlisle from Sebastian attended. Newly elected Councilman Anthony Bonna spent one day with the team. There were a number of bills addressed with legislators and she testified before committee on the Sovereign Immunity bill.

There was discussion of reorganizing the Advocacy Team for next year, to be better prepared.

Special Presentation: Jeannette Weiss from Solutions Partnership addressed the Board with a PowerPoint presentation, introducing services which the company can perform for businesses and governments.

New Business:

- a. **Approval for Travel reimbursement for Tallahassee Trip** – Exec. Director Christensen explained the travel policy to the Board. Indiantown Councilwoman Hernandez was requesting reimbursement for her trip to Tallahassee. It was going to the Board because the request didn't come in prior to the travel. There was some discussion of the policy with a few contradictions in the wording of the policy. The Board asked the By-law Committee to review the policy and recommend modification to address the wording.

There was a motion by Mayor Foley to approve the reimbursement of \$600.00 to the Village of Indiantown for Councilwoman Hernandez's travel as requested, seconded by Commissioner Meier. Motion passed unanimously.

As a follow up, Mayor Foley recommended that the Travel Policy be explained to the membership and that new members have it explained during an orientation when they first come on the Board. The By-law Committee will review the language and come back with any recommendations at the next meeting.

- b. **Discussion of Seacoast CD Maturity** Exec. Dir. Christensen reported that Alderwoman Van Hekken, who was not able to attend the meeting, made calls to find better interest rates for the maturing CD. Seacoast would renew for 0.033 for 24 months. 0.022 for 12 months.

Her recommendation was to cash the CD in and deposit it into the IThink account with the other funds until the market becomes more stable. A motion to approve the recommendation was made by Councilman Dodd, seconded by Mayor Hudson. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion to send a Resolution in support of the two bills to their respective committees was made by Councilman Dodd and seconded by Commission Meier. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolutions: None

Unfinished Business:

- a. **Continued Discussion on an Award for Legislators** – Vice Mayor Caraballo opened the discussion, speaking about an award for legislators who “Move the Needle”. Her recommendation is to give any legislator an award who makes a concerted effort to work with our League in supporting Home Rule. There was discussion on parameters and finally decided by consensus that more research would be done, and this issue would come back for further discussion at a later date. This would not be in affect for this year.
- b. **Update on Audit** – Executive Director Christensen reported that a date could not be found for the whole committee and would be taking place on March 9. A report will be given at the March 16th meeting.
- c. **March Meeting Update** – The March meeting will take place at the Vero Beach Yacht Club, arranged by Vero Beach Councilman Rey Neville. Notifications and invites will be going out soon.
- d. **Reorganization of the Advocacy Team** – This item was discussed in the Presidents Report.

Reports:

Policy Committee Reports:

Finance, Taxation and Personnel: Mayor Hudson reported on HJ-1 and SB 1746 – An additional Homestead Exemption for first responders and military, still moving through committees and most likely being passed.

Land Use and Economic Development – Mayor Ostrand reported on Sovereign Immunity. There are still amendments being filed that will have dramatic effects on cities.

Municipal Administration – Vice Mayor Caraballo reported the smoking bill was looking good and will probably pass.

Transportation and Intergovernmental Relations – No report

Utilities, Natural Resources and public Works – Commissioner Meier reported on SB 1944 and HB 1241 PFAS Bills were still in play and we were watching. The League supports these bills.

Executive Directors Report: Exec. Director Christensen – IEMO is being held for new elected officials. Sign up has begun.

Florida League of Cities Report: Vice Mayor Caraballo reported in the absence of Councilwoman Gibbs-Thomas. The League is doing a review of property it owns in Orlando to find the best use or determine if it should be sold.

Florida Municipal Insurance Trust, (FMIT): No report.

Florida League of Mayors: Mayor Ostrand reported on Tallahassee activities. Good seminar on Communications.

Treasure Coast Advocacy Team: No further information.

Treasure Coast Council of Local Government Report: Mayor Tyson reported had a presentation Vicky Soule from TC Community Health.

Indian River Lagoon Council: Commissioner Meier reported that grants wrapped up and were awarded to a number of local cities.

Board Member Announcements

Mayor Tyson reported about the latest Frog Leg Festival which was very successful.

Mayor Hudson mentioned the unveiling of the 1715 Cannon that washed up on the beach and was reconditioned and on display in Downtown Ft. Pierce.

Councilman Neville announced that there would be a Beer and Wine Festival that weekend.

Associate Member Announcements: No announcements

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Karen Ostrand, Secretary March 16, 2021