



MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP SESSION OF THE CITY COMMISSION HELD TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2021, AT 2:00 PM AT THE CITY OF KISSIMMEE, CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 101 CHURCH STREET, KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Members Present: Mayor Olga Gonzalez, Commissioners Olga Castano, Felix Ortiz, Carlos Alvarez, Jim Fisher

Staff Present: City Manager Mike Steigerwald, City Attorney Olga Sanchez de Fuentes, Deputy City Manager Desiree Matthews, Assistant City Manager Austin Blake, Records Specialist Eugenio Morales

Members Absent: None.

Mayor Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

2. WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

2.A SOCIAL SERVICES PROCESS REVIEW

Commission direction on the process and potential changes.

City Manager Steigerwald reviewed the current method of selecting agencies to receive funding during the annual process and mentioned staff is aware the Commission desires to change the process to obtain better results.

Deputy City Manager Matthews stated she met with each Commissioner individually about proposed changes and thanked them for their ideas and contributions.

Mayor Gonzalez opened the discussion to the Commission. The Commission engaged in a conversation where they each voiced their opinions on how the process should work.

Commissioner Fisher stated the current invitation process is satisfactory and would like to keep it in use.

Mayor Gonzalez expressed interest in inviting more agencies but would like more research on the agencies already receiving funding.

Commissioner Alvarez favors an open process, has a desire to hold all agencies accountable, and receive feedback from individuals who receive services.

Commission Ortiz agrees to keep the invitation process in place but mentioned other agencies should be considered as well. He also stated the Commission should remain the final decision maker when it comes to allocating funding. He also mentioned that Commissioners should not serve on non-profits boards.

City Attorney Sanchez de Fuentes clarified that it is not a violation of law for a Commissioner to sit on a board that receives funding from the City unless they are the President or Owner because as a Commissioner you cannot do business with your own agency. It is an appearance issue to the public but not a violation of the law. This does not stop you from volunteering for non-profits.

Deputy City Manager Matthews engaged the Commission in a discussion about the monitoring and auditing of agency programs, client files, and funding allocation use. She is seeking direction from the Commission on the amount of data they would like to see from each agency.

Commissioner Alvarez recommended a quality assurance program through the internet and assign numbers instead of personal information to help protect client's privacy.

City Manager Steigerwald recommend that each client be required to take the survey to capture the true client satisfaction rating.

Commissioner Alvarez and Commissioner Fisher agreed they would like to see performance monitoring to occur quarterly.

Deputy City Manager Matthews asked the Commission for direction on potentially limiting the number of years an organization can receive funding, noting there is currently no limit.

Commissioner Alvarez would like to prioritize funding allocation by performance and community need, not based on length of time.

Commissioner Fisher finds term limits are not necessary since the Commission decides annually whether funding is allocated or not.

Commissioner Ortiz wants term limits for funding, but not eliminate those agencies who are performing well. He also expressed a potential need to increase funding or place an additional \$25,000 in the budget annually.

Commission consensus was to keep the City Commission as the decision-maker for social services funding, use an average from the Commission tallied lists to start the negotiations on funding allocation, and use an invitation process to apply for funding.

Deputy City Manager Matthews asked for Commission consensus regarding the allocation of funding for the 2020-21 fiscal year since those monies have not been awarded due to the pandemic.

After several questions from Commissioners, staff clarified there is no time limit for the funds to be used as they are part of the City's General Fund.

City Manager Steigerwald mentioned an example of how the funding could be used to fill gaps in needs would be a unique solution to assist the residents at the Caribbean Apartment Complex who are in danger of having their water shut off.

Commissioner Fisher mentioned this item was brought up at the last Toho Water Board Meeting and they all agreed individual meters should be installed.

Commissioner Ortiz agreed with the City Manager's example and wants to hold the funding for other possible uses.

Commission consensus is to hold the funds for the 2020-21 fiscal year, but also start working on the 2021-22 Social Service Funding process.

Deputy City Manager reminded the Commission if they are aware of any agency that should receive an invitation or be considered for funding to provide that information to her before the invitations are sent.

2.B DISCUSSION ON SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW OF THE EMERGENCY SHELTER/BRIDGE-HOUSING AND HOMELESS SERVICES RFP

Staff is seeking direction in the creation of a review committee as a means to present the City Commission recommendations on the Emergency Shelter/Bridge-Housing and Homeless Services proposals.

City Manager Steigerwald reviewed the current proposal to establish a committee of five (5) individuals, one (1) appointed by each Commissioner and then an additional two (2) to four (4) members appointed collectively as the Commission sees as appropriate. The City Manager recommended to the Commission that the Committee be seated prior to the RFP being advertised.

Following a discussion, the Commission consensus was for a seven (7) member board made up of one (1) appointment from each Commissioner and two (2) at-large as a collective vote of the Commission.

2.C DISCUSSION ON ENFORCEMENT OF THE PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ORDINANCE

Staff will provide an overview of how the Kissimmee Police Department anticipates enforcing the proposed pedestrian safety ordinance.

City Manager Steigerwald stated this discussion is in response to the concerns raised by Commissioner Alvarez regarding the implementation of the pedestrian safety ordinance. City Manager Steigerwald introduced Police Chief Jeff O'Dell and Attorney Curtis McGehee, the Police legal advisor.

Chief O'Dell reviewed the various strategies over the last several years that have been unsuccessful in addressing the issue. The updated ordinance is targeted towards professional, aggressive panhandlers who use deceitful methods to obtain money from drivers.

The Commission then engaged in a question and answer session with Chief O'Dell and City staff about the ordinance and proposed changes. The Commission also expressed their opinions, likes, and any dislikes of the proposed changes.

There was no consensus or request to change the proposed ordinance.

SCHOOL RESOURCE PROGRAM UPDATE

City Manager Steigerwald requested the Commission allow the Police Chief to provide an update on the discussions on the School Resource Officers (SRO) programs. A preliminary discussion was being held with local law enforcement and the School District concerning a guardian program for security at Charter Schools.

Chief O'Dell reported that when the SRO Program was under consideration after the Marjory Stoneman Douglas incident he was not in favor of a guardian program, but he has changed his thought process after a couple of years of living through it and its impact to staffing issues. Chief O'Dell then explained the staffing model, the cost of reimbursement from the School District, and how these mandates require them to pull officers from specialty units to cover absences.

Chief O'Dell stated he initiated a conversation with St. Cloud and Osceola County law

enforcement to consider a guardian program. Several counties in our area have been using the program with great success and established history. He would like to focus our SRO's on traditional schools and allow the guardian program at charter schools.

3. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mayor Gonzalez adjourned the meeting at 3:23 p.m.


MAYOR-COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK