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For Immediate Release
Wednesday, November 3, 2021

2525 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach, Fla. 33931 / www.fmbgov.com

Bayside Park improvements move forward with Town Council's approval of Wright Construction as the contractor

Town of Fort Myers Beach, FL – At the November 1, 2021, Town Council meeting, one of the Town's three large redevelopment projects was given the green light to proceed to the construction phase.

Authorization was given by Council to the Town Manager to execute contract documents with Wright Construction for the redevelopment of Bayside Park. The park is in the Downtown District on Old San Carlos Boulevard.

Construction is expected to cost \$885,346 which includes a contingency of \$44,267.30. A start date will be set during the process of executing the contract documents.

Redevelopment plans for Bayside Park have been under discussion for the past few years along with two other iconic areas of Town - Bay Oaks Recreational Campus and Times Square. In November 2020, Town Councilors finalized a \$10 million loan secured through First Florida Integrity Bank to fund all three projects. Grants to help offset the cost of these projects are also being pursued.

In other business, a new ordinance (21-06 - Prohibition on Plastic Straws) was adopted to allow an environmentally friendly new alternative to petroleum-based plastic straws and paper-based straws. The Town's first ban on plastic straws was adopted in 2017 and this new ordinance replaces it.

Also at the meeting:

- Ron Martin, the new Fire Chief of the Fort Myers Beach Fire District, introduced himself;
- The Town Manager presented designs for welcome signs to be installed at the base of the FMB entrance bridges incorporating the Town's new logo;
- Staff were authorized to apply to the State for the Clean Vessel Act grant to trade in and purchase a replacement pumpout boat from Pumpout USA for \$153,754.67 with the trade-in value to equal the grant match;

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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.

- The Town Manager and a representative from the contractor for TPI/Margaritaville presented a maintenance of traffic plan;
- A first public hearing was held to amend language in the Town’s land development code to clarify existing use and how and when it can be continued or modified;
- The Town Manager was authorized to approve STA NO. 16 for additional Tier 1 water and stormwater design services with Tetra Tech for \$52,105;
- The Anchorage Advisory Committee presented a report about Mooring Field operations;
- Reports from Town Council included: free libraries at beach accesses, Fright Night, Beach Baptist Church’s Halloween Bash, the process for overdue fines to be paid for code violations, installing bench swings in place of the current bocce ball court at Newton Beach Park, finding a new docking spot for the pumpout boat, the upcoming FMB Women’s Club program featuring the Lee County Sheriff’s Office demonstration of the bomb sniffing dogs, and opening day on November 2 for the aged 50 and over softball league at Bay Oaks Recreational Campus.

The next regular Town Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 15, 2021, at 9 a.m. at Town Hall, 2525 Estero Boulevard.

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