

**MINUTES OF THE MAY 3, 2016 REGULAR SESSION  
GREEN COVE SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL**

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**Call to Order**

The regular session of the Green Cove Springs City Council was called to order Tuesday, May 3, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 321 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, Florida.

Mayor Royal expressed his sorrow and sympathy regarding the triple murder and suicide that had occurred this morning in Green Cove Springs. He thanked the Police Department for their expedient service to the community. He asked for a moment of silence for those that had been lost.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

The invocation was given by Mayor Royal followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Ms. Judd stated the City would do whatever it could to support the Green family.

Council Member Hampshire expressed her deepest condolences to the families involved and hoped the community would pray for one another and support each other. Council Member Timberlake expressed his thoughts reminding everyone that we are not guaranteed tomorrow. It was important for everyone to do things in a way that represent ourselves well and shows the value we place on human life on day in and day out basis.

**Roll Call**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

C. Felecia Hampshire  
Roy M. Timberlake, Jr.  
Steven Kelley  
Pamela J. Lewis, Vice Mayor  
(via Phone)  
B. Van Royal, Mayor

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

L. J. Arnold, III, City Attorney  
Julia W. Clevinger, City Clerk  
Janis Fleet, Development Services Director  
Marlena Guthrie, Finance Director  
Danielle J. Judd, City Manager  
Robert Musco, Chief of Police  
Mike Null, Asst. City Mgr. / Public Works  
Director / Interim Electric Utility Director

**STAFF MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Cynthia Hunter, Personnel Director

**Mayor to call on members of the audience wishing to address  
the Council on matters not on the Agenda.**

There were none.

**AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HAMPSHIRE TO APPROVE THE PROCLAMATIONS FOR CINCO DE MAYO AND MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER TIMBERLAKE. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES – COUNCIL MEMBERS C. FELECIA HAMPSHIRE, STEVEN R. KELLEY, ROY M. TIMBERLAKE, JR., PAMELA J. LEWIS, AND MAYOR B. VAN ROYAL. NAYS – NONE.

### **Proclamation – Cinco De Mayo**

Mayor Royal noted that Mr. Guerrero was running late and advised that the presentation of the Proclamation be delayed until later in the meeting.

### **Proclamation – Municipal Clerks Week**

Mayor Royal read the Proclamation into the record (see attachment marked Exhibit “A”) and presented it to Julie Clevinger, City Clerk, who thanked the City Council for their support.

### **Presentation of the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Tree City USA Award – Jack Hernandez, Florida Forest Service**

Mayor Royal recognized Jack Hernandez with the Florida Forest Service who presented the City with its 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Tree City USA Award.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. **Public Hearing and approval of Resolution No. R-12-2016, a Resolution amending the Operating Budgets for the General Fund, Building Fund, and Utility Funds for Fiscal Year 2016.**

Mayor Royal opened the Public Hearing. There being no comments, the Public Hearing was closed.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TIMBERLAKE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. R-12-2016 (SEE ATTACHMENT MARKED EXHIBIT “B”). THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HAMPSHIRE. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES – COUNCIL MEMBERS C. FELECIA HAMPSHIRE, STEVEN R. KELLEY, ROY M. TIMBERLAKE, JR., PAMELA J. LEWIS, AND MAYOR B. VAN ROYAL. NAYS – NONE.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **City Council approval of the minutes of the Regular Sessions on April 5 and April 19, 2016.**
2. **City Council approval of a request from Sandra Dunnavant, Friends of the Library, to insert flyers in the May utility bills for promotion of the “2016 Summer Youth Activities & Reading Program.”**
3. **City Council approval to declare items listed on Exhibit “A” (Electric) as surplus and to dispose of accordingly.**
4. **City Council authorization for the City Manager to apply for a St. Johns River Water Management District Cost-Share Grant for construction of Phases II & III of the North Grid Reclaimed Water System, designating the Asst. Water Utilities Manager to serve as Project Manager, and approval of the grant application submitted on April 21, 2016.**

Council Member Timberlake expressed his enthusiasm with the City’s move ahead to provide and use reclaimed water for irrigation. Scott Schultz gave a brief overview and Ms. Judd commended him for bringing this item forth in such a short timeframe.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HAMPSHIRE TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 1 THROUGH 4 AS LISTED ABOVE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER TIMBERLAKE. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES – COUNCIL MEMBERS C. FELECIA HAMPSHIRE, STEVEN R. KELLEY, ROY M. TIMBERLAKE, JR., PAMELA J. LEWIS, AND MAYOR B. VAN ROYAL. NAYS – NONE.

## COUNCIL BUSINESS

**1. Presentation on “Community Connections Event.” Jen Halter, Principal, Green Cove Springs Junior High**

A presentation was made by Jen Halter, Principal at Green Cove Springs Junior High, regarding the “Community Connections Event.” The four (4) different initiatives would cover Collaborative Classrooms, Stem Education, Academies in the High Schools, and Community Engagement. The Event would increase the engagement, involvement, and volunteering from local businesses and faith-based partners to meet together with leadership teams from the local schools at Green Cove Springs Junior High.

**2. City Council approval of the North Florida TPO Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2016/2017 – 2020/2021. Fleet / Wanda Forrest, NFL TPO**

Ms. Fleet introduced Ms. Forrest. A presentation was made by Wanda Forrest, North Florida Transportation Organization, regarding the TPO’s Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2016/2017 – 2020/2021. Discussion ensued with the City Council regarding the projects within the City and Clay County.

At this time, Mayor Royal moved to Council Business Item No. 3.

**3. City Council review of the FDOT U.S. 17 and S.R. 16 Intersection and Access Management Improvements. Judd**

Mayor Royal recognized Jim Knight, FDOT, who reviewed the FDOT U.S. 17 and S.R. 16 Intersections and Access Management Improvements. Very minimal widening on S.R. 16 and adding a separator would be done and would not impact City utilities that are located in the FDOT right-of-way. Mayor Royal reminded Mr. Knight that the costs for relocating those utilities would cost in excess of \$1 million and would be a true burden on the City. Mr. Knight gave a presentation on the First Coast Expressway project.

Mayor Royal recognized Pat Garlinghouse, 103 S. Magnolia Avenue, who inquired about pedestrians and cyclists having access to the new Shands Bridge. Mr. Knight explained there would be a new 12 foot wide multi-use path.

Vice Mayor Lewis inquired how the height of the new Shands Bridge was determined. Mr. Knight explained that the Buckman Bridge was the “controlling bridge” for all other bridges downstream.

Mayor Royal recognized Connie Butler, 718 Cypress Avenue South, Green Cove Springs, who inquired about the number of lanes planned for the new Shands Bridge. Mr. Knight explained there would be two (2) lanes in both directions, shoulders on each side, and the 12 foot wide multi-use path.

Mayor Royal recognized Reno Wolfe, 1630 Julia Street, Green Cove Springs, who inquired how the State planned to evacuate the residents from the southern counties to I-10. Mr. Knight explained that the State would contra-flow the traffic to westbound traffic only. The State’s main concern was to get the people evacuated and out of the coastal and low flood zones.

Ms. Judd reminded Ms. Forrest and Mr. Knight of the safety issues on the Governors Creek Bridge. Mr. Knight had examined the sidewalks across the bridge earlier in the day and advised that he would take this information back to FDOT Safety Office to determine if there were enough accidents to warrant being able to use safety monies. If that were not an avenue, then it would need to be a placed as a priority with the TPO for sidewalk enhancement project. Mayor Royal noted the increase in population to the north and citizens who walked and biked across the bridge. Council

Member Timberlake also reminded Mr. Knight that the City was a golf cart friendly town and the current access with the bridge prohibited them from crossing except via the roadway.

