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## **Town Council acted this week on grants, special events, upland services for Mooring Field, and other items**

**Town of Fort Myers Beach, FL** – The Town Council of Fort Myers Beach met on Monday, August 2, and acted on five special event permits, three grants, management of upland services for Matanzas Harbor Mooring Field, and other items.

Special event permits were approved for: 1) August 7 - Rugby on the Beach; 2) August 13 - TPI-Margaritaville Groundbreaking; 3) October 2 - Walk the Arches Poker Walk; 4) October 7-9 - Roar Offshore Boat Races; 5) April 23, 2022 - Rock the Arches Music Festival.

The Town Manager was authorized to allocate and appropriate funds and execute documents for three Fiscal Year 2021-22 grants:

- \$41,205 Clean Vessel Act Grant plus \$13,735 Town match for Mooring Field's pump out services and pump out vessel maintenance;
- Tourist Development Council Grant for beach and shoreline maintenance, Mound House, Estero Bay, Newton Beach Park, and trailer;
- \$35,000 request for West Coast Inland Navigation District Grant with \$15,000 Town match for marine law enforcement services from the Lee County Sheriff.

Town Councilors also authorized an agreement with Estero Bay Hotel Company dba Matanzas Inn to continue management of upland services for Matanzas Harbor Mooring Field. This agreement changes the management of upland services to Town staff. The agreement keeps restroom, dock, trash, water and laundry facilities maintained by Matanzas Inn.

Other action:

- Resolution 21-37 was approved to transfer title of the property at 1054 Fifth Street from TPI-FMB I, LLC, to the Town;

*Continued on Page 2*

The Town of Fort Myers Beach is on Estero Island off the southwest Florida coast facing the Gulf of Mexico and backed by Estero Bay. Known for white sugar sand and spectacular sunsets and shell finds, the Gulf beach stretches for seven miles. Incorporated since 1995, the Town has a variety of unique parks, recreation, cultural facilities, shops, and restaurants.

- August was proclaimed Children’s Vision and Learning Month at the request of the College of Optometrists in Vision Development;
- Resolution 21-33 was passed which ratifies action taken by Town Council on June 7 to replace aging audio video equipment, not to exceed \$283,550, that records and broadcasts public meetings in Council Chambers;
- Ordinance 21-05 was passed which adopts a franchise agreement with Tampa Electric Company (TECO) to use public right of ways for a natural gas distribution system;
- An interlocal agreement with the School Board of Lee County (Resolution 21-35) was adopted for the use of Bay Oaks Recreational facilities by students of Fort Myers Beach Elementary School during the school year;
- Authorization was given to replace a utility truck (\$49,366) using the state procurement contract and allocate the old utility truck as surplus to be auctioned (\$9,000);
- Discussion about Resolution 21-36 which updates Town Council’s policies and procedures manual;
- Public comment topics included dock encroachment, amendments to the turtle ordinance related to beach furniture and equipment, and Margaritaville’s groundbreaking event on August 16;
- Reports were received by the Cultural and Environmental Learning Center Advisory Board (CELCAB) and the Public Safety Committee;
- Town Councilor items: possibility of meters at Town Hall and Bay Oaks for public parking, electric bikes, landscaping on Estero Boulevard, modifications to the land development code to stop large buildings, ordinance to regulate landscaping gas-powered blowers, right of way use agreements, current CDC recommendations due to COVID, workforce housing, preliminary budget, recertification of high-rise condos, Town Charter on website, Mayor’s meeting with South Florida Water Management District officials about Caloosahatchee River water projects, Mayor’s meeting with other local mayors and Lee County about the 10-year draft plan for Lake Okeechobee releases, and the need for the public to send messages of disapproval about the proposed Lake O release plan to the Army Corps of Engineers.

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