

**Treasure Coast Regional League of Cities, Inc.**  
**Board Meeting**  
**September 20, 2023, 10:00 AM**  
**Indian River State College, Brown Center**  
**Minutes**

**Board Members attending:** Mayor Brian Foley Mayor Joel Tyson, Mayor Linda Hudson, Mayor Karen Ostrand, Councilman David McAuley, Councilwoman Mary Jane Benedetto, (alternate for Mayor Robert Gibbons, arrived late), Commissioner Kaija Mayfield, Commissioner Campbell Rich, Councilman John Carroll, Vice Mayor Jolien Caraballo

**Board Members Absent:** Alderwoman Ingrid Van Hekken, Councilwoman Janet Hernandez, Councilman Ed Dodd.

**Others Present:** Mark Mathes, Ella Gilber, Frank Morehle, Mario Benicky,

**Call to Order:** Upon establishing a quorum, the meeting was called to order by First Vice President Karen Ostrand at 10:12 a.m.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:** First VP Karen Ostrand led the pledge and Mayor Joel Tyson led the invocation.

**Self-Introduction of Board Members, Alternate Members and Guests** First VP Ostrand asked for a self-introduction of members and guests.

**Additions and deletions to the agenda:** None

**Approval of the Agenda:** Mayor Linda Hudson made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mayor Joel Tyson. Motion passed unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:** Mayor Brian Foley asked that the minutes be addressed separately, as he asked for a correction.

- a. **Approval of the Minutes for May 2023** - Mayor Foley asked for a correction, in the City Reports. He asked for the statement about Indian River shores to be removed from the Vero Beach report. A motion to accept the minutes with the correction was made by Mayor Foley and seconded by Mayor Hudson. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. **Approval of Treasurer's Report for April, May, June, July and August 2023.**
- c. **Approval of Committee Reports**
- d. **Acceptance of Glen Torcivia, Dolan, Goddeau & Rubin, P.A. as an Associate Member.**

A motion was made by Mayor Tyson and seconded by Councilman Carroll to approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.

**President's Report:** First VP Ostrand made remarks about the FL Mayors meeting and the speaker at their meeting spoke about the amount of business that is transacted between Florida and Canada. Greg Ross was elected President of FLC at the Annual Conference in Orlando. It was one of the best, in her opinion. Dinner was great with TCRLC members. She

Thanked Vice Mayor Caraballo for her service as President of the League for 2023 and other members also made comments and thanked VM Caraballo.

### **Presentation**

Mark Mathes, City Manager from Fellsmere was introduced by Mayor Joel Tyson. Mr. Mathes reminded everyone that Fellsmere turned 100 years old in 2016 and was had the first woman to vote, below the Mason-Dixon line. He shared information on the road paving and the municipal water system. The city employs 35 staff members. The housing in Fellsmere is going to double in 10 years. They will keep the small-town character. They built a new boat ramp. This year they reduced the millage. They have a \$45 million capital program.

### **City Reports**

- Vero Beach Councilman John Carroll reported that Main East West Rd will have a study with DOT and the MPO for access management, with phased development of 512.
- Mayor Hudson reported the city placed a deep restriction on property to require the new owner must build within two years and it isn't affordable.
- Councilman Ed Dodd mentioned the City of Sebastian is discussing the Police Department future. The City Attorney resigned and went to Melbourne. The City Manager also retired.
- Mayor Joel Tyson reported on the three new housing developments. One will include a Publix or Winn Dixie with 375 workforce units. The City is holding a workshop for businesses along Broadway, to see about redeveloping the area.
- Mayor Bill Theiss reported the town is pushing to get utilities to the residents using ARPA funds to design the project. Goal is to design the north.

### **Legislative Matters –**

#### **a. Finance, Taxation and Personnel – Commissioner Mayfield**

Charles Chapman is the FLC lobbyist heading up this committee. Discussion about property taxes and lowering the property tax cap from 3 to 2 %. Also spoke about HB1331 regarding Enterprise Funds being transferred into the General Fund. There was a presentation on Infrastructure Tax by the Oviedo Mayor. The last issue discussed was the TDC tax and the cities not getting their fair share back from the county. **d Use and**

#### **Economic Development - Mayor Hudson and VM Caraballo**

There were five issues discussed, Sovereign Immunity which is expected to come back this year. The league will oppose, although can support minimal increases due to inflation. Mobility Fees discussion included a lengthy presentation by the City of Palm Beach Gardens. The Burt Harris Act, discussion about if they are sued that they should be allowed to discuss litigation in a shade meeting. Unsafe Structures, preferably historic buildings and developers wanting to tear down and demolish old buildings for minimal reasons and build larger projects. Finally, SB 102, but staff recommended leaving it alone until Senate President Passadomo is no longer President, as it was her bill, and she could look for retribution against cities if we try to go for an amendment now.

- b. Municipal Administration** – Councilman Dodd, Mayor Ostrand  
Discussions about Law Enforcement Recruitment, Short Term Rental, Virtual Meetings, Public Records on Code Violations and Cyber Security. Ella Gilbert with the City of Port St. Lucie said there was also a presentation by the Florida Gaming Commission on adult arcades and that they will be cracking down on them.
- c. Transportation and Intergovernmental Relations** – Councilman Carroll  
No Report
- d. Utilities, Natural Resources and Public Works** – Commissioner Rich  
Issues discussed in this committee were resiliency and water issues, PFAS and PFOA, PACE Loans and Recycling. They will decide on two issues next month, which will become the priorities for this committee.

**New Business:**

- a. Delegation Meetings** – The schedule for the Delegation meetings is out. Indian River is October 2, Okeechobee is October 4, Martin is October 5 and St. Lucie is October 6.  
  
FLC has suggested the speaking points be generic and aimed at issues we know will come back. Patrica Christensen will draft speaking points. Commissioner Rich volunteered for Martin, Councilman McAuley volunteered to take Okeechobee, Councilman Dodd through a conversation with ED Christensen will attend Indian River and we need to find someone for St. Lucie as the Policy Committee meeting falls on the same day and everyone will be in Orlando for their respective Policy meetings. ED Christensen will send out the speaking points.
- b. Advocacy Committee Update** – ED Christensen reported that Committee weeks in Tallahassee begin next week and that bills will begin to be sponsored. She will be watching the bills and also schedule an Advocacy Team Meeting to begin preparation for the session.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**Associate Member Announcements:**

**Commissioner Rich** – Congressman Mast signed off on the new bridge for Stuart for Brighline. The City is interviewing for a new City Attorney. The previous City Attorney is now the City Manager.

The meeting adjourned at 11:59.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Kaija Mayfield, Secretary