



**CONTACT:**

Jennifer Dexter, *Communications Coordinator*  
239-765-0202 / [Jennifer.dexter@fmbgov.com](mailto:Jennifer.dexter@fmbgov.com)

**For Immediate Release**  
*Monday, June 13, 2022*

2525 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach, Fla. 33931 / [www.fmbgov.com](http://www.fmbgov.com)

## **Town Council tackled full agenda at regular meeting on June 6**

**Town of Fort Myers Beach, FL** – One of the first items on the packed agenda of Town Council’s regular meeting on June 6 was to recognize this year’s recipient of the Citizen of Distinction Award.

Patrick McKeown was the winner of this award that annually honors an outstanding citizen who has made an exceptional contribution in the previous year. He received it for authoring a book about the history of the Mound House titled “*Crown Jewel of Fort Myers Beach: The Mound House.*”

In other business, Town Council accepted the Fiscal Year 2021 Audit report prepared by the independent accounting firm, Mauldin & Jenkins CPA’s and Advisors. The audit ensures that the Town’s financial statements are in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) as published by the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB.)

Audit Committee Chair Jim Steele spoke for the committee at the Council meeting and urged Council to accept the audit, saying “the Town is in excellent financial condition.” Mayor Ray Murphy is the Council’s liaison to the Audit Committee and he also urged Council to accept “a very clean report.”

Florida law (Section 218.39, F.S.) requires local governments to perform this annual audit within at least nine months after the end of the fiscal year. More importantly, this audit is one way that the Town stays accountable financially to the public and builds its next budget on a sound foundation.

Also related to finances, Town Council set the tentative Town’s millage rate at .99 for Fiscal Year 2023 for the Fiscal Year 2023 budget planning purposes. This tentative millage would be a modest increase from the current rate of .95 if it is enacted. It could be lowered at the September budget hearings if the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 budget initiatives under discussion are deferred or postponed.

One of the most discussed items at the meeting was proposed ordinance 22-11 titled “Sea Turtle Conservation.” This proposed ordinance would have required 15 percent tinting for windows on all new construction and 45 percent tinting on renovations. The tinting is to reduce light transmittance that disorients sea turtles and hatchlings during nesting season.

Town Councilors decided to wait until Town staff can rewrite an ordinance to require 45 percent tinting on all windows in new and renovated buildings. Councilors plan to formalize this percentage change at a future meeting.

*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.

In other action, Town Councilors deferred parts of Ordinance 22-10 but approved renaming the Marine Resources Task Force to the Marine and Environmental Resources Task Force (MERTF). Additional time was requested to consider restructuring the functions of the Bay Oaks Recreational Campus Advisory Board (BORCAB), the Cultural and Environmental Learning Center Advisory Board (CELCAB) and the inactive Community Resource Advisory Board (CRAB).

Town Council also:

- Awarded the Matanzas Pass Mooring Field expansion bid to Dock Marine Construction Corporation in the amount not to exceed \$269,454 (Town’s share is up to \$138,939 which includes a \$67,430 grant match);
- Authorized the Town Manager to negotiate a sole source agreement with Civic Smart in the amount of \$119,688 (with a recurring monthly fee of \$1,320) for a parking app and installation of individual parking space sensors;
- Approved a piggyback contract with Charge Point, Inc., to install electric vehicle charging stations at Times Square-Center Street, Newton Beach Park, and Town Hall;
- Authorized the solicitation of new bids (and the rejection of bids received) for water and stormwater improvements;
- Authorized Memorandums of Understanding for emergency response point of distribution locations at Santini Plaza and the adjacent FMB Fire Department property for the 2022 hurricane season;
- Authorized execution of a utility easement agreement for 290 Carolina Avenue;
- Authorized auction of surplus items.

Town Councilor, Town Attorney and Town Manager reports focused on:

- Public walkway and dinghy dock near Bayside Park to be built by an adjacent property owner;
- Choice of fencing for the base of the Matanzas Pass Bridge;
- Letter of intent to rejoin the Urban County Cooperation to collaborate with Lee County for potential HUD funding;
- Turtle compliance by beach vendors;
- Resiliency study required to increase eligibility for state grants;
- Ongoing Estero Boulevard roadway lighting discussions.

Town Council’s next regular meeting will be on Monday, August 1, 2022, at 9 a.m. at Town Hall, 2525 Estero Boulevard. Council meetings are available live and recorded on the Town’s YouTube channel and website, [www.fmbgov.com](http://www.fmbgov.com) > About FMB > Meetings & Agendas.

###