

CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

FEBRUARY 23, 2015
WORK SESSION

The City Commission of the City of Sanford, Florida, met in Work Session on Monday, February 23, 2015, at 4:00 PM, in the Railroad Depot Room, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 300 North Park Avenue, Sanford, Florida.

Present: Mayor Jeff Triplett
Vice Mayor Velma Williams
Commissioner Art Woodruff
Commissioner Randy Jones (arrived at 4:10)
Commissioner Patty Mahany
City Manager Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr.
City Attorney William L. Colbert
City Clerk Cynthia Porter
Deputy City Clerk Traci Houchin

Mayor Triplett called the meeting to order at 4:08 PM.

- 1. Presentation re: 2015 Fireball Run by Frank Hale, Executive Director, Sanford Chamber of Commerce.**

Mr. Hale introduced Jay Sanchez, Executive Director of Fireball Run who explained that this is an on line entertainment series comprised of 40 teams that travel across the country and engage in different points of interest in various destinations. He said that Sanford has been selected as one of the top six destinations. He showed a brief trailer (video) of the upcoming season.

Following the video, Mr. Hale said that in order to move forward, they need approval from the City in order to promote Sanford as one of the destinations. Mr. Sanchez explained that each week, Fireball Run gets a lot of media coverage and Sanford is losing a lot of exposure by not advertising that they will be a Fireball destination.

CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

FEBRUARY 23, 2015
WORK SESSION

Commissioner Mahany asked how the organization chose Sanford and what will take place in Sanford during the event. Mr. Sanchez explained that they look at destinations that are economically progressive, the economic earnings and the entertainment value. He said that he personally favored Sanford and felt that Fireball Run could help showcase positive media for the City of Sanford. As for the events that will take place, he is unable to go into detail.

Leisure Services Manager Lisa Jones said that there is a cost involved with the event which at this time is estimated at \$5000 and is needed for street closures, security and other support services. She said that Mr. Hale has asked the City to absorb the cost.

City Attorney Colbert said that the Commission may form a consensus in order to move forward with advertising Sanford as a Fireball Run destination with no further details. The consensus of the Commission was that Fireball Run could move forward and advertise the event listing Sanford as a Fireball Destination.

2. Discussion re: Hopper Academy

Commissioner Woodruff stated that the information contained in the grant indicates that his position is that of Project Manager. He does not consider himself to hold that position; however, he was involved in writing the grant, therefore, he signed the application at the time that it was submitted. He stated that he has no personal gain and if the Commission prefers to select someone else to fill that role he fully supports it.

CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

FEBRUARY 23, 2015
WORK SESSION

Commissioner Woodruff went on to say that he would like the Commission to look at the value and the history of the Hopper Academy. He believes that the City would not be providing money to an organization but saving a historic structure. He said that the deadline for receiving the grant is closely approaching and the state is ready to issue the first portion of the grant which means that the City must contribute close to \$43,000 in order to get started.

Mayor Triplett asked Commissioner Woodruff how much money has been put into this project to date. Commissioner Woodruff estimated it to be close to \$700,000.

Commissioner Williams provided a timeline of history surrounding this item and the organization (Community Improvement Association) that owns it. She said that she has concerns with the history of the organization as it relates to accountability. She suggested that the Commission take a tour of the site and get a feel for what is really needed. She also asked the City Manager to provide her with a list of the organization's status over the past five years including their current and former board members. She said that if the Commission wishes to move forward with this, she would like them to consider using the insurance funds received from the Little Red Schoolhouse.

Community Improvement Association President Charles Rowe said that he understands that Commissioner Williams supports the Hopper Academy. He too, provided some history of the Hopper Academy. He said that he has been working towards this for the past 30 years and that he only wants to see that the building is

CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

FEBRUARY 23, 2015
WORK SESSION

preserved and not torn down. He said that it is a historic monument and that he is willing to work with whomever to see that it is preserved. He truly believes that the grant will get them where they need to be.

Mr. Bonaparte asked Mr. Rowe a few questions: 1) what has the organization done to raise money in order to operate the academy and 2) if there is a plan for ongoing maintenance. Mr. Rowe explained that they have had numerous fundraisers over the years; however, the community of Georgetown is not sufficient in raising the kind of money that is needed to preserve the building. He said that he has three ideas that will provide ongoing maintenance but believes only two would be feasible to the community. He said they could develop and sell some of the properties in the back; however, he feels that the community would be against this. He also said that they could place a large organization in the facility and at this time he does have someone interested. And lastly, bring in several organizations and offer various leases. Mr. Bonaparte still said that he does not feel that the grant money can preserve this building. He asked Mr. Rowe if the organization could provide something to the City showing that the grant (\$518,000) will make the building occupiable. Mr. Rowe said that he can provide something.

Mayor Triplett said that he is willing to go with the minimum amount in order to get the grant started but that he wants multiple benefactors and community support for this project.

CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

FEBRUARY 23, 2015
WORK SESSION

Mr. Bonaparte asked the Mr. Colbert to address Commissioner Woodruff's position and how this may be a conflict of interest. Mr. Colbert said that he does have some concerns and that he would need to research more in depth. As for the time being, he recommends that Commissioner Woodruff refrain from any kind of vote. This will be an action item added to tonight's Regular Meeting.

3. Discussion re: City Elections

Item was not discussed.

4. Presentation of the City Financial Report – 1st Quarter Ended December 31, 2014. [Commission Memo 15-025]

This item will be re-scheduled for the March 9, 2015 Work Session.

5. Regular Meeting Items – additional information

Due to time constraints, these items will be discussed at the Regular Meeting.

- A. Food Truck Bazaar – Special Event [Commission Memo 15-024] (RM 6.F)
- B. First Comprehensive Plan Amendment for 2015 [Commission memo 15-028] (RM 7.C)
- C. Amendments to City of Sanford Land Development Regulations [Commission Memo 15-029] (RM7.D)

CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

FEBRUARY 23, 2015
WORK SESSION

- D. Mobile Food Vendor – Ivy Patrick Ice Cream [Commission Memo 15-031] (RM 8.B)

6. Briefing items

- A. Discussion re: SunRail's maintenance facility and the homes at the Preserve at Lake Monroe.

Mr. Bonaparte said that he has heard nothing to indicate that Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will provide timely relief to the residents of The Preserve. He suggested that the Commission send a letter to Secretary Downs indicating that the City's request is that the SunRail maintenance facility be re-located to a non-residential area. There was a consensus among the Commission to authorize the Mayor to sign and send a letter.

Commissioner Mahany asked that separate or special Work Sessions be considered for some of the larger items coming before them for consideration.

7. City Manager Comments

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 PM.



Mayor Jeff Triplett

Attest:



City Clerk
TH