

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2017 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, September 5, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 321 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, Florida.

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

The invocation was given by Pastor Mark Hults, First Presbyterian Church of Green Cove Springs, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Roll Call**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Steven Kelley  
Pamela J. Lewis (via telephone)  
B. Van Royal  
Constance W. Butler, Vice Mayor  
Roy M. Timberlake, Jr., Mayor

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

L. J. Arnold, III, City Attorney  
Derek Asdot, Acting Chief of Police  
Julia W. Clevinger, City Clerk  
Janis Fleet, Development Services Director  
Marlena Guthrie, Finance Director  
Danielle J. Judd, City Manager  
Mary Jane Lundy, Personnel Director  
Mike Null, Asst. City Mgr. / Public Works Dir.  
Kimberly Thomas, Exec. Asst. to the City Mgr.

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

Mayor Timberlake recognized Felecia Hampshire, 508 Franklin Street, Green Cove Springs, who gave an update on the upcoming Masquerade Ball that was being held as a fundraiser for the 2017 Soul Food Festival.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- 1. First Public Hearing and approval of Resolution No. R-26-2017 adopting the Tentative Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2017/2018 and set September 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. as the final hearing date. *Marlena Guthrie, Danielle J. Judd***

Ms. Guthrie advised that the current year proposed millage was 3.6000 mils and is an increase of 2.15% of the rolled back rate of 3.5243. The 3.6000 millage rate will generate \$1,432,576 or \$104,335 more than the 2017 Ad Valorem revenue. The proposed Budget for FY 2017/2018 reflects the Ad Valorem revenue at 97% of the \$1,432,576 proceeds, which is \$1,389,599 as shown in the proposed Budget.

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

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER KELLEY TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. R-26-2017 (SEE ATTACHMENT MARKED EXHIBIT "A") AND TENTATIVELY ADOPT THE MILLAGE RATE OF 3.6000, A 2.15% INCREASE OVER THE ROLL BACK RATE, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018 AND SET SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M. AS THE FINAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE MILLAGE RATE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR BUTLER. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES – COUNCIL MEMBERS STEVEN R. KELLEY, PAMELA J. LEWIS, B. VAN ROYAL, CONSTANCE W. BUTLER, AND ROY M. TIMBERLAKE, JR., MAYOR. NAYS – NONE.

**2. First Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Annual Operating Budget and approval of Resolution No. R-27-2017 adopting the Tentative Annual Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2017/2018 and set September 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. as the final hearing date. *Marlena Guthrie, Danielle J. Judd***

Mayor Timberlake opened the Public Hearing.

Ms. Guthrie advised that the total proposed operating budget for the City of Green Cove Springs for Fiscal Year 2018 is \$33,346,737 which is \$2,167,291 more than Fiscal Year 2017. Exhibit "A" of the Resolution reflected the original budget as presented on July 25, 2017. However, after four (4) subsequent budget meetings that resulted in recommendations for adjustments totaling \$92,978, as of August 29, 2017, that increased the total budget to \$33,439,715. Ms. Guthrie advised that should the City Council enact these changes, the Operating Budget would become \$33,439,715 as shown on Exhibit "B" and the Resolution would be amended accordingly to meet Council actions.

There being no comments, the Public Hearing was closed.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY VICE MAYOR BUTLER TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. R-27-2017 (SEE ATTACHMENT MARKED EXHIBIT "B") AND TENTATIVELY ADOPT THE OPERATING BUDGET FOR FY 2017/2018 AND TO SET SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M. AS THE FINAL HEARING DATE.

Ms. Judd advised that within the motion, the City Council needed to clarify that they wanted to move forward with Exhibit "B". Vice Mayor Butler agreed.

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 STEVEN R. KELLEY, PAMELA J. LEWIS, B. VAN ROYAL, CONSTANCE W. BUTLER, AND ROY M. TIMBERLAKE, JR., MAYOR. NAYS – NONE.

**3. First Public Hearing on the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2018/2022 and approval of Resolution No. R-28-2017 adopting the Tentative Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2018/2022. *Marlena Guthrie, Danielle J. Judd***

The total proposed Capital Improvement Plan for the City of Green Cove Springs for the Fiscal Year 2018 is \$8,755,215. However, after four (4) subsequent budget meetings that resulted in recommendations for adjustments totaling \$75,000, as of August 29, 2017, in the Utility Fund portion, that increased the total Utility Fund Capital Improvement Plan to \$6,354,000. Should the Council enact the recommendations, the total Capital Improvement Plan would become \$8,830,215. The Resolution would be amended accordingly to meet Council actions.

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

A MOTION WAS MADE BY VICE MAYOR BUTLER TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. R-28-2017 (SEE ATTACHMENT MARKED EXHIBIT "C") AND TENTATIVELY ADOPT THE 5-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018/2022 AND SET SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M. AS THE FINAL HEARING ON THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN.

Ms. Judd again advised that within the motion, the City Council needed to clarify that for the upcoming budget year, they wanted \$8,830,215 to be in the first year CIP which would be appropriated. Vice Mayor Butler agreed.

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 STEVEN R. KELLEY, PAMELA J. LEWIS, B. VAN ROYAL, CONSTANCE W. BUTLER, AND ROY M. TIMBERLAKE, JR., MAYOR. NAYS – NONE.

**4. First Reading on Ordinance No. O-06-2017, an Ordinance extending the Temporary Moratorium as set forth in City Ordinance No. O-16-2016 on the Operation of Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers and Licensed Dispensing Organizations within the City of Green Cove Springs for an Additional Period of Six (6) Months. *L. J. Arnold, III, Janis Fleet***

Mr. Arnold read the title of Ordinance No. O-06-2017 into the record as follows:

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, EXTENDING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE OPERATION OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA TREATMENT CENTER DISPENSING FACILITIES WITHIN THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS FOR AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF SIX (6) MONTHS UNLESS RESCINDED OR EXTENDED BY A SUBSEQUENT ORDINANCE, OR BY A SUBSEQUENT**

**AMENDMENT TO THE CITY'S LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS REGARDING THE REGULATION OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA TREATMENT CENTER DISPENSING FACILITIES; PROVIDING FOR REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, AND SETTING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Mr. Arnold advised this Ordinance would extend the moratorium until May 15, 2018. Ms. Fleet advised that it had been presented to the Planning and Zoning Board.

Mayor Timberlake opened the Public Hearing.

Mayor Timberlake recognized Felecia Hampshire, 508 Franklin Street, Green Cove Springs who requested clarification. Mayor Timberlake summarized that the City had an option to not allow any dispensaries in the City limit or to allow them at a significant number of locations. The Ordinance extended the moratorium from the original Ordinance for an additional six (6) months to give the Legislature time to clarify what they were doing and make other moves from a legislative perspective as the City Council expected them to do. Mr. Arnold concurred.

There being no comments, the Public Hearing was closed.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER KELLEY TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. O-06-2017 ON FIRST READING AS TO FORM ONLY AND SCHEDULE THE SECOND AND FINAL READING FOR SEPTEMBER 19, 2017. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR BUTLER.

In response to Council Member Royal's inquiry, Mr. Arnold noted the difference was that the City Council was sunsetting it for now as opposed to doing a ban which is technically for as long as the law stays in place, until a future council does something different, or until State law changes and preempts it somehow.

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

Ms. Judd advised that Mr. Null would be leaving the meeting to attend a conference call with the Governor regarding Hurricane Irma.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. City Council approval of the amendments to the Park Reservation Application Form.**
- 2. City Council approval of FDEP SRF Disbursement #5 and Mittauer and Associates invoice # 17322 in the amount of \$35,000.00.**
- 3. City Council approval of the 16th Annual Soul Food Festival Co-Sponsorship Request.**

4. **City Council approval of Purchase Order to Maxxim Construction in the amount of \$20,000 to implement City Hall Space Utilization Needs for the Information Technology and Finance Departments.**
5. **City Council approval of expenditure of Equitable Sharing Funds in the amount of \$3,943.12 to procure a 2008 Cadillac Escalade (Seizure from narcotics case).**
6. **City Council approval of the Safety and Education Articulation Agreement (S.A.V.E. Program) between the School Board of Clay County, the City of Green Cove Springs, and the Green Cove Springs Police Department for Fiscal Year 2017-2018.**
7. **City Council approval of the State and Local Task Force Agreement with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for Fiscal Year 2017/2018.**
8. **City Council approval of expenditure of \$4,430 from the Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund for Sergeant Guzman to attend the Florida Leadership Academy sponsored by FDLE and the Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute.**
9. **City Council approval of 201700534 – Review of a Site Development Plan for Office Building for Vallencourt Construction Co. to be located at 115 North Orange Avenue.**
10. **City Council approval of 201700550 – A Revised Site Development Plan for A-1 Stone World Located at 827 Leonard C. Taylor Parkway – Phase II – An Addition of an 11,586 S.F. Building.**
11. **City Council approval of 201700666 a Gateway Corridor and Central Business District Matching Grant Application for Landscape Improvements for the Property located at 520 Orange Avenue North for Ray and Jackie Tomlin.**
12. **City Council review and approval of the Final Plat, the Subdivider’s Agreement, and acceptance of the Performance Bond for Magnolia West – Phase 3.**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY VICE MAYOR BUTLER TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 1 THROUGH 12 AS LISTED ABOVE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROYAL. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES – COUNCIL MEMBERS STEVEN R. KELLEY, PAMELA J. LEWIS, B. VAN ROYAL, CONSTANCE W. BUTLER, AND ROY M. TIMBERLAKE, JR., MAYOR. NAYS – NONE.

### **COUNCIL BUSINESS**

1. **City Council Review of 201700522, a Site Development Plan for Visual FX to be Located at 430 North Orange Avenue. *Janis Fleet***

Discussion ensued with the City Council regarding review of 201700522, a Site Development Plan for Visual FX, to be located at 430 North Orange Avenue as presented by Ms. Fleet.

In response to inquiries from Council Member Lewis and Vice Mayor Butler, Ms. Fleet advised that the requirements for the doors and fencing would minimize the impact to the residents, there were four (4) separate structures that would be renovated, and there would be 57 parking spaces which included 2 handicapped spaces.

Council Member Royal advised he would recuse himself from the vote.

Mayor Timberlake recalled receiving calls and the excitement by the community to see this project come to fruition, and the sentimental value of the property because he bought his first car there.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER KELLEY TO APPROVE 201700522, A SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR VISUAL FX TO BE LOCATED AT 430 NORTH ORANGE AVENUE WITH COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONDITIONS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR BUTLER.

Council Member Lewis commended the owners for working with the City and thought it was going to be beautiful.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES – COUNCIL MEMBERS STEVEN R. KELLEY, PAMELA J. LEWIS, CONSTANCE W. BUTLER, AND ROY M. TIMBERLAKE, JR., MAYOR. NAYS – NONE. RECUSED – B. VAN ROYAL (SEE FORM 8B ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT “D”).

**2. FMPA Report – August 2017. *Bob Page***

Mayor Timberlake thanked Mr. Page for his service as the City’s Liaison. Discussion ensued with the City Council regarding the FMPA Report as presented by Mr. Page.

Mayor Timberlake requested a motion to accept the report as presented.

A MOTION WAS SO MADE BY VICE MAYOR BUTLER. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROYAL. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES – COUNCIL MEMBERS STEVEN R. KELLEY, PAMELA J. LEWIS, B. VAN ROYAL, CONSTANCE W. BUTLER, AND ROY M. TIMBERLAKE, JR., MAYOR. NAYS – NONE.

**3. City Council approval of a request from Sandra Royal, CalaVida, to insert a flyer into the utility bills, and for the City to co-sponsor the CalaVida Arts Festival to be held on October 16–22, 2017. *Kimberly Thomas***

Discussion ensued with the City Council regarding a request from Sandra Royal, CalaVida, to insert a flyer into the utility bills, and for the City to co-sponsor the CalaVida Arts Festival to be held on October 16–22, 2017 as presented by Kimberly Thomas. In addition, Ms. Royal was requesting street closures on Walnut Street and Spring Street, and to serve wine and alcohol in the gated area of the Pool (see Council Business Item No. 4).

