

COMMISSION WORKSHOP SESSION
January 15, 2002
7:00 p.m.

I. ACTION ITEM:

1. Motion – Accepting Donation from Virginia England –

A \$25 check from Virginia England for use by the Police Department was noted. The donation will be formally acknowledged at Tuesday's meeting.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Contract to Re-line Walls of MPS Wet Well –

The Public Works Director's January 11th memo pertaining to this subject was noted and discussed. A resolution will be on Tuesday's agenda awarding the contract to Graley Mechanical, Inc.

2. Purchase of Solid Waste Truck –

The Public Works Director's January 8th memo regarding this topic was noted and discussed.

The City Manager stated that the bid specifications of the City of West Palm Beach meet the needs of our city. He indicated that it is staff's recommendation that the Commission authorize the purchase of the demonstration cab with the 25-yard packer body.

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

3. Bridge Passes for City Volunteers –

The City Manager's January 15th memo on this topic was noted and discussed.

The Mayor stated that the City has a lot of volunteers and many do not get a pass. He stated that he feels that perhaps free passes should be eliminated for all volunteers. He indicated that other cities have a volunteer banquet and give the volunteers a memento.

Commissioner Maloof asked whether there is a resolution that states who all is invited to the City's recognition party.

The Mayor indicated that there was no such resolution.

Commissioner Maloof stated that as long as all of the volunteers are invited to the recognition party, she would not be opposed to discontinuing free passes.

The Mayor stated that he feels that the money used to purchase the passes for the volunteers could go toward the volunteer party or other city projects.

Commissioner Lavino stated that she is against discontinuing free passes for volunteers. She stated that she only asked (a few meetings previously) whether the cablecast volunteers received a pass and the topic exploded.

In discussion regarding the history of volunteer board members receiving free passes, the City Manager indicated that it is possible that it was an institutional policy and not a resolution.

Commissioner Maloof stated that she is not opposed to keeping the pass if that is what everyone wants. She stated she brought it back for more discussion because she felt that it was unfair that some volunteers get a pass while others don't. She stated she feels that if one volunteer group gets free passes then all of the volunteer groups should.

Commissioner Blush voiced agreement with Commissioner Maloof's comments and read a portion of an e-mail she received from one of the cablecasting volunteers that resigned.

Commissioner Blush noted other volunteers that have not been recognized by the City at all.

Commissioner Ellsworth stated that he felt free passes should be eliminated or whenever a new committee is created, the Commission should decide whether the members would get a free pass. He stated that he also feels that if free passes are maintained, the current boards and committees should be evaluated for eligibility.

Commissioner Blush stated that her opinion is that all volunteers are equal and should be treated equally.

It was the consensus of the majority of the Commission that free passes should be discontinued.

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

Mr. John Burke, a member of the Beautification Committee and city volunteer stated that he agrees there should be no free passes for volunteers. He stated that people should volunteer to support the City not to get something. Mr. Burke noted the important work the beach cleaning volunteers do and indicated that they are in no way acknowledged.

Mr. J.D. Hadsall voiced agreement with Mr. Burke's comments. He further stated that the City is in a period of a tight budgets and there will be greater restrictions.

4. American Assembly –

The City Manager's January 9th memo on the topic was noted and discussed. A presentation will be made to the BIG-C on the topic at its January 30th meeting.

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

5. Revision of Marina Rules –

The City Manager and Recreation Director's memo of January 10 was noted and discussed.

The Recreation Director explained the proposed changes to the rules.

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

III. REPORTS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Blush reported that she has received three requests to have the white holiday lights put back on the palm trees in the downtown business district.

Commissioner Blush noted that the condition of the alley behind Pirates Square has been improved and looks beautiful. She commended the owners on their upgrade efforts.

Commissioner Blush noted the activities of the Beach Stewardship Committee and reminded the Commission and public of the public hearing scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on January 29.

Commissioner Blush indicated that the City may be eligible for the Beach Guardian Award and indicated that an application for the award has been submitted.

Commissioner Maloof stated she also received several requests to have the lights placed back on the trees in the business area.

Commissioner Lavino stated she received two e-mails. One was about signs missing near Elnor Island and the other was about noise from the carnival ride at Gators.

The City Manager indicated that he was aware of complaints regarding noise from the ride at Gators on opening night but had not heard of any other complaints. He indicated

he would check with the Police Department and if there are others he will ask the Police Chief to take care of the situation.

Commissioner Ellsworth thanked the Public Works staff for cleaning up the mess left by the paving contractor on Lagoon Lane and Sunshine Lane.

Commissioner Ellsworth noted he received a call from Ms. Selby regarding missing parking stops in the parking area at Rosselli Park.

Commissioner Ellsworth further reported that he received a call regarding some missing bricks at the sign on Capri. He indicated that Public Works has already made the repair.

The Mayor noted that Mr. Philips of E.C. Driver & Associates requested that he advise the public and Commission that at the Public Hearing on the 5th, they will be showing bridges of all heights including a fixed bridge. He stated that while there is no intent to build a fixed bridge, by law one must be included in the presentation.

Commissioner Lavino asked whether people would be allowed to speak more than five minutes at the special workshop. The Mayor indicated that people are generally allowed to finish their comments after their time is up.

The Mayor noted the information sheet regarding political signs.

The Mayor further noted receipt of a letter from a concerned citizen asking if the Charter was violated when the Commission amended the budget by resolution. He indicated that the City Attorney researched the matter and it is his opinion that there are no violations.

IV. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS:

The City Manager noted the first quarter financial report included in the packets for Commission information. He indicated that the City is in good financial condition.

The City Manager indicated that he has researched Commissioner Maloof's previous question, why the Police issue warnings for toll violations. He indicated that the reasons for the warnings include: the pass is affixed but the window is down, a resident is driving a rental car and forgot to stop because he/she has a pass on their own car, there is moisture on the window and the scanner would not read the barcode.

The City Manager reported that he and the Deputy Clerk attended the press conference at the Supervisor of Elections Election Service Center this morning to see the presentation of the new Sequoia Touch Screen Voting Equipment.

The Mayor asked the City Attorney if there is an update on the Lands End payment situation. The City Attorney commented on the situation and indicated would be requesting an executive session soon.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. J.D. Hadsall commented regarding the road tax paid to the City by the residents of Causeway Isles and Yacht Club Estates and suggested that the City should look into raising the tax to today's standards.

Ms. Selby commented regarding the causeway pass for volunteers issue and stated that the volunteers only want recognition, they don't need a free pass.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: