

**CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP MEETING
January 7, 2003
7:00 p.m.**

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Atkinson

B. ROLL CALL:

Mayor Leon G. Atkinson	Present
Commissioner Stephanie Lavino	Absent
Commissioner Irving S. Ellsworth Vice-Mayor	Present
Commissioner Mary Maloof	Present
Commissioner Barbara Blush	Absent

C. MINUTES:

Motion was made by Commissioner Maloof and seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth to approve the minutes from the meetings of December 10th and December 19th as written.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

George Makrauer, 740 126th Avenue, made comments regarding the City Attorney's use of the West Law Subscription for cases that are unrelated to the City.

Chris Hearn commented regarding the costs to gather signatures for the referendum. He stated his opinion that the purpose of the lawsuit was to protect the public's rights and hold the City Commission accountable.

John Hadsall, 11455 1st Street East, commented regarding an article in the *Neighborhood Times* on December 24th regarding the Sunshine Law. He specifically addressed comments made by Mayor Atkinson and Commissioner Maloof.

Commissioner Maloof clarified that she made a phone call to Mayor Atkinson on an item after the vote had been taken only for clarification purposes.

E. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. LDR ORDINANCE 02-06 – 6 MONTH MORATORIUM ORDINANCE –

Attorney Denhardt noted that the ordinance has been scheduled for the 2nd reading and hearing on January 14th. He also advised the Commission not to appeal the temporary injunction handed down by Judge Penick because

1/17/2003

the moratorium effectively supersedes the time period established by the injunction.

The Commission was in agreement to go forward with the moratorium at this time.

George Makrauer stated that another option regarding the LDR's would be for the Commission to rescind the ordinance.

2. **ORDINANCE – LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS – DOCK REGULATIONS**

Lynn Rosetti, the City Planner, discussed the Planning and Zoning Board's recommended changes to Chapter 69 of the Land Development Regulations relating to docks.

Charles S. Coward, the City Manager, stated that the changes are not retroactive and effect only docks permitted in the future.

Mayor Atkinson asked whether the section on temporary moorings should include notification to the respective Commissioners for extensions.

The City Manager indicated that he would assume the responsibility for notifying Commissioners regarding any temporary mooring extensions.

Commissioner Ellsworth made a clarification regarding temporary moorings stating that it applies to a third vessel at a dock in addition to the 2 vessels that are allowed at docks.

The City Manager stated that *Section 69-71, Docks, davits, boat lifts and boats, (a) (#8)* applies to new docks and reconstructed docks.

Mayor Atkinson commented regarding *Section 69-92 Exemptions*. He asked whether an owner of a boat could be required to move the boat if it currently encroaches and a neighbor lodges a complaint.

Attorney Denhardt stated that the Code will have to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for these types of situations.

Mayor Atkinson complimented City staff and the Planning and Zoning Board on the proposed revisions to the dock regulations.

Commissioner Ellsworth stated that with the new revisions to the dock

1/17/2003

regulations an owner can now build a lift right up to the owner's property line if the abutting neighbor agrees.

The City Planner concurred with Commissioner Ellsworth and stated that an owner could build a lift right up to the property line as long as the dock meets all other dock regulations.

With the City Commission's concurrence, this ordinance will be scheduled and advertised for 1st reading and public hearing on January 28, 2003.

3. CONTRACT AWARD FOR PHASE 1 BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION –

Don Hambidge, Public Works Director, stated that there is a 3 pronged approach to the award for the project that includes scores for technical/merit, scheduling and pricing. He indicated that only firms that had prequalified with the Federal Department of Transportation (FDOT) for construction of heavy bridges were considered. Seventy firms received the Request for Proposal (RFP) and 6 responded. Of the 6 that responded, 3 submitted price bids including Johnson Brothers, PCL and Meisner Marine. Mr. Hambidge stated that Johnson Brothers was selected because the firm received the best overall score as well as being the best qualified with the shortest time schedule and the lowest price bid. He indicated that the lowest bid was \$1,000,000 higher than expected. As a result, City project planners will meet with Johnson Brothers to discuss the specifications in an effort to reduce some of the costs associated with the project. Mr. Hambidge asked the Commission to acknowledge the Johnson Brothers proposal and indicate its intent to approve the bid.

