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Key Colony Beach commission shares City Hall update

Jill Zima Borski Special to The Citizen
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The Key Colony Beach's City Commission updated the public on its City Hall renovations at its Dec. 16 meeting.

The pin piling task is nearly complete, with the last nine pin piles going in, said Mayor Joey Raspe. But, the engineers found the floor slab was thinner than expected and they had to change the design of the “cage” that supports the slab surrounding each piling.

Pin piling is a method of driving small diameter pipes into the ground to create a foundation.

Rebar is going in and concrete is expected to be poured in the next three weeks, Raspe said. He added the architect for the bathroom remodeling was chosen and plans will be formalized.



Building Official Tony Lorenzo said there was no sagging or other problems found in the foundation and no deep voids that had been expected under the slab. Thus, the costly foam that had been expected to be needed was unnecessary.

White Marlin Marina of Marathon donated the temporary bathroom trailer, with music, in the City Hall parking lot as workers start to demolish city hall's indoor bathrooms to add the last nine pin piles going in under the bathroom slab. Staff has picked the contractor. The new bathrooms will have new fixtures; tile will cover both floors and walls, and they will be American Disabilities Act-compliant.

City staff has picked the architect and engineering firm to lay out the existing space and work on the two-level city hall expansion. The architectural plan in the commissioners' packet showed the three-tower design plan. In response to a citizen's question, the staff said the water supply will be housed inside.

The commission then addressed pickleball parking.

Raspe said the group has grown from 270 members last year to 292 this year after six weeks of renewal time. There are four courts currently, but six more are being added. Many people ride their bikes, walk or drive golf carts to the courts. This is encouraged, he said, because parking spaces are limited.

Commissioner Doug Colonell suggested moving the current boat trailer parking lot fence by 200 feet and adding a new gate to create 19 additional spaces.

Resident Chet Dunn twice said, “We’re trying to accommodate Marathon [pickleball players] at the expense of our own residents’ boat trailers.” He suggested restriping the lot so that trailers could park at 45 degree angles, which would make logistics easier. Dunn asked the commission to create a committee to reconfigure boat trailer parking layout.

In answer to a question of storing boats on trailers in the city lot, Raspe said it was a liability problem and “the first question” the city insurers asked. He said insurers are concerned about multiple boats near one another, especially if a fire or other incident occurs. So no boats atop trailers are allowed.

The next commission meeting is set for Jan. 13.