CITY OF HOLLY HILL, FLORIDA

CITY COMMISSION

MINUTES ● MAY 26, 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 John Penny
c. Pledge of Allegiance
Mayor Via led the Pledge of the Allegiance to the flag.

2. PRESENTATION

1.

FY 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Presentation Presented by Thomas Ford, BMC, CPAs.

(Requested by Stella Gurnee, Finance)
By teleconference call, Thomas Ford from BMC, CPA's city auditor went through the PowerPoint presentation of the FY2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report with the Mayor, Commissioners and staff.

RESULT: **NO VOTE NEEDED**

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals spoke to the Mayor and Commissioners: Joseph Mentees(?), Holly Hill (representing Circus Bar II, 1700 Ridgewood Avenue, Holly Hill) shared his concerns about the bar not being able to reopen and asked if the Mayor and Commissioners can send a letter or something to Governor DeSantis; Suzanne Wild, Ormond Beach, shared her concerns about the bar and bars not being able to reopen and would like to ask if the city can

do something to help; Gina Robino, Ormond Beach (owner and family operated of Chris' Lounge in Holly Hill), would like the city's support to reopen their business and other bar businesses; Rudy Selmani, (owner of Rudy's Bar & Grill in Holly Hill), mentioned they have been partially opened during the crisis serving mainly food; believes the bars should be opened and not closed; mentioned the protest that was in Holly Hill for the bars to reopen and people in Holly Hill want their lives back and the bars support that and is asking for the city's support.

Mayor Via stated he was going to take this time now, since obviously, this is why most people are here tonight, to explain that we here as a City Commission cannot open up the bars, meaning that the Governor's Executive Order is what governs the day here and so, the city has to follow it. Staff has done their job following the Governor's Order. This is in the hands of the Governor. The city can't choose to disobey it. State Law or an Executive Order just by choice of this Commission. He wants to make that clear first and foremost. He's talked to a couple of the people here tonight throughout the weekend and he has heard their concerns. He has heard from many, many people from bar owners to patrons to their bartenders. A lot of people that are in a lot of pain. He has always stood for limited government, get government out of the way, and let competition actually compete out there. The problem that he had with the Executive Order, currently, is the fact that we are, essentially, government as a whole, choosing winners and losers and that's where he has the problem with it. He received a phone call from a rather prominent Veteran, a Marine recently, and he explained to him how hard and difficult this time has been for him. This man, he served his country honorably and suffers from PTSD and he goes to a local bar almost every day. He said most days he doesn't even drink alcohol, he'll drink soda. He'll be there for three or four hours with his "family", with his "friends", a coping mechanism through socialization. Mayor Via stated when he heard that, he heard how tough of a time and how bad his depression has gotten throughout this time, it actually affected him; it ticked him off. That government is telling people, especially our Veterans, that they cannot go and take personal responsibility and to do that. Meanwhile, they're not just saying everybody has to be shut down, that's one thing, but they're allowing restaurants to be open and actually serve people, serve patrons as if they were a bar. So, that's where he was over the weekend. He penned a letter and gave each of the Commissioners a copy of it tonight and he wants to read this into record and he wants to send this to Governor Ron DeSantis and he's asking him to reopen the bars. The reason he is reading it here tonight is he's asking if this Commission would support this letter because the opening line says, "On behalf of the City of Holly Hill…". Now, he understands and he's not going to twist anybody's arms up here, if anyone has an issue with any of this then he can just write it on behalf of himself as an elected official but not on behalf of the city.

It was okay with the Mayor to have the Commission help make some changes to the letter as he read it into the record. Mayor Via informed the Commission that this was the first draft and he know there will be some additional changes that he will make. (*draft letter is below*)

"On behalf of the City of Holly Hill and the greater business community, I write to you today to respectfully request that you allow for a pathway for bars to reopen here in the State of Florida and communicated as soon as possible.