Mayor Timberlake recognized Sandra Royal 3688 La Costa Court, Green Cove Springs, who thanked the City Council for their support. She advised that she had moved the City to the Platinum level of sponsorship online. Regarding the flyers, Ms. Thomas advised that she had been able to add the City logo to the flyer. Ms. Royal continued with an overview of the scheduled entertainment.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROYAL TO [APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM SANDRA ROYAL, CALAVIDA, TO INSERT A FLYER INTO THE UTILITY BILLS TO CO-SPONSOR THE UPCOMING CALAVIDA ARTS FESTIVAL TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 16-22, 2017, AT SPECIFIED CITY LOCATIONS, TO CLOSE STREETS, AND TO DETERMINE ALCOHOL IN CITY PARKS]. 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 STEVEN R. KELLEY, PAMELA J. LEWIS, B. VAN ROYAL, CONSTANCE W. BUTLER, AND ROY M. TIMBERLAKE, JR., MAYOR. NAYS – NONE.

**4. Policy decision by City Council regarding sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages within designated zones in Spring Park for certain City Sponsored Special Events. *L. J. Arnold, III, Danielle J. Judd***

Discussion ensued with the City Council regarding a policy decision to be made by the City Council regarding the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages within designated zones in Spring Park for certain City sponsored Special Events as presented by Ms. Judd and Mr. Arnold.

Mayor Timberlake clarified that any future requests would be presented to the City Council for approval. This was not a blanket approval for any special event in any City Park.

The following list of issues presented by Council Member Lewis were also discussed:

- Hours of Operation should be limited from opening to ½ hour before the end of the event;
- Food should be served, sold, and possessed in designated areas;
- Alcohol Liability Insurance and License;
- Compliance with State beverage laws;
- Police should be onsite and have authority to remove or shut down the event.

Council Member Royal believed this should be kept in a specific spot (the ideal spot being the gated pool area), that the pool should not be open, and that a Police Officer should be required to be there while alcohol was being served. The Gala was only scheduled for an hour. This event was open to the public and was by reservation only. He would like to see it only at City sponsored events, only in an area that is secured, for wine and beer only, and that they do require a Police Officer which should be paid for by the applicant.

Council Member Kelley concurred with the Council Members' comments, liked seeing the Park being utilized, and believed the rules and regulations needed to be spelled out.

Vice Mayor Butler expressed her concerns that there was nothing to prevent someone from walking across the street from Ronnie's. It was noted that it was against the law to cross the street with an open container.

Ms. Judd clarified there would be a process so that the guests would show some type of ID to access the Pool Pavilion for the auction and dinner. Council Member Royal further advised that no guest would be allowed to leave the Pool area with an open container to go to the Pool Pavilion upstairs.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROYAL TO

THAT THE COUNCIL DIRECT OUR ATTORNEY TO DRAFT AN ORDINANCE THAT WOULD ALLOW FOR BEER AND WINE TO BE CONSUMED IN A GATED PART OF THE PARK FOR A LIMITED AMOUNT OF TIME AT A CON-SPONSORED EVENT AND THOSE EVENTS WOULD PAY FOR AN OFFICER AND HAVE LIQUOR LIABILITY FOR THAT AND IT WOULD BE CONFINED TO ONLY THAT AREA FOR THE AGREED UPON HOURS THAT THEY COME TO US FOR. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER KELLEY.

Under discussion of the motion, Mr. Arnold requested clarification and intent such that food had to be served, the area would be by invitation only, the sales of tickets for alcoholic beverages would be limited to two (2) per person, and the City Manager would have the authority to terminate sales which could be delegated to a Police Officer. Council Members Royal and Kelley concurred. Ms. Judd further noted that the Park was open from sunrise to sunset which meant that the event would need to end by sunset at 6:48 p.m. For this event only, the Gala started at 6:00 p.m. and would not be over until about 9:00 p.m.

Ms. Judd also asked for clarification regarding the use of the language regarding "sales" suggesting that it be removed from the Ordinance and the caterer be required to provide the license.

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

Ms. Judd noted that the Ordinance would have to be presented for first reading and approved no later than the October 17<sup>th</sup> Agenda.