The City Manager asked the Commission to pass a resolution to award the low bidder.

Mayor Atkinson asked if the City is ready to go once the permits are obtained. He also stated that he understood the City would have \$1,350,000 left over to keep the old bridge going.

The Public Works Director indicated that Mayor Atkinson's comments were correct.

Commissioner Ellsworth asked about the \$6.3 million included in the Phase II Financial Plan and where the TOPs grant comes into play.

The City Manager indicated that the TOPs grant funds are not included in the plan because the City is required to submit bills relating to the project directly

1/17/2003

Commissioner Maloof asked when the planning process for the bascule bridge would commence.

The Public Works Director indicated that planning for the bascule bridge has already begun.

The City Manager stated that by this time next year the construction of the 2 fixed bridges will be complete and the City will be debt free. The City will begin the process for the construction of the bascule bridge in 2003. He stressed the critical nature of this project due to the fact that the current bridge is 63 years old with a 50 year old rating. The City Manager further stated that (in FDOT terms) the current bridge is "structurally deficient and functionally obsolete". He also commented that the project to replace the bridge is the number one issue facing the Treasure Island community.

The City Manager indicated that there are 5 major issues that the Commission and the community must consider in replacing the current bridge.

- A. Construction of the fixed bridges needs to take place. Construction will begin in February of 2003 and should be completed by the spring of 2004.
- B. The City needs to raise an additional \$20 to \$30 million in grant funds for the replacement of the drawbridge.
- C. The City must work with the City of St. Petersburg to work out the details regarding the toll booths (the toll booths are located within the City of St. Petersburg).
- D. The technology used for toll collection needs to be considered.
- E. Construction of the bascule bridge must commence.

The City Manager stated that the first 4 issues will be addressed in this fiscal year.

Mayor Atkinson indicated that the City is actively working to obtain the additional \$20 million to \$30 million in grant funds needed for this project. He further stated that the City is not without options to raise the funds.

The City Manager indicated that the city has 2 applications pending at this

1/17/2003

The City Manager indicated that the city has 2 grant applications pending at this time.

Mayor Atkinson congratulated City staff for getting the project off the ground and obtaining the \$5.2 million TOPs Grant.

4. ELECTION DEBATES ON TREASURE ISLAND TELEVISION –

Commissioner Maloof stated that she spoke with Norma Reinhardt of the League of Women Voters and Ms. Reinhardt indicated that the league is not planning to participate in handling the upcoming candidate election debates.

Mayor Atkinson commented that he was surprised to learn that the League is not interested.

Commissioner Maloof indicated that Ms. Reinhardt felt there is no need for League of Women Voters to handle the upcoming debates now that Mayor Atkinson has announced he is not running for re-election.

Mayor Atkinson indicated that he felt it would be beneficial to obtain an impartial organization from outside the community.

Commissioner Maloof stated that Voters Watch has done an excellent job of handling the candidate election debates in the past. She further stated that she had not heard of any complaints regarding Voters Watch.

Mayor Atkinson indicated that he did hear of a complaint regarding Voters Watch. He also stated that he would like to discuss the issue with the League himself.

Commissioner Maloof commented that she felt Voters Watch uses a format that is preferable.

Commissioner Ellsworth stated that he would like to allow the candidates to make the choice as to which organization handles the upcoming candidate election debates.

Mayor Atkinson and Commissioner Maloof concurred with Commissioner Ellsworth and decided to give the candidates one week to express any desires they may have regarding specific organizations they would like to handle the debates.

1/17/2003

Mayor Atkinson stated that the Commission needs to set a date for the debates.

Jim Dobyms of Voters Watch stated that he explained to the Women's League of Voters that Voters Watch has designed the format for the debates so there would be no partiality. He said that he spoke with Ms. Reinhardt on January 2nd and she stated that the League did not want to compete with Voters Watch.

Mr. Dobyms asked if the Commission plans to televise the debate. He stated that every other municipality in Pinellas County is already televising these debates.

Mayor Atkinson stated that the City has no problem with televising the debates.