Many of these establishments do much good throughout our community by supporting events that raise money for law enforcement, purchase Christmas gifts for kids, and supporting several Veterans organizations, initiatives, and individuals. These hard working business owners and their employees are left suffering economically through these trying times while others in the service industry are getting back to work.

As I'm sure you have, I have received numerous calls and emails from business owners and patrons calling for the reopening of our local bars. One phone call I received was from a prominent Marine Veteran who suffers from PTSD. He plead that we allow bars to reopen, as frequenting these establishments was his way of coping with his disorder through socialization. He explained that he doesn't have any family, and his fellow patrons are like family to him. This is one story from one City, but there are many similar stories across the State.

Governor, you have done a wonderful job of leading us through this pandemic, and now we need to allow hardworking business owners and their employees the opportunity to reopen and capture their idea of the American Dream. The pathway for most businesses to reopen is clear, but as of now, bars are left out. With restaurants being able to reopen at 50% capacity and serve alcohol to customers, there is an unfair advantage being created and condoned by Government. Essentially, by allowing restaurants the ability to serve guests in this way, but disallowing bars to operate whatsoever, government is choosing winners and losers.

Let me be clear: I am not advocating for the closure of any restaurants, however, I am asking for the fairness of allowing bars to also operate in order to compete to keep serving their patrons, pay their employees, and serve many hardworking people. My request is that you communicate your plan to reopen bars as soon as possible.

I thank you for taking this into consideration and I am here to listen and discuss this topic with you at any time if needed. We thank you for your continued energy and leadership to help Florida navigate its way back to great success."

Mayor Via stated he doesn't want to take a vote for approval of this but if there's a ***consensus*** that the Commission would support this. And this isn't about whether or not…we're not having a debate of whether the current bars are this or that, it's a matter of fairness that the government, our officers, our City Manager, have to go out and enforce and he believes that it is wrong and unfair.

There was ***consensus*** from the Commission to send the letter on behalf of the city. Mayor Via thanked them and stated that he will clean the letter up and grammatically perfect, he asked Attorney Simpson if he can send it out to the Commission beforehand.

Attorney Simpson stated the best thing is to probably send it out to the Governor and just copy the Commission. As long as he keeps the spirit and the intent of what he wrote here with the changes the Commission addressed, he doesn't think that there will be any problem doing that.

Mayor Via stated he will email the Governor the letter and mail the original to his office. With that, he knows that's why a lot of the people are here tonight. This is what their Commissioners in Holly Hill are doing for the community.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - NONE

5. CONSENT AGENDA - ITEMS (1 - 2)

Mayor Via asked if there was anyone in the audience who wishes to speak on any item on the Consent Agenda or if any member of the Commission wishes to discuss any item? **There was no one.**

1. 2020-R-25 Resolution

A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Holly Hill, Florida, Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Agreement with FPL for the Nova Road FPL Lighting Installation and Modification; Providing for Severability; and Providing for an Effective Date.

(Requested by Antoine Khoury, Public Works)

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	John Penny, District 1 - Commissioner
SECONDER:	Penny Currie, District 2 - Commissioner
AYES:	Via, Penny, Currie, Danio, Johnson

RESOLUTION
2020-R-25
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HOLLY HILL, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH FPL FOR THE NOVA ROAD FPL LIGHTING INSTALLATION AND MODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HOLLY HILL, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH FPL FOR THE NOVA ROAD FPL LIGHTING INSTALLATION AND MODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is upgrading the requirements for street lighting located along Nova Road (SR 5A); and

WHEREAS, the upgrade includes change over to LED and modification to existing facilities and installation of 35 foot concrete poles and 8 foot arms and one (1) 45 foot class 4 wood pole; and

WHEREAS, annual maintenance and power costs will be paid through an

agreement with FDOT; and

WHEREAS, the City agrees to pay $74,937,06 for these upgrades which will be reimbursed by FDOT for the costs according to agreement #AS014.

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

SECTION 1. That the City Manager of the City of Holly Hill is hereby authorized to execute the agreement with FDOT to upgrade the street lighting and change over to LED for 107 street lights in the City of Holly Hill along Nova Road (SR 5A).

SECTION 2. 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 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

APPROVED AND AUTHENTICATED on this 26th day of MAY, 2020.

Enacted and approved this 26th day of May, 2020, in Holly Hill

2.

Disposal of Fixed Assets

(Requested by Stella Gurnee, Finance)

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	John Penny, District 1 - Commissioner
SECONDER:	Penny Currie, District 2 - Commissioner
AYES:	Via, Penny, Currie, Danio, Johnson

6. REGULAR AGENDA - NONE

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. –2020-O-3026 Ordinance

SECOND READING - 1541 Garden Avenue - an Ordinance of the City of Holly Hill, Florida Amending, the Land Development Regulations, by Amending the Official Zoning Map to Designate the Property Described in Exhibit "A" from R-3 (Medium Density Single Family Residential) to CC-1 (Commercial Corridor District); Providing for Conflicting Ordinances; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date.

(Requested by Brian Walker, City Planner)

Brian Walker, City Planner, briefly discussed the staff report and informed the Mayor and Commissioners that there are no changes in this request since first reading of the Ordinance.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED AT 2ND READING [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Penny Currie, District 2 - Commissioner
SECONDER:	John C. Danio, District 3 - Commissioner
AYES:	Via, Penny, Currie, Danio, Johnson

ORDINANCE
2020-O-3026
SECOND READING - 1541 GARDEN AVENUE - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HOLLY HILL, FLORIDA AMENDING, THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, BY AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP TO DESIGNATE THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A" FROM R-3 (MEDIUM DENSITY SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO CC-1 (COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR DISTRICT); PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HOLLY HILL, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, BY AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP TO DESIGNATE THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A" FROM R-3 (MEDIUM DENSITY SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) TO CC-1 (COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR DISTRICT); PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Holly Hill, Volusia County, Florida, has adopted a comprehensive plan pursuant to, and in compliance with 163.3161 et. Seq., Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission, as authorized by 163.3202, Florida Statutes, has enacted and does enforce the Land Development Regulations, based on, related to, and as a means to implement its adopted comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission has determined that it is necessary to amend its Land Development Regulations as herein provided in order to more effectively implement its adopted comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission has determined that the proposed amendment to the Land Development Regulations is consistent with its adopted comprehensive plan.

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

SECTION 1. The Official Zoning Map of the City of Holly Hill is hereby amended to designate the property described in Attachment "A" as CC-1 (Commercial Corridor District.)

SECTION 2. Development of the property described in Attachment "A" shall conform to the Land Development Regulations of Holly Hill.

SECTION 3. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance, or application hereof, is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any Court, such portion or application shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions or application hereof.

SECTION 4. That all ordinances made in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. That this Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

APPROVED AND AUTHENTICATED on this 26th day of MAY, 2020 for second and final reading.

ATTACHMENT "A"

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Lot 3, except the easterly 25 feet, thereof, Block 3, Pine Cluster, as per map recorded in Plat Book 21, page 94 of the Public Records of Volusia County, Florida, and Lot 4, Block 3, Pine Cluster, as per map recorded in Plat Book 21, page 94 of the Public Records of Volusia County, Florida, and the northerly one half of Lot 23 and all Lot 24, Block 3, Pine Cluster, as per map recorded in Plat Book 21, page 94 of the Public Records of Volusia County, Florida.

Enacted and approved this 26th day of May, 2020, in Holly Hill

2.

Special Exception - United Brethren in Christ (UBIC) - a Special Exception Request with Waivers, in Order to Expand an Existing Church in the R-2 (Low-Medium Density Single-Family Residential) Zoning District.