**5. City Council approval to award the base bid and alternate number 3 for Bid No. 08-17-04, Augusta Savage Arts & Community Center – Library Renovation to CC Borden Construction, the second lowest bid presented to City of Green Cove Springs, in the amount of \$546,321.00. Mike Null, Danielle J. Judd**

Discussion ensued with the City Council regarding the approval to award the base bid and alternate number 3 for Bid No. 08-17-04, Augusta Savage Arts & Community Center – Library to CC Borden Construction, the second lowest bid presented to the City of Green Cove Springs, in the amount of \$546,321 as presented by Ms. Judd. She noted that the lowest bidder had withdrawn their bid after the bids were opened. Mr. Arnold stated this was unusual without some legal basis for doing that. Mr. Wendell Hall, Bhide & Hall, stated there was no Bid Bond required to honor their bid. Mr. Arnold suggested that the City should impose some sort of sanction against this bidder. Ms. Judd stated that, via the City's Purchasing Policies, the City could put them on the "No Reply". She was unfamiliar with the company and noted that the company had withdrawn on August 30<sup>th</sup>. With a \$170,000 difference between the first and second bidders, Mr. Arnold stated he did not want to see the City in litigation over this because in all likelihood, because there was no way they could complete this project for the amount of their bid.

Ms. Judd continued expressing her concerns with the prices, going out again (for bid), and on the impact of construction for this or any future projects given what has happened in Texas (Hurricane Harvey).

Mr. Hall gave an overview of the cost estimates and what happened. He explained that there was a lot of work out there and little interest from subcontractors in bidding for this project. They were baffled and visited with the contractor after the bids were opened for insight as to why the costs were so much higher than originally anticipated.

Council Member Royal expressed his discontent with the bid prices received and a 35% mark-up as compared to other projects in which he was involved. After a delay of a year, he felt the costs received would have been better and not having a stripped-down building at \$235 per square foot.

Council Member Kelley agreed with the sequence of events that led up this point and wondered if value engineering would help save \$100,000. Mr. Hall stated they had already looked at it from that standpoint and taken out everything possible. He no longer felt the City was getting the value for the prices submitted. He would rather wait to get a better value for the City's money.

Council Member Royal stated he would prefer to go back to a "rehab" or "build-out" to complete renovation of the original structure.

Vice Mayor Butler expressed her disappointment. Mr. Hall agreed that it was unfair and he did not have any answers as to why it had come to this.

Mayor Timberlake recognized Felecia Hampshire, 508 Franklin Street, Green Cove Springs, who concurred with Council Member Royal's comments. She expressed her displeasure at the \$150,000 increase, inquired if a steel building might be an option, and hoped that it could be completed before she died.

Mr. Hall explained the high and low pricing differences amongst the bidders. The purpose of a Bid Bond was for a contractor to guarantee his submitted bid and, if not, the contractor would forfeit 5% of his bid as a penalty for submitting and withdrawing. There was no such requirement for a Bid Bond with this project. The agency they dealt with had recognized the problem and excused the contractor and did not require his Bid Bond be forfeited. Mr. Arnold did not feel it was legal for the contractor to withdraw his bid without an explanation.

Mayor Timberlake expressed his discontentment stating that not only was the cost \$150,000 higher, but that the City had relied on and paid Bhide and Hall to get the City an order of magnitude number that did not exist. In addition, one of the contractors participated with Bhide and Hall in giving the City the number. He felt it was unconscionable for that person to work with Bhide and Hall to give a number at \$400,000 and to come back at \$550,000. He would prefer to see the City not work with anyone on this list on a Public Works building or any other project that comes up if they were going to jerk the City around like that. Council Member Royal concurred. Mayor Timberlake stated he preferred not to do business with them if they did not recognize that there would be more business down the road, then the City did not need to do business with them. He admonished Bhide and Hall stating they were paid by the City as their representative and they should have come back with a number on which the City could budget.

He wanted to move forward and see this project done and inquired of the City Manager if any of the following scenarios were possible to bring back to the next Council meeting:

- Go back to the original bid and bidder to see if they want to update their numbers for renovating the existing structure; or
- Another construction approach.

Council Member Royal agreed and inquired about the possibility of allowing City Staff to hire someone to negotiate with one or two people as opposed to going through the bid process. Mr. Arnold stated the City was required to go through the bid process. Mr. Hall countered that the City could hire a contractor for a set fee and he bids the components for the project, and the City selects the bidder or subcontractor for that task. However, he could identify any governmental agency in Clay County that had followed this process. Ms. Judd intervened stating she could not take on this project and would not feel comfortable putting this project on City Staff. Council Member Royal stated he had following this process with Penney Retirement.

