

State of the City 10/13/20

Good Evening.

It is my privilege to share with you the accomplishments that we have made in my past year in office. I would first like to recognize our staff as they continue to show great pride in their work and in our city. Exceptional customer service continues to be a goal and is evaluated in all staff performance. Each and everyone have improved in team work and many have taken on additional duties with gratitude as they continue to serve the city well and I feel blessed to be a part of their lives.

I would first like to acknowledge our Director of Development Services Department. Eran Coordinates all community services, city infrastructure and storm-water improvements and proposed changes to our land development code and comprehensive plan.

He is currently overseeing the re-write of our comprehensive plan which has experienced delays due to COVID 19 and the importance in community involvement. Resiliency is also an important role of this director as he prepares the goals and objectives of a new ad hoc committee for recommendations on reducing nitrogen and phosphorous loads in our bays along with his other commitments in the Tampa Bay Resiliency Coalition.

The Building Official and Planner are working hard to keep up with the industry during this robust economy. We have added an assistant planner to our team to assist our part time lead planner in order to expedite site plan reviews and building permit applications for compliance. These departments are also responsible for all Flood Plain Management Reviews, our Community Rating System and our Community Assistant Visit.

The Building Department, in their response to COVID 19, has streamlined all permitting online services. All checklists and applications can be found online and blueprints submitted digitally.

The City Clerk launched our new ADA compliant City Website and it is working beautifully. Additional input is ongoing in making this site user friendly and informational as transparency is key in our community outreach. Permits, Parking Tickets, permit parking, and Vacation Rental Receipts can all be paid and applied for online.

Our Code Compliance Department is working every day educating and bringing all into compliance. They are currently inspecting short term renewals and initial 30 day rental applications. We have utilized our special magistrate proceedings many times this year as some are not as willing or would like their case heard before coming into compliance.

We have implemented permit parking in our residential districts. Our Administrative Accounting Specialist is currently taking applications. We will be reevaluating this new plan in 6 months to determine if any adjustments need to be made.

Spring Lake continues to be monitored for water quality and I am pleased to report that it is beautiful and full of aquatic life.

The improvements to our Community Park are almost complete. The new skate park, new and enlarged big dog park, improved small dog park, new baseball field, new shuffleboard courts, new pickle ball courts, improved basketball court, new airplane themed playground, new bocce ball courts and the

improved field for soccer and events will be complete before the Holidays. We couldn't have done this without our many generous donors which this year included the Hagan Foundation, The Meloncon Family, Kim Rash, McBride Concrete, and an anonymous donor. I can't thank these donors enough as our community is once again willing to give. I owe a great shout out to our public works department as their passion and commitment to getting this done was nothing less than impressive.

Our Phase C and D Storm-water improvements have been completed. We are transitioning into geo grid and sod and the residents are really pleased with the finished product. Our engineer has just applied for the next phasing of storm-water improvement through SWFMD which will include 3 phases for fiscal year 2021/2022/2023 and include 27th through 28th St between Ave B and C; 56 through 65th between Holmes Blvd and Marina Drive; and 76th through 81st street between Gulf Drive and Palm Drive. Although this application reduces storm-water runoff into the bays, design options will be utilized with the best approach to reduce flooding.

This year's storm-water maintenance included slip-lining and installing wastops on storm pipes in key Royale and at Grassy Point. We have additional wastops to install in priority order just as soon as the tide permits which include South Harbor Drive, the City Center Boat Basin, and the 85th street basin. Infiltration was maintained in Basin 7. We have increased our budget for stormwater maintenance this year and public works will begin with maintenance of all swales with the addition of grasses to help filter this run off. Additional slip-lining and wastops will also be installed in priority order.

Although our stormwater appropriations were vetoed due to COVID 19 spending cuts, we will be applying for this funding again this year.

We completed the 67th St. and City Center seawall replacements and are in the design stage of the 20/21 Seawall project which is Marina Drive & 77th St. and Marina Drive South of 8001. The engineer will also be designing the 21/22 FY seawall for the preparation of our next budget.

We completed the striping and symbols for our bike lanes between Manatee Ave and 81st St. which greatly improved the lanes for safety.

We completed the repairs on Key Royale Bridge and lane striping.

Trolley shelter repairs – At this time we have repaired 2 of our Trolley Shelters and have the engineered specifications to continue the same modifications to all additional shelters. The County paid the full cost of repair to the shelter that was damaged by their service truck.

We completed 4 additional Rapid Flashing Beacons and added additional crosswalks at 55 midblock and Gulf Drive, 58th St. and Gulf Drive, 72nd St and Palm Drive, and White Ave and Gulf Drive. Additional RRFBS will be completed this new year at City center cross walks.

We have completed the sidewalk, bike lane, and lane drawings for the City Center Project and the storm water plans are at 100% completion. We are waiting on FEMA to give us the approval to proceed and are anticipating construction to start late April or May.

We added sidewalks on Gulf Drive from 85th St. to East side of Cross Point Church and on the North side of 56th Street from Holmes Boulevard to mid-block of 56th and 55th Streets on east side of Gulf Drive and extended the 56th side walk to midblock at curve. PW also added nice wide sand paths on the West side

of the S curve both on the North and South extension of the beach access to safely get pedestrians to the lighted crosswalks.

We completed the water lines and hose spigots to our t-ends and will be adding electric this year. These boat docks are available for rent by our residents.

We completed our dredging at 65th st canal and at the Holmes Beach Boat Ramp. This year we will be completing the Survey/permitting/and bid documents for Sportsman Harbor Dredge for 2021/2022 fiscal year.

Thanks to Lori Hill our City Treasurer, we are anticipating a balanced 19/20 budget and have prepared a new budget that will meet the needs of our city, providing services and public safety to our residents and business owners. Lori also took on the responsibility of making certain our city server was protected from Ransom attacks that have been taking place all over the county. She worked with our IT provider in upgrading our hardware, software, and server so that we have the necessary protection in place. She continues to be a pleasure and works hard in keeping our commissioners informed of all revenues and expense items.

I would like to thank the Chief for another year in keeping us safe and the citizens and visitors protected. With the help of the Chief, I was able to get additional funding for beach patrol in our new inter-local agreement with the County. The Chief is currently working with our EOC consultant on the review of our Response and Recovery plan. The staff will begin training exercises shortly to gain confidence in their abilities to perform before, during and immediately after an event. With the assistance of Eran, we upgraded the existing generator equipment to provide power to the entire city building for continuous operations post disaster.

Lastly, we continue to prevail in our Bert Harris claims and are continuing our role in defending our right to self police with respect to our comprehensive plan.

I would like to thank the commissioners and our staff as these accomplishments couldn't have happened without you. Commissioners, your commitment and oversight has been notable and, and to the staff, your energy and expertise has not gone unnoticed.

Thank you again, it has been an honor to serve.