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

Sidewalk safety, beach renourishment, Mooring Field were top discussions at this week's Council meeting

Town of Fort Myers Beach, FL – At the Monday, March 21 meeting of Town Council, Town Council adopted amendments to the bike safety ordinance (Traffic and Vehicles – Chapter 28) after a second reading and public hearing. These amendments are designed to help with safety on the Town's congested sidewalks, streets and beach.

In general, these amendments mean that only wheeled transportation vehicles/devices that are people-powered, not electric powered, are permitted to be ridden on the sidewalk or beach.

The amendments officially prohibit “motorized micro mobility devices” such as scooters, skateboards, hoverboards and other one-wheeled devices. The Town's bike ordinance already prohibited electric bikes that are not in manual mode. Electric wheelchairs are not included in these amendments. They continue to be permitted on the beach and sidewalks.

In a meeting in February of this year, Town Council adopted another amendment to the bike safety ordinance that requires working lights and bells to be on all bicycles that are ridden in the Town.

Violations of these new regulations are enforceable by a \$50 fine per occurrence.

In other business, Town Councilors voted against proceeding with a grant application for up to \$3 million to build an upland services facility for the Town's Mooring Field.

Also at the meeting, Town Councilors:

- Received an update about the beach shoreline improvement project, a.k.a. beach renourishment, by Coastal Engineering Consultants, Inc.;
- Received reports from the Anchorage Advisory Committee and Marine Resources Task Force (MRTF);

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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.

- Received a status report on the dredging at Laguna Shores;
- Approved a special event application for alcohol to be served at a private anniversary party at Newton Beach Park;
- Approved a special exemption for Charley’s Boat House to serve alcohol in an existing outside seating area;
- Held a first reading and public hearing on Ordinance 22-08 which provides for the November 2022 election qualifying period;
- Adopted Resolution 22-10 approving a piggy-back contract for emergency and routine utility repairs with Vetor Contracting LLC pursuant to Collier County’s contract;
- Adopted Resolution 22-11 to authorize the Town’s participation in the local multi-jurisdictional public information committee which assists the Town in meeting requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and FEMA’s Community Rating System (CRS).

The next regular Town Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 4, 2022, at 9 a.m. at Town Hall, 2525 Estero Boulevard.

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