

COMMISSION WORKSHOP SESSION
August 15, 2000

It is noted that Mayor Atkinson was not present at this meeting due to the illness of his wife.

I. ACTION ITEMS:

1. Resolution – Board/Committee Appointments –

This item will be on Tuesday's agenda for action.

2. Resolution – Authorizing Trolley Extension thru Treasure Island –

The City Manager recapped the events and discussions concerning the possibility of the PSTA trolley system making stops in Treasure Island and explained that a resolution has been drafted that would authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to negotiate a contract with PSTA to allow the service in Treasure Island.

Commissioner Lavino stated that she would like the fourth recital in the resolution, which would require the termination of the City's bus system, removed. She stated that she felt the City should maintain its own bus system because it provides a service to the residents that do not drive.

Commissioner Maloof noted the wording of the third recital of the resolution indicating that the City would not allow the trolley service if it required the residents to pay ad valorem taxes to PSTA.

Commissioner Blush indicated that she has one constant user of the bus in her neighborhood and that person would only have to walk an additional block to use the trolley.

Commissioner Lavino noted that the bus ridership in July was over 1000 and that shows that the people are using the bus.

Commissioner Ellsworth stated that he would like to see the bus service continue for a transitional time period.

The City Manager indicated that transitional bus service does not need to be a part of this resolution. He stated that he felt a transitional period of 30 days would be adequate. Commissioner Ellsworth agreed.

Commissioner Lavino stated that she felt that if we are going to keep the buses we should continue to use them to transport the residents.

Commissioner Lavino indicated that she does not like the resolution as it stands and would like recital four removed.

Commissioner Ellsworth indicated that he has heard no complaints concerning the discontinuance of bus service in his district. Commissioner Lavino indicated that she is concerned there will be no bus service to Central Avenue.

This item will be on Tuesday's agenda for action.

3. Resolution – Awarding Contract for Causeway Passes –

A resolution will be on Tuesday's agenda awarding the contract for the printing of the 2001 causeway passes to Serigraphic Arts.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

At this time, it was the consensus of the Commission to add an item to the agenda as follows:

1. T. I. Charities – Reef System Request –

Mr. Jeff Berideli, a member of Treasure Island Charities, made a presentation on the organization's behalf concerning the organization's desire to create a reef in the Gulf of Mexico 25 miles west of Treasure Island. He indicated that the intent is the reef will attract fish and coral. The proposed reef would be in 90 feet of water and would be close to solid structure bottom. The plan is to sink a ship approximately 200 feet in length. Mr. Berideli indicated that Treasure Island Charities is requesting the City support the project for permitting purposes.

Commissioner Ellsworth stated he felt that this is an excellent opportunity for the City.

The City Manager asked if anyone from T.I. Charities is familiar with the Corps of Engineers permitting process. Mr. John Willis, Executive Director of T.I. Charities, indicated that John Hasbrook is advising them.

The City Manager stated that he felt the reef would be good for the area.

It was indicated that the City would be considered a co-sponsor. The City Manager indicated that staff would be willing to assist with the project.

The City Attorney indicated that his only concern is liability and stated that he wants to be sure that issue is adequately covered.

The Commission was in concurrence to act on a motion at this time to work with T.I. Charities on the project.

Motion was made by Commissioner Maloof and seconded by Commissioner Lavino to authorize staff to work with Treasure Island Charities on their reef project. Upon roll call, vote was unanimous.

Mr. J. D. Hadsall applauded the City Attorney on his concern for liability, noting there could be liability in sinking the ship and there could be liability if people snag it. Mr. Hadsall asked how many reefs currently are there that are governmental reefs. He indicated that, while he likes the idea, he hopes we are protected from liability.

1a. Atlantis Sandcastles – Request for Contract Preparation –

Mr. Jerry Katz, promoter of Atlantis Sandcastles commented regarding his meeting the previous day with City staff and asked whether the Commission could go ahead and authorize the City Attorney to start working on a contract so there isn't a delay in the future when the traffic study and sand study are accepted. He suggested that if the Attorney goes ahead with the contract work now it would be ready for signing when the studies are completed.

The City Manager indicated that staff's initial concerns were traffic and sand consistency. He indicated that he advised Mr. Katz that the Commission would have to authorize the City Attorney to work on the contract at the hourly rate.

The City Attorney indicated that, while he is willing to begin work on the contract if the Commission wishes, he feels it would be putting the cart before the horse. He feels a contract is premature at this time.

Commissioner Blush stated she would be hesitant to move forward until she sees the results of the two studies.

Commissioner Lavino stated she also feels that work on a contract now would be premature and stated that she feels that the applicant also needs more time to get things organized noting that things were being paid for by money order. She asked if the organization has established a bank account. She indicated she wants to see the results of the traffic study before going ahead with work on a contract.

Commissioner Ellsworth stated that he favors having the sandcastle but doesn't feel that the City should do anything further until the results of the traffic study are known.

Mr. Hadsall stated that he is concerned about the traffic conditions and stated that it is his feeling that there would be thousands of motorists that would come to the event and speed on our streets.

Mr. Gary Kilroy stated that when the City had the last sandcastle event, he went to it every night and he loved it but he would never want to see it again at the same scale. He asked what the public's response had been to the proposed event stating that he didn't feel that the residents want another sandcastle event. Mr. Kilroy noted some of the problems experienced with the last event.

2. Specifications for Concessionaire at Beach Pavilion –

The City Manager noted his August 8th memo and specification options for concessionaires at the Beach Pavilion. He noted that the options specify the type of food that would be allowed for concession and indicated that there would be no grill, hood or fire system allowed.

Commissioner Blush noted e-mails and calls she received from residents in the area of the Pavilion requesting a vending machine concession rather than a cooking concession.

Commissioner Blush asked how city staffing of the facility would be funded and the City Manager indicated that some of the funding would come from rental of the facility, the concessionaire, metered parking across the street and a contribution from the Beach Fund.

Commissioner Blush indicated that there are sufficient funds in the Beach Fund to support the staffing of the pavilion.

Commissioner Ellsworth asked if the Commission would favor a private concessionaire operating the facility if the criteria are met. It was indicated the Commission would approve a concessionaire.

Ms. Bonnie Agan, a resident of Sunset Beach, stated she has a problem with the City being in the food service business and expressed concern that there would be litter from the vending machines. She stated that she would like a place to go for breakfast such as the Seaside Grille at Upham Beach. She stated she sees it as an opportunity.

Commissioner Blush indicated that the Beach Center is not equipped with a grill or a vent, but agreed a breakfast place would be nice.

Commissioner Lavino indicated that she would like the concession to go out to bid, see what the response is and go from there.

A resolution authorizing staff to advertise for bids will be on Tuesday's agenda for action.

3. City Hall Interior Design Agreement –

The City Manager noted a memo received from Design Team Associates, Inc. dated June 8 setting forth a proposal to do certain interior renovation work inside city hall. The City Manager requested authority to enter into an agreement with Design Team for the work.

A resolution will be on Tuesday's agenda for action.

4. Cable- Cast Equipment –

The City Manager noted his memo dated August 4th concerning this topic. He indicated that it is time to place an order for the cable-casting equipment noting that Time Warner has ordered the fiber optic cable to come into the building for the project. He indicated that staff recommends the purchase of a two-camera basic system. The City Manager indicated that the City needs to confirm its intent to videotape the meetings and purchase the equipment by resolution.

The City Manager noted that at the Florida League of Cities Conference, he attended a session regarding taxing elements on utilities and one key element came out, that in 2001 franchise agreements will be usurped and cable companies will no longer be required to provide free cable access. He indicated that Time Warner could begin charging for the cable-casting of city meetings in October 2001. The City Attorney commented regarding a similar session he attended on the issue.

The Commission was in agreement to authorize the purchase a two camera basic system and a jack for a mobile camera in the future.

Mr. Jim Dobyms was present representing Voters Watch and stated that the two-camera operation would restrict the operation to the televising of Commission Meetings only where a three-camera system would allow for casting in other areas of the room for other boards and committees. A resolution will be on Tuesday's agenda authorizing the 2-camera system.

5. Sunset Beach Civic Association – Sign – Lighting –

The City Manager noted receipt of a letter from the Sunset Beach Civic Association requesting the City's assistance in the lighting of the sign in the triangle at Harrell Avenue and West Gulf Boulevard. He further noted his June 5th response expressing willingness to bring the item before the Commission.

Ms. Sue DiBona discussed the Association's desire to illuminate the sign. A resolution will be on Tuesday's agenda authorizing the City to coordinate the effort and pay half of the cost.

6. Rotary Tennis Challenge – November 18th –

The City Manager noted that the Gulf Beaches Rotary participated in a similar event at the Recreation Center last year and noted the event's success. He indicated that this year the Gulf Beaches Rotary Club would like to do a tennis challenge and other charitable activities for ½ day on November 18. The Rotary Club is requesting free use of the facility in exchange for a split of the proceeds between the Gulf Beaches Rotary Foundation and the Recreation Department. A resolution will be on Tuesday's agenda authorizing the event.

7. Historic Grant Application –

The City Planner made a presentation requesting authorization to apply for a Historic Grant-in Aid from the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources as explained in her August 10th memo.