(Requested by Brian Walker, City Planner)
Brian Walker, City Planner, went through the staff report on the special exception request for United Brethren in Christ (UBIC). Mr. Walker stated the applicant is seeking a special exception with waivers, in order to expand an existing church in the R-2 (Low-Medium Density Single-Family Residential) zoning district. The primary property is located at the northeast corner of Flomich Street and Center Avenue. Here is information from the staff report that was presented to the Mayor and Commissioners as part of their agenda packet. Background history: The church property that is the subject of this request, consist of 4 contiguous parcels totaling approximately 3.28 acres in size and are labeled as parcels A through D on ***Exhibit A***. The largest parcel, addressed as 560 Flomich Street, is 2.31 acres and contains a church, classrooms, multi-purpose room and a residential structure. Activities on the site consist of religious services, education, and community service. Parcel B on *Exhibit A*, is addressed as 1620 Decatur Avenue. It contains a structure that is attached to the main structure on 560 Flomich Street. Two additional parcels, labeled as C and D on *Exhibit A*, are vacant but used for parking. The entire church property is zoned R-2 (Low-Medium Density Single-Family Residential) and has a low density residential future land use designation. The R-2 zoning district is a single family district, but allows churches when approved as a special exception, subject to the provisions of Section 114-666 of the Land Development Regulations of Holly Hill. The property never received special exception approval to operate as a church, since the use predates the city's requirement for such an exception. The current use and structures are considered legal nonconforming. However, Section 114-34 of the Land Development Regulations do not permit a legal nonconforming use to be expanded upon nor are additional structures permitted. The applicant is proposing a new 10,000 square foot multi-purpose building at 560 Flomich Street. Therefore, a special exception is now required. Mr. Walker shared the Residential history: There are 4 residential homes on the east side of Center Avenue between Kansas Street and Flomich Street, and are shown on ***Exhibit B***. Two of the homes are owned by the church. The Code has specific setback and screening

requirements for approval of a special exception for church structures that abut residential homes. The applicant petitioned for and received waivers to the setback and screening requirements from the Board of Planning and Appeals. However, because the screening and setback requirements are also requirements for granting this special exception request, the BOPA's approval must be agreed to by the City Commission. The requirements for a special exception are found in the city's Code of Ordinances, Section 114-666. - Houses of Workshop. Mr. Walker summed up the staff report by stating the special exception will allow the 4 properties to be used for church use in a residential zoning classification and that approval of the waivers will allow the follow: **1)** Current parking and structures at 560 Flomich and 1620 Decatur Avenue (*parcels A and B on Exhibit A as shown in their packet*) to remain in place with current setbacks and **2)** Allow current and future parking, and future development on the northwest property lines as shown on Exhibit C, to occur with a 10 foot setback against the residential homes, and no visual screen requirement. Mr. Walker stated the granting of this special exception request with waivers, will not allow the applicant to build any additional structures beyond the proposed 10,000 square foot multi-purpose building. Any future development or structures will first need to be approved by the City Commission as part of another special exception. This is because approval of a special exception for development or structures can only be approved when the type and location of such proposed development and structures is known and shown on a site plan. The applicant has not submitted a site plan showing any development other than that associated with the 10,000 square foot multi-purpose building. Mr. Walker stated staff recommends approval of the requested special exception, in order to expand an existing church in the R-2 (Low-Medium Density Single-Family Residential) zoning district. Should the City Commission decide to approve the requested waivers, staff recommends that the following conditions be imposed:

- That the applicant maintain landscaped areas by replacing vegetation that dies or is destroyed or damaged, whether by accident or by natural disaster.
- That no activity or structures be permitted within the 10 foot rear setback, for the church properties abutting the residential homes on the northwest property line as shown in Exhibit C. Stormwater retention and landscaping are permitted.
- That a 6 foot solid fence be provided along the entire northwest property line as shown in Exhibit C.
- That future development on church property abutting the residential homes, be no more than a single story in height and low intensity in nature, generating little noise and activity. The decision as to whether development is low intensity or not shall be determined solely by the City.

Mayor Via asked if the engineer would like to add anything else to Mr. Walker's report.

John Zemball, 150 S. Palmetto Avenue, Ste. 201, Daytona Beach, here representing UBIC for Zahn Engineering and thanked Mr. Walker for his report and he's here for the Commission if there are any questions.

