

The Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Panama City Beach, Florida, and when permitted or required by the subject matter, the Panama City Beach Community Redevelopment Agency, conducted on April 9, 2015.

ROLL

MAYOR GAYLE F. OBERST

COUNCILORS:
JOHN REICHARD
RICK RUSSELL
JOSIE STRANGE
KEITH CURRY

CITY MANAGER:
MARIO GISBERT
DEPUTY CITY CLERK:
JO SMITH
ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY:
AMY MYERS

Mayor Oberst called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., with all the Council, the City Manager, Deputy City Clerk and Assistant City Attorney present. She identified the fire exits and said the Fire Marshall was monitoring the number of people in attendance and had closed the building because it had reached maximum occupancy. She said the meeting was being livestreamed and available for those people who could not get into the building and notices were posted on the doorways.

Pastor Ramon Duvall of the Beachside Fellowship Church gave the invocation and Mayor Oberst led the pledge of allegiance.

The Mayor asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda. **Hearing none, the Agenda was accepted as prepared.**

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 26, 2015 were **read and approved as written per motion by Councilwoman Strange. Second was by Councilman Reichard and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

Councilman Curry	Aye
Councilman Reichard	Aye
Councilman Russell	Aye
Councilwoman Strange	Aye
Mayor Oberst	Aye

CONSENT AGENDA

1 RESOLUTION 15-72, ANNUAL SHADDAI SHRINE TEMPLE SPRING CEREMONIAL PARADE. *The annual Shaddai Shrine Temple Spring Ceremonial Parade has been scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 2015, and the Resolution is entitled "A Resolution of the City of Panama City Beach related to "The Shaddai Shrine Temple Spring Ceremonial Parade" authorizing the temporary closure of portions of Front Beach Road on the morning of Saturday, May 16, 2015."*

2 RESOLUTION 15-80, BIDS- LIFEGUARD TOWER PURCHASE. *Staff advertised bids for the purchase of a new Lifeguard Tower for the beach at the City Pier. Only one bid was submitted from Industrial Design Research, Inc. for a total of \$19,616.00. The Parks and Recreation/Pier Budget can sufficiently cover this expense. STAFF RECOMMENDS approval. "BE IT RESOLVED that the appropriate officers of the City are authorized but not required to execute and deliver on behalf of the City that certain Agreement between the City and Industrial Design Research, Inc., relating to the purchase of one portable lifeguard tower, in the basic amount of \$19,616, in substantially the form attached and presented to the Council today, draft dated 3/13/15, with such changes, insertions or omissions as may be approved by the City Manager, whose execution of such agreement shall be conclusive evidence of such approval."*

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3 RESOLUTION 15-85, RATIFYING AND APPROVING COMBINED OPERATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND VOLUNTARY COOPERATION MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT. “BE IT RESOLVED that the appropriate officers of the City are authorized to execute, deliver and ratify on behalf of the City that certain Combined Operational Assistance and Voluntary Cooperation Mutual Aid Agreement between the City and the City of Bonifay Police Department, in the form attached and presented to the Council today.”

Ms. Smith presented the Consent Agenda. The Mayor asked for comments from the audience. Mr. William Miller, resident of 16807 East El Centro, recommended Council support for the Shaddai Shrine Temple Spring Ceremonial Parade. With nothing further, **Councilman Curry made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Second was by Councilman Russell.** The Mayor called for comments; there were none. **The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

Councilman Curry	Aye
Councilman Reichard	Aye
Councilman Russell	Aye
Councilwoman Strange	Aye
Mayor Oberst	Aye

REGULAR AGENDA

1 ITEM NO. 1 BOYS & GIRLS CLUB CIVIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD. Mayor Oberst introduced Mr. Shawn-Carson Duncan and presented him with the Civic Achievement Award for exemplary service to the Beach Boys and Girls Club. The Mayor then congratulated him. Mr. Ryan Roberts presented Shawn-Carson with a gift card. The audience responded with applause.

2 ITEM NO. 2 “NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK” AND “NATIONAL LIBRARY WORKERS DAY” PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATION. Mayor Oberst read portions of the Proclamations declaring April 12-18, 2015 as “National Library Week” and Tuesday, April 14, 2015 as “National Library Workers Day” and invited Ms. Heather Ogilvie, Head Librarian of the PCB Library, to the podium to accept both Proclamations. Ms. Ogilvie thanked the Mayor and Council for their support of the library. The audience responded with applause.

3 ITEM NO. 3 “NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK” PROCLAMATION AND PRESENTATION. Mayor Oberst read portions of the Proclamation declaring April 12-18, 2015 as “National Volunteer Week”, recognizing the Junior League of Panama City for their acts of service to the community. She invited Ms. Myers to the podium to accept the Proclamation on behalf of the organization. The audience responded with applause.

4 ITEM NO. 4 “NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK” PROCLAMATION AND PRESENTATION. Mayor Oberst read portions of the Proclamation designating April 12-18, 2015 as “National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week” and invited Captain Rich McClanahan to the podium to accept the Proclamation. He thanked the Mayor and explained how important the Telecommunicators were to the safety of the officers as well as being the first voice someone heard when they called 911. The audience responded with applause.

5 ITEM NO. 5 WARRIOR BEACH RETREAT PROCLAMATION AND PRESENTATION. Mayor Oberst invited Ms. Linda Cope to the podium as she read portions of the Proclamation supporting the Warrior Beach Retreat for their continuing contributions to the wounded warriors and their families. Ms. Cope thanked the Mayor and invited everyone on April 16th to line the streets with American flags and salute the men and women being driven to the church. The audience responded with applause.

6 ITEM NO. 6 RESOLUTION 15-79, UNIFORM SERVICES AGREEMENT. Ms. Myers read Resolution 15-79 by title. Mr. Gisbert explained that the uniform services had been bid out and these were the best rates for new uniforms and laundering services. He said these rates would be used to uniform all departments. The Mayor asked if there were any questions and there were none. **Councilman Russell made the motion to approve Resolution 15-79. Second was by Councilman Reichard.** The Mayor called for comments; there were none. **The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

Councilman Curry	Aye
Councilman Reichard	Aye
Councilman Russell	Aye
Councilwoman Strange	Aye
Mayor Oberst	Aye

7 ITEM NO. 7 RESOLUTION 15-82, SOVEREIGNTY SUBMERGED LANDS EASEMENT, CALYPSO TOWERS OUTFALL. Ms. Myers read Resolution 15-82 by title and explained that recently the Council had approved a grant to do the work and this was an easement from the State for that work. Mayor Oberst said this was one of the stormwater projects adding new pipe and removing the bubble-up equipment. She asked if there were any questions or comments; there were none. **Councilman Russell made the motion to approve Resolution 15-82. Second was by Councilwoman Strange.** The Mayor called for comments; there were none. **The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

Councilman Curry	Aye
Councilman Reichard	Aye
Councilman Russell	Aye
Councilwoman Strange	Aye
Mayor Oberst	Aye

8 ITEM NO. 8 RESOLUTION 15-83, HIDDEN LAGOON EASEMENT. Ms. Myers read Resolution 15-83 by title and explained when she drafted the Resolution she had not yet received the fully executed easement. It was delivered to her office yesterday. The Mayor asked if there were any questions from the Council or audience. There were none. **Councilman Curry made the motion to approve Resolution 15-83. Second was by Councilwoman Strange.** The Mayor called for comments; there were none. **The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

Councilman Curry	Aye
Councilman Reichard	Aye
Councilman Russell	Aye
Councilwoman Strange	Aye
Mayor Oberst	Aye

9 ITEM NO. 9 RESOLUTION 15-84, EMERGENCY FUNDS FOR SPRING BREAK 2015 AND BUDGET AMENDMENT #18, PUBLIC HEARING. Mayor Oberst opened the Public Hearing at 6:21 P.M. Ms. Myers read Resolution 15-84 which confirmed and ratified the actions taken at the emergency meeting of Saturday, March 28th. Mr. Gisbert said some of the funds had already been utilized over the last two weeks to bring in mutual aid from surrounding counties and cities. He thanked those cities and reported that Lynn Haven called to offer help even before the emergency meeting occurred. The Mayor asked if there were any further comments; there were none. **Councilwoman Strange made the motion to approve Resolution 15-84. Second was by Councilman Russell.** The Mayor called for comments; there were none. **The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

Councilman Curry	Aye
Councilman Reichard	Aye
Councilman Russell	Aye
Councilwoman Strange	Aye
Mayor Oberst	Aye

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:23 P.M.