The City Manager commented regarding the Florida Main Street Program and indicated that such a grant could go hand in hand with the Main Street Program.

The Commission was in agreement with applying for the grant and a resolution will be on Tuesday's agenda for action.

III. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS:

1. Meeting Schedule for Budget Public Hearings –

The City Manager indicated that the first public hearing on the millage and the budget has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 13th. That date is in conflict with the Beaches and Shores Conference for which the Commission has already registered to attend.

The City Manager indicated that the Commission could change the date of the hearing but State requirements would have to be followed and met and it would cost approximately \$5,000 to notify every property owner by first class mail.

In discussion that followed, it was agreed to authorize Commissioner Blush to attend the entire conference since she is on the Beach Stewardship Committee and has never attended the conference before. The remainder of the Commission will be in attendance at the budget hearing and will leave for the conference after the meeting if they still wish to attend.

2. Cost of Flags on Gulf Boulevard –

The Public Works Director discussed the costs involved to hang American flags on Gulf Boulevard noting that Madeira Beach has indicated that their cost had been \$35 for a flag and a bracket. He indicated, however, that Madeira Beach is having a problem with the bracket tearing the flag and is working on a redesign of the bracket. The cost with the new bracket would be approximately \$40. He suggested that the projects could be done in phases and eventually include the Causeway.

The Commission was in agreement to wait for better brackets before discussing the item further.

3. PD&E Consultant Selection Process –

The Public Works Director noted receipt of letters of interest from consultants wishing to do the PD&E Study. He indicated that seven of the letters arrived by the 3:30 deadline and one letter came in after the deadline. He explained that the process now is to long list the applicants and then short list the applicants. He indicated that the short list would be created on August 25th. He indicated that the selection process should conclude by the end of October.

The Public Works Director suggested that the Commission might wish to hold a special workshop to hear the oral presentations of the short list of applicants. A special workshop for that purpose was set for Tuesday, October 10th at 8:30 a.m.

4. Reclaimed Water Status Report –

The Public Works Director noted the reclaimed water packet provided by Pinellas County Utilities. He indicated that Pinellas County Utilities would begin installing check valves on potable water supplies shortly. Construction of the reclaimed water project will begin in January or February.

5. July Financial Report –

The City Manager noted the financial report for the month of July provided for the Commission's information.

6. Recreation Center – Tennis Courts –

The City Manager noted that construction of the two tennis courts at the Recreation Center is complete and staff will have a walk through sometime within the next week. He indicated that ribbon cutting has been scheduled for Friday, September 8th at 5:00 p.m. followed by a round robin tennis challenge.

7. City Marina Facility –

The City Manager reported that he met with Doug Speeler of Speeler Marine earlier in the day regarding the upgrading of the Marina facility. The City Manager indicated that the City would begin doing its part of the work next week and Speeler Marine will begin their portion of the project as soon as the city crews are finished. He indicated that the Marina facility should be operational by October 1.

IV. REPORTS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Blush noted she attended a seminar on communication between age groups.

Commissioner Blush further noted she met with Brad Pignatello, the recipient of the Mayor's Cleat last year and indicated that he is starting his second year at the Naval Academy.

Commissioner Maloof indicated that the City has been invited to participate in the International Day of Peace with the issuance of a proclamation. The Commission was in agreement to issue a proclamation declaring September 19th International Day of Peace within the City. The proclamation will be presented at Tuesday's meeting.

All Commissioners thanked the Public Works Director for arranging their tour of the 17th Street Bridge in Ft. Lauderdale.

Commissioner Lavino indicated that she has received calls regarding the issue of the State Highway Patrol officer issuing citations on the Causeway and the recent newspaper article indicating that the Commission members were supportive of his

efforts. She indicated that she was never asked but indicated that if the officer is willing to give an hour of his time periodically, she is in favor of his assistance. Commissioner Ellsworth noted that the Mayor is absent from the meeting because of his wife's serious illness.

Commissioner Ellsworth commended the Public Works Director on the cleanup of the city-owned lots on 117th Avenue.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Gary Kilroy commented regarding the news article regarding the Highway Patrol officer issuing citations on the Causeway. He indicated that he favors the efforts of the officer but is upset with the wording of the article. He suggested the Commission should send the officer a thank you letter. Commissioner Ellsworth agreed that it is good to have one more person to help with enforcement.

Mr. Don Callahan asked if visitors must leave the Beach Pavilion when city personnel leave. The City Manager indicated that the facility is open from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. and indicated that while City staff is not always present, the general public should leave the facility at 10:00 p.m.

Mr. Callahan suggested that the drinking water provided in the fountain at the Pavilion should be cooler.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: