

**MINUTES OF
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
ORANGE BEACH CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 16, 2021 – 5:38 P.M.
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The Orange Beach City Council met to review potential items for the April 6, 2021, agenda.

The following members were present:

Councilmember Jeff Silvers
Councilmember Jerry Johnson
Councilmember Annette Mitchell
Councilmember Joni Blalock
Councilmember Jeff Boyd
Mayor Tony Kennon

The following members were absent:

None

The following items were discussed:

1. Appoint voting delegate and alternates for the Alabama League of Municipalities Annual Convention to be held in Huntsville, May 12-15, 2021. Council agreed to appoint Jeff Boyd as voting delegate and Joni Blalock as first alternate voting delegate.
2. Discuss Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. Lannie Smith, City Emergency Management Coordinator, summarized the purpose and importance of the update and encouraged everyone to view the drafted plan online at <https://baldwincountyal.gov/departments/ema/ema-hazard-mitigation>. Lannie asked citizens to give their input.
3. Discuss request for Vacation of Right-of-Way located within the Giles Canal Pines Subdivision. In response to Mayor Kennon's request at the previous Committee of the Whole meeting for appraised values of the property in question, Kit Alexander, Community Development Director, explained a calculation of \$73,444 for unimproved right-of-way land value. She stated that the applicant has agreed to this valuation. Mayor and Council expressed their willingness to move forward with the vacation process.
4. Set a public hearing date for consideration of a Conditional Use Permit for Liberty Linen Warehouse and Boat/RV Storage to be located at 26953 Canal Road (Case No. 0204-CU-21). Public hearing set for April 6, 2021.
5. Resolution appropriating funds to the Makos Academics, Arts & Athletics Club in the amount of \$121,630.06.
6. Reminder: Public hearing and first reading for an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 172, the Zoning Ordinance, Case No. 0307-PUDA-21, Mariner Lakes PUD, 25196 Windward Place, Lot 10 Rear Enclosure Setback on April 6, 2021.

Public Comments:

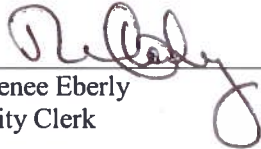
1. Jeb Smith, 5504 East Perdido Avenue, asked if the City Council could do anything about rentals to unlicensed boaters since the State does not require out-of-state visitors to have a Boating License. Councilmember Boyd responded that there is legislation at the state level being considered to increase penalties for BUIs (Boating Under the Influence). He also explained that the city taking action on its own would just push visitors to neighboring cities and across state lines, but that the city is actively seeking for a balanced solution.

2. Councilmember Boyd shared a recent Gulf Shores & Orange Beach Tourism report that of 7,552 total rental units, 3,126 are still unavailable due to Hurricane Sally. He explained that the reason many units are still in disrepair is because of a disfunctional insurance process. He encouraged citizens and other public agencies to begin discussing potential changes in legislation to solve this problem.
3. Linda Johnson, resident, asked Council to consider a handicap beach access. Phillip West, Coastal Resources Director, responded that the city could work with the state on providing handicap access at state-owned beaches, but said that there are issues with the manpower required to pull up the mats every night in order to comply with U.S. Fish and Wildlife regulations relating to turtle nesting season and to allow for beach cleaning. Mayor Kennon stated that one location might be okay, and that staff would look into the possibility.
4. Councilmember Blalock reminded citizens and visitors that bird nesting season is ongoing through June on Robinson and Bird Islands for ospreys, herons, and terns, who are rebuilding after Hurricane Sally. She reiterated that dogs are not allowed on the islands. Mayor Kennon echoed Councilmember Blalock's sentiments and explained that the city walks a fine line between environmental protection and allowing recreational use. He urged citizens and visitors to protect the environment in order to retain access to the islands for recreational use.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Time: 6:01 P.M.

APPROVED this 20th day of April, 2021.



Renee Eberly
City Clerk