

Town of Melbourne Beach

SPECIAL TOWN COMMISSION MEETING October 23, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. COMMUNITY CENTER – 509 OCEAN AVENUE

MINUTES

Commission Members:

Mayor Alison Dennington

Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie

Commissioner Marivi Walker

Commissioner Robert Baldwin

Staff Members:

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro

Town Attorney Ryan Knight

Town Clerk Amber Brown

1. Call to Order

Mayor Alison Dennington called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Town Clerk Amber Brown conducted roll call

Commission Members Present

Mayor Alison Dennington

Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie

Commissioner Marivi Walker

Commissioner Robert Baldwin

Staff Members Present

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro

Town Attorney Ryan Knight

Town Clerk Amber Brown

3. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Mayor Alison Dennington led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public Comments – 2:25

After being acknowledged by the Mayor, members of the public should state their name and address for the record. The Commission encourages citizens to prepare their comments in advance. Each individual will have three (3) minutes to address the Commission on any topic(s) related to Town business, not on the Agenda.

Mike Bove – 216 Ash Ave – Spoke about being on the Code Enforcement Board and how there was a clause in the Town Code that did not allow short term rentals for less than 30 days.

Mayor Alison Dennington said the Town Attorney is working on tracing the changes.

5. New Business

A. Review and discuss the submissions to fill the vacant Commission seat – 4:30

Tina Bove – 216 Ash Ave - Listened to public comment about the process and the majority spoke for other candidates. Seems like the Commission is being stacked by appointments. Need to have a special election. Read that an appointee is only until the next general election which is on November 5th.

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about a Charter provision that says appointees are only until the next general election and is waiting on information from the Town Attorney about what has been done in other Towns. She then introduced the candidates to come up to speak for five minutes.

Dawn Barlow spoke about being born and raised in Melbourne Beach and being the current Chairperson for the Parks Board. Said she appreciated the Commission for raising some big issues going on in the Town, and spoke about the importance of getting Commission items to the finish line. Said her parents gave back to the Town and she would be honored to be the next generation giving back to the Town.

Carl “Will” Brunosson mentioned enjoying growing up in the area and spoke about how he is happy to be able to see this Town grow and progress from improving stormwater to the Parks. This place is important to him and his family. He wants to help promote change, he is not in favor of anything, but agrees with 90% of the public on how he wants the Town to go. Because of his knowledge of the inner workings of a city, he has a good understanding of fundamental things like height restrictions, zoning, regulations, rentals, fire safety, etc. Melbourne Beach is a really good place to live.

Bruce Larson spoke about growing up in Melbourne Beach. Said he is deeply committed to the Town’s core values and wants to make this place an exceptional place to live. This Town is more than a place on a map, it’s a way of life, it draws you back. A small Town like this needs leaders that understand the delicate balance between progress and preservation. Together we can protect this Town. The current ordinances and procedures need immediate attention. Said he is seeing progress forward, and thanked the Commissioners. Spoke about serving as a Navy Seal. Touched on his extensive professional experience and gave examples including how he managed multi million dollar

infrastructure projects and safeguarded millions of customers as CSO of a Fortune 1000 company. Most recently worked for L3Harris and was responsible for generating over 1 billion dollars in revenue. Says his career has been defined by leadership, accountability and achieving results. Aims to bring transparent leadership and managed growth to the Town and preserve its unique character.

Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie asked Will about his knowledge on construction like roadways and stormwater management. - 23:30

Will Brunosson spoke about his work involving spec constructions, having experience with construction of roads and stormwater issues. Also mentioned that stormwater management is something that needs to be done gradually. Said the stormwater from hurricane Nicole affected his house to where he needed to tear it down and build new.

Commissioner Marivi Walker asked what one thing made Will come forward.

Will Brunosson mentioned again the importance of the stormwater issue and how it affected his home and needed to tear it down. Said it is important to regulate rentals appropriately and that he has heard how the meetings go and would like to bring a level head to it.

Commissioner Marivi Walker asked Bruce Larson what the Commission has done wrong to bring people together in this Town and what could be done differently. What would he do differently if he were on the Commission?

Bruce Larson spoke about progress is the right thing, that is what people want. The Commission did not divide the Town, but the Commission has not brought people back together. People want progress and that is what will bring people together. The character of the Town is important to everyone and how to get back there is what is missing.

Commissioner Marivi Walker spoke about people wanting different things and gave the example of the splash pad. Said they have some residents that do not want change and younger residents that want change. Asked Dawn Barlow what can be done to bring people together and make them all happy.

Dawn Barlow spoke about how residents that grew up here are coming back because of the charm of the Town. You have to be holistic in the approach. You cannot please everyone, but listen to everyone and be empathetic. We are not always going to agree, but we can respect someone's view.

Commissioner Robert Baldwin asked all three candidates, if the term is for one meeting or one year, what is your vision for the Town. - 36:45

Bruce Larson spoke about how change has to happen deliberately and with intention. Velocity is important, showing progress and delivering results. How do you get 5 people to vote and move forward? Consensus is not everyone agrees, but how to move forward. Must be operating in a different manner within one year, moving from feeling like we are always catching up to progressing forward. How can we accomplish each milestone

moving forward in a way that feels more transparent to the residents and that they know the direction, reasoning and how their tax dollars are being spent?

Will Brunosson spoke about implementation is a big thing. There are great ideas that come up, but they are taking a long time to be implemented. The focus should not be on the differences. Setting goals and timelines to complete them. Represent all age groups and demographics better, and treat it like a job and not focus on the politics that come with it.

Dawn Barlow spoke about how some key topics have been brought up as it relates to short term rentals, stormwater retention, and P&Z, but there has not been enough forward momentum for the residents to feel they have been heard. There might be work being done on them, but it is not being communicated to the residents. Prioritizing items and showing forward progress shows that the Commission is listening to the community.

Mayor Alison Dennington is a little concerned with Mr. Brunosson not attending any meetings. Would make a great addition to the P&Z board with his background and knowledge. Town Government is a huge learning process. Has seen Dawn and Bruce attending meetings. Is also concerned about the potential for conflicts of interest because he is a contractor that does work in Town. Asked Will if he has considered a position on the P&Z Board.

Will Brunosson spoke about not attending the meetings, but he has watched them on YouTube. He has a full-time job and a family, but if he is more involved things would change. Disagrees with the concern about conflicts. His career does not cause a conflict of interest. He only wants to continue the progress of the Town. It is not a detriment to be able to explain and get people to understand things. His career is a benefit, not a conflict because he understands all of the background. Said he decided to run when he heard Commissioner Corey Runte had dropped out. It is not something he would normally do but feels he is capable and wants to be more involved.

Mayor Alison Dennington asked if Will Brunosson had any short term rentals.

Will Brunosson said he did not have any short term rentals. Wants to build homes people can live in and raise their families, not short term rentals.

Mayor Alison Dennington asked how many meetings Dawn and Bruce have been to in the past year.

Dawn Barlow spoke about not having an exact number, but comes fairly frequently and reads the minutes.

Bruce Larson spoke about not having an exact number, has only missed a handful in the last two years, but is very active in attending the Commission and other Board meetings.

Mayor Alison Dennington asked Will Brunosson if he would like to get rid of the stormwater swales.

Will Brunosson spoke about how they are important and necessary, but being able to be open to new ways.

Mayor Alison Dennington asked Will Brunosson if he is a civil engineer.

Will Brunosson spoke about being a general contractor and went to Florida Tech for business.

Mayor Alison Dennington asked if we have procedures that are not being followed, what would be your response to those not being followed, but also not being brought to the Commission to be updated.

Will Brunosson spoke about how procedures should always be followed. Sometimes there are going to be interpretations and handholding that will need to be done to understand things that might have been written 50 years ago and are no longer applicable. We need to assist people through interpreting the language and if a question arises multiple times, look into changing the wording.

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about pushing things forward, but is being met with resistance. If the Code is being updated there might be a lot more meetings. She expressed concern if Will would be able to commit to all of that.

Will Brunosson spoke about having a wife that holds down the fort, and he can make time for what he finds important and he does find this important. He will be able to make it early mornings, late nights, weekends, etc.

Mike Bove – 216 Ash Ave – When he hears the word change it really scares him. What does change and progress mean to Will because that scares him. He does not want a lot of restaurants here.

Will Brunosson spoke about wanting to adapt to the residents that are here, and wanting to change for the better and fix things that are broken.

Tina Coppock – 505 Avenue B – Spoke about being impressed with all three candidates. Asked if each candidate were in the position, what would you do to quell the passive aggressive comments, name calling, specifically on Nextdoor.

Dawn Barlow spoke about having a personal Facebook account to post pictures of sunsets and her dogs. She is not out there to comment about Town issues. There might be an opportunity to have a face-to-face discussion with individuals. Not going to join the banter.

Will Brunosson spoke about not really having social media other than for his business. You kind of have to ignore it or brush it off.

Bruce Larson spoke about leading by example. Stressed the importance of having open topic discussions. Having meetings not Commission run, but just open discussions. We all

want a nice, safe, calm, and change for the better. You cannot deny freedom of speech, but you can have open topic discussions.

Steve Walters – 416 Sixth Ave – Asked Will Brunosson if he builds hotels and works with Certified General Contractors.

Will Brunosson spoke about previously being involved in building hotels, but that is not what he currently does. About 5-6 years ago he did work at CGC.

6. Adjournment

Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie moved to adjourn; Commissioner Robert Baldwin seconded; Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.



Alison Dennington
Mayor

ATTEST:



Rachel Pembrook (Oct 29, 2024 15:08 EDT)

Rachel Pembrook
Transcriptionist

