



# CITY OF HOLLY HILL, FLORIDA

## CITY COMMISSION

MINUTES • APRIL 28, 2020

City Commission Chamber

Regular City Commission Meeting

7:00 PM

CITY HALL  
1065 RIDGEWOOD AVENUE  
HOLLY HILL, FL 32117

City Clerk's office: (386) 248-9441 - Fax: (386) 248-9448

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

#### a. Roll Call

| Attendee Name | Title                     | Status  | Arrived |
|---------------|---------------------------|---------|---------|
| Chris Via     | Mayor                     | Present |         |
| John Penny    | District 1 - Commissioner | Present |         |
| Penny Currie  | District 2 - Commissioner | Present |         |
| John C. Danio | District 3 - Commissioner | Present |         |
| Roy Johnson   | District 4 - Commissioner | Present |         |

#### b. Invocation by City Commissioner Roy Johnson

#### c. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Via led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

**No one spoke.**

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

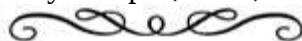
#### 1.

Minutes - April 14, 2020 Regular City Commission and CRA Meeting

(Requested by Valerie Manning, City Clerk)

|                  |                                          |
|------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>              |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Roy Johnson, District 4 - Commissioner   |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | John C. Danio, District 3 - Commissioner |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Via, Penny, Currie, Danio, Johnson       |

Enacted and approved this 28th day of April, 2020, in Holly Hill



### 4. CONSENT AGENDA - ITEM ( 1 )

**Mayor Via opened public participation. No one spoke.**

#### 1. -2020-R-18 Resolution

A Resolution of the City of Holly Hill, Florida, Acknowledging that the City of Holly Hill is Operating Under the County of Volusia's Declaration of State of Local Emergency, Including All Extensions, Related to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in Coordination with the Emergency Declarations of the Office of the Governor for the State of Florida and the President of the United States of America to Safeguard the Lives and Property of Its Residents; and Providing for an Effective Date.

(Requested by Valerie Manning, City Clerk)

|                  |                                         |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>              |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | John Penny, District 1 - Commissioner   |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Penny Currie, District 2 - Commissioner |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Via, Penny, Currie, Danio, Johnson      |

### RESOLUTION

2020-R-18

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HOLLY HILL, FLORIDA, ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE CITY OF HOLLY HILL IS OPERATING UNDER THE COUNTY OF VOLUSIA'S DECLARATION OF STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY, INCLUDING ALL EXTENSIONS, RELATED TO THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) IN COORDINATION WITH THE EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO SAFEGUARD THE LIVES AND PROPERTY OF ITS RESIDENTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HOLLY HILL, FLORIDA, ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE CITY OF HOLLY HILL IS OPERATING UNDER THE COUNTY OF VOLUSIA'S DECLARATION OF STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY, INCLUDING ALL EXTENSIONS, RELATED TO THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) IN COORDINATION WITH THE EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO SAFEGUARD THE LIVES AND PROPERTY OF ITS RESIDENTS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Office of the Governor for the State of Florida signed Executive Order Number 20-52 declaring a state of emergency in response to the threat of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) on March 9, 2020, a copy of which has been attached to this Resolution as Appendix A and hereby incorporated; and

**WHEREAS**, the President of the United States of America signed Proclamation 9994 declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak on March 13, 2020, a copy of which has been attached to this Resolution as Appendix B and hereby incorporated; and

**WHEREAS**, the Volusia County Council signed a Declaration of State of Local Emergency Related to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID 19) on March 13, 2020 with subsequent extensions, a copy of which has been attached to this Resolution as Appendix C and hereby incorporated; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 252.38(l)(c) of the Florida Statutes states that counties shall serve as liaison and coordinator of municipalities' requests for state and federal assistance during post-disaster emergency operations; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 252.38(2) of the Florida Statutes provides that if a municipality does not have a formal emergency management plan adopted pursuant to Florida Statute Chapter 252, the municipality is served by the county's emergency management agency and plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Holly Hill does not have an emergency management plan adopted pursuant to Florida Statute Chapter 252 in regards to the COVID-19 virus threat; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Volusia has encouraged all municipalities residing within their jurisdiction to be governed by their emergency management programs to provide a more coordinated response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Holly Hill believes a county-wide coordinated response under the direction of the Office of the Governor for the State of Florida is the most effective way to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus regionally.

