

New Smyrna Beach City Commission Meeting Jan. 28, 2020

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City Commissioners unanimously approved installing “enhanced pedestrian warning signage” at six new locations within the city to improve the safety of adults and children crossing the street.

The city budget includes up to \$45,000 to pay for this effort. The new signs and solar-powered lighting consist of high-intensity LED lights mounted on the outer edges of a standard pedestrian crosswalk warning sign. The lights are activated when a pedestrian pushes a button. This would be a similar type of warning sign and lighting as currently installed on South Atlantic Avenue at 9th, 12th, 15th, 18th, 21st and 30th avenues.

Assistant City Manager Brian Fields advised Commissioners that staff members recommended placing the new signs and lights at six locations:

- ✓ Canal Street at Myrtle Avenue
- ✓ Colony Park Road at the multi-use Trail Crossing near Otter Boulevard
- ✓ South Myrtle Avenue between 7th Street and Cavedo Street
- ✓ Enterprise Avenue at Milford Place
- ✓ Airport Road at Luna Bella Lane
- ✓ Airport Road at Casello Drive

Fields said Airport Road is a Volusia County-maintained roadway, and the county’s staff has committed to sharing 50 percent of the cost to install the two proposed crosswalk signs on that road. The other signs will have to be funded completely by the city. He added there are additional roadways within New Smyrna Beach that would benefit from crosswalk signs, and staff members will recommend those to the Commission in the future, when more funds are dedicated to the project.

Several Commissioners also suggested a requirement for lighted crosswalk signs could be added to future Planned Unit Development (PUD) agreements when new residential developments are proposed within the city.

In another traffic-related matter, the City Commission agreed to authorize City Manager Khalid Resheidat to move forward with installing speed cushions at the two remaining Magnolia Street locations: between Hamilton Road and 10th Street, and in the 800 Block of Magnolia Street. Residents living in that area have complained about cars speeding through their neighborhood.

The City Commission unanimously approved changes to laws relating to tethering animals outside. The new language says no dog may be tethered outside if it is sick, injured and in distress, or under six months old. In addition, female dogs in advanced stages of pregnancy also cannot be tied outside.

City Commissioners voted 4-1, with Commissioner Jake Sachs dissenting, to support the idea of a U.S. bicycle route that travels through New Smyrna Beach on a journey from Bar Harbor, Maine to Key West.

Staff members noted this would be a route marked with signs for the benefit of long-distance cyclists, and it requires no infrastructure or funding from the city. The proposed

route through New Smyrna Beach enters the city from the north on U.S. 1, turns onto a short stretch of Tanglewood Avenue and curves south onto Faulkner Street. From there it runs south on Faulkner to Wayne Avenue, then east to North Riverside Drive, where it continues south into Edgewater.

Commissioners were advised that long distance bicycle tourists are experienced road riders who are accustomed to a variety of road surfaces, the absence of paved shoulders, and car and truck traffic.

Despite that, Commissioner Sachs said he was concerned about bicyclists using Riverside Drive due to it being a "very narrow, widely used road." He favored designating U.S. 1 as the route through town

Commissioner Jason McGuirk acknowledged he and Sachs get complaints about cyclists slowing down traffic on the roads through their Commission districts. However, he suggested the city ask the agency that will be erecting the signs if they can require bicycle riders to ride single file, rather than in tandem, so marking the route in that manner would benefit the city.

City Commissioners had the first reading of ordinances proposing to change the Future Land Use of about 30 acres of the Florida Days Subdivision from Rural and Residential Estate to Low Density Residential and amend and Restate the Master Development Agreement. The subdivision borders Creekshore Trail.

Old Smyrna Land Company requested the changes in a fifth amendment to its development plan for Florida Days. Proposed amendments include increasing the project's total from 104.77 acres to 112.91 acres, increasing the total number of lots from 94 to 125, and raising the overall density of the development from 0.90 units per acre to 1.11 units per acre. The changes would incorporate eight acres of open space into the Planned Unit Development. The developer assured the city no historic trees would be removed, unless they're already dead, and areas within the floodplain shall be preserved as much as possible.

The City Commission voted 4-1, with Commissioner Sachs dissenting, to increase the fee for a garage sale permit from \$2 to \$5. City officials said the fee hasn't been changed since 1995.

The City Commission voted 3-2, with Mayor Owen and Commissioner Sachs dissenting, to vacate a small, unplatted and unopened segment of Sunset Drive.

Senior Planner Robert Mathen said the owners of 2728 Sunset Drive requested the vacation because the unopened roadway crosses their property and dead-ends in wetlands. The Commission's approval included a recommendation from city engineering staff member who recommended that the city keep an access easement around the vacated right-of-way.

"We are supporting the vacation because it (the right of way) leads to a section of water and submerged lands and wetlands," Mathen said, He explained the right-of-way vacation would prevent development by eliminating an access to the water.

The City Commission voted unanimously to annex 0.1994 acres at 1110 Canal St., change its future land use to commercial and its zoning to B-3 (Highway Service Business District). The property is developed with a single-family home and no increased density is proposed there.