

**PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION/LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY MEETING**  
**Wednesday, March 20, 2024 5:05P.M.**

**MINUTES**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Akers called the meeting to order at 5:05p.m.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge was recited.

3. **ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Commissioner Michael Ruehman, Commissioner Claudia Luna, Alternate Commissioner Dominic Foti, Alternate Commissioner Eric Boissat, City Attorney John Rhodeback, City Planner Robert Loring, and Chair Buddy Akers

**Excused:** Commissioner Michael Barone and Commissioner Jose Cardozo

**Also, Present:** Recording Secretary Miriam Bedolla

4. **PUBLIC HEARING:**

a) **RESOLUTION NO. 2024-28/A** RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, ACTING AS THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY FOR THE CITY OF FELLSMERE, INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA, REMOMMENDING THE ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2024-15 FOR THE ANNUAL UPDATE TO THE TEXT OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ELEMENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN. **/PUBLIC HERING**

City Attorney John Rhodeback read Resolution No. 2024-28 by title only.

City Planner Robert Loring stated this was an exercise that is handed down from the state. The state hands it down to the county and the county hands it down to the city. This is an annual exercise that the city goes through so everyone can get together and talk about capital improvements and to see where we are with everything. On page 9 from the agenda pertains to the City of Fellsmere and its capital program in efforts to match any grant opportunities as they arise. Mr. Loring asking commissioners if they had any questions. Chair Akers stated it was not complicated and just needed to be looked at to understand what was going on. Mr. Loring stated that this was done in 5-year increments with one-year increments where the city just makes adjustments so the next 5-year capital improvement project will happen next year. Commissioner Eric commented about the rise in services and Mr. Loring stated the county did no look at us much for stuff. Commissioner asked who prioritized the list provided, Mr. Loring stated the City Manager and the Public Works Director were in charge of that. Discussion was continued among the commissioners regarding their concerns on where money is being spent and what projects should be focused and prioritize vs some of the ones listed on page 9. Discussion and concerns continued among the commissioners regarding the money that would be spent for the Fellsmere Grade Project and what real benefit would that bring to the community and the residents of Fellsmere vs people visiting the area and using that road for fishing. The commissioners were in agreement that the dirt roads should be listed as a priority and focus on the list instead.

City Attorney John Rhodeback stated they could make a recommendation to council on what to do on this particular ordinance such as deny or they make changes to attachment A because it did not provide for enough capital improvement funding for the dirt roads that exist within the city. He continued to explain to them that this was part of their role in the government process, and the city's council's role would be to take

P&Z's recommendation under consideration which would be relayed to them to make their own determination. He also stated that all council and P&Z members had diverse background which does not include budgeting 7.6 million dollars and rely on staff to make determination and make recommendations to the city council, the city manager, to help with projects like this which is how government works. This is where P&Z comes in on their roll and if there are different ideas on how these things should be prioritized, we will get a motion crafted up making a recommendation to city council that these priorities should be shifted and then it will be up to them if they accept the recommendation or reject it or offer their own. Mr. Loring stated that they also needed to be cautious about their designations because grant money usually needed to be spent within a certain period of time. The commissioners then went on and talked about other items that were also of their concern where money was projected to be spent on other projects. Chair Akers suggested having some workshops throughout the year to help explain their roll as members of P&Z and talk about needs the city may have to help with the future budgeting of this list and its priorities in projects. Commissioner Foti also suggesting perhaps showing last year's budget along with the new list to compare and see if the city was on track and spending as much as the project indicated it would. The commissioners also suggested that perhaps a workshop could be done to involve the community and get their input on needs they thought were important.

Chairman Akers asked if anyone had any other questions, hearing none he continued and opened the public hearing to which there were none and closed the public hearing.

**MOTION** by Commissioner Ruehman, **SECONDED** by Alternate Commissioner Boissat, to approve Resolution No. 2024-28 recommending that the City Council adopt Ordinance No. 2024-08 with the understanding that the Planning and Zoning Commission be given more opportunity to be involved in the prioritizing of items within the Capital Improvement Plan in the future.

**ALL AYES:**

**MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

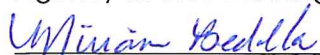
**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**6. NEXT MEETING:** TBD

**7. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business Chairman Akers adjourned the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

These minutes were approved by the City of Fellsmere Planning and Zoning Commission/ Local Planning Agency at their meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024.



**Miriam Bedolla, Recording Secretary**  
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