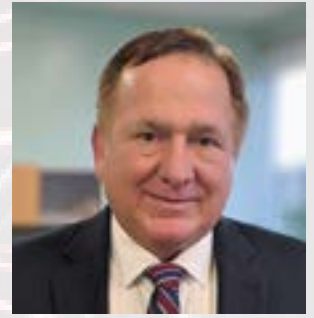




***City Manager's Report
January, 2020***

City Manager's Minute



Bob Daniels
City Manager

Madeira Beach is a very special place. Every day I talk with people who sing it's praises. Some live here year-round, others only during the winter or on vacation. The most common theme I hear is how friendly and beautiful our community is. Sure, I hear from folks who would like something to be changed, and as we get deeper into the conversation, we always seem to end up at what they like about Madeira Beach.

Lately, most of the comments have been about two things, the upcoming Crystal Island Roadway and Drainage Improvement Project and the Madeira Beach Academy. In January, the Board of Commissioners unanimously approved moving forward with this The Crystal Island project.

While the winning bid came in higher than expected, we are actively pushing for approval of a \$2.5 million grant from the state legislature that would help bring that cost back in line. Additionally, paying off some of our debt over the next few years, will allow us to utilize those funds for the remaining roadway and stormwater projects without increasing our current millage rate. It should be noted, as the Government Financial Officers Association recently did, that we also have several debts that will be paid off in the coming year helping ease the burden and hold the line on our current millage rate.

The Madeira Beach Academy (MBA) is an 8-week program where city residents can learn how their local government operates directly from the source. Once a week over the course of eight weeks each department will show residents how they serve the community. Residents get to ask questions, offer their insights and see how city employees make our community a great place to live, work and play.

We thought MBA would be popular, but we didn't know how popular until we opened registration for the class. All the seats were filled within one day! If you are one of these folks who did not get in the first class, not to worry as we will add your name to the list for the next session.

Madeira Beach is off to a strong start in 2020 by moving forward on projects that have been long overdue, and new initiatives designed to keep residents informed and build a better community. Your staff is working hard to do this one day at a time. This is my main point. If we build a stronger community, nothing and no one can keep us from moving forward. Have a great February and Happy Valentine's Day!

City Clerk

City Clerk Clara VanBlargan reports that during the City of Madeira Beach Candidate Qualifying Period that ended at noon on Friday, January 3, 2020, the following Candidates qualified to have their names printed on the March 17, 2020 Municipal Election Ballot:

MAYOR – THREE-YEAR TERM

John B. Hendricks
Gary L. Hughes

COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1 – TWO-YEAR TERM

Helen “Happy” Price
Deby Weinstein (Incumbent)

COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2 – TWO-YEAR TERM

Incumbent Nancy Hodges was the only candidate qualified for the Commissioner District 2 race. No other person picked up a packet for that seat. Nancy was unopposed and her name will not appear on the March 17, 2020 Municipal Election Ballot. Nancy will serve a new two-year term following the election, after being sworn into office in March 2020.

For additional information, please contact City Clerk Clara VanBlargan at 727-391-9951, ext. 231.

As of January 31, 2020, the Board of Commissioners have held 5 meetings in 2020. All meetings are open to public and allow for public comment. Regularly scheduled meetings are held:

Board of Commissioners Meetings – City Hall, 300 Municipal Drive, Madeira Beach, FL 33708

Workshop Agenda Setting 2nd Tuesday @ 5:45 p.m.

Regular Meeting 2nd Tuesday @ 6 p.m.

Regular Workshop Meeting 4th Tuesday @ 2 p.m.

Community Development

Community Development Director Linda Portal reports that she submitted several code amendments for review and approval by the Board of Commissioners. These included changes to setbacks for narrow lots, clarification of the sign code to allow for a minimum amount of signage for small businesses, and updates to the special magistrate’s function in reviewing variances and special exceptions.

Community Development staff continue to coordinate with City Attorneys in negotiating the final approval of the Community Rating System review for the city’s Floodplain Management Program.

Director Portal, along with Commissioner Deby Weinstein, attended the regional resiliency leadership conference in January. The issue everyone was talking about is what measures are planned and underway in communities throughout the Tampa Bay region to strengthen communities against the effects of climate change. The issue of sea level rise is not going away and it is clear that the best strategy for mitigating this impending threat is to work with the other members of the Tampa Bay Resiliency Coalition.

The Community Development staff also worked with the city’s consulting expert on the development and approval of a plan for impact fees and the policy changes that will be needed to support them. Work also continues on developing the layers of a mapping system for the city.

Building

City Building Official Frank DeSantis reports that our economic development continues at a fast pace.

