

MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Mayor's Youth Council was held on November 04, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of City Hall.

Youth Council Chair Matthew Goldfarb called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.. Roll call was taken. Present were members Hailey Dester, Na-kowa Ryals, Janelle Lewis, Catherine Shell, Mahi Nooka, Matthew Goldfarb, Brody Bishop and Lydia Ragsdale.

Staff present: Executive Airport Assistant Lucy Huber.
Council Mentors Mayor Melonie Bahr Monson, Sam Abrahani, Ivan Abare and Dr. Randy Stovall were also present.

Youth Council Mentor Sam Abrahani delivered the invocation.
The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

1. MAYOR

1.1 Re-Introduction of Council Members

All members reintroduced themselves, but Brody Bishop shared some extra things about himself since he had not been present at previous meeting

1.2 Approval of November 04, 2024 Mayor's Youth Council Minutes

Mahi Nooka motioned to approve the minutes as presented.
Seconded by Na-Kowa Ryals. Motion passed unanimously.

2. BUSINESS ITEMS

1.1 Intro to Sunshine Law

Mayor discussed Sunshine law with the Youth Council

2.2 Discussion of projects:

Discussion was had brainstorming project ideas, including:

-Food Drives, Distributing personalized Cards/Letters, job preparation/assistance, community cleanups, music events, visiting hospitals or hospices, repairing roads and helping the homeless population.
Mayor Monson noted that many bad roads are County roads. She also said that the Police Department has a new program CHIPZ meant to address the homeless and those in need of assistance.

Matthew Goldfarb then told the group that they should think about the projects they have suggested and come up with ways to implement them so they wouldn't just be talking about them.

2.3 Discussion of Volunteer Opportunities

Discussion regarding helping with the Christmas Parade – when to be there and what they are going to be doing during the parade

Discussion about the filling the food pantry – When to be there and what they will be doing

Ivan Abara talked to the Youth Council about Pigz in Zhills and some of the opportunities that will be available for them. All the Mentors discussed more of this subject in detail

Matthew Goldfarb reiterated that he liked everyone's participation and that as the Chairperson, he will try to make sure when the members want to speak, they will be able to do so.

Randy Stovall encouraged the Youth Council to pick one the ideas and make it their main project

Matthew suggested the letters/cards to nursing home and military be the first main project
Haily thought food collection for Christmas, but Mayor suggested it was too late for that this year.

***Na-Kowa Ryals motioned that Card be the first project.
Seconded by Brody Bishop. Motion passed unanimously.***

Na-Kowa Ryals volunteered to take the lead with the cards. Haley Dester and Lydia Ragsdale partnered with her.

Mayor Monson said the student council should attend the Jan 13th City council meeting to introduce themselves and their first project.

Mayor Monson told the council about the Florida League of Cities conference and a trip to Tallahassee. All TBD.

2.4 Next Meeting Date & Agenda Items: January 6th @ 6:00pm – Items TBD
All agreed with the next student council meeting time

Tour City Hall: Rodney Corriveau - **No city tour this time**

CLOSING COMMENTS

****Mahi** - Spoke about making specific plans for the Card creations.

****Brody** – also mentioned the cards.

****Lydia** – talked about making her own cards.

****Na-Kowa** - said there would have to be more discussion about cards.

Mayor Monson and Randy Stovall talked about different ideas in making the cards

****Matthew** - reiterated that communication is important, and he appreciated everyone's ideas

Adjourned 7:26 pm

Submitted by Ricardo Quiñones - not present