10 ITEM NO. 10 ORDINANCE 1340, FBO SETBACKS AND STORIES, 2ND READING, PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION. The Mayor opened a new Public Hearing at 6:23 P.M. Ms. Myers read Ordinance 1340 by title and explained that this version of the Ordinance removed that portion pertaining to the Bid-A-Wee subdivision as directed by the Council. Mr. Leonard said this proposed Ordinance would clean up and clarify issues in the LDC. He said the Planning Board recommended approval five to zero (5-0) on March 9th. The Mayor asked if there were any comments or questions; there were none. **Councilman Reichard made the motion to approve Ordinance 1340. Second was by Councilman Curry.** The Mayor called for comments; there were none. **The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

Councilman Curry	Aye
Councilman Reichard	Aye
Councilman Russell	Aye
Councilwoman Strange	Aye
Mayor Oberst	Aye

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:25 P.M.

11 ITEM NO. 11 ORDINANCE 1342, DELLWOOD PROPERTIES REZONING, 2ND READING, PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION. Mayor Oberst opened the Public Hearing at 6:25 P.M. and reminded the audience about the Three Minute Speaking Rule and forms were on the table if they wished to address the Council. Mr. Leonard said the Planning Board recommended approval at the February 9th meeting four to two (4-2) and this Ordinance would rezone the old Surfside Villas property from FBO-2 to FBO-4.

For the Jennings Disclosures, Councilman Reichard said he knew the location of the property and had not spoken with anyone except Staff. Councilman Russell said he knew the property's location and had only spoken with Staff. Mayor Oberst said she knew the property location and had only spoken with Staff. Councilwoman Strange said she knew the property location, attended the Planning Board meeting, and had only spoken with Staff. Councilman Curry said he knew the property location and had only spoken with Staff.

At this time, the witnesses were sworn. Mr. Leonard reasserted the information he had given prior to being sworn. Mr. Mike Burke, attorney, announced that at 6 P.M., he went outside to ask if anyone wished to address the Council on this issue. No one indicated to him that they did. He entered into evidence the application for rezoning filed January 13, 2015, the PCB Comprehensive Plan, the PCB Land Development Code and Zoning maps, the Staff Analysis of January 19, 2015, and the Minutes and recording of the Planning Board meeting of February 9, 2015. Mr. Burke said this would not rezone the CH land-use classification but rather rezone the Overlay from FBO-2 to FBO-4. He continued that the adjoining eastward property was a 220' condo in the FBO-4 District and CH. Mr. Burke said as currently zoned, the property would only allow a height of 65' if all of the incentives were used and only about 36 units could be built. He said the property had been purchased with the intent to develop a highrise condo. He said if the FBO-4 was approved, the maximum building height would be 21 floors and developed under the new LDC with the wedding cake effect. If the building received all permitted incentives, it would be 171 units. Staff found that it was compatible with the LDC and the Comp Plan and consistent with the surrounding properties. Mr. Burke said their consistency analysis found the same results.

The Mayor asked if there was anyone who wished to speak in opposition to the request. There was none.

Ms. Myers said the matter had been properly advertised and she read Ordinance 1342 by title. **Councilman Reichard made the motion to approve Ordinance 1342. Second was by Councilwoman Strange.** The Mayor called for comments; there were none. **The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote recorded as follows:**

Councilman Curry	Aye
Councilman Reichard	Aye
Councilman Russell	Aye
Councilwoman Strange	Aye
Mayor Oberst	Aye

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:35 P.M.

12 ITEM NO. 12 ORDINANCE 1346, HOURS OF ALCOHOL SALES, 1ST READING. Ms. Myers read Ordinance 1346 by title. She explained that the Emergency Ordinance 1345-E only provided an effective date but not an ending date, and the Ordinance was passed as an emergency measure which defined the emergency to end April 18, 2015. She said this proposed Ordinance would reestablish those hours of alcohol sales to 4 A.M. on April 19, 2015. The Mayor asked if there were any questions.

Councilwoman Strange asked Councilman Russell if he had discussed with Chief Whitman. Councilman Russell said the Chief had stated he had no problem reverting back to 4 A.M. He added that he had brought up the issue to end on April 18th at the Joint City/County Workshop. The Mayor said members of the audience had requested to speak and reminded everyone about the Three Minute Speaking Rule.

Mr. Clay Musgrave, resident of 100 East Gulf Court, said he had a petition to restore the 4 A.M. closing time and submitted it for the record. He said they had thought the Council planned to leave the 2 A.M. closing all year round. He gave a presentation on behalf of the hospitality industry and said many of the members were in the audience for support. He addressed the lawlessness, 100 milers, binge drinking, underage drinking, and house parties. He said the 2 A.M. closing and prohibiting adults 18-20 from entering clubs did not prevent those issues.