Mayor Via stated that Commissioner Penny wanted to know if the application, UBIC, was in agreement with all of the recommendations that staff laid out?

Mr. Zemball stated sure, they are amicable to the conditions.

Mayor Via stated, okay. He asked if the Commission had any other questions for the applicant? There was none.

Mayor Via opened public participation.

Tina Kurk, Holly Hill mentioned she brought Todd Westervelt (?) with her because he knows how she feels about this and understands more than she does about the request. Mr. Westervelt informed the Mayor and Commissioners that he doesn't understand everything that's being proposed and shared his concerns. There are several issues they are opposing this request by UBIC. They are very supportive of the church and what they do for the community but there are things that need to be addressed like drainage issues, transient issues and the concern that there is relationships with members of the Commission and feels they should excuse themselves from voting on this.

Mayor Via closed public participation.

It was mentioned for the record that there has been no exparte communications with the applicant or anyone from UBIC about this request from the Mayor or any of the Commissioners.

Commissioner Penny stated he hasn't spoken to anyone since this came up but he thinks this has been a dream of church leadership for years, so yes, he's discussed it but not recently. He thinks everyone on this Commission has been positively impacted by the organization and he knows thousands of the city's citizens and thousands of citizens in Volusia County and even in Port Orange have been positively impacted by this organization. However, with that being said, correct him if he's wrong Attorney Simpson, this body (City Commission) needs to make its decision in a quasi-judicial manner based on the evidence that's been presented to the Commission tonight and there has to be substantial competent evidence for the Commission to sway their decision one way or another. So, if someone says property values may be affected one way or another, unless they are an expert in that situation, the Commission doesn't consider that in their decision this evening.

Mayor Via stated Commissioner Penny is exactly right. They can't, thank you.

Commissioner Currie stated she would just like to personally say she kind of gets the feel of the tone. She knows the McKeown's and she's known them for many years. Her family had a child that they were trying to adopt and went to the church and school, the McKeown's are a fine family. It's not that she has any personal…they don't BBQ together but yes, she does know them as well as she knows many other business owners, citizens, of course she knows them.

Mayor Via stated and all of the Commissioners know them.

Commissioner Currie stated that Mr. Westervelt (?) was asking about the Commissioner's relationships with the applicant. So, instead of that hanging up over here, she wanted to clear that up. She doesn't vote that way, first of all, she votes for what's best for the City of Holly Hill as a whole and by what Attorney Simpson tells her, she's allowed to hear and base her vote upon. She just wanted to clear the air on that.

Mayor Via stated, right. And if there's no other exparte communication that's taken place, he would just say that Commissioner Penny is correct, the Commission has to work in a quasi-judicial manner, the Commission has facts, and the Commission cannot base those on opinions but only the facts presented in front of the Commission tonight on this public hearing.

Commissioner Penny asked Mr. Walker what type of public notice was given to the surrounding neighbors concerning this matter?

Mr. Walker stated the notices were required to go out to all of those who are within a 300 foot radius of the building at least 10 days prior and that was done. Also, a placard goes up and the city put a placard on each corner and that has to be done at least 10 days in advance.

Commissioner Penny asked if Mr. Walker received any responses negatively or positively concerning this matter?

Mr. Walker stated no, nothing negative. He did get a call from one of the neighbors that butts up against Parcel D on Decatur which is the parcel at the end of Decatur, the individual who lives in the last house did call and just had some questions. Initially, they thought that it was a request to buy their home so he clarified that with them and they did say that they would be here tonight. He hasn't received anything negative at all.

Mayor Via asked Mr. Walker if these concerns came before the Board of Planning and Appeals when they heard this or is this the first time?

Mr. Walker stated this is the first time.

Mayor Via stated, okay.

Mr. Forte asked was it heard this way for the Board of Planning and Appeals or that was separate?

Mr. Walker stated what was heard at the Board of Planning and Appeals was the waivers; waivers only not the special exception.

