

**CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
February 11, 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	Present

C. MINUTES:

Motion was made by Commissioner Ellsworth and seconded by Commissioner Maloof to approve the minutes from the meeting of January 28th as written.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Earl Pfeiffer, Vice President of the Sunshine Beach Homeowners' Association, presented a resolution passed by the Sunshine Beach Homeowners' Association that honors the accomplishments of the City Commission in the past 24 months.

Ruth Bartlett of the Paradise Island Civic Association invited the Commissioners and the public to attend a dedication celebration in memory of Darci Crist. She stated that the event will take place on February 15th at 2:00 p.m.

Lynn Rosetti, the City Planner, thanked the candidates for their cooperation in complying with the regulations regarding the placement of candidate election signs.

Jacqueline Volpe, a Sunset Beach resident, commended Commissioner Blush on her fairness and fortitude in "getting the job done right". She also stated that Commissioner Blush is the best commissioner that Sunset Beach residents have ever had.

2/11/03

E. ACTION ITEMS:

1. Resolution – State Lobbyist for Causeway Funding –

After hearing the reading of the resolution authorizing the restructure of arrangements with James A. Fowler, Esq. to represent the City of Treasure Island in its efforts to obtain grant funding for the Causeway Bridge Replacement Project from the Florida State Legislature, motion was made by Commissioner Blush and seconded by Commissioner Maloof to approve the resolution as read.

Commissioner Blush thanked the City Manager for addressing the concerns raised by George Makrauer on this issue.

Chuck Coward, the City Manager introduced Mr. Louis Rotundo and stated that Mr. Rotundo would present his qualifications and background to the Commission.

Mr. Rotundo stated that unlike Mr. Fowler, he is not an attorney but rather a lobbyist consultant. Mr. Rotundo stated that he has 22 years of experience with a specialty in transportation. In addition, he represents the lobbying interests of several municipalities.

Mayor Atkinson asked Mr. Rotundo what funds are available as a result of the dissolution of the Tops program.

Mr. Rotundo stated that there is a Transportation Initiative Program being discussed by Congress. He said that the Senate in particular has expressed a desire to find other sources of funds for projects that were committed to under the TOPs program.

Mayor Atkinson asked if the City should lobby for programs that could provide funding or if the City should focus on obtaining funds for the Causeway Bridge Project.

Mr. Rotundo suggested that the City focus on funding for the Causeway Bridge Project. He encouraged everyone to contact State legislators regarding the Need for funding of this project.

J.D. Hadsall urged the Commission to postpone committing \$40,000 to lobbyists for the Causeway Bridge Replacement Project.

George Makrauer stated that he is in favor of the City hiring a lobbyist but that he feels the City is "putting the cart before the horse". Mr. Makrauer asked whether

2/11/03

the City has performed adequate groundwork with the Pinellas County Legislative Delegation and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

The City Manager stated that the Pinellas County Legislative Delegation is fully aware of the City's funding needs for the Causeway Bridge Replacement Project. He further stated that the City received \$5.2 million this year and was in line to receive another \$10 million under the TOPs program until the program was cancelled a few weeks ago. The City Manager said that while there are no guarantees when lobbying for funding from the state and federal government, the City must work diligently to raise another \$20 - \$40 million in funding for the project.

Commissioner Ellsworth stated that the Commission knew that the City would need to aggressively seek out funding for the project with no steadfast guarantees.

Commissioner Maloof said that she felt the State would help with providing funding due to the fact that the Causeway is a major evacuation route for many Treasure Island residents.

Commissioner Blush stated that every day is critical at this point. Therefore, the City must aggressively pursue funding for the project.

Upon roll call, the vote was unanimous.

2. **[Case CC-2003-02-VR - 10042 Gulf Boulevard (Lot 32) – Greg & Nadine Duckert] Multiple variances requested to allow the construction of an open swimming pool that would encroach into the rear yard setback area (Gulf side); and to allow a single-family residential structure to exceed the height limitations -**

Lynn Rosetti, the City Planner, showed a video presentation and answered questions regarding the following variance requests:

The Commission made comments and discussed the variances.

No abutters were present and staff prior to the meeting received no comments from abutters.

Marie Barba urged the Commission to grant the 5 foot height variance.

Greg Duckert made comments and answered questions from the Commission.

2/11/03

ACTION

Motion was made by Commissioner Blush to approve a variance allowing the construction of an open swimming pool that would encroach into the rear yard setback area (Gulf side) subject to the following staff recommendations:

1. Planning and Zoning Board site plan review as specified in the Land Development Regulations.
2. Pool setback variance applies only to single-family redevelopment of Lot 32.
3. Pool fence shall be a decorative-type that meets the requirements of Section 68-458 of the Land development Regulations.

Upon roll call the vote was unanimous.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ellsworth and seconded by Commissioner Blush to approve a variance allowing a single-family residential structure to exceed the height limitations by 5 feet. Upon roll call, the vote was unanimous.

3. Ordinance 03-02 – LDR – Dock Regulations – Public Hearing and 2nd Reading –

After hearing the 2nd reading and public hearing of this ordinance pertaining to Land Development; amending Chapter 69 of said Land Development Regulations to add and expand definitions; to change the allowable width of private docks, to ensure that catwalks and service catwalks are part of the overall private dock calculations; to ensure coordination of the permitting process with the Florida Building Code and the Pinellas County Water and Navigation Control Authority regulations; to revise the variance procedures for single and two-family private docks; providing for severability; providing for an effective date, motion was made by Commissioner Maloof and seconded by Commissioner Blush to approve the ordinance as read. Upon roll call, the vote was unanimous.

4. Motion – Landscaping on Beach Trail at 11270 Gulf Boulevard – The Venetian -

Motion was made by Commissioner Blush and seconded by Commissioner Maloof to approve the proposed landscape plan for city property adjacent to the Treasure Island beach trail and behind the Venetian Condominiums at 11270 Gulf Boulevard and; to authorize the applicant to apply to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for a permit to install landscaping. Upon roll call, the vote was unanimous.

2/11/03

5. Resolution – County Fireworks Resolution –

After hearing the reading of the resolution in support of a Pinellas County Ordinance providing a regulatory mechanism to enforce laws regarding the sale and use of fireworks, motion was made by Commissioner Maloof and seconded by Commissioner Blush to approve the resolution as read.

Commissioner Maloof reported that County Commissioner Welch was pleased that the City of Treasure Island has established a resolution in support of restricting the sale and use of fireworks. She said that Commissioner Welch asked her to write to other Commissioners regarding the matter.

Mayor Atkinson stated that the Mayors' Council voted unanimously in support of County Commissioner Welch's proposal restricting the sale of fireworks. Mayor Atkinson further stated that the Mayor's Council requested that if the City of Treasure Island passes the resolution in support of restricting the sale and use of fireworks that a copy of the resolution be distributed to other cities in Pinellas County to be used as a model.

Upon roll call, the vote was unanimous.

6. Resolution – SPAAMFAA Winter Meeting Special Event -

After hearing the reading of the resolution authorizing the Treasure Island Fire Department along with the Dalmingo Society and the greater Tampa Metro Chapter of SPAAMFAA to host the 2004 winter meeting and convention of the Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus in America in Treasure Island from January 28-31, 2004; setting forth conditions, motion was made by Commissioner Ellsworth and seconded by Commissioner Blush to approve the resolution as read. Upon roll call, the vote was unanimous.

7. Resolution – Purchase of Public Safety Radios -

After hearing the reading of the resolution authorizing the purchase of radios for the Fire Department to upgrade mobile and portable radios to maintain compatibility with the Pinellas County Emergency Communications System for a cost of \$16,700, motion was made by Commissioner Blush and seconded by Commissioner Maloof to approve the resolution as read.

Mayor Atkinson asked if the purchase of radios for the Fire Department was a budgeted item.

The City Manager stated that \$16,700 was budgeted for the purchase of radios

2/11/03

for the Fire Department.

Upon roll call, the vote was unanimous.

8. Resolution – Purchase of SCBA Gear with Fire Equipment Grant –

After hearing the reading of the resolution awarding a contract for the purchase of new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) to Porche Fire Equipment Company in Lakeland, Florida for \$50,008, motion was made by Commissioner Ellsworth and seconded by Commissioner Maloof to approve the resolution as read. Upon roll call, the vote was unanimous.

9. Resolution – Island Community Theater Request for Free Use of Community Center –

After hearing the reading of the resolution authorizing the free use of the Treasure Island Community Center by the Island Community Theater for two weekends, September 19, 20, 21 and 26, 27, 28, 2003 for fall short show presentation, motion was made by Commissioner Maloof and seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth to approve the resolution as read.

Mr. Robert Dowling reported that the Island Community Theater received its first grant in the amount of \$5,000 for the purchase of hearing impaired equipment.

Mr. Dowling stated that the Island Community Theater group would like to use the small room at the Community Center for rehearsals for 6 weeks prior to the show.

The City Manager stated that the resolution allows for use of the Community Center for rehearsals as long as it has not been rented out and if there is already a Recreational Aide on duty.

Upon roll call, the vote was unanimous.

F. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS & COMMENTS:

The City Manager reported that the City received proposals from 4 law firms desiring to be our bond counsel. He stated that the proposals are being reviewed and a selection will be made in the near future.

