

Kathleen Beckman
YOUR
Clearwater City Councilmember



Remembering Mr. Bill Horne

It seems like more often than not my newsletters touch on the need for adapting to change, and so too, will this one. On August 14th Clearwater's beloved City Manager Bill Horne passed away unexpectedly from an apparent heart attack; he was just 72 years old and three weeks away from retirement.

Residents, city workers, friends and, of course, his family have been devastated by this loss and we continue to mourn his passing.

From the time I was sworn into office, Bill and I had scheduled one-on-one weekly meetings. They usually lasted a little over an hour. We would discuss City business, upcoming agenda items and initiatives I wanted to bring forward. Woven into these discussions was invaluable historical perspective and philosophical musings about the state of the world and our country, in particular. I loved these meetings and I always learned so much.

Bill had a wealth of knowledge about all things Clearwater. He was also knowledgeable about building relationships, and obviously, the function of government. I can't imagine the struggles I would have had in these early months of my term without Bill's guidance. Bill was smart, measured, ethical, compassionate, hard working and wise. I will be forever grateful for the time I spent with Bill and the lessons I learned. He was truly a remarkable man and my heart is broken with his passing. My deepest sympathies for his family, and all those who were lucky enough to know him. The City has a memorium page you can access here: [In Memorium Bill Horne](#).

**With Unanimous Approval -
WE ARE COMMITTED!**

**YOU are Invited! Please
Come!**



Clearwater is ready to host the official groundbreaking/kick-off ceremony for Imagine Clearwater at 9 a.m. on Friday, September 3 at the Clearwater Main Library, 100 N. Osceola Ave. City elected officials, leaders, local dignitaries and members of the construction and design firms will be in attendance. Imagine Clearwater is the total renovation and redevelopment of our downtown waterfront and Coachman Park. This showcase park will include a 4000 seat covered amphitheater, an expansive playground, a splashpad, shade structures, and a stunning entry with tiered water pools along the concrete steps. Also noteworthy are the solar panels (the city's first!) that will be installed on buildings within the park. You can learn more and see a video representation here: [Imagine Clearwater](#).

**Important Resources and
Updates**

Information here about ARPA and how funds may be used. This will be an important discussion for Council and staff. [American Rescue Plan Act \(\\$22.4 MILLION for Clearwater\)](#)

This is the compact our Council signed that articulates our priorities related to our housing crisis. I plan to reference it frequently. [Advantage Pinellas Housing Compact - Addressing the Need for More Affordable Housing](#)

The City recently installed a live web-cam facing Coachman Park where residents can view construction progress 24/7. Check it



On August 5th the City Council voted unanimously to adopt our revised Environmental/Sustainability Plan GREENPRINT 2.0. I am so excited about this update and the initiatives presented in this plan. A hearty thank you to those residents who spoke before Council, or wrote in, in favor of adopting this important document. While I advocated for more aggressive carbon reduction goals, they were not adopted. However, that doesn't mean we can't take steps to exceed the goals we've set.

Next steps include EV infrastructure ordinances (Transportation is a HUGE contributor to greenhouse gas), allocating funding to work towards Greenprint's goals, investigating to hire an Energy Manager and creating dashboards to help communicate the progress we make. You can read Greenprint here: [Greenprint 2.0](#). This is the best guide we have to protect the environment that is so crucial to our health, our economy, our quality of life and our children's future.



Interviewing for Our New City Manager Begins on Sept. 1

At 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 1 the Council will begin one-on-one interviews with four candidates for City Manager. In the afternoon, Clearwater's Senior Executive Team will have a "meet & greet" with the candidates. Later, from 5:30-7:00, the public is invited to attend a candidate forum at Ruth Eckerd Hall. You can learn more about the candidates here: [CM Candidates](#).

Welcome to the Team Mr. Margolis!



On August 24 the Council voted unanimously to offer the position of City Attorney to David Margolis. Margolis will

out here: [Imagine Clearwater Web-Cam](#)

The Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition is a community based non-profit that works closely with the City of Clearwater to achieve its goals. It aims to enhance quality of life, sustainability and safety for Clearwater and its neighborhoods. They are ALWAYS looking for new members - people who care about their community and want to share their concerns and ideas. You can learn more here: [Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition](#)

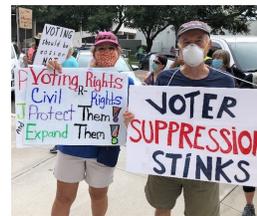
The Council will soon begin work to update the City's Strategic Plan. Here is a link to our current plan: [Strategic Plan](#). I believe it is lacking in any focus on environmental stewardship, for example. I hope we can do better. Here is a link to [Pinellas County's Strategic Plan](#) as a comparison.

Here is a link to [My Clearwater Magazine](#).

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

Click on the link above to access City meetings, agendas and attached documents.

The City of Clearwater has many volunteer opportunities. Here is a link to our website. Find out how you can make a difference: [Volunteers Needed](#)



UPDATE ON RANKED CHOICE VOTING

On June 3rd the Council voted to include ranked choice voting (RCV) on our March 2022 ballot. City Attorney Pam Akin will craft language for a March referendum for voters to decide whether to adopt ranked-choice voting. In the next few months there will be two readings of this ballot initiative where the public can offer comments. Here is a link to one website that promotes RCV: [Ranked Choice Voting](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION
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replace "our illustrious City Attorney" Pam Akin who will retire at the end of October after 27 years leading our legal department. Mr. Margolis currently serves as the Chief Assistant City Attorney for the city of Orlando. You can read more about Mr. Margolis here: [Mr. Margolis](#)

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Please note: I am thrilled that you have taken the time to read my newsletter, and one of the reasons I compose it and send it out is to receive feedback from you. However, please be aware that any communication you do with me related to the newsletter is public record.