

State of the City
Mayor William "Bill" Shearon
July 7th, 2016

This is my third state of the City address.

I am pleased to report the City continues to improve, particularly in the Financial, Capital Improvements and Planning/Building areas.

Financial Improvements:

The City currently has no debt, and City assets are in excess of 9.4 million dollars, with 1.3 million dollars in unrestricted funds. This is a decrease from the previous year, as actual revenue exceeded expenses by over \$182,000.

As in previous years, reserve funds are being used to balance the budget and we cannot allow this practice to continue. Working together, the Commission and City staff can bring this practice to an end. As Mayor, I will not support a deficit budget or use of reserve funds.

The Commission receives monthly statements and budget analysis to ensure continued accountability of accounting, policy and procedures, which are being reviewed and updated for efficiency. This is leading the way towards total electronic information availability and transparency.

Capital Improvements:

The City Commission is establishing a 2-5-10 year Capital Improvement plan. Funding projects will be based on the use of BP, Cell Tower and CRA funds. Herb Dolan Park and the Bridge Street project will be complete in the near future. Working with our nearby cities, the AMI Sun Trail, which is awaiting funding, will provide safe travel for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists for the extent of the entire Island.

Planning and Building Department:

The City Commission approved a complete rewrite of the City's Land Development Code. This completed a multi-year process affecting how our City is developed in the future. The City planners Services were increased to assist the building department to address the increased demand for services, and a new software system is in final review. The new system will maintain electronic records and documents for increased state and federal regulations.

Community Redevelopment Area:

The City Commission, as a committee, has the responsibility of the Community Redevelopment Area (CRA). The CRA special funding source will soon expire, so the committee will be required to extend the funding and expand the use of the funds.

Conclusion:

This City is moving forward in a positive Progressive manner with an active, engaged Commission and staff. New approaches combined with age and wisdom are being used to address the changes and challenges faced by our City. We continue to take control of our destiny by choosing policies that will benefit us over the long-term. Our success will be measured by how well we preserve and maintain our "Old Florida Lifestyle Community" for future Generations.

I look forward to next year's State of the City Report and sharing the Commission and Staff's efforts to improve the future of Bradenton Beach.