At this time, Mayor Royal requested a motion for Council Business Item No. 2.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TIMBERLAKE TO APPROVE THE NORTH FLORIDA TPO PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 – 2020-2021 WITH THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT THEY'VE MADE CHANGES IN THE 16/17 INTERCHANGE FOR IT TO BE A TRAFFIC DIVIDER ONLY AND WILL NOT REQUIRE THE CITY TO RELOCATE UTILITIES AND THAT WE'VE ASKED THAT THEY WOULD CONSIDER USING THE SAVINGS IN THAT PROJECT FROM A SAFETY PERSPECTIVE IN OTHER AREAS THAT WOULD BENEFIT THE CITIZENS OF GREEN COVE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER KELLEY. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES – COUNCIL MEMBERS C. FELECIA HAMPSHIRE, STEVEN R. KELLEY, ROY M. TIMBERLAKE, JR., PAMELA J. LEWIS, AND MAYOR B. VAN ROYAL. NAYS – NONE.

**4. FMPA Monthly Report – April 2016. *Bob Page***

Discussion ensued with the City Council regarding the FMPA Monthly Report for April as presented by Mr. Page.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HAMPSHIRE TO ACCEPT THE REPORT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER TIMBERLAKE. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES – COUNCIL MEMBERS C. FELECIA HAMPSHIRE, STEVEN R. KELLEY, ROY M. TIMBERLAKE, JR., PAMELA J. LEWIS, AND MAYOR B. VAN ROYAL. NAYS – NONE.

**5. First Reading of Ordinance No. O-05-2016, an Ordinance authorizing the City to borrow up to \$2,600,000.00 for future improvements to Spring Park and possibly refinancing of the Police Station and Emergency Operations Center Loan. *Arnold***

Mr. Arnold read the title of Ordinance No. O-05-2016 into the record as follows:

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO BORROW UP TO \$2,600,000.00 FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS TO SPRING PARK AND POSSIBLY REFINANCING OF THE POLICE STATION AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER LOAN; PROVIDING THAT DETAILS OF THE LOAN BE APPROVED BY SUBSEQUENT RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL; PROVIDING FOR REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Ms. Judd advised that a follow-up conference call to the Financial Advisors would take place the next day and the terms of the loan would be brought back to the City Council by Resolution as required by the City Charter.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TIMBERLAKE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. O-05-2016 ON FIRST READING AS TO FORM ONLY AND SET THE SECOND AND FINAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR JUNE 7, 2016. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER HAMPSHIRE.

Council Member Lewis inquired if anyone had requested an opinion from the auditors. She was still opposed to refinancing the Police Station loan. Ms. Guthrie advised that she had spoken with the auditor and they could not give a definitive decision and that it was ultimately a management decision. He highly doubted the City would run into any issues because the City was so low on debt in the General Fund. She further explained that the auditors would only make a comment if

the City was so financially cash-strapped that it was not able to meet its current obligations, i.e. payroll and accounts payable.

Ms. Judd recalled the Management meetings with the auditors at the end of each year's audit. The City had never crossed or was remotely close to the thresholds set by State standards. She noted this was a policy decision. If approved by the City Council, the July 1, 2016 and January 1, 2017 payments would not be made which would immediately free up approximately \$400,000 in the General Fund.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES – COUNCIL MEMBERS C. FELECIA HAMPSHIRE, STEVEN R. KELLEY, ROY M. TIMBERLAKE, JR., PAMELA J. LEWIS, AND MAYOR B. VAN ROYAL. NAYS – NONE.

### **Proclamation – Cinco De Mayo**

As Mayor Royal read the Proclamation into the record (see attachment marked Exhibit "C") while Mr. Juan Sabines Guerrero, the Mexican Consul, translated in Spanish. Mayor Royal presented the Proclamation to Mr. Guerrero, who thanked the City Council for their recognition. Mayor Royal recognized Indy Moran who expressed her gratitude.

#### **6. City Manager and City Attorney Reports and/or Correspondence.**

The City Manager and City Attorney made comments regarding various city activities, events, operations, and projects.

#### **7. City Council Reports and/or Correspondence.**

The City Council made comments regarding various city activities, events, operations, and projects.

Mayor Royal recognized Scott Smith, 600 St. Johns Avenue, Green Cove Springs, who expressed his sadness of the events that unfolded earlier in the day and his appreciation for the Green Cove Springs Police Department.

#### **8. Adjournment.**

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

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B. Van Royal, Mayor

Attest:

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Julia W. Clevinger, City Clerk