

**CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**February 4, 2003**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**A. 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	Present

**B. MINUTES:**

Motion was made by Commissioner Blush and seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth to approve the minutes from meeting of January 21st as written. Upon roll call, the vote was unanimous.

**C. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mr. Ed Gayton commented that the City Attorney works directly for the Commission as whole and not for any one particular Commissioner. He urged the Commission to discuss the possibility of establishing a contract with the City Attorney as well as a job description at the next workshop meeting. Mr. Gayton also requested that the Commission require all expenditures by the City Attorney to be itemized.

Bob Dowling informed the Commission that he is planning a fundraiser to inject some humor into local politics. He is planning to have a dunk tank and invited the candidates for election as well as the Commission to participate. The event will take place on February 22nd and all funds will be donated to the City.

**D. ACTION ITEMS:**

**Beautification Awards**

Ms. Carol Malkin, Chairman of the Beautification Committee, and the Mayor presented a residential beautification award to Mr. and Mrs. Alex Hoewt for their property located at 780 123rd Avenue in Treasure Island.

Ms. Malkin and the Mayor presented a commercial beautification award to the Holiday Inn. The award was accepted by Mr. John Giattino for the property located at 11908 Gulf Boulevard, Treasure Island.

Ms. Malkin stated that the Arbor Day celebration will take place on March 5th. Five

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schools are participating in poster, poetry and coloring contests. A tree will be planted at the community Center to honor the holiday and 50 trees in three-gallon containers will be given away.

**E. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**1. Ordinance 03-02 – LDR – Dock Regulations – Public Hearing & 2nd Reading –**

After hearing the reading of Ordinance 03-02 – LDR – Dock Regulations, the Commission noted that the 2nd reading and public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11th.

**2. Request for Landscape Agreement along beach trail at 11270 Gulf Boulevard – The Venetian -**

Ms. Lynn Rossetti, the City Planner, stated that the Venetian is requesting licensing to allow for landscaping of the area at the Venetian that is owned by the City. The City Planner informed the Commission that (with the Commission's approval) the Venetian would like to submit plans to Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The Commission will consider passing a motion to approve this request on Tuesday, February 11th.

**3. County Fireworks Resolution -**

Chuck Coward, the City Manager, asked that the Commission pass a resolution in support of a County ordinance strengthening enforcement regulations on fireworks per County Commissioner Welch's recommendation.

Commissioner Blush asked Commissioner Ellsworth if he voiced the Commission's opinions on the fireworks issue with Commissioner Morroni.

Commissioner Ellsworth stated that he informed the county Commissioners that the Commission for the City of Treasure Island intends to pass a resolution to ban fireworks unless necessary for business purposes.

The Commission will consider this resolution on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>.

**4. State Lobbyist for Causeway Funding –**

The City Manager reported that the TOPs program will not be available for future funding of the Causeway Bridge Project. He indicated that the City will need to lobby for legislation directly in order to come up with the \$10 million dollar grant that

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was expected to be provided by TOPS in the second year of the project.

The Commission agreed that the City will need a lobbyist in order to acquire the grant funds necessary for the project.

Commissioner Maloof asked if there are any federal funds that City can apply for.

The City Manager responded affirmatively and stated that the City has submitted an application for \$25 million in federal funds.

George Makrauer, 740 126<sup>th</sup> Avenue, stated that while Mr. Fowler has considerable experience in lobbying for legislation, Mr. Rotundo does not appear to have a presence in Tallahassee. He further stated that Mr. Rotundo is not listed as a registered lobbyist in Tallahassee. Mr. Makrauer requested that the City focus on lobbyists that are residents in Tallahassee.

The City Manager explained that Mr. Rotundo will reside in Tallahassee during the legislative session. He also said that Mr. Feeney will still have some effect even though he is no longer with the firm.

Mr. Makrauer urged the City to review its options in selecting a firm to lobby for the Causeway Bridge project funds.

The Commission will consider this resolution on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>.

##### **5. SPAAMFAA Winter Meeting Special Event –**

Mr. Charlie Fant, Fire Chief, requested approval to co-host the Winter Meeting and Convention of the Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus in America (SPAAMFAA) in Treasure Island January 28 – 31, 2004. He stated that the Treasure Island Fire department would be co-hosting this event with the Dalmingo Society, Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of SPAAMFAA. The Fire Chief said that the event includes seminars, a flea market, 300 conference attendees and over 500 fire trucks.

Commissioner Blush commented that this event will be a big draw and that the children really enjoy it.

Commissioner Maloof asked if it would be possible to involve the City's Recreation Department to make the event into a festival.

The Fire Chief stated that the event is mostly geared to the convention participants.

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The Commission will consider this resolution on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>.

**6. Purchase of Public Safety Radios –**

The Commission noted the memo from the Fire Chief regarding the purchase of radio equipment in the amount of \$16,700. The City Manager reported that the City budgets \$16,000 annually for the purchase of radio equipment. The Commission will consider this resolution on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>.

**7. Purchase of SCBA Gear with Fire Equipment Grant –**

The Commission noted the memo from the Fire Chief regarding the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) in the amount of \$50,058. The Commission will consider this resolution on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>.

**8. Island Community Theater Request for Free Use of Community Center –**

Mr. Dowling requested approval for the free use of the Community Center by the Island Community Theater for the weekends of September 19<sup>th</sup> and September 25<sup>th</sup>.

