

Mayor's Report, 28 May 2024

The weather is certainly heating up as we roll into our Summer Hurricane Season. The staff have reviewed the Emergency Plan and are preparing accordingly. Residents should do the same by preparing their Hurricane Preparedness Kits. Links to this and other pertinent information can be found on the Town Website.

I realize it's been a month since Founders' Day, but wanted to thank everyone, commissioners and residents alike for their time and effort to make this another successful, fun day for all residents. We'll be publishing pictures in the upcoming July Cardinal.

At last month's Commission Meeting, we approved the hiring of Scott McCarthy as Public Works Maintenance Technician. I'm sure by now you have all seen Scott hard at work around Town. He has many years of groundskeeping experience, so he was able to hit the ground running.

We also welcome Reilly Cohick, our summer student intern working with us until August. Reilly is a rising senior at FSU majoring in Political Science. She is preparing for the LSAT this fall and plans to apply for law school. Reilly has been diligently reading and reviewing our Town Charter, Codes, and Ordinances to organize these critical Town documents.

The Revised Charter has been finalized and a referendum will be on the ballot in November for residents to approve the new Charter or not. We will provide additional information and wording on the referendum in upcoming Commission meetings and the quarterly Cardinal newsletters.

At the May 17th Special Commission Meeting, the commission voted to sign the Service Agreement with BCSO for FY 2024-25 with a 4% increase. This needs to occur each spring so BCSO and the Town can budget appropriately. The Commission also decided not to add a referendum on the ballot this November regarding the Service Contract vs moving to an MSTU. This referendum would be non-binding, so essentially, a survey of people's views. However, 100% of the attendees at the May 11th Law Enforcement Workshop voted by a show of hands, that they did not want the referendum on the ballot. Concern about uninformed residents was the primary reason, but a show of hands showed all but 1 vote was in favor of continuing with the Service Contract.

We take the safety of our residents seriously. Perhaps you've noticed the fire hydrants have been painted. We asked, and Melbourne City Water Dept came to check the pressure, service, repair, and paint the hydrants. And the project to refurbish our street signs to make them more visible at night is in full swing. It is an ongoing project as we are relocating some poles and having to replace many of the poles as well.

I want to recognize the dedication of our Commission. We have held 4 or more meetings or workshops every month this year, many of which are attended by the Staff as well. When you get a chance, please let them know you appreciate their service as much as I do.

And since I never have enough meetings – please SAVE THE DATE for the next Mayor's Town Hall at 10 AM, June 15th in the Town Hall. Bring your questions, concerns, even complaints. I look forward to these sessions to meet and talk directly with the residents.

Let's keep the conversation going!

Sue Ditty, Mayor