The Town Center Project, Hotel A, is moving closer to completion with work on the roof, exterior stucco and exfiltration system expected to be completed very soon. Inside, the guest room drywall and painting is progressing on schedule. Installation of flooring and wallpaper will begin shortly followed by vanities, toilets and trim. Ceiling grid has been installed on the 3rd, 4th and 5th floor corridors. The main lobby, meeting rooms, offices and restroom sheetrock hanging continues. The kitchen floor tile has started and framing on 1st floor lobby has begun. Throughout the building, installation of all mechanical, electrical and plumbing operations, including sprinklers, has started.

The Madeira Bay Project at 13101 Gulf Blvd. is nearing completion. Countertop installation is progressing, followed by plumbing trim and final inspections inside the units. In the next few weeks, the final elevator lobby windows and storefront doors will be installed, which will allow stucco work to finish completely.

The Madeira del Mar Condominiums project at 15305 1st Street E, has been approved by zoning and fire, and is under review by the Building Official.

The Madeira Shores project at 14910 North Bayshore Drive has completed framing, all mechanical, plumbing and electrical components have been inspected. The building is enclosed and ready to install insulation.

The Gulf Grille project 14080 Gulf Blvd. has begun site clearing and preparation following approval of the required permit in December. As required by the development agreement with the city, beach access will remain open throughout the project. Parking at Kitty Stuart Park remains closed for public safety reasons. Upon completion of the project parking will be expanded and ADA accessible portable restrooms will be installed.

The Harbor at Town Center Condominiums project at 212 150th Ave. has submitted plans for review that include parking on the 1st and 2nd Floors.

Monthly Totals

Building Department

- 83 different types of permits were issued
- \$28,230.41 Permit fees collected
- \$1,017,229 Permit estimated value or cost
- Completed 183 inspections (11 daily average)

Community Policing and Code Enforcement

- 17 new code compliance cases were opened
- 13 existing code compliance cases were resolved
- 30 code compliance cases remain open

Code Compliance

- 7 new code compliance cases were created
- 4 code compliance cases being resolved
- 27 open code compliance concerns processed

Residential Rental Inspections

- 46-unit inspections

Marina

Marina Manger Brian Rau reports that the marina welcomed Colin Brown to their team as an attendant in early January. Colin joins a team that has done an outstanding job of implementing several changes in technology, processes and policies designed to make the marina more customer friendly and efficient.

Assistant Marina Manager, Brian Crabtree, attended the International Marina & Boatyard Conference & Exhibition in Ft. Lauderdale from 14-16 January. This annual conference is geared specifically toward marina and boatyard owners, operators, and managers. Conference attendees receive education and training on the latest rules and regulations for marina operations, as well as access to leading suppliers that service the industry.

Speaking of efficient operations, our new replacement pump-out system is installed and fully operational on the fuel dock. The marina once again has two conveniently accessible pump-out systems that are free for boaters. The majority of the funding for the new system was provided by a grant awarded through the Florida Clean Vessel Act.

Lastly, the 9th Annual Grunt Hunt fishing tournament is scheduled for March 14th. Anglers can sign up at <https://www.madeirabeachmarina.com/grunt-hunt> or by contacting the marina directly at 727-399-2631.

Parking

Parking Enforcement Supervisor Sue Tofthagen reports she and her staff have seen an increase in the number of drivers paying to park in City of Madeira Beach owned and operated parking lots in January.

Parking Enforcement has installed a solar beacon at one of the parking meters in John's Pass Village. The beacon is designed to call attention to the fact that drivers must pay to park in city-owned spots. This simple, energy efficient and technological advance could be the alternative to placing a sign in front of every parking space in the city.

Finance

Finance Director Walt Pierce reports that in January, the Finance Department received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Director Pierce also was recognized with a separate award for Excellence in Financial Reporting. These awards were based on the FY 2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

The FY 2019 Audit is expected to be completed in February and the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) is expected to be completed in March.

Budget

In January, staff reviewed the status of current year FY 2020 capital improvement requests from departments. This is the first step in beginning the FY 2021 Budget Development which will focus on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Departments will also start analyzing personnel levels along with departmental goals and objectives in February.

Human Resources

Madeira Beach continues to add new talent to better serve our community. Welcome to new employees Craig Johnson working in Public Works and Russell Smeback Parking Enforcement Officer. Meanwhile we are still hiring for a couple of positions, a part-time Recreation leader, a part-time Recreation bus driver and a full-time permit technician. Applications and job descriptions can be found on the city website.

Fire Department

A typical workday for your Madeira Beach firefighter begins promptly and officially at 7 a.m. Personnel usually begin arriving a few minutes early to share some conversation about personal life, family events and coffee. When the official change of duty occurs, everyone assembles in the apparatus bays and by operational position - paramedic, driver/engineer, officer, prevention and administration. Clover, the firehouse dog, participates in all shift-changes. All pertinent information is shared about emergency calls, status of the equipment, and anything that needs to be repaired or addressed during the next 24-hours.

