

**City Council Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, June 13, 2017 6:00 PM  
Civic Center 105 N. 31<sup>st</sup> Street**

**Present:**

**Mayor William A. Cathey  
Councilman Jerry Wallace  
Councilwoman Linda Albrecht  
Councilman Bill McGlothlin  
Councilman Rex Putnal**

**Also Present:**

**Mell Smigielski, City Administrator  
Adrian Welle, City Clerk  
Police Chief Anthony Kelly  
Mark Stangl, Emergency Services  
Philip Hall, Public Works Director**

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**Mayor Cathey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Cathey thanked the voters for their support and all that voted in the most recent election. Mayor Cathey informed the council that he looks forward to working with all of them. Mayor Cathey stated that the quality of life here is something that the City should not compromise and that he places a high priority in protecting that way of life and those that are here.

Mr. McGlothlin spoke to the public thanking them for their support even though he ran unopposed. Mr. McGlothlin stated that as the City continues to change and grow, the culture of the City will also change.

Mrs. Albrecht welcomed the new mayor and stated that she agrees with Mr. McGlothlin that as new people come we get new ideas. Mrs. Albrecht asked a question regarding a memo that she received about a few adjustments made to leave no trace. The item will be addressed on leave no trace later in the agenda.

Chuck Guilford 104 Miramar asked the council a series of questions. Mr. Guilford asked the council to bring the property tax rates down to a level that is more equal to the rest of the county.

Mrs. Albrecht made a motion and Mr. McGlothlin to approve the CDBG applicant list as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Putnal and seconded by Mrs. Albrecht to approve the previous meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeff Brittain of Dewberry was present to give an update to the council regarding the various projects currently going on in Mexico Beach. Mr. Brittain provided an update on the canal project and stated that HG Harders has given a substantial completion date of next week but with the rain that will more than likely move. Mr. Brittain spoke about the alternate water source project, FRDAP Grants and the Oleander paving project. Discussion of the council ensued on the leasing of the property owned by the Bay County conservancy for the Oleander project at a cost of \$1,000/year for the next 20 years.

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Public Hearing regarding a variance request for 301 Robin Lane was opened at 6:21pm.

Public Hearing was closed at 6:22pm with no comments presented.

City Administrator Smigielski provided background information to the council regarding the nature of the request. The petitioner is asking that the east side setback go away to allow the property to go as far east as possible as the City has an easement and the property has a canal on the back side that may cause erosion in the rear of the property.

Motion by Mr. McGlothlin and seconded by Mr. Putnal to approve the variance request for 301 Robin Lane. Motion carried unanimously.

**First Reading**

**ORDINANCE 669**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MEXICO BEACH FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CITY'S LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TO PROHIBIT METAL BUILDINGS FROM BEING APPROVED FOR RESIDENTIAL USE OR BEING CONVERTED TO RESIDENTIAL USE; DEFINING METAL BUILDING; REPEALING ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATELY EFFECTIVE DATE.

- a. Motion by Mr. Putnal and seconded by Mr. Wallace to read Ordinance 669 by title only.

Discussion of the council ensued on the proposed ordinance.

**Second Reading**

**ORDINANCE 667**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MEXICO BEACH FLORIDA; ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON NEW BEACH VENDING BUSINESSES, ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON NEW OR EXPANDED LOCATIONS FOR PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BEACH VENDING BUSINESSES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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- a. Motion by Mr. Putnal and seconded by Mrs. Albrecht to read Ordinance 667 by title only.

Discussion of the council ensued on why this change was needed and what wasn't working in the existing process.

- b. Motion by Mrs. Albrecht and seconded by Mr. Putnal to adopt Ordinance 667. Motion carried 4-1 with Mayor Cathey voting no,

**RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution 2017-08**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MEXICO BEACH  
FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE STATEWIDE MUTUAL  
AID AGREEMENT AND RECITING AN EFFECTIVE  
DATE.

- a. Motion by Mr. Putnal and seconded by Mrs. Albrecht to read Resolution 2017-08 by title only.
- b. Motion by Mr. McGlothlin and seconded by Mr. Putnal to adopt Resolution 2017-08. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mrs. Albrecht and seconded by Mr. Putnal to approve the annual committee designations and the placement of all 5 council members as check signors. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Putnal and seconded by Mr. Wallace to approve the request by Public Works Director Hall to surplus Garbage Truck #5. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Works Director Hall asked the council for direction on what types of playground equipment they would like to see at Municipal Park. Discussion ensued. Mr. Hall will bring forward some choices and costs at the next council meeting with adult and children equipment options.

