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For Immediate Release
Tuesday, March 7, 2023

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

Town Council extends state of local emergency, conducts other business related to Hurricane Ian recovery

Town of Fort Myers Beach, FL – On Monday, March 6, 2023, Town Council held its regular monthly meeting with an agenda mostly focused on items to support residents and businesses in their recovery from Hurricane Ian. Ian hit the Island catastrophically on September 28, 2022.

Public Comment

- Marine and Environmental Resources Task Force meetings need to start being held again.
- Wildlife on Estero Island are under stress due to damage of their natural habitats.
- Suggestions for rebuild of Island – stick to building code (up, not out); amber lights; churches combine and let their areas be green spaces; more south end beach accesses; all accesses need porta johns
- Enforce codes related to pools, travel trailers (not Air B & B's), tents, condemned houses
- Workforce housing needed
- Need more garbage cans and porta johns at public beach accesses.

Proclamation

- The week of March 12-18, 2023, was proclaimed Flood Awareness Week as promoted by the Florida Floodplain Manager's Association.

Local Achievements and Recognitions

- Thanks to the staff who are cleaning fish on the Beach!
- Congratulations to the Town, City of Sanibel, and Fire Districts of Sanibel and Fort Myers Beach for the Pride of Florida award that was given a week ago by Florida Senate President Kathleen Passidomo and Senators Johnathan Martin and Ben Albritton.
- Congratulations to winners of the first Keep Lee County Beautiful Environmental Awards, especially Tunaskin on FMB.

Advisory Committees

- John Dussliere was appointed to the Bay Oaks Recreational Campus Advisory Board.

Resolutions Approved

- 23-18 and 23-19 to extend the state of local emergency due to damage caused by Hurricane Ian and the Town's recovery
- 23-17 to authorize the Town Manager to apply for, execute, and administer an annual grant from the West Coast Inland Navigational District Program for \$50,000 to pay for additional marine law enforcement patrols

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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.

Special Events Approved

- Reconstruction Center operated by ICS Disaster Recovery, LLC, for contractors to provide consultation with residents for all aspects of rebuilding, is to be open seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., at 5669 and 5689 Estero Boulevard, through January of 2024.
- Ed Ryan/Beach Talk Radio to host Sunset Celebration in Times Square from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 18, 2023.

Public Hearings

- Ordinance 23-04 Pink Shell CPD Amendment was up for a second reading. It was adopted which allows live-aboard vessels in the Pink Shell Marina at 200 and 275 Estero Boulevard.
- Ordinance 23-05 Temporary placement of housing and governmental use facilities was up for a first reading. It is scheduled for a second reading and final adoption at the next meeting on March 20, 2023.
- Ordinance 23-06 Carousel Residential Planned Development (RPD) was up for a first reading. It is scheduled for a second reading and final adoption at the next meeting on March 20, 2023.
- VAR20220108 was approved for a side street pool setback of one foot from the required 15 feet at 8180 Lagoon Road.
- SEZ-20220120 Special exception was approved for live/work use at 6875 Estero Boulevard.
- SEZ-20220103 Texas Hold’Em and Squeeze Me Inn dune walkover and boardwalk at 8150 and 8170 Estero Boulevard was approved.

Town Manager items

- Steve Puposki has accepted the position of Community Development Director. He has been interim since November 2022.
- The Emergency Berm replacement project has been delayed until FEMA obligates the funding.
- The beach has been cleaned of about 13 tons of dead fish and debris in the past week. This is being taken to extra dumpsters at the Town Hall Complex.
- Stormwater sewers and drain debris cleaning is underway.

Town Councilor items

- Jim Atterholt reported on the work of the ad hoc committee of Beach Elementary School.
- John King reported on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO.)
- Dan Allers requested that another Town Councilor take over his seat on Lee County’s Recovery Task Force. Bill Veach volunteered to be the primary representative and Karen Woodson volunteered to fill in when Bill is unavailable.

To read further information about these agenda items, go to www.fmbgov.com > About FMB > Meetings & Agendas > Town Council March 6, 2023 > Click on the word “Download” in the drop down menu on the right hand side > Click on the word “Packet” in the drop down.

The next Town Council meeting will be on Monday, March 20, 2023, at 9 a.m. at DiamondHead Resort, 2000 Estero Boulevard.

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