The City Manager noted that a Recreational Aide will be required to be on duty for the six nights

The Commission will consider this resolution on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>.

**F. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS AND COMMENTS:**

The City Manager provided the Commission with a financial report for the City as of December 31, 2002.

Commissioner Blush commented that increasing the price of toll passes has resulted in increased toll coin receipts for the current year as expected.

The City Manager reported that he is working on the trolley/bus system issue with Mike Bonfield of St. Pete Beach. He stated that PSTA has offered the City a one-year extension of the current trolley contract. The City Manager outlined the City's options to deal with the trolley/bus system issue as follows:

1. Join PSTA Authority.
2. Renew the contract with PSTA.
3. Enter into a contract with a private entity.
4. St. Pete Beach and Treasure Island operate a transit system.

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The City Manager reported that 175 petitions were received for the recall of Commissioner Blush. He stated that the petitions would be delivered to the Supervisor of Elections Office on Wednesday, February 5th.

The City Manager reported that the Causeway Bridge Construction Project has developed into two specific phases. The first phase includes:

1. Feasibility and environmental studies plus public input on height, alignment and aesthetics.
2. Preliminary and final plans and specifications for all three bridges.
3. State and federal permits.
4. Funding package for the fixed bridges.
5. Approving the final design of the bascule bridge. The design is currently about 30 percent complete.

The second phase includes:

1. Acquiring \$50 million in funding for construction of the bascule bridge.
2. Construction of the drawbridge including the toll facility, # of lanes, toll fees, and toll collection policies.

**G. REPORTS & COMMENTS BY COMMISSION:**

Mayor Atkinson reported that the Federal Department of Transportation (FDOT) will hold a public information meeting regarding the John's Pass Bridge Final Design Project on Thursday, February 20th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the City of Madeira Beach City Hall Auditorium.

Commissioner Ellsworth reported on his meeting with County Commissioner Morrone regarding the reclaimed water project. Commissioner Ellsworth said that he was assured by Commissioner Morrone that the restoration work would be completed before Westra leaves our community. Commissioner Ellsworth requested that residents affected by the reclaimed water project send him letters that detail the damage to their property as well as the amount necessary to restore it.

Commissioner Ellsworth reported that he met with the Russian Tourism Delegation on Saturday, February 1st. He stated that he presented the delegates with a proclamation designating the week of January 29<sup>th</sup> to February 4<sup>th</sup> as Russian Tourism Week.

Commissioner Ellsworth reported that he provided his constituent with a legal

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opinion from Attorney Denhardt regarding rescinding the referendum.

Commissioner Maloof commented that if the Commission were to attempt to overturn the referendum it would cause tremendous upheaval throughout the community.

Commissioner Ellsworth explained that the legal opinion was requested by his constituent.

Commissioner Blush read a statement she prepared in response to the petitions received by the City to recall her as Commissioner. Commissioner Blush stated that she voted for Ordinance 02-06 only after conducting a thorough study of the issues. She further stated that she voted her conscience and broke no law in the process. Commissioner Blush said that she intends to discharge her office with dignity and the same vigor that she has since she was elected in March.

#### **H. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Charles Weisgerber spoke regarding the petitions to recall Commissioner Blush. He asked residents in Sunset Beach to rise up against the small group that he feels is behind the recall. He said that this group may be "well meaning" but that they are "ill-advised". He asked who is next and said that this has to stop.

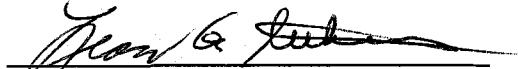
Carl Ystrom stated that he voted for Commissioner Blush and has been very satisfied with her performance as Commissioner. He commented that a small group is disturbing the democracy with this recall. He said that he hopes that Commissioner Blush is still able to serve the voters who voted for her when this comes to an end.

Sylvia Stratis thanked Commissioner Blush for all she has done for the community. She complimented Commissioner Blush for her courage and integrity in standing up for herself against this recall. Ms. Stratis said that she feels it is a disgrace to see people attacking her this way. She stated that it is a reflection of the character of those who signed the petition.


Chris Hearn stated that he signed the petition because he felt that the Commission committed an illegal act when they voted for Ordinance 02-06. He commented that it is not a recall by a small group of people and that it is not personal or vindictive.

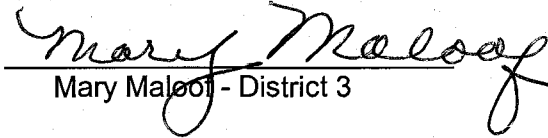
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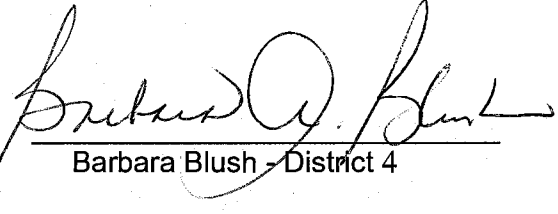
**I. ADJOURNMENT:**

  
Leon G. Atkinson, Mayor

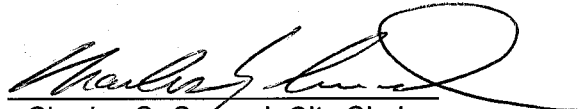
Stephanie Lavino - District 1

  
Irving S. Ellsworth - District 2

  
Mary Malool - District 3

  
Barbara Blush - District 4

**ATTEST:**

  
Charles S. Coward, City Clerk