Following shift change, the firefighters inspect tools, equipment and apparatus for proper operation, including personal turnout gear, tools, motor vehicle extrication devices, advanced life support medical equipment and more. This process ensures that everything and everyone is ready for action in a moment's notice. Station maintenance is a daily function as well. Firefighters clean, polish, empty, service, wipe and disinfect everything. Despite dealing with some of the nastiest, harshest conditions imaginable, a high level of cleanliness is always maintained. Those duties are all completed before noon depending on emergency calls and special details.

Meals can be a challenge. Lunch is scheduled for noon. However, this seems to be the most frequent time for emergency calls. Anytime during the 24-hour shift, firefighters stop what they are doing and quickly respond to every call for service. The average response time for your Madeira Beach Fire Department is 4-minutes 22-seconds; the fastest in the county. For this reason, firefighters rarely have a meal that hasn't been reheated at least once. Firefighters purchase and prepare their own meals. Every firefighter pays for their groceries or prepared meals. There are occasions when residents or businesses brighten our day by stopping by the station with treats to share.

The afternoon is assigned to training and recertification. Every discipline has its own recertification requirements. On the fire side, annual drills include live fire burns, auto extrication, hose pressure testing, ladder operations, victim removal techniques, aerial operations and much more. The advanced life support (ALS) side is another arduous task that we will delve into in a future article.

After 5 pm, firefighters are allowed to clean up, talk to their families, try to eat, take Clover to the dog park or for a run around the station, or to relax and destress. The station has one TV located in the dayroom, this was done intentionally to build camaraderie among members and shifts. Nonetheless, emergency calls are always a priority. Anytime of the day or night, firefighters must be responding to a request for service within 60 seconds during the day and within 90 seconds at night. Not only do they respond but our firefighters are fully prepared to handle, manage, and improve any incident no matter how large or how small.

Next month, we will explore the world of emergency medicine and what it takes to be an advanced life support paramedic. During this series, we will even take questions from you! Please submit your questions to cpreisser@madeirabeachfl.gov



Public Works

Public Works Director Jamie Aherns reports his staff has been busy working on measures to help reduce flooding incidents in the city. One of the most effective ways to do that is keeping stormwater outfall pipes open and clear of debris. Due to low elevations throughout the City, most of the outfall pipes have been installed at or below normal tide to allow for drainage from City streets. At high tide, water flows into the outfall pipes depositing sediment and debris. When sediment builds up and/or debris becomes lodged in the pipes outfall capacity is reduced resulting in street flooding.

Another impact to stormwater outfall pipes is the constant growth of oysters and barnacles around and inside the pipes. As the oysters multiply inside the pipes, the outfall capacity is reduced diminishing the flow of water out of the pipes resulting in flooding in city streets. A recent study of the city's outfall pipes showed that many of those pipes are clogged with oysters, some as much as 50% clogged. Additionally, several of the outfall pipes were found to be buried or totally blocked by vegetation.

During the winter months the city has low tides which allow for stormwater crews to remove sediment and blockage to help with flooding. Crews have started cleaning and unblocking stormwater outfalls and will continue throughout the city until complete.

Recreation

Recreation Director Jay Hatch reports that with 2020 in full swing youth athletics and recreational programming are on the agenda at the Recreational Complex! Madeira Beach Youth Baseball & Softball, Youth Basketball, and the Youth Mini Golf League have all begun their seasons. In addition to those activities, registration for the Spring Soccer season is approaching fast! The 5th edition of the Madeira Beach Spring Invitational Softball Tournament has become part of 'The Spring Games' which hosts thousands of collegiate softball games throughout the country at the beginning of each season. Five weeks of college softball will take place at the Softball Complex beginning in February.

Elsewhere, the Madeira Beach Social Club is back in action with many of it's members back in town after the holidays. Their monthly meeting continues to take place the first Monday of the month with food and activities as well as updates on fun activities and trips each month. Our most popular classes are up and running too with Zumba, Line Dancing, Yoga, Head to Toe Fitness, Cardio Drumming, and Cooking Classes all taking place at the Recreation Center!

Upcoming Events

Feb 14 – 16: The Spring Games – Madeira Beach Softball Invitational – Recreation Complex

Feb. 17 – School Day Out – Recreation Center – 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Feb 21 – 23: The Spring Games – Madeira Beach Softball Invitational – Recreation Complex

Feb 28 – March 1: The Spring Games – Madeira Beach Softball Invitational – Recreation Complex

March 7: Trash Pirates Beach Clean Up – Archibald Memorial Beach Park – 8 a.m.

March 6 – 8: The Spring Games – Madeira Beach Softball Invitational – Recreation Complex

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