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FEATURED

KCB approves golf course contract

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KEY COLONY BEACH — The Key Colony Beach City Commission discussed the par-3 golf course comprehensive lease agreement Monday, Jan. 12, at Marble Hall, ultimately approving continuing the 9-hole course's management, operation and maintenance with its longtime contractor, Daryl Rice.

Rice proposed the new agreement on Sept. 8. Then the commission met Oct. 16 and Nov. 25 to gather public input and discuss the details of the agreement. On Jan. 12, the commission, city staff and residents again had a chance to make modifications and receive public input. They hammered out an agreement, which establishes a yearly rental cost of \$39,500 plus sales tax, despite Rice leaving the meeting before it ended.

Commissioner Tom Harding is to be the board's representative with the contractor and the goal is to meet monthly. The city expects that Rice will stay until 2027, with the option of a one-year agreement after that. Rice has been the contractor for 17 years.

“The residents have been clear; his performance has been excellent,” Harding said.

The city is responsible for major golf course repairs while the lessee is responsible for minor repairs such as changing sprinkler heads and maintaining the clubhouse and bathrooms. Details such as who does what were put in writing, such as the city providing mulch while the contractor is responsible for spreading it. Utility costs also were affirmed with lessor paying half of the water and electricity costs. Rice can terminate the contract with 90 days of notice.

The course is open to the public from 7:30 a.m. to dusk, while the contractor is present from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The fees for playing are the same regardless of residency in the city. It is \$15 per 9 holes and \$8 for any additional 9-hole play. Both clubs and a pull cart can be rented for \$5. The pro shop is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily except Wednesdays when it opens at 10 a.m. The annual pass for green fees is \$525 for the first family member, \$375 for each additional adult family member and \$200 for each child under the age of 18.

The city is to meet next on Jan. 22.

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