Ms. Kristin Salemno (LaLa), resident of 612 Laurel Street, said she worked at Whiskeys as a bartender and reported her losses were about 30% due to the 2 A.M. closing. She requested the Council to rescind the year round 2 A.M. closing and reported bad comments about the service industry in social media. In response to a question by Councilman Reichard, Ms. Salemno said many of the comments had been made by locals.

Mr. Paul Winterman, resident of 3018 Syracuse Avenue, said he was security at LaVela and policies had been implemented to eliminate drugs and weapons from entering the club which created more problems on the sand and in their parking lot. Mr. Winterman said part of their problem was the next door beach access which caused them to spend time running off criminals and drug dealers. In his opinion, the 2 A.M. closing had made matters worse by pushing the kids out of the clubs into the streets. The 21 to enter Ordinance was the worst idea because an 18-20 year old would then have nothing to do. He said he was not sure if he agreed with the no drinking on the sand because it affected a lot of good citizens. He suggested the Council look at the jobs and revenue lost by these actions.

Ms. Debbie Sheffield, resident of 259 Eagle Drive, supported banning alcohol on the sandy beach and allowing no underage kids in the clubs. She said this behavior would ruin tourism for all year.

Mr. John Smith, resident of 9902 South Thomas Drive, said he did not agree with any prohibition of alcohol on the sandy beach because he was of legal age. He did not want the City to infringe upon his rights.

Councilman Russell made the motion to approve Ordinance 1346. Second was by Councilman Reichard. The Mayor called for comments.

Councilman Reichard said this Ordinance was in effect until April 18th, and afterwards it would be a future discussion item. Ms. Myers said it would come back to the April 23rd Council meeting for a Second Reading.

Mr. Brandon Caldwell, resident of 509 Palm Avenue, said Spring Break was over and asked not to perpetuate the problem with new Ordinances, acting upon emotions and making kneejerk reactions. He recommended making decisions which would benefit all of PCB. **With nothing further, the motion passed by majority roll call vote recorded as follows:**

Councilman Curry	Nay
Councilman Reichard	Aye
Councilman Russell	Aye
Councilwoman Strange	Aye
Mayor Oberst	Aye

13. ITEM NO. 13 SPRING BREAK UPDATE. Mr. Gisbert said several meetings had occurred over the last two weeks, and a list of items was given to Staff to bring back policies to the City Council and Bay County Commission. He said the goal was to have the policies to the City Council on April 23rd and the County Commission on April 21st. Those policies would outline the comments made at the last meeting and bring something enforceable to the Council and Commission. The next goal would be bringing draft Ordinances to the first meeting in May. The County Commission would see their Ordinances on May 12th and the Council would see ours on May 14th. Mr. Gisbert said he was having continuous meetings with the County Manager.

Councilman Reichard said the decision for the City Manager and County Manager to work together was approved during the Joint City Council/Bay County Commission meeting. He asked if everything was on schedule and Mr. Gisbert replied affirmatively. Ms. Myers added that it would be a menu of policy options and would be made to work together depending upon the Council directions. Councilman Russell asked if at that meeting, new ideas can be discussed. Mr. Gisbert requested the Council members bring any ideas to him as soon as possible so that the ideas could be vetted by April 23.

Mr. Arthur Cullen said the proposed Ordinances would need to address the problems and not unintended consequences. He supported the business community giving the Chief and Sheriff the tools they needed to make the changes. He said zeroing the Spring Break time period would have severe consequences with reaching implications. He added that many establishments lost a good percentage of revenue with the 2 A.M. closing but recognized that the Chief and Sheriff needed the additional time.

Mr. Hector Solis, resident of 13220 Front Beach Road, said the residents were let down this year. He said their message was banning alcohol on the sand during Spring Break and supporting the Sheriff to get the problems under control. He said 250,000 kids on the sandy beach could not be controlled and the IDs on the beach did not work due to too many kids.

Ms. Carla Rietkerk, resident of 3648 Oakbrook Lane, said she worked at Newby's and with the change from 4 A.M. closing to 2 A.M., her tips were down 50%. She said she felt the hospitality workers were being unreasonably punished for something they did not do. She mentioned the many events supported by Ms. Newby's and that removing the last two hours of their work night was detrimental to their livelihood and income.