Mayor Via stated, okay.

Mr. Walker stated the Board of Planning and Appeals was informed that this would come

before the City Commission for a special exception and that an aspect of it, that being the waiver for the screen and setback against the residential homes only, that, that would have to be re-heard, in essence, by the City Commission.

Mr. Forte stated and just so that the Commission understands, and he's not sure if the gentleman who spoke was clear in what he was saying. The proposed building that they see on the site plan is actually on the corner, closest to Flomich. The residential parcels are to the bottom left corner and it's just to the east of that, where although there is no proposed building now, in the future, he suspects that the applicant will come back with a proposed building and that will be the one that has direct impact to the neighbor's rear yards that they speaker was referencing earlier. This building proposed tonight is on the corner of Flomich. He's not trying to reduce what the speaker said. He's just trying to make sure everybody understands the location of the building that's being proposed tonight.

Mayor Via thanked Mr. Forte for clarifying that.

Commissioner Penny made a motion to ***APPROVE*** *the* ***Special Exception request with Waivers*** *as proposed and as approved by the Board of Planning and Appeals, to incorporate all of the stat's as stated in the staff report that was approved by the Board of Planning and Appeals, and that the applicant maintain landscaped areas by replacing vegetation that dies or is destroyed or damaged, whether by accident or by natural disaster; that no activity or structures be permitted within the 10 foot rear setback, for the church properties abutting the residential homes on the northwest property line as shown in Exhibit C (Stormwater retention and landscaping are permitted); that a 6 foot solid fence be provided along the entire northwest property line as shown in Exhibit C; that future development on church property abutting the residential homes, be no more than a single story in height and low intensity in nature, generating little noise and activity; and the decision as to whether development is low intensity or not shall be determined solely by the City, seconded by Commissioner Currie.*

PASSED, 5-0.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	John Penny, District 1 - Commissioner
SECONDER:	Penny Currie, District 2 - Commissioner
AYES:	Via, Penny, Currie, Danio, Johnson

Enacted and approved this 26th day of May, 2020, in Holly Hill

8. COMMUNICATIONS

A. City Manager & Staff Comments

Mr. Forte stated there's not much of an update with regards to the city's reopening June 1st. As we get through the rest of this week, tomorrow's there's a conference call and he'll send out a city-wide email explaining what modifications are, what the adjustments

are that the city is going to do as we open the doors up for the public to come in next Monday, June 1st. That's moving along. He doesn't suspect that there will be much of a problem. He's hoping that more people will get used to the distance opportunities that they had with getting their permits and turning their water on via the internet and that's worked out very well and he would like to see if that will stay as a good alternative to people.

Commissioner Penny asked Mr. Forte how the grant applications are coming along.

Mr. Forte stated he's probably approved over 100 grant applications at $3,000 each, which is putting $300,000 back into the City of Holly Hill's economy. He probably denied less than a dozen and some are still coming in. Apparently, if they're coming in there are still funds available. It's been quite a task without having an Economic Development person here to verify and go through them for him but fortunately, his years of experience in the city, he knows what parcels are already commercially zoned, he doesn't have to go back and reference that, he knows, generally how many people are working at certain businesses so in his position it's a little bit easier than someone who is a one year Economic Development employee in a new city. It's working out fine.

Commissioner Penny stated he was just hoping that the businesses that were here earlier had applied.

Mr. Forte stated he knows one of them that certainly has applied.

B. City Attorney Comments
None.

C. City Commission Comments
Commissioner Currie mentioned she is pleased that the city is moving in the direction to try and help the business community because it is kind of unfair that a restaurant can open 50% and sell alcohol so why shouldn't the bars be allowed to open. She doesn't have any words for the Pictona facility. It was amazing. She can't wait to see it when it's complete and people are out there playing because it is such an awesome facility right now. State of the art. She's really pleased with what's been done across the street and she thinks the citizens will benefit from it because there's much more there as the Commissioners found out today than Pickleball. She thinks the citizens will be able to utilize that facility in many different ways as well.

Commissioner Danio stated he is glad that it worked out for the McKeown's tonight with the special exception.

Commissioner Johnson mentioned things are moving ahead and getting better. Traffic is back out on the roads, you see people out working more, and he hopes that it will keep going. It's a hard job that the Governor has to do to decide whether to open or keep businesses closed. The Governor may know some things that the people don't know about and all the cities can do is present things to him and see what he says about it.

Pastor Matt McKeown came forward to thank the Commission for their support tonight on behalf of UBIC.

D. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Via applauded Mr. Forte as it pertains to the grants. Mr. Forte has taken a hold of this and is dropping many other tasks that are extremely important throughout the day to make sure that he can get in as many people as they possibly can to the County for them to then receive this $3,000 grant, which honestly, for a lot of businesses, this may be the golden ticket of whether they close or they get to stay open and try to make a go at this when they are all said and done. Mayor Via wanted to publicly thank Mr. Forte for taking all the time and energy into this. Mr. Forte is also calling people that don't have all the information. There's been over 100 people, if the County approves them, which there's no reason why they shouldn't, that's $300,000 put right into the community, which is going to go to employees and to the business owners that many of them live here. Mayor Via thanked the Commission for standing behind him with the letter to the Governor about reopening the bars. The city is standing up for liberty and he wants to thank the Commission for their support. In regards to the bars, over the weekend there was a protest on Saturday at *Chris' Lounge* and there were many people outside. Himself and Mr. Forte have talked about it, the Police Chief about a week ago, Mr. Forte sent an email to all of them that this may be happening. Although, at that time, Holly Hill wasn't a named location for it. The Commission got an email this morning that the protest did happen over the weekend. Moving forward, he's talked to Mr. Forte about it and any protest that happens in the city or big events, he doesn't necessarily want to clarify exactly what is a big event or not, but he thinks the Police Chief and Mr. Forte know which ones the Commission would need to know about. Mayor Via stated he thinks that all of the Commissioners should be informed as fast as possible. When it's happening, or if they know before it's happening. Commissioner Penny and himself did a ribbon cutting today at *Fast Signs.* The Holly Hill Chamber is doing a "Reopen Our Businesses" and so he requested that business and they can only limit it to a few people at a time so unfortunately, the whole Commission can't be there at these re-openings. So, he's request who's ever District it is in, that District Commission gets to come out and be there with the business. The Chamber is working to get other businesses added to the list. Appreciates seeing the "ghost police cars" that have been around the city to help slow down speeders. The Commission was able to get a tour at Pictona today and it's coming together. It's surreal. What an amazing facility and what an amazing opportunity for the City of Holly Hill and put the city on the map. There is a lot of misconception and misinformation out there or lack of information by a lot of citizens and people outside the area that don't understand what it is and believe that we took away a youth baseball program, which as we know, wasn't in existence for over a decade, the city couldn't even revive it, unfortunately and as they all know that park was just absolutely decaying. They did try to revive it but unfortunately there's just not enough kids to even field a team any more that want to play. Over and over there's posts or there's emails or there's calls about "what are you guys doing? You're spending millions and millions of dollars building something for a sport that I've never heard of." Every single time that he has then talked to the people about what the project is and how much money was donated to the city to do this, every single time they have switched their opinion on it. What that tells him is the city isn't getting the word out efficiently enough. The city has done its best to do that and it can only go so far because we're government, we're not going to advertise ourselves but he's talked to Mr. Forte and just very quickly today, they had an idea of possibly making an educational video of what it was, what it is now coming to be and explaining that to people and he thinks it will catch steam on its own out there. He

thinks a lot of people will share it. The city won't have to pay to get that information out. That's what he's noticed over and over is the lack of information on it and it's unfortunate because it's a really, really great community project that he knows all of the Commissioners up here are proud of and the city needs to make it work and the community support is always important.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 PM.

Valerie Manning, City Clerk,CMC 5/26/2020

Chris Via, Mayor 5/26/2020