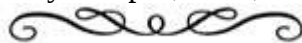
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HOLLY HILL, FLORIDA:**

**SECTION 1.** The City Commission of the City of Holly Hill, Florida, hereby acknowledges that the City of Holly Hill is operating under the County of Volusia's Declaration of State of Local Emergency Related to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), including all subsequent extensions, in coordination with the emergency declarations of the Office of the Governor for the State of Florida and the President of the United States of America.

**SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

**APPROVED AND AUTHENTICATED on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of APRIL, 2020.**

Enacted and approved this 28th day of April, 2020, in Holly Hill



## **5. REGULAR AGENDA**

### **1. -2020-R-19 Resolution**

A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Holly Hill, Florida, Approving the Proposed FY 2020-2021 CDBG Annual Plan Application and Authorizing the City

Manager to Submit the Approved Annual Plan to Volusia County Community Assistance; and Providing for Severability; and Providing for an Effective Date.

(Requested by Antoine Khoury, Public Works)

**Mayor Via opened public participation. No one spoke.**

|                  |                                          |
|------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>               |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | John Penny, District 1 - Commissioner    |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | John C. Danio, District 3 - Commissioner |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Via, Penny, Currie, Danio, Johnson       |

## **RESOLUTION**

**2020-R-19**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HOLLY HILL, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE PROPOSED FY 2020-2021 CDBG ANNUAL PLAN APPLICATION AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT THE APPROVED ANNUAL PLAN TO VOLUSIA COUNTY COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HOLLY HILL, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE PROPOSED FY 2020-2021 CDBG ANNUAL PLAN APPLICATION AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT THE APPROVED ANNUAL PLAN TO VOLUSIA COUNTY COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant program, through Volusia County Community Assistance, has notified the City of Holly Hill of an anticipated award of \$100,119 for fiscal year 2020-2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has identified the refurbishment of Lift Station #17B for funding through this project; and

**WHEREAS**, the City desires to submit its annual plan proposal to Volusia County Community Assistance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HOLLY HILL, FLORIDA:**

**SECTION 1.** That the proposed plan is hereby approved to be submitted as part of the fiscal year 2020-2021 CDBG Annual Plan.

**SECTION 2.** That the City Manager is authorized to execute and submit the 2020-2021 CDBG Annual Plan proposal.

**SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.** If any section or portion of a section of this Resolution proves to be invalid, unlawful, or unconstitutional, it shall not be held to invalidate or impair the validity, force, or effect of any other section or part of this Resolution.

**SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

**APPROVED AND AUTHENTICATED on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of APRIL, 2020.**

Enacted and approved this 28th day of April, 2020, in Holly Hill



2.

Request for Lien Reduction - 904 Daytona Avenue

(Requested by Joseph Forte, City Manager)

Attorney Simpson spoke to the Mayor and City Commissioners about the lien reduction for 904 Daytona Avenue.

**Mayor Via opened public participation.**

Russell Dixon, 904 Daytona Avenue, owner of property requesting lien reduction.

**Mayor Via closed public participation.**

*Commissioner Johnson made a motion to **RELEASE THE LIEN AT NO COST TO THE BUYER**, seconded by Commissioner Currie.*

**PASSED, 5-0.**

|                  |                                         |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>             |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Roy Johnson, District 4 - Commissioner  |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Penny Currie, District 2 - Commissioner |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Via, Penny, Currie, Danio, Johnson      |

Enacted and approved this 28th day of April, 2020, in Holly Hill



**6. PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE**

**7. COMMUNICATIONS**

A. City Manager & Staff Comments

Mr. Forte stated a couple of things he wants to update the Commissioners on and get some feedback on. The Mayor is on the weekly calls with the Mayors and he's on the weekly calls with the Managers and we're a little bit aware of the process as we are moving forward in reopening the State of Florida and specifically with Volusia County and its cities and getting back to some degree of normalcy. As we move forward, I just wanted to let the Commissioners know that when that time comes, we're going to

continue to maintain social distancing in City Hall and they will probably see six feet markings on the floor to allow people to wait in the hallway before they pay their utility bill. The city is going to try and maintain that as much as possible and will continue to wipe down areas where the public comes in and limit where the public comes in the building like we did the first time. We will have them come up the elevators and come down the hall to get to the Utility Billing Department and limited access into the Building and Zoning Department. We are going to slowly open up the rentals at Sica Hall. He's pushed everything out to two weeks. So, every day their two weeks from opening. When they do get that go-ahead, it's not going to be tomorrow, it will be a week or two out when we start to open things back up again and even at Sica Hall, we will probably end up limiting that participation to small groups again like when they closed it down until it opens up completely. The last thing he wants to talk about and he and the Mayor have spoken a little bit about this, is with regards to the utility bills and where the city is with them. At what point, right now the city is still charging late fees and penalty fees, except for those people who contact the city and they've filled out a hardship letter basically indicating that perhaps they lost their job, they're unemployed, there is some other hardship in their family, maybe someone is sick, that the city is waiving their late fees and penalty fees but for the most part, all those are still in place. As the city goes into the next month, and this is the month, April, when most people have been laid off or furloughed and they got their last paycheck and they may have been able to pay their bill or they may not have been able to pay their bill, hopefully they got a stimulus check. His concern is, the next month. That's going to be an even more critical month. They have to figure out what they want to do moving forward because at some point turnoff's come back into the picture, delinquent accounts come back into the picture. He wanted to get the Commissioners input on how they would like staff to start to proceed. Do they continue doing what they're doing or does the Commissioners want to do something different. He wants to leave it as an open conversation and maybe they can reach a conclusion at the end.

Mayor Via stated he had it in his notes to bring it up tonight. He's received a lot of questions and complaints about what the city is or maybe isn't doing. There's a lot of misinformation out there. A lot of people aren't quite sure. They have all sixteen municipalities as much as the Managers and the Mayors are trying to keep continuity, they get a rogue Commission, maybe to the south of Holly Hill, who wants to stand out and do their own agenda, which is fine. They have to serve their own people. There's a lot of people that aren't sure of what's going on. One topic that's come up over and over, he's sure all of the Commissioners are hearing it, is about late fees. Why is the city still charging late fees? And of course, we know why we're charging late fees but Mr. Forte and himself have had many conversations about this and tonight he wants to see if, where the Commission really wanted to stand on it. He spoke to Mr. Forte and the Finance Director today and had them pull some numbers for the Commission so they can kind of see where we are. It looks like the total monthly average revenues from their utilities are \$685,000 a month and you have penalty fees averaging about \$20,000 a month then they have the utility accounts receivable in March, which is really interesting, just in this past March, was up \$30,000 or 6% of what they expected to bring in revenue wise and maybe that's because more people are home, they're using more dishes, they're putting the

dishwashers through the cycles. He is not sure what exactly why that is but what it comes down to is penalty fees are averaging about \$20,000 a month. They know that there's a lot of people out there that are out of work, they know that a lot of people received, hopefully, their stimulus check, which hopefully got them through to make some of those bills but as Mr. Forte alluded to, he thinks that May is really going to be the tough month for people. Maybe they got laid off at the end of March and they had a little bit of something to get them through April and maybe they're having a hard time now. He would certainly be opened to, and he would like to have a discussion, considering waiving the late fees for one month; for the month of May. He just wants to see where the Commission was. He is open to ideas. Mr. Forte and himself talked about another idea of the potential of maybe going retroactive and looking at last month in who was late and then giving them a credit the next month or this next bill, that way they don't have people, maybe, abusing the system by saying, "oh, well, if I'm not going to have a late fee, I may as well wait a couple of weeks to pay this." The city doesn't want that happening and they don't want people taking advantage of the system. At the same time, he thinks that it would give some families that added bit of comfort where if they lost their job, they're not going to face a \$20 fee or whatever the fee is going to be, if they can't pay it for at least a couple of more weeks.