Council Member Kelley expressed his disappointment and stated he was committed to completing this project, but inquired if it could be delayed and grouped with another project to possibly get a better value. Mr. Hall suggested combining the renovation of the T. R. Marie Auditorium and the Library Building would result in one (1) less fire wall thus cost savings. Council Member Royal requested to see the bid sheets.

Mr. Null had returned to the meeting and advised that such price increases were the norm now. He believed that the impacts from Hurricane Harvey and the upcoming Hurricane Irma were affecting the pricing from the contractors. In addition, he did not believe, based on the prices and information he had found in reference to the bidder, that the low bidder should have ever submitted such a bid. However, even though the bids were much higher, he felt that the four (4) other bids were competitive amongst themselves based on the current market.

Ms. Judd wanted to make sure the community understood that this project was now unlikely to move for another year. Mayor Timberlake asked Ms. Hampshire to assist with relaying the message to the community that the City Council was unhappy with the bid responses, they were still committed to this project; however, the \$150,000 cost overrun before construction was started was unacceptable.

Mayor Timberlake recognized Felecia Hampshire, 508 Franklin Street, Green Cove Springs, who expressed her concurrence with the possibility of steel buildings as an alternative option. Ms. Judd expressed her desire to stay away from steel buildings for a variety of reasons.

Mayor Timberlake asked for a motion to table this item to the October 3, 2017.

A MOTION WAS SO MADE BY VICE MAYOR BUTLER. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROYAL. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES – COUNCIL MEMBERS STEVEN R. KELLEY, PAMELA J. LEWIS, B. VAN ROYAL, CONSTANCE W. BUTLER, AND ROY M. TIMBERLAKE, JR., MAYOR. NAYS – NONE.

**S.A.1. Hurricane Irma – Emergency Preparations for potential impact from Hurricane Irma and Governor’s Executive Order No. 17-235 dated September 25, 2017.**

Discussion ensued with the City Council regarding an update on Hurricane Irma as presented by Mr. Null and Chief Asdot. Among the tasks being worked on were:

- EOC set up and staffing assignments;
- IT coordination and back-ups;
- Preparations for housing for staff and out-of-state electric crews;
- Contacting out-of-state electric and tree crews;
- County EOC to activate on Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>;

- All State and Government offices in all 67 counties will be closed Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>;
- The Governor signed a Pre-Landfall to include waiving tolls and hours of services on state to accommodate the service and supply trucks to come into the state;
- Reports of shortages of water, food supplies, and gas; the County should report these to the State EOC as there should not be any shortages
- Looking for impacts to start late Saturday or early Sunday
- Obtained access to Charles E. Bennett Elementary and Green Cove Springs Junior High for sleeping quarters;
- Everything (correspondence) ready for FEMA reimbursement purposes;
- Daily EOC conference calls start on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>;
- Goal is to have hourly updates and communications from the County EOC and the City EOC be posted to the City and Police Department Facebook and Twitter accounts to minimize calls coming in to Dispatch; a message would be posted on the City and Police Department websites directing the community to Facebook and Twitter for real time updates;
- The Art Gala Fundraiser for the 2017 Trunk or Treat has been postponed due to the evacuation of South Florida; and
- Make sure all Staff has a plan for their families.

Ms. Judd requested the City Council authorize the adoption of a Resolution for signature by the Mayor at the appropriate time (Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>) for a Declaration of a State of Local Emergency.

AN EMERGENCY MOTION WAS SO MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROYAL. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR BUTLER. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES – COUNCIL MEMBERS STEVEN R. KELLEY, B. VAN ROYAL, CONSTANCE W. BUTLER, AND ROY M. TIMBERLAKE, JR., MAYOR. NAYS – NONE.

Clerk's Note: Council Member Lewis had terminated her phone call at 9:27 p.m.

**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.

Mr. Arnold advised the City Council of the passing of Bill Williams, a former Planning and Zoning Member.

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

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

**Adjournment.**

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

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Roy M. Timberlake, Jr., Mayor

Attest:

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Julia W. Clevinger, City Clerk