Mr. Tommy Priestley, resident of 17155 Front Beach Road, said Spring Break was an awesome tradition for PCB and millions of people had great memories of their time here. He said the 2 A.M. closing did not address the issues and the house party had nothing to do with the 2 A.M. closing. He said there was no reason to prohibit alcohol on the sandy beach if they were doing nothing wrong.

Ms. Pamela Finster, resident of 1721 Lost Cove Lane, said Spring Break visitors needed more regulations and it was ridiculous to bring in extra law enforcement to police the kids. She said the taxpayers ultimately paid for the increased law enforcement and the City's reputation was being ruined by the reports of Spring Break actions.

Jan & Trudy White, residents of 7819 Beach Drive, said the good kids needed protection as this was not a Spring Break problem but rather a thug problem. He recommended eliminating the popup clubs. He spoke of the good kids and efforts to keep them safe.

Mr. Randal Holloway, resident of 14825 Front Beach Road, said he felt he was a prisoner within his own home. He spoke of not feeling safe on the streets. He said if the kids were not here, the 100 milers would not be here.

Mr. Darrell Sellers, resident of 10713 Front Beach Road, said the college kids were not coming and the tips were down according to his staff. He said he wanted responsible Spring Breakers and corporate sponsors here. He said his group was not demanding to prohibit Spring Break but rather to take action to protect the citizens and encourage the visitors and investors that we want to come to this community. He said the Council's job was to protect the community's interests as a whole.

Councilman Reichard questioned Mr. Sellers concerning the proposed recall petition. Mr. Sellers said the politicians who did not support correcting this issue and the politicians who were supported by the businesses promoting this craziness were the subject of the recall petition. Councilman Reichard said he found this highly insulting. Councilman Curry said he served with Council members who sometimes had heated debates. He said the Council members may not always agree but he did not question the integrity of any Council member. He said he found this offensive when talking about recalls. Mr. Sellers said he respected the Council members and explained about the recall petitions.

Ms. Joanna Olsen, 10719 Front Beach Road, said she bought Coyote Ugly twelve years ago and this year, their sales were down 40% in March. She said she represented her staff who made their tip money during March and they should not be punished for thugs at a house party that had nothing to do with the bars in this community. She said people mentioned Daytona and she reported that Daytona spent Five Million Dollars this year trying to bring back Spring Break to their community. She said Daytona doubled their property taxes the year Spring Break was demolished and that City was doing everything possible to bring Spring Break back. She said closing the bars at 2 A.M. would not solve the problem. She said the families here with children, responsible adults, could not enjoy alcohol on the beach.

Mr. Gene McCrome said he worked security at the clubs on the beach. He said they patted the kids down when entering, and closing the bars at 2 A.M. did not solve any problems. He said the IDs on the beach were not followed because there was not enough law enforcement on the sand to cover all the kids. He suggested roadside searches up SR79, 231, or Hwy 98 before the drugs reached the City. He also suggested property owners check IDs when on their property.

Mr. Jacob Lassiter, resident of 6903 North Lagoon, said his business depended upon tourism and he recommended that the Council think about the effect changes would have on his livelihood. He said banning alcohol on the sandy beach and not allowing those under 21 into the bars would drive off Spring Break. He said he had suggestions he could email to the Council.

Mr. Don Lovejoy, resident of 524 Larissa Lane, recommended keeping the bars open until 4 A.M. in order to keep the kids safe inside with trained security and law enforcement. He suggested using some of the bedtax revenue to hire extra law enforcement as well as advertise local entertainment venues. Regarding drinking on the sandy beach, this led to drinking in the hotels which led to balcony falls and alcohol poisoning. Restricting 18-20 years olds from entering clubs would be a big mistake because most of the college kids were that age and if they were not in the clubs, they would be looking for other sources of entertainment.

Ms. Lindsey Pickenpugh, resident of 310 Greenwood Circle, said she was here on behalf of Ms. Newby's and that all four of their businesses were ready to compromise on the Spring Break issues because they knew it had gotten out of hand. She said the unwanted guests did not go to the beach or restaurants but rather walked the streets and gathered in the parking lots. She said it was not only the locals and visitors who were scared when the thugs took over but also the actual Spring Breakers. She said Spring Break needed to be scaled back and the unwanted guests removed from our City.

Mr. William Miller, resident of 16807 East El Centro Boulevard, suggested a consistent approach.

Mr. Dennis Layton, resident of 185 Kimberly Drive, said as a bartender he had been directly affected by the new Ordinances. He recommended keeping the bars open until 4 A.M. as they had security and monitored the drinking. House parties had no security or monitors. He suggested establishing a curfew for kids under 18. He recommended pursuing the existing Ordinances for loitering, public indecency, littering, public drinking, etc., which would weed out the offenders and bring more revenue with fines.

Ms. Julie Hilton, resident of 234 La Valencia Circle, said if all of the community worked together, we could solve the challenges being faced. She said there were many positive Spring Break stories, such as the Circle of Life wakeup call, the 43,000 attendees for the Luke Bryan concert and only 7 citations, the volleyball tournaments, and the WalkHard young men from Troy. She encouraged focusing on the positive things on the beach, and acknowledged that some of the misbehaving needed to be curbed during Spring Break; but that was not representative of the 27 miles of our beautiful beach. Ms. Hilton said they had taken a survey of their guests if they would come back if no alcohol was allowed on the sandy beach, and about half said they would not return. She encouraged the Council to remember those who were taking responsibility for their guests by providing security and oversight while on the beach.

Mr. Joe Corbin, resident of 10713 Front Beach Road, said Spring Break had become too big and too filthy. He said many of the audience wanted to work together to fix the problems. He recommended bringing in more family business and rebrand Spring Break. He recommended supporting the Sheriff's 5 step plan and said closing the bars at 2 A.M. had been a minor concession.

Mr. Neel Bennett said he had met with Mr. Pittman Easter Sunday and they discussed their common issues. He said they both agreed upon most of the issues and everyone knew the challenge was dealing with the unwanted element. He urged the Council to give the City Manager and the County Manager the time to ensure that the answers worked and not create a law merely to create a law. He recommended listening to the Chief and Sheriff for their counsel. He said banning the alcohol on the sandy beach would work with some tweaking. Mr. Bennett said college Spring Break was not what it used to be and the heyday of college Spring Break was over. He recommended giving the TDC time to find the new market and business for March.

Mr. Bryan Campanile, resident of 208 Terra Verde Lane, said he was frustrated because any incident during March was automatically swept into the Spring Break pile. He said the problem was the unwanted element who preyed upon the Spring Breakers. He said those who wanted to get rid of Spring Break in order to fix the problem were focusing on the wrong area. He said the problems were from the 2-3 day people who came in on a Friday night, rather than a Spring Breaker who was here all week. He questioned if the hotels and resorts could impose a three to four night minimum during Spring Break, to give the weekenders no place to stay. He said while the small Mom and Pop hotels might suffer with that idea, the idea of doing away with Spring Break totally would destroy them.

Mr. Jim Musicaro, resident of 88 Windridge Lane, said he had heard many great ideas and now was the time to debate the solutions. He talked about the business owners contributing donations to many organizations such as Beach Care Services, Boys & Girls Club, the schools, the Shriners, etc. He said everyone agreed that the community did not want the criminal element here, no binge drinking on the sandy beach, no popup clubs, no sleeping in the cars and out of control house parties. He said the community could fix the problem but getting rid of Spring Break would have the trickle-down effect and it would not work.

Ms. Clare Pease, resident 116 Tierra Verde, said some of the larger resorts had discussed the possibility of a 3-4 day minimum during Spring Break as they understood the bad element was coming here on the weekends. She said this might help curtail them coming. She said she would like to see the TDC help with a zero tolerance campaign for the City and banner plane ads with a moral message instead of the Trojan ads. She also wanted it known about the great Spring Break stories in order to combat the bad press, such as the Wounded Warriors. She also urged the Chamber to cancel the membership of Club Fahrenheit and any other popup club, and boycott any business which supported a popup club. She said the "triangle" needed to be on the list for further discussion. Ms. Pease mentioned a social media campaign advertising the zero tolerance. She also recommended the "One is Done, No Refund" and the ability to evict if there was any form of violence. She said the balcony climb needed to be a separate issue compared to a disorderly, so that the hoteliers could do something if the kids were climbing the balconies. She said she would email Mr. Gisbert with their ideas.

Mr. Steve Taylor, 3424 Hillcrest Drive and representative of Emerald Coast Fellowship Church, discussed the pancake breakfasts and free van rides for the kids. He said he had many good stories of Spring Break. He said he wanted relief for the local First Responders and this affected the local families in a bad way. He urged the Council to support the Sheriff's plan.

Mr. Jack Bishop, resident of 7009 North Lagoon Drive, said PCB needed some change in moderation but felt the City was being led down a path by others. He said Spring Break was not the issue and the method of recreation for the kids had changed over the years. He discussed the potential Fifty Thousand kids here at one time, with the Police force geared toward the fulltime population of about only Fifteen Thousand residents. He said the law enforcement was taxed to the limit during Spring Break. He gave a history lesson of Spring Break and reported on the real estate market. He discussed the tourism which supplied 64% of the taxes for Bay County.

Councilman Reichard said he felt the challenge was not to draw a line in the sand between the businesses and residents. He said there was no place for threats in this matter. He urged not to be divided needlessly.

Councilman Russell said he had heard several common themes and the Council planned to work on those issues over the next few weeks. He said he was saddened to see the divide in the community. He agreed with Ms. Pease in advertising zero tolerance outside of the community and commended our Police for the work this Spring Break.

Mr. John Smith, resident of 9902 South Thomas Drive, questioned why there was not more use of ATVs and dirt bikes for law enforcement as he thought they could be used to react faster and were cheaper than the cars. He suggested a tourism channel similar to Beach TV would be able to advertise the rules. He said many existing laws could be enforced for nuisances on the beach.

Councilman Curry said government had not created this problem. He said he would like to see the business community do more and he had heard a lot of good ideas tonight. He said he hoped the business community could help solve this problem.

Councilwoman Strange said the community could not continue depending on other agencies around Florida to help the City during Spring Break. She said Spring Break needed to be controlled within ourselves and the businesses and residents. She said she would like to see Ordinances enacted in May so that the businesses and residents would know what to expect next year.

Mr. Arthur Cullen said the business community had not yet met with the City Manager and County Manager, and would be doing so tomorrow. He said they planned to present a lot of good recommendations. He commended Ms. Hilton and Ms. Pease for the good jobs for handling their properties. Ms. Pease made amazing changes on the recent property she now managed, and both ladies now agreed to offer their training to condo owners, property owners, etc. He agreed that it was the business community who could best enforce their property.

Mr. Sparky Sparkman, resident of 5817 North Lagoon Drive, said he was offended by statements about "blood on our hands". He said this was a serious charge and he accepted responsibility for the County as this was his home.

Mr. Neel Bennett said the Council was in a difficult situation, being accused of a lot of things. He said Councilman Curry's defense of Councilman Reichard was big and he appreciated it. It was good and he encouraged everyone to work together.

Mayor Oberst said personally when she first ran in 2000, this was more than a mere strip of sand. It was becoming a community with a mixed group of people elected to the Council to represent the people. She said she was offended by the comments made by some people that this Council was in the pocket of some businessmen. She said in her last campaign, many businesses contributed to her campaign as the average person who worked could not afford to contribute to political campaigns. She said she appreciated Councilman Curry's comments and she also should have spoken in defense of all of the Council members. The Mayor continued that now there were no hospitality people on the Council and found it odd that these members would be accused of siding with the business people over the residents. She said this was not an unsurmountable problem as the Council had discussed Spring Break since she was first elected. However, this situation now was something that must be controlled, and it was not the Spring Breakers but rather the thugs. She said she did not know how the thugs would be prevented from coming here. She said this was a very serious situation and everyone wanted to help. She said last year even with the horrible publicity, the City 1% tax and the TDC's bedtax had the best June and July on record. She said if this situation spilled into the rest of the year, there would be real problems so now was the time to stop it. She said many of the 2nd homeowners were now speaking and many of the people on the list were second homeowners or absentee owners. She said they were part of our community but she reminded that they must understand that Panama City Beach is a tourism town without an Ad Valorem tax. She said the City lived off the tourists and was able to offer the lowest water and sewer rates of the County. She said Pier Park would not have been built in a town of merely Thirteen Thousand people. Without tourism, the residents would not be able to enjoy the many restaurants. She said the image of Panama City Beach would be changing. She said the City did not want to be 30A, and reminded that Lil Wayne performed over there this past weekend. The Mayor said she appreciated everyone coming.

With nothing further, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

READ AND APPROVED this 12th of May, 2015.

IN THE EVENT OF A CONFLICT BETWEEN THE FOREGOING MINUTES AND A VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF THESE MINUTES, THE FOREGOING MINUTES SHALL CONTROL.


Mayor

ATTEST:


City Clerk