Commissioner Penny stated he fully supports Mayor Via's idea of waiving the late fees for the month of May. He's not really interested in going back and crediting...he thinks it's going to be an accounting nightmare. Staff does have the ability, if someone has problems paying right now, to do a case-by-case/one-on-one. He doesn't think anyone is going to pay their water bill two weeks late if they have the money just to get away with \$20. He does support waiving all late fees for the month of May.

Mr. Forte stated they can do that moving forward. He spoke to one of the city's south of Holly Hill, not directly south of Holly Hill and they're in the same position that Holly Hill is in. They're very similar to us. They're doing the same thing that Holly Hill is and they were kind of delaying to offer a credit later. Possibly in June. He thinks that could be a little problematic in going back and issuing credits if it's a flat credit to everyone or if it's a credit to the only ones who are late. He thinks there are more problems with that. He would also mention the concern of the, sometimes you get the theory of "what have you done for me lately" and if they do something now, in a month, they're going to say now you have to do something else. So, they have to be careful of that. If they do this, he still wants to promote it and encourage people to pay their bill. If you can't pay your bill in full, pay what you can. Because what happens in June, if they don't pay their May bill, when the late fees come back on, it catches up. The late fee is based on the value and if they didn't pay for May and now they're late with June, well, instead of paying the late fee in May and June, they're going to pay a double fee in June because it goes on their balance. He wants people to try and pay as best as they can. He will need the Commissioners to take action and let him know how they would like to handle that and then do they do it silently? Do they put it on Facebook? Or do they just don't charge the late fees and they just don't do it and then that's it. He doesn't want to be promoting it and encouraging people to not pay for, like Commissioner Penny said, you might have some people that do that, hopefully you don't but it's possible that they will get people that say, "well, when you're robbing Peter to pay Paul, I'll let my \$100 water bill go

because I won't get a penalty and I'll try to catch up next month", and then that compounds. They don't want to encourage people to not pay it but they want to be able to support those that can't afford to pay it and give them that credit.

Commissioner Currie agreed to supporting waiving the late fees for May and she likes the hardship letter for April.

Mr. Forte stated and they haven't had a lot of requests for the hardship letter.

Commissioner Currie stated and let's say somebody didn't pay April, they had a hardship and they filled out the letter, the city is giving them May late fee, let's say they don't pay April and May, that is due in full in June, correct?

Mr. Forte stated, which is his next question. Is when do they do cutoffs?

Commissioner Penny asked doesn't the Finance Department have the ability to work with someone when they get a big bill? Like, if their kid left a tap on and 20,000 gallons...

Mr. Forte stated, sure. They can put people on payment plans.

Commissioner Currie stated that's what she was going to ask. Can't the city, at some point, if people have had a hardship over April and May, especially, couldn't the city just...

Mr. Forte stated they can take...

Commissioner Currie stated some kind of a hardship and make payments?

Mr. Forte stated they can, as an example, if somebody doesn't pay April and May, their June bill, they will contact the city and let staff know they are having a hard time financially, they understand they have an obligation, what the city can do is smooth that bill out over three months. Their June bill would be a regular bill and their July and August bills would be double bills. It would be July and April and it will be August and May. It's equivalent to a double bill. That's the point that he needs people to understand. The city can't smooth them out for six months.

Commissioner Currie stated no, she's talking about for three months.

Mr. Forte stated if they did it for three months, they're delinquent to, they would pay a 1 and 2/3 bill.

Commissioner Currie stated, right.

Mr. Forte stated if they pay June timely.

