

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CITY OF BRADENTON BEACH,
a Florida municipality, and JACK CLARKE,
Plaintiffs,

-vs-

CASE NO.: 2017-CA-3581

JOHN METZ, PATRICIA SHAY,
REED MAPES, WILLIAM VINCENT,
TJET MARTIN and ROSE VINCENT,
Defendants.

FILED FOR RECORD
2021 MAY 14 PM 12:28
CLERK CIRCUIT COURT
MANATEE COUNTY

ATTORNEY FEE ORDER AS TO DEFENDANT REED MAPES

THIS CAUSE having come on for hearing regarding the issue of attorney's fees and costs as to the remaining Defendant, Reed Mapes, and the Court having reviewed and considered the Plaintiff's Memorandum of Law in Support of Attorney Fee Award Against Reed Mapes, said memorandum having been filed on March 31, 2021, as well as the Affidavit of Attorney Robert P. Watrous in Support of Plaintiff's Prejudgment Interest Calculations, said affidavit having been filed on April 1, 2021, having reviewed the correspondence of Mr. Mapes to the Court dated April 1, 2021 (subsequently filed on May 4, 2021), having reviewed this Court's Order on Motions heard on November 7, 2019 (filed April 7, 2020), as well as this Court's October 28, 2020 Order on Amount of Fees and Costs, having heard from both Mr. Mapes and attorney Watrous at the hearing in this cause, and being otherwise fully advised in the premises, finds as follows:

This Court has previously determined that the Plaintiff is entitled to recover from the remaining Defendants John Metz, Reed Mapes and Tjet Martin attorney's fees in the amount of \$369,498 (see Order on Amount of Fees and Costs entered October 28, 2020). As Defendant Reed Mapes is the only remaining defendant, this Order applies to him and him alone. Taking into consideration the set-off for the amounts paid by the other defendants who settled (\$350,000 as to John Metz and Tjet Martin and \$1500 from defendants Patty Shay and William and Rose Vincent), Mr. Mapes is liable for, and the Plaintiff is entitled to recover from him, the amount of \$17,998.00. Said figure represents the amount that remains due and owing pursuant to this Court's Order on Amount of Fees and Costs, entered on October 28, 2020 and is, in this Court's estimation, an infinitely reasonable obligation of this defendant, who was significantly involved in the Sunshine Law violations found to have been committed by this Court. Said another way, Mr. Mapes was an especially active participant in the Sunshine Law Violations committed by the

members of Concerned Neighbors of Bradenton Beach in the summer of 2017, appeared eager throughout the litigation to force the City to prove its claims (despite multiple audio recordings which documented the 286.011 violations) and appeared to be disinclined to settle on the Plaintiff's terms.

A party is entitled to prejudgment interest on any judgment awarding attorneys' fees from the date the entitlement to fees is obtained [See Trial Practices, Inc. vs. Hahn, Loeser and Parks, LLP, 228 So. 3d 1184, (Fla 2nd DCA 2017)]. Accordingly, the Plaintiffs are entitled to recover prejudgment interest on the judgment amount of \$17,998 as follows:

2019: \$308.49. (6.89% as of October 1, 2019)

2020: \$1,151.67 (6.83% as of January 1, 2020 and 6.03% as of July 1, 2020)

2021: \$302.09 (4.81% as of January 1, 2021 and 4.31% as of April 1, 2021)

Based upon the foregoing, therefore, Final Judgment is entered against Defendant Reed Mapes in the amount of \$19,760.25 (which represents attorney's fees in the amount of \$17,998.00 and total prejudgment interest of \$1,762.25) for which let execution issue.

The Court will, under separate Order, address the issue of costs. This Court will also reserve jurisdiction for the enforcement of the Order and for all other purposes according to law.

Finally, within sixty (60) days of receipt, the Defendant shall complete a Fact Information Sheet, form 1.9777, that is to be provided to him from counsel for the Plaintiff.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers in Bradenton, Florida on this 14th day of May 2021.


EDWARD NICHOLAS, CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

Copies:

Robert P. Watrous, Esq. – sent via email to: rpw@watrouslaw.com

Thomas Shults, Esq. – sent via email to tshults@shultspa.com

Reed Mapes – sent via email to: reed mapes@outlook.com

Tjet Martin – sent via email to: tjet62@gmail.com

Patricia Shay – sent via email to: patriciashay@aol.com

William Vincent – sent via email to: wwggvv46@gmail.com

Rose Vincent – sent via email to: rosemv1963@gmail.com