The City Manager reported that the relocation of utilities has started at the 2 fixed bridges. Removal of part of the bridge is expected to get underway in late February or early March.

2/11/03

G. REPORTS & COMMENTS BY COMMISSION:

Commissioner Maloof reported that flyers are being distributed to residents that offer reclaimed water hookups at a cost of more than \$300. She asked if the services offered in the flyers have been authorized by Pinellas County.

The City Manager stated that no connection date has been set for reclaimed water. He said that he does not recommend that residents contract with any firm to handle reclaimed water hookups at this time.

Mayor Atkinson stated that the City should look into this matter and see what can be done to prevent unauthorized solicitations like this in the future.

Commissioner Ellsworth asked that residents forward to him in writing any complaints regarding damage to their property resulting from the reclaimed water project.

Commissioner Blush reported that Pinellas County Inspector, John Woolum stated that all problems resulting from the reclaimed water project will be addressed. She urged residents to contact herself or Butch in order to get their names on the list of properties to be addressed for reclaimed water issues.

Commissioner Blush stated that she has received questions regarding 3" x 5" stickers that are appearing on signs throughout Sunset Beach. She stated that some of the stickers say "obey" or have a face with the word "obey". Commissioner Blush stated that the City did not place these stickers on the signs and that the signs will cost \$40 to \$60 to be replaced. She asked that if any residents see someone putting stickers on signs to report it to the Police Department because it is vandalism.

Commissioner Blush stated that her training as a registered nurse has taught her to stand up for her convictions and has prepared her for her duties as Commissioner. She stated that she would rather stand up for what she believes is right than take the easy road to pacify a few.

Mayor Atkinson stated that an assistant attorney general has given a recommendation that there is no probable cause for the allegations brought against himself and Commissioner Ellsworth. He further stated that the Ethics Commission will hold a probable cause hearing on March 13, 2003.

2/11/03

H. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Dowling asked if there are plans for a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Causeway Bridge.

Mayor Atkinson asked if the City could make some arrangements for a ceremony.

The City Manager stated that a groundbreaking ceremony could be planned for the 1st week of March.

Mayor Atkinson commented that he felt it would be a good idea to generate some media attention since this is the largest monetary project the City has undertaken to date.

Mr. Dowling invited the Commission, the City Manager as well as anyone in the community to volunteer to be part of the Treasure Island Hotel/Motel Association's Celebrity Dunk Tank event that will take place on February 22nd. He said that 20 people have signed up for the event thus far.

Mr. Carl Ystrom asked if there was anything new in the planning of the bridge replacement project, especially the plans for the storage yard at the Community Center Park.

Mayor Atkinson states that, unlike the reclaimed water project, the City is in control of the bridge replacement project. Even so, traffic and equipment storage will still be an issue.

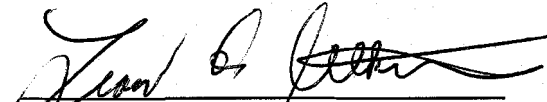
Mr. Ystrom asked when the reclaimed water will be available for use and whether different size meters would be provided based on usage.

Mayor Atkinson stated that Pinellas County has missed two deadlines at this point. He guessed that the reclaimed water could be made available by late summer. He also said that usage of reclaimed water will be charged by the gallon.

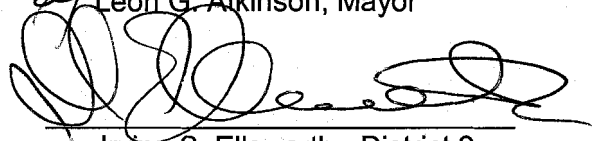
Sylvia Stratis thanked Commissioner Blush for her dedication and countless hours of service to the Treasure Island community.

2/11/03

I. ADJOURNMENT:

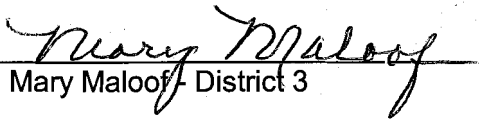


Leon G. Atkinson, Mayor

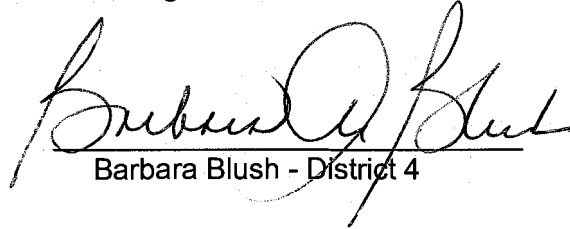


Irving S. Ellsworth - District 2

Stephanie Lavino - District 1



Mary Maloof - District 3



Barbara Blush - District 4

ATTEST:



Charles S. Coward, City Clerk