



# City of Sanibel

800 Dunlop Road  
Sanibel, FL 33957

## Meeting Minutes - Final City Council

---

Monday, October 3, 2022

5:01 PM  
City Council Plaza at Bell Tower - Sanibel Room - 13051 Bell Tower Dr.,  
Fort Myers, FL 33907

---

### Final Budget Hearing Rescheduled from October 3, 2022

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting convened at 5:03 p.m.

#### 2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Councilman Henshaw)

Councilman Henshaw gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### 3. ROLL CALL

Mayor Smith thanked staff for their efforts and dedication during the preparation, evacuation, and recovery efforts to date.

**Present:** 5 - Mayor Holly Smith, Vice Mayor Richard Johnson, Councilman Scott Crater, Councilman John Henshaw, and Councilman Mike Miller

#### 4. BUDGET DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

##### a. Link to Budget Information from Prior Hearing

Deputy City Manager Steve Chaipel gave a brief report of the purpose for the budget hearing and spoke to the documents attached to the agenda. Council spoke to the statutory requirement for adopting the budget for operation purposes.

##### b. Recommendation from the Planning Commission Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Review Subcommittee to approve the 5-year CIP

Mr. Chaipel spoke to the report attached and summarized the resolutions to be approved. Mayor Smith spoke to the recommendations as presented.

**Councilman Miller moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Johnson to approve the recommendation from the Planning Commission Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Review Subcommittee to approve the 5-year CIP. The motion carried.**

##### c. **RESOLUTION 22-050 ADOPTING THE FINAL OPERATING AND VOTED DEBT SERVICE AD VALOREM MILLAGE RATES FOR TAX YEAR 2022 FOR THE CITY OF SANIBEL, FLORIDA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

Attorney Agnew read into record the title of Resolution 22-050. Mr. Chaipel noted the blanks would be filled as 1.9750 and 17.6% respectively.

i. Public Comment

- Doug Congress - inquired as to reserves and availability of a line of credit

Deputy City Manager Chaipel spoke to the budget including disaster reserves of \$4.5 million, \$1 million in environmental reserves in the general fund, and \$2.8 million in un-appropriated funds. Fully expecting all three amounts to be appropriated or re-appropriated to operating expenses for recovery from Hurricane Ian. Mr. Chaipel further noted the line of credit established for Hurricane Irma was never drawn upon and expired last year, the amount of that loan was \$5 million.

Mayor Smith spoke to concerns with raising the millage rate. Mr. Agnew spoke to a scrivener's error in each of the resolutions.

Vice Mayor Johnson moved, seconded by Councilman Henshaw, to adopt Resolution 22-050 with the blanks filled as 1.9750 and 17.6% respectively and the date of adoption corrected to October 3, 2022. The motion carried 4-0 with Mayor Smith opposed.

**Opposed:** 1 - Mayor Smith

**d. RESOLUTION 22-051 ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 FOR THE CITY OF SANIBEL, FLORIDA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

Attorney Agnew read into record the title of Resolution 22-051, noting any motion for adoption should include the correction to the date. Mr. Chaipel stated the blank should be filled as \$84,029,407.

i. Public Comment

There were no public comments from the audience.

Councilman Henshaw moved, seconded by Councilman Miller, to adopt Resolution 22-051 with the blank filled as \$84,027,409 and the date of adoption corrected to October 3, 2022. The motion carried 4-0 with Mayor Smith opposed.

**Opposed:** 1 - Mayor Smith

**e. RESOLUTION 22-052 ESTABLISHING COMMITTED FUND BALANCES FOR DISASTER RESERVE AND ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVE RESERVE FOR THE CITY OF SANIBEL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

Attorney Agnew read into record the title of Resolution 22-052, noting any motion for adoption should include the correction to the date.

i. Public Comment

There were no public comments from the audience.

Councilman Henshaw moved, seconded by Mayor Smith, to adopt Resolution 22-052 with the date of adoption corrected to October 3, 2022. The motion carried.

## 5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **RESOLUTION 22-053 PERTAINING TO THE SANIBEL BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS' RETIREMENT TRUST FUND RATIFYING THE TWO TRUSTEES ELECTED BY THE POLICE OFFICERS PARTICIPATING IN THE PLAN; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

Attorney Agnew read into record the title of Resolution 22-053.

- i. Public Comment

There were no public comments from the audience.

Vice Mayor Johnson moved, seconded by Councilman Crater, to adopt Resolution 22-053. The motion carried.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Hurricane Ian Update

City Manager Souza gave a brief update of the actions taken during Hurricane Ian relief. Deputy Public Works Director Scott Krawczuk, gave an update regarding: getting roads open on the island, completed roads include Beachview and Chateaux Ser Mer; Crowder Gulf, the debris hauler, is on island and will beginning hauling debris by cubic yard; and the Donax Wastewater Plant is operating.

City Manager thanked staff for their efforts with minimal equipment to get the roads cleared. Crowder Gulf is our contracted debris hauler and working to get equipment to the island. Mr. Krawczuk spoke to the challenges relating to there being no channel markers for the boats and barges.

Discussion ensued regarding the equipment being loaded at Punta Rossa, Lee County hiring Andrews Site work to build a road and Kelly Brothers to build a loading site. On island there will be a landing area at the boat ramp area.

Mr. Souza spoke to barges temporarily and long term. FWC having equipment moved to the island, working to make sure all barge action initially goes through Crowder Gulf. Working as a unified front.

City Manager Souza introduced Diana Wilson, Island Water Association, gave a brief update regarding restoring water to City Hall, Public Works, and Donax. Getting RO plant operating, and 2 wells. Working to increase distribution size as more areas are supplied water over the next few months, not potable water.

City Manager Souza introduced Tricia Dorn, LCEC, who spoke to repair efforts for power lines. LCEC lost entire fleet and working to get materials and bucket trucks barged to the island. Discussion ensued regarding the LCEC truck fleet that was stored on island.

City Manager Souza spoke to communications with DOT to do inspections on the bridge and develop a plan on construction of the bridge. Today the Lee County City Managers office informed that TetraTech was authorized

Lee County Commissioner Kevin Ruane spoke to efforts regarding options and timeframes for assistance and resources. FPL has agreed to assist LCEC, TetraTech, Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile for carrier service, understanding the situation by doing helicopter fly-overs, asking for 120 days, instead of the 60 day timeline, for 100% reimbursement.

Council inquired if the County was proposing a temporary ferry service, Mr. Ruane spoke to that being a consideration and needing more information and research. Instituting daily calls with all of the municipalities involved governor being involved daily. City Manager Souza spoke his appreciation for communications from the County and inquired about the percentages of electric restoration. Mr. Ruane spoke to the efforts being made to reconnect utilities and working to designate gas stations that will be available for municipalities and officials as well as the first responders and crews.

Public Comment:

- Kevin McLellan

\* Mr. Ruane spoke to efforts being made by the County to supplement the actions of the Council. Discussion ensued regarding consistent communications throughout the EOC, Municipalities and Agencies.

Chamber of Commerce John Lai - working to secure a location, working with EEOC, working with banks on the island to remove assets.

Sanibel Fire Chief Bill Briscoe reported commandeering boats to get staff and PW to the island and clear a way to the station to start search and rescue efforts. Had USAR Team 1 and Task Force 2 join searches and begin damage assessments, many properties are unlivable, dangerous as alligators and snakes are every as well as sharp debris. Day 3 Public Works brought equipment to move debris, Ding Darling assisted with clearing San-Cap Road. Many flat tires, slick roads, 100% of damage done, 100% of search and rescue done, first time being "knock and yell", 4 deaths reported, 3 fires, one fire engine on island with 750 gallons of water, working to get brush truck to the island, holds 500 gallons of water, cannot get the apparatuses

down the road, working to clear the power lines. Thank you to IWA for water, still no sewer available. Station 2 is being restored, running 7a-7p as no light, toilets, and dangerous roads.

Public Comment:

- Barry Roth - mapping will include every building on the island, including businesses
- Nick Melchiorre
- Ellen Kenner
- Nancy Kiddoo
- Kevin McLellan

City Manager Souza spoke to an developing an access plan, Council members participating in the Structural Safety Inspections (SSI) today, access to island beginning Wednesday, October 5, 2022 from 7a-7p. Cannot land at City Boat ramp. Curfew will be 7p-7a, enforced by PD and National Guard. October 5 allowed between 7-7 to inspect property, remove property, drywall, be forewarned it is dangerous. Field interviews will be conducted at entrances to neighborhoods to ensure people are authorized to enter, bring id, must have hurricane pass or valid drivers license with Sanibel address. Get pass at Crowne Plaza Hotel in the Sanibel Room. Bring rental agreement or utility bill for proof of residency. Business owners have valid re-entry pass 22-23 business tax receipt (BTR), contractors valid pass or accompanied with resident with valid pass. Canals, vessels will be checked by law enforcement for entry, no private barges may enter the island unless authorized by the City Manager or designee. Vehicles on island will be restricted and authorized, water craft owners are entering at their own risk as canal statuses are unknown. USAR completed inspections today, once reports are received it will be posted on the City's website. Tomorrow the City's SSI team and National Guard will be posting Unsafe or Limited Access placards on buildings. Working to get an ambulance and Polaris back on island without radio access so limiting response. Instructions will be published on website.

Discussion ensued regarding trash, debris, slick roads with hazards, and unsafe buildings. Animals are not the worst danger on the island. Warning to wear proper shoes and be extremely careful as there will not be medical assistance available on island. Wear gloves, safety glasses, safety shoes, be prepared for dealing with heat and dehydration. Be aware of your location and capabilities. Suggest not to go alone, advised the silty mud is slick, take walking sticks, don't underestimate the circumstances. There is glass, metal, slippery mud, and water everywhere. East, Middle, and West Gulf are all almost un-enterable. Government is posting signs as to accessibility. Warning that the insides of buildings are as slick as outside, do not send in generators, wear protective coverings, people are being turned away from Captiva. Council thanked Staff for working many hard hours to help the City though many of

them are also dealing with hurricane effects at their personal homes.

Council thanked Commissioner Ruane, spoke to aerial photographs not being as true as photos from the ground, advised all to listen to the people that have facts, listen to the experts. It is not worth risking a life make efforts to get "stuff" from the island. Listen to the data when provided, have a plan, be prepared. Lee County and the City of Sanibel will continue to work together for the best interest of the island residents and businesses. Thanks to everyone that has been patient, trusted the process, and relied on the experts.

Continued discussion ensued regarding recovery being a team effort, encouraged all to be part of the solution, stated Council is listening to comments from the public, adjusting to situations as fast as possible, and working on opportunities.

i. Public Comment

- Ron Rice
- Ellen Kenner
  - \* Attorney Agnew responded that the freedom to sue the City is available and reiterated the need for all to heed the warnings of Council, First Responders, and the posted warnings, noting reaching the island is at their own risk.
- Nick Adams - offered providing drone footage for free so people can make the assessment of going to the island.
  - \* City Manager Souza responded that the USAR information being prepared should include photos, if not he will reach out to Mr. Adams.
- Doug Congress - have insurance team come talk to the public to provide additional information about assessments.
- Barry Roth - difficulties for filing claims as the island is unsafe to access.
- Tirzah Althouse - Post Master - setting up mail distribution at Six Mile Cypress facility, please wait a few days to access, please go to office or online for change of address or temporary address - working on temporary post office boxes.
- Wendy Warner - when will USAR results database be posted
  - \* City Manager Souza responded the hope is to have it posted tomorrow and details are being worked on with Law enforcement to organize homeowner and appraiser access to the island.
- Basil Ridowski - where to place debris
  - \* City Manager Souza responded move to the curb as possible, not in the roadway, and separate as much as possible for haulers to pick up.
- Gary Rostick - is there a plan for accepting volunteers
- Michael Fallon
- Paul Tritaik - is Wednesday the only day for accessing the island
  - \* Staff responded no, it will be daily from 7a-7p starting Wednesday.
- Marc Yelenich
- Teresa Russell

- Ed Yarmous - allowed to beach boats, end date for accessing island has not been established yet
- Lillian Burroso - are accommodations available for those that do not have access to boats
- TJ Spinks - is there a list of functioning boat ramps accessible to Sanibel
- Rob Pailes - multiple properties, not using cars, can bike or walk, are tarps allowed
  - \* Staff noted a contract or authorizing letter would be needed for accessing properties, and ACOE working on drop program for tarps.
- Alecia Galante - update on plans for causeway, is there a potential ferry service

Mr. Souza spoke to Florida and Lee Departments of Transportation (DOTs) working on plan for transportation to island and ferry service for large scale operations being considered.

Mayor Smith introduced Congressman Byron Donalds who spoke to great communication between Federal, State and Local organization. Disaster Recovery Center will be established at Lakes Regional Library on Gladiolus and Bass Road in Fort Myers, additional centers will follow. FEMA agencies will be in attendance. Speaking specifically to the Sanibel Causeway there are orders to build-out roadway sections to get services to Sanibel. Same issue and repairs began on bridge to Matlacha today, Sanibel Causeway is a more difficult repair but will begin as soon as possible. ACOE setting up blue tarp program, will need access to the island to institute the program. Go online with FEMA to apply for assistance at [disasterassistance.gov](https://disasterassistance.gov) or call Congressman Donalds office at 239-599-6033 or 239-252-6225.

Public Comment:

- Lynn Hoops
- Lisa Krug

Congressman Donalds spoke to the website being the fastest route for applying. Mr. Purdon spoke to setting expectations appropriately, initial claim must be completely submitted by individual, and once denied or ignored State Staff can assist.

Public Comment:

- Teresa Russell

Congressman Donalds spoke to FEMA having established a 30-day time-frame for 100% reimbursement to municipalities for storm related expenses, State Representatives working to get extension to 120 day.

Public Comment:

- Paul Tritaik - small business assistance
- Dave Arter - when can an adjuster get to property

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.