

Cape Clips



Updates from Council Meetings

In case you missed the meeting, the following are highlights from the November 2, 2020, Cape Coral City Council meeting.

City's Federal and State Legislative Platforms

The Council approved resolutions identifying the City's 2021 federal and state legislative agendas. The legislative agendas include protecting local control/home rule, preserving fiscal responsibility, supporting collaboration with regional partners, and seeking funding opportunities for significant initiatives (e.g. Chiquita Lock removal and environmental mitigation, Caloosahatchee Connect pipeline river crossing project, and real-time crime information center).

Council accepted \$500,000 in grant funds for the Cape Coral Reservoir and Pipeline Project

The City received an additional \$500,000 in grant funding from the Florida Department of Environmental for the Cape Coral Reservoir and Pipeline Project. The City was previously awarded \$1.15 million in grant funding for the project. The additional funding increases total funding to \$1.615 million. The grant agreement covers the City's expenses associated with engineering design and obtaining a 20-year Water Use Permit (WUP) for a 24-inch raw watermain and pump station from the Southwest Aggregate's property that will be located on the west side of US-41 and will continue south along US-41 for approximately 3.2 miles and will discharge into Gator Slough. This project will help maintain freshwater canal levels in the dry season for irrigation use and fire service protection purposes.

Unsolicited Proposal Pursuant to Section 255.065 Florida Statutes and the Sun Splash Family Waterpark

City Council approved a resolution that provided a notice of intent to enter into an agreement for a qualified project submitted as an unsolicited proposal in accordance with state law. On October 1, 2020 the City received an unsolicited proposal to operate, maintain, repair, equip, and enhance Sun Splash Family Waterpark. The City will retain ownership of the property throughout an agreement. The City Council determined at its October 26, 2020, Executive Session that the proposal did meet the statutory definition of a Qualifying Project. Section 255.065(3)(b), Florida Statutes requires a City that receives an unsolicited proposal for a qualifying project and intends to enter into a comprehensive agreement for the project, to publish a notice in the Florida Administrative Register and a newspaper of general circulation. The required notice will be published in the News-Press, at least once a week for two weeks stating that the City has received a proposal and will accept other proposals for the same project. Florida Statutes also require the City to determine a period that is no less than 21-days, nor more than 120-days to consider other proposals. The City has established a 60-day submittal period to accept other proposals.

Council approved Ordinance 85-20: Final Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2020

Each year staff performs multiple budget amendments as part of the government budgeting process. The amendment has no impact on taxpayers. The amendment reconciles revenues, expenditures, and accounts. The final budget amendment of \$32.48 million was a 3.8% change from the previous budget

amendment. The General Fund decreased by about \$6.39 million due to decreased state shared revenue and also increased by \$2.19 million due to FEMA revenue that was received by the City.

Waterway Advisory Board Ordinance 93-20 was introduced and a public hearing was set for December 7, 2020

Council set a December 7 public hearing date for Ordinance 93-20, which creates a Waterway Advisory Board. The Ordinance identifies the purpose, creation, duties, and membership of the Board.

Council denied a resolution amending Council Rules of Procedure – Council Decorum

After public input and Council discussion, Council denied resolution 251-20 and decided to discuss the proposed changes at an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting.

“E-comments” form on the City’s website has been discontinued

The e-comments form on the City’s website will be removed. The e-comments option was created in response to COVID-19 when the number of people inside Council Chambers was severely limited. Public input has returned to the pre-covid procedures. Meeting agendas are posted online prior to all City Council Meetings. To view an agenda for an upcoming meeting, visit the City’s website (capecoral.net) and select “agendas and minutes” from the quick link button. Each meeting allows for Citizens Input Time. Residents may speak for up to 3 minutes during Citizens Input Time. Some agenda items also include public hearings or a quasi-judicial process that requires speakers to be sworn-in.

A Newly Elected Member Orientation of the Cape Coral City Council is Scheduled for Thursday, November 5, and Friday, November 6, 2020 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Tony Rotino Center.

A Regular Meeting of the Cape Coral City Council is scheduled for Monday, November 16, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.