

New Smyrna Beach City Commission Meeting
Dec. 11, 2018

1. City Commissioners unanimously endorsed the idea of modifying the design for a span proposed to replace the deteriorating Fifth Street Bridge to add a five-foot pedestrian walkway.

The existing bridge and earthen causeway were built in 1965. Due to the reduced flow of water through the narrow waterway called Yacht Club Cut, silt has built up on both sides of the bridge, and residents have complained about an odor in the area. The bridge has been judged structurally deficient under criteria for bridges as outlined by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). As a result, the city began looking at replacing it with a longer span, proposed at 160 feet, to allow more tidal flow through the Cut.

Some time in February or March 2019, staff members will return to the Commission with design options/alternatives to lengthen the proposed replacement bridge, as well as information on whether FDOT will consider offering grant funding for 75 percent of the cost of the alternate design.

City officials said the bridge design work is partly funded through a Local Agency Program agreement with FDOT, and includes federal money, too. The city is paying 25 percent of the bridge design cost.

2. The City Commission voted unanimously to annex two small parcels: 0.34 acres at 2219 Doster Drive and 3.3 acres at 2820 Letha Street, and voted 4-1 to annex a third property of 3.5 acres at the northeast corner of Turnbull Bay Road and Bayview Drive. Commissioner Jake Sachs cast the dissenting vote on the latter annexation.

Commissioner Sachs also was the sole "No" vote on changing the zoning of each annexed parcel from its former county designation to a similar city zone, as well as dissenting on changing the future land use of the Turnbull Bay Road property. However, he voted with the majority of the Commission in favor of the respective land use changes proposed for the parcels on Doster Drive and Letha Street. Commissioner Sachs said he was concerned about the use of septic tanks on the properties. City sewer service is not available for the parcels, according to background information about the annexations.

The Doster Drive parcel was changed to city low-density residential land use and rezoned to city R-2, Single Family Residential. The Letha Street property was changed to city rural and conservation land uses, and rezoned to city A-3, Transitional Agriculture, and Conservation.

The Turnbull Bay Road parcel was changed to the city zoning of Residential Estate and Conservation, and a rural land use.

3. City Commissioners voted 5-0 to endorse a consultant’s proposal to design and seek permits for a mooring field for no more than 100 boats south of the South Causeway Bridge.

The moorings would serve transient boats, and the \$84,000 cost of design and permit work in this first phase of the mooring project is split evenly between dollars from the Municipal Marina fund and grant money from the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND).

In March, city officials plan to apply for another FIND grant to construct the mooring field. Building costs are estimated at \$250,000, and the City Marina staff will manage the operation of the moorings, including collecting fees for their use. Officials say having an official city mooring field will allow New Smyrna Beach to regulate derelict boats and ensure those who use the moorings are arranging for their vessels’ holding tanks to be pumped out, in lieu of dumping sewage directly into the river.

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