Mayor Cathey opened discussion on the leave no trace ordinance and discussion on changes to make to the ordinance. The first item related to the discussion, was a memo provided by the City Administrator this afternoon regarding changes to the enforcement process of the Leave No Trace Ordinance. Mayor Cathey stated the council has never given any direction as to the enforcement of the ordinance and what steps the City should take, so he felt he was not violating any direction of the council with the discussion of these

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changes. Discussion continued on how to proceed with the enforcement of the ordinance. Mrs. Albrecht would like to continue down the path the City was on with enforcement for 1 season, then go back and change what wasn't successful. Mr. Wallace thinks leave no trace is working out rather well and he stated he was previously opposed to the ordinance and is now in favor of it. Mr. Putnal stated the situation was a slippery slope and where do we draw the line. Discussion continued on how to properly handle the enforcement.

Mike-Circle Drive spoke in favor of leave no trace and that he has no problem allowing people to get their things back but that it needs to be clear that you can't rush out in the morning and say you were with it.

Betty Harder- 104 Miramar stated it appears to her that it is the way the change was made not what the change says.

Council discussion ensued regarding further recommendations for changes to the leave no trace ordinance. Mayor Cathey suggested changing the time from 7pm-7am to 9pm-7am to allow people to leave for supper and come back and enjoy the beach.

The second change Mayor Cathey suggested was a vendor exemption for beach businesses to be allowed to leave their items overnight.

Mr. McGlothlin stated he wants to be supportive to the business community but finds it unfair that the citizens don't have this same right to leave their items. Mr. McGlothlin wants to be fair in the exemptions. He recommends instead of exemptions have the change describe what is expected of the businesses and ask for the businesses support in Leave No Trace. Mr. McGlothlin stated he is in favor of a time change to 9pm.

Mrs. Albrecht stated she has no problem of changing the time whether it be 9pm or sunset. Mrs. Albrecht is not in favor of exempting the businesses from the Leave No Trace Ordinance. Further, she stated that the council never said they were against the business but wants them to remove their chairs from the beach, it is the businesses choice what chair they want to use to comply with the ordinance. Mrs. Albrecht would like to look into a handicap exemption.

Mr. Putnal spoke that the responses he received from people was to not allow a beach business exemption. Mr. Putnal said that Leave No Trace just by the phrase people know what it means. The people

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he had spoken to are afraid of the future replications to allowing an exemption.

Mr. Wallace asked that the public come to the podium and speak about how they feel. Mr. Wallace also stated he does not feel much need to drastically change the ordinance.

Connie Rissinger- 504 Maryland Blvd spoke to the council about giving the option of people to come to City Hall and pick up their items. She worries about the families that had their items taken from the beach. She also stated that she does not believe the amount of stuff will be significant that are left behind.

Peggy Wood- Driftwood Inn stated that we are a tourist town and she doesn't think we need to upset the tourist. Ms. Wood also stated they tried to use smaller chairs but they are not as sturdy as other chairs, she also cited the tax rate the businesses pay is higher than the rest.

Debbie 106 20<sup>th</sup> Street- She wanted to have the wording changed from 9pm to sunset as in the off season it is dark far before that.

Ron Adtkisson owner of High Tide Beach Services spoke to the council requesting clarification of driving a 4-wheeler on the beach. He also stated he would like to be treated equitably as he also have a beach business.

Judith Black 1004 15<sup>th</sup> Street spoke to the council and stated she doesn't think of Leave No Trace of something that is hard to understand or needs to be changed. She stated she is in favor of making it more accessible for the handicap not an exemption for them.

Kimberly Shoaf with the CDC spoke to the council about the time. She is concerned about saying sunset and instead change to a time like 9pm.

Tanya Castro 7<sup>th</sup> street stated that the council told Mr. Adtkisson did ask to leave things on the beach and the council said no. She also stated that people are going to leave things on the beach knowing that pickup doesn't occur until 6am. She is also opposed to changing the time as people will leave things at sunset until morning.

Peggy Wood at the Driftwood spoke to the council again to allow for people to watch the sunset.

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Nothing is being changed at this time in regards to Leave No Trace.

Police Chief Kelly gave the Police report to the council.

Emergency Services Director Stangl provided his monthly report to the council.

Public Works Director Hall provided his monthly report to the council.

City Clerk Adrian Welle provided the council with the financial report for the month of April.

City Administrator Mell Smigielski gave his report to the council.

Public Works Director Hall announced to the public that the fireworks display for the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration will be move off of the "T" of the pier further back, thus changing the fallout area to be on a small portion of the beach. So as a heads up a small portion of the beach will be closed for safety.

**Mrs. Albrecht made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Putnal seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.**

By:

  
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Mayor William A. Cathey

Attest:

  
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Adrian Welle, City Clerk