Mr. Dobyms suggested that the City consider scheduling the debates for Saturday, February 22nd. Due to the number of candidates thus far, he also suggested that the City consider having a second date available. Mr. Dobyms stated that he has spoken with the candidates and they have indicated that they are in support of Voters Watch handling the debates.

Frank McConnell, 10104 Yacht Club Road, requested that the Commission postpone making a decision regarding which organization should handle the debates.

John Hadsall asked the Commission to recognize that Voters Watch has done a good job by giving Voters watch the go ahead to handle the debates. He further asked the Commission not to leave it up to the candidates to set the date and decide who should handle the debates.

Mayor Atkinson stated that the candidates will have one week to decide which organization they would like to handle the debates and to inform the Commission regarding their decision.

The City Manager stated that February 22nd is acceptable to City Staff. He suggested that the Commission go ahead and set the initial date for the debates and a night for more debates could be added later.

Mayor Atkinson stated that the Commission should authorize the date of February 22nd and let the candidates decide which organization should handle the debate.

1/17/2003

Mr. Dobyms stated that he would check with the candidates to make sure that February 22nd was acceptable to them.

5. RULES OF PROCEDURE – PROPOSED CHANGES –

Mayor Atkinson asked whether the Commission would like to delay making a decision to make any changes to Rules of Procedure until after the election. He stated that he was not opposed to going forward on a trial basis if the rest of the Commission agrees.

Commissioner Ellsworth stated that he would like to implement the changes on a trial basis and then let the new Commission make the final decision after the election.

Heidi Horak, 123 88th Avenue, commented that she is fine with the changes to the Rules of Procedure as long as the public continues to have the opportunity to speak on individual items as well as during public comments. She said the important issue is for this Commission to stick to the changes that are implemented and encourage the new Commission to do so as well.

Mr. Makrauer stated that he felt implementing changes to the Rules of Procedure on a trial basis is a waste of time due to the fact that the new Commission may choose not to continue with the changes made by the current Commission.

Mr. McConnell requested that the Commission schedule Commission Meetings first and the Commission Workshops after if they are both to occur on the same night.

Attorney Denhardt stated that the Commission Workshops should occur first and then the Commission Meetings. He also suggested that the meetings start at 6:00 p.m. or 6:30p.m.

Mayor Atkinson stated that the meetings should commence at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Ellsworth and Maloof were in agreement.

6. PINELLAS COUNTY BUILDING INSPECTION AGREEMENT -

The City Manager stated that the cost for the County building inspection services agreement is going to increase from \$20 to \$22.

1/17/2003

7. GRANT AWARD FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT –

Fire Chief Charles Fant stated that the Fire Department received \$71,779 under FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. He said the grant will be used to purchase self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), a breathing air compressor and a thermal imaging camera.

8. FIRE CHIEF'S VEHICLE REPLACEMENT

The Fire Chief indicated that \$30,000 has been budgeted in the current fiscal year's budget for the purchase of a new vehicle for the Fire Department. He stated that the Fire Department received quotes from Walker Ford (Clearwater) in the amount of \$22,093 and \$21,943 from Don Reid Ford (Maitland) and recommended that Walker Ford receive the award because the firm is local and has provided exemplary service in the past.

9. TRAFFIC CONTROL AT ELECTION POLLS

The City Manager stated that while no ordinance is necessary for this item, he would like some direction from the Commission. He indicated that he has consulted with Jerry Dabkowski, Transportation Engineer, and come up with a plan to ease traffic and pedestrian congestion at the election polls. The City Manager discussed the following modifications:

- A. The first 14 parking spaces on the west side of Park Place from the dumpster south would be designated with a 30-minute time restriction.
- B. Designate Park Place as one-way south between 105th and 106th Avenues.
- C. Cone off the eastern 6' of Park Place for pedestrian travel from 106th Avenue south to the handicapped parking.
- D. Provide parking enforcement on Election Day.

Mayor Atkinson stated that it would be a good idea to advertise these modifications so that the community would be aware of changes to the traffic flow on Election Day.

10. COUNTY INCREASE IN TRANSPORTATION IMPACT FEE –

The City Manager informed the Commission that Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) has adopted an amended Transportation

1/17/2003

Impact Fee Ordinance that includes increases in the impact fee rates due to an increase in construction costs for 2003 and 2004.

Mayor Atkinson commented that the City must amend the 1996 Land Development Fee Schedule to comply with the Pinellas County Ordinance.

11. RUNOFF ELECTION – CHANGE OF DATE –

Mayor Atkinson stated that if a runoff election is necessary it will occur on April 8th. The candidates elected on April 8th would then be installed on April 15th. He then asked when installation occurs for candidates elected on March 4th that did receive a majority of the votes.

The City Manager indicated that candidates elected on March 4th would be installed on March 11th.

Commissioner Ellsworth asked about the change to the candidate filing deadline from January 21st to January 16th. He stated that some people are not aware that the deadline is not the 21st.

The City Manager stated that due to the County's new electronic voting system, absentee ballots now must be sent to California to be processed. As a result, the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections required adjustments to the sign-up and runoff election dates.

12. REQUEST BY SOROPTIMIST FOR USE OF COMMUNITY CENTER -

Commissioner Maloof stated that the date in the letter from Soroptimist is incorrect.

Mayor Atkinson stated that the Commission would approve the request from Soroptimist for a one-time, free use of the Community Center for a pancake breakfast but he noted that the date would need to be clarified.

F. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

1. TENNIS CHALLENGE RESULTS –

The City Manager stated that the Recreation Department would be receiving a check for \$2,363 from the Rotary and the City of Treasure Island. These funds will be used to provide the community with scholarships for events offered by the Recreation Department.

2. MILL LEVY COMPARISONS -

1/17/2003

The City Manager stated that the City of Treasure Island's total mill levy remains the lowest of all the full service cities in Pinellas County.

Mayor Atkinson stated that a distinction needs to be made between cities that are full service and those that are not. He went on to say that the City of Treasure Island provides a full range of services to its taxpayers.

In other City Manager Reports/Comments:

The City Manager stated that the first newsletter in over a year was sent out in December. The newsletter will be published quarterly but updated on the Internet monthly.

The City Manager indicated that PSTA has increased to 20 minute headways for the trolley stops starting in December and going through April. The City Manager further stated that he is working with Mike Bonfield, City Manager, City of St. Pete Beach on bus issues. The City Manager plans to ask for a one-year extension rather than renewing the contract with PSTA. If no extension is possible, the City Manager plans to consider receiving proposals for the 1st of February.

Commissioner Ellsworth asked if there was a rate increase.

The City Manager said the rate will remain at \$52 but if ridership does not increase expenses will go up.

The City Manager noted a recent press release from the Treasure Island Tennis and Yacht Club that changes the boat parade from Monday to Sunday, December 14th in 2003.

The City Manager reported on the progress with the playgrounds in Treasure Island. He stated that Roselli, Palms and Treasure Bay are almost complete and noted that additions are being made to the Beach Pavilion. The City Manager said that he is very pleased with the improvements to Roselli and Palms but Treasure Bay needs more equipment. He plans to add more play equipment to Treasure Bay later this year.

G. REPORTS AND COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Ellsworth commented regarding the project with Westra on 104th Avenue. He stated that the City should hold the cash for sod replacement and designate the area as fenced until all construction has been completed in the area. Mr. Ellsworth also asked when Westra would complete the work on 104th.

1/17/2003

The City Manager stated that Westra should complete work by the end of February.

Mayor Atkinson asked for a status of hiring a golf pro.

The City Manager indicated that the Recreation Department has made several improvements to the golf course and is looking into employing a golf pro but the City will have to make arrangements for a teaching area before a golf pro can be hired.

Mayor Atkinson asked for a status on the Noordhoek property.

Attorney Denhardt stated that the results of sales on adjacent properties are still pending. An appraiser cannot give a valid appraisal at this time. Within 24 hours of the last closing, an appraisal can be obtained and subsequently an offer can be made to the owner.

H. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Nick Monsoor commented that the Commission has done an excellent job and he wished the Commission good luck.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

Stephanie Lavino - District 1

Mary Maloof
Mary Maloof - District 3

Leon G. Atkinson, Mayor

Irying S. Ellsworth - District 2

Barbara Blush - District 4

ATTEST:

Charles S. Coward
Charles S. Coward, City Clerk