Commissioner Currie stated she thinks it would make it easier for people. The Commission has said up here many times, a lot of their citizens have a really difficult time living paycheck to paycheck and she's just trying to look out for that end as well, Mayor, when they go back in. She thinks cutting the bill up, if it's April or May, whatever it ends up being, slice it times the three months and let staff put that on top of the other bill.

Mr. Forte stated now remember, nothing here is automatic. This is all labor intense,

manually done by staff.

Commissioner Currie asked how hard would that be?

Mr. Forte stated every customer that contacts the city, now the Commission has to remember, these bills go out in certain time periods and the calls are going to come in, in volumes, if everybody wants to do this, and there's going to be a busy signal. There's going to be a lot of busy signals because he doesn't have that many people in the billing department to do it. The employee has to go into the account and record and issue that bill out, manually put it in. The system doesn't do it. The employee has to manually go into everyone's account. Now, it all depends on how many people call.

Commissioner Currie stated that's what she was going to ask. Right now, do they have any idea, right now...

Mayor Via asked how many hardships have applied?

Mr. Forte stated not a lot of hardship letters have come in but he spoke with the ladies in the billing department behind the glass today and they said every other or every third phone call is someone complaining in that Holly Hill is not doing the same thing that Daytona did.

Mayor Via stated, right.

Mr. Forte stated so there is a large number of calls coming in about that.

Commissioner Currie stated, well, we're definitely not Daytona and we can't do the same thing.

Mayor Via stated Holly Hill doesn't over charge for the water.

Commissioner Penny stated one thing, Mr. Forte, that hopefully, he can communicate back to the Finance Department, when they are getting those calls, encourage the resident to pay whatever they can towards that bill to prevent that double bill.

Mr. Forte stated he may actually write a script for them.

Mayor Via stated that's what he was going to say, definitely. But then also, another script at least coaching to where when the city does get into June, and some is desperate, they have to be told, "the city is going to work with you." Because what he has heard is people calling and saying they can't pay this and they weren't told about the hardship letter. If the residents aren't being told about the hardship letters then what the city was trying to do, doesn't work.

Mr. Forte stated, right. There is going to be some coaching that's involved. He may do a letter. Remember, the folks that are behind the glass feel that they have limited flexibility in what they can do.

Commissioner Currie stated if they know that a hardship letter is available, they can just present the letter and tell them to turn it in.

Mr. Forte stated, right.

Commissioner Currie stated she likes the idea of waiving the late fees for May, hardship April, and then the three payment process.

Commissioner Penny stated a double bill sounds cumbersome but he knows the unemployment system and the stimulus system, it's overwhelmed right now. Hopefully, when they get to that double bill period, we're talking 60 days from now, 45 days from now, hopefully they would have received some assistance through unemployment or they're back to work with their employer, they might have the PPE which would put them back to work tomorrow. There's a lot of things that are trickling in, not as fast if you haven't gotten it, but he thinks over the next 45 days some of the fears may be calmed financially.

Mayor Via agreed. He thinks there's more people that will take advantage of this that actually need it, not necessarily looking for a hand out, but maybe they were a waitress a two different places, now they really can't work but come June, they're going to be opened back up and they're going to be working.

Commissioner Currie stated but it's still going to take them some time.

Mayor Via stated it is; of course it is.

Mr. Forte stated and he does want to have the ladies in billing tell the customers, at the time of that phone call, as they're going through this process, that a cutoff is inevitable come the end of June if they can't make their payments. He wants the customers to know that, on that phone call, that the relationship is no late payment for May, which means now you'll have a double bill in June, if you can do that, and if not, we'll smooth you out for three months, but if you miss a bill, you're going to get cutoff.

Mayor Via stated, yes. There are consequences.

Mr. Forte stated he wants the ladies to be able to...so the Commissioners may get phone calls from people that are going to say, "well, they told me I have to pay this or I'm going to get cut off", yes.

Mayor Via stated and at the end of the day, we can only help so much. We can't give away free water.

Commissioner Currie stated splitting it up for somebody that's just getting their job back...

Mr. Forte stated the city has a high turnoff already in this city because the city has a lot of rental properties.

Commissioner Currie stated and she knows when she was younger, we were younger, to have that option would have helped out tremendously. She's looking out for the people that are living paycheck to paycheck and right now, they're not getting one.

Commissioner Danio stated he's okay with it too but he thinks we should keep it under the radar. He doesn't think they should promote it.

Mr. Forte stated the city is just going to do it. We're not going to announce it on Facebook, we're not going to announce it to the media.

Mayor Via stated well, what he could say, because he came in thinking the same way Commissioner Danio, but what Vice-Mayor Penny said, is really true, that I don't think that someone is going to necessarily, for instance himself, I've always been pretty much on time, maybe late once or twice, I'm not going to wait an extra two weeks. He thinks what Commissioner Penny said had a lot of validity, for a small little fee, I'm not going to try and hold off for two weeks just because of that. But if may benefit people who are like, "I have exactly this much money and it's between keeping my water on or purchasing this food or whatever have you", and for that decision would be, "okay, I can wait two weeks to pay that."

Commissioner Penny stated maybe put it on social media once or twice but not every day.

Mr. Forte stated if you put it on social media, the News-Journal is going to run it.

Commissioner Penny asked is anyone not going to pay their bill to stick it to the city for a \$20 late fee that really isn't money anyway? Because they're going to pay it on time next month.

Mr. Forte stated it's not the late fees he's concerned about. Like he said, they have a very high rental community and it's not unusual that a renter doesn't pay the last couple of utility bills before they don't pay the last month's rent before the leave.

Commissioner Penny stated the city doesn't ever get that money anyways. They write-off hundreds of thousands of dollars every year for that.

Mr. Forte stated and that's what he is trying to avoid is "adding" to that.

Mayor Via stated they're talking about one month.

Mr. Forte stated no, it's three months. We pay our bills in arrears.

Commissioner Currie stated if she may, at some point, they have to take a step back and realistically look at the demographics of their city, they're going to need that. She thinks a majority of, that are going to use the late fee waiver, they're going to need to break up whatever payment they have that they're behind. She thinks it will be helpful.

Mr. Forte stated he thinks paying something.

Commissioner Currie stated she thinks they need to encourage them to pay something, absolutely.

Mr. Forte stated that's what he's saying. Is to pay something. If they pay \$20, that's something.

Commissioner Currie stated but she wants people to know, as well, that's available to them. She thinks the city is doing a disservice if they don't let the residents know that this is available to them.

Mayor Via agreed.

Commissioner Currie stated because most people aren't going to call up and ask.

Mayor Via stated, right. And if they do call and ask, staff needs to be able to tell them.

Commissioner Currie stated, absolutely.

Commissioner Johnson stated he doesn't have a problem with any of it whatsoever because right now a lot of people are struggling, a lot of people are not getting a paycheck, they can't work. He's fortunate enough to be able to still go out and work because he mostly works alone. He's sure that's a lot of stress. They're going through the stress of having to stay home and having to do without this, that or the other. Why add to it. If it's not a necessity for the city to get it, he means, it's really a bind for the residents to pay it. So, he's all for giving them a break on it.

Mayor Via told Mr. Forte that he has consensus from the Commission. He knows that Mr. Forte has the authority to do this.

Mr. Forte stated yes, he knew he had the authority to do it but he wanted the Commission's input to get there.

Mayor Via stated thank you because it's a major decision.

---

Mr. Forte informed the Mayor and Commissioners that they will be having a Board of Planning and Appeals meeting on May 4, 2020. There are three items that are on that agenda. Mr. Walker and himself talked a little about getting some feedback from BOPA about the zoning on the property on Riverside Drive. Once we get a little bit of the BOPA's feedback, depending on what direction they want to go in, or make a recommendation to go in, Mr. Walker and himself will determine what they bring back to the Commission. They didn't want to go with a straight forward rezoning land use change because that's expensive and timely. The BOPA may recommend just a lot restriction on the existing zoning. Mr. Walker and himself will get some feedback from the BOPA and then they will report that information to the Commissioners.

Mayor Via asked if it's just a discussion item?

Mr. Forte stated right now it's a discussion item.

B. City Attorney Comments

None.

C. City Commission Comments

Commissioner Danio stated people are doing real well, at least in his business, everyone is the CDC guidelines and he's just hoping and praying that the State doesn't jump the gun on this thing because everybody's chomping at the bit to get back out, the Governor's under a lot of strain and everybody's under a lot of stress, and everything else. The worst thing could happen, especially, when you looked at Sunday's paper, they had a picture of the Spanish Flu and 1917 and they had two kids in a mask in black and white pictures, if they saw it in Sunday's News-Journal, it was 100 year old. It was the same thing except it was in black and white and it had these little kids wearing masks and they were from 1918 and the article talked about how it came back twice after. He just

started thinking, boy, I hope we don't jeopardize all the work that has been done so far, that's all.

Mayor Via opened public participation at this time for anyone who may be listening to the meeting and would like to call in. ***There was no one that called.***

Mayor Via wanted to say something to Commissioner Johnson's point that he made him think of, Mr. Forte and himself had this conversation today and we have all this momentum here in the city, moving forward, great things are happening and then this pandemic hits and Mr. Forte and himself talked today about the mountain that the Commission is going to face this budget session because we're going to see that their revenues are going to be extremely far down. It's going to be a tough budget session and he thinks they should all know that going into it with open eyes. Mr. Forte, I don't know if you want to share what you said to your Department Heads.

Mr. Forte stated in preparing for the mid-year budget adjustments that they do each year, he's asked the departments to look at both a 10% and 15% reduction to their operations budget. Some of them are going to be difficult to get to because we're already halfway through the year; not the total budget but the balance of what's in their budget, to try and look for 10% or 15% reductions. He did it in his area, he did it in the Commissioners area.

Mayor Via stated so, no shirts.

Mr. Forte stated the shirts are still in there but no conference, which is probably going to be cancelled anyway. Some of the discussions are...it's very reminiscing to 2009-2010; it was a tough time. He was in Seminole County, he had just left here. It was a tough time in Seminole County, he's sure it was a tough time here; 20% of the employees were laid off during that time in most governments. Mr. Forte stated we're looking at, potentially, 25% to 30% loss revenues next year. That's only half of the scary part. The other scary part is not knowing what happens with the values of homes and what the Property Appraiser is going to do. If values of homes decrease, we'll feel that the following year. We're a year behind on revenues. We put a hold on everything. The fountain out front, it's still a dirty fountain but it may be an empty fountain. We spend too much time maintaining it so it may just be an empty fountain. They had something similar to that in Sanford. There was a building that the engineers designed it and it was on a bit of an angle and the bottom of the first floor was a big water fountain. They had a building on an angle and then it had this other sheet of glass in front of it. So the theory was, when the fountain worked, evaporation would go up between the two panes of glass and cool the building, well, it's now a garden. That might be the nicest round garden they have in front of City Hall because the fountain is a lot of work with the labor that's put into it. Staff cut a lot of things out of the budget moving forward. Things that were already in process they are continuing with because they've already been ordered. Enterprise Fund items are still moving forward. In other words, water and waste water plant operations, their Capital Projects are still moving forward because they're funded differently. It's primarily the General Fund. He put a hold on not hiring the Economic Development Director's position even though that's a CRA funded position, he put a hold on the Code Enforcement position which is vacant.

Mayor Via asked if there are any openings in Finance right now?

Mr. Forte stated no, the Finance Department is fully staffed. There's a position in the Fire Department that's vacant but we are seeking to fill that but there is some lapse salary in there to make up a little bit but overtime cost kind of cut into that when they have to back fill. Going into this mid-year budget, the Commission is going to see some cuts and preparing for next year's budget they're going to see even more reductions. It's going to be a tough budget year.

Commissioner Johnson stated and one month from now starts storm season. We better be ready for a bad one again because we've already had a sample across the country as to how some of these storms are going to be. We have to take that into consideration as well.

Mr. Forte informed the Commissioners that staff did update the Emergency Management Plan last week and they are preparing for that and staff has had its conversations about hurricane preparedness as well. Lastly, about the website being down. Two things. One is the website was never really down. They did have an employee telling people the website was down and it's not. What they had was when they changed the way, remember the city isn't charging the credit card fee, so the credit card provider, changed the link on the city's website and some people had the old link still stored in their computers. Instead of clicking on the new link, that ran them into that problem. Staff is pumping out the new link so that people know to go to the website to click on it, rather than having it stored.

D. Mayor's Comments

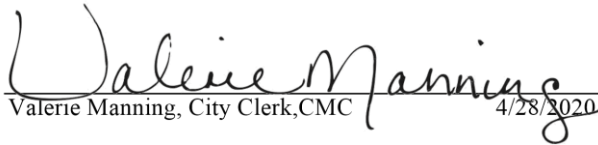
Mayor Via stated he wanted to bring up a couple of good things going on in the community. There's a lot of people stepping up and doing a lot of good. He received a phone call a few days before the event asking if this organization could use City Hall as a Food Drop resource to give out food as a food bank and that was through Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida; we want to give them a lot of thanks, Calvary Christian Center and the Dream Team Center that put that together and also, Heroes Hope Network who reached out to the city, WAPN here in Holly Hill helped to promote that as well, and he wants to thank Mr. Forte for allowing that to happen and welcoming them with open arms and coordinating that, he wants to thank Commissioner Currie who was here to help out and volunteer, he appreciates her being there for that. Good stuff; 442 families served, over 1,553 meals. That's a lot of food. There are good things going on in the community. Someone else he wanted to shine a light on is a lady named Elizabeth Bell and her husband, Ron Bell. The Commissioners may have received the email that they reached out to City Hall and asked how many employees does the city have because they bought gift cards for them all to *Mi Hogar* here in Holly Hill for them to purchase a lunch. They wanted to do that because they said our employees are still fighting to keep the city going and working very hard. That was really kind of them. These are people, like he talked about before, the Hometown Heroes, these are people that the city is going to have to recognize because they stepped up without looking for recognition, just out of the goodness of their heart. Previously, before that, they had spent thousands of dollars giving gift cards to first responders, nurses and doctors on the front line. They are really good people. The Mayors weekly call, every Thursday that he's on, which is why he couldn't be at the food drop to volunteer, the only real thing he wanted to bring up, is that

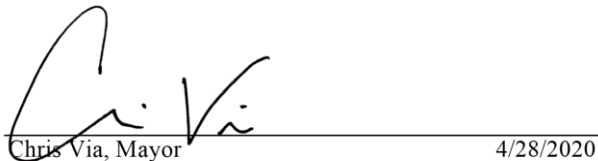
there are a lot of Seniors graduating this year that kind of had their Senior year ripped from them, as the Commissioners have probably all seen on Facebook, there's an ***Adopt A Senior***, which is really neat. Some of the cities are looking to possibly put together something to honor their Seniors and maybe making banners and putting their names on it. A couple of Mayors threw out the idea of putting their faces on it but the bigger cities, like DeLand, apparently has 400 or 500 graduation Seniors so that's not going to happen there. He has no clue how many Seniors Holly Hill would have but he would assume it's a lot less than most others because we're smaller in size. He doesn't know if any of the Commissioners have any ideas to honor Seniors. Even if it was just a social media feel good thing, he thinks it would be appreciated. Maybe the Commissioners can think on that.

Mr. Forte stated maybe they can put something on the digital sign that says "Congratulations to our Holly Hill Graduates" and put their names on their and let the names run for a couple of days or a week and get them some recognition and it doesn't cost the city anything. He will see if he can get a head count.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.

  
Valerie Manning, City Clerk, CMC 4/28/2020

  
Chris Via, Mayor 4/28/2020