

CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP MEETING
March 18, 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 the meeting of February 18, 2003. Upon roll call, the vote was unanimous.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Julian Fant commented on the crosswalk in front of the Bilmar Hotel. He stated that many drivers do not realize there is a crosswalk there. He asked the Commission to discuss the issue and consider placing flashing lights at the crosswalk.

Mr. Chuck Coward, City Manager, indicated that he has received several calls regarding the crosswalk in front of the Bilmar. He said that the crosswalk is permitted by the Federal Department of Transportation (FDOT). The City Manager stated that the City is taking action to better identify the crosswalk by applying to FDOT for approval to install beacon flashing lights. He also stated that signs will be placed at the crosswalk to inform pedestrians that they do not have the right of way and must yield to oncoming traffic.

Mr. Harry Black of the Treasure Island Hotel/Motel Hospitality Association thanked those who participated in the Dunk Tank fundraiser on February 22nd including Commissioner Butch Ellsworth. He also thanked Sun Cruz Casino for sponsoring the dunk tank as well as T I Divers for donating wet suits for the event. Mr. Black presented the City with a \$250 check for Elnor Island.

Mr. Bob Dowling also of the Treasure Island Hotel/Motel Hospitality Association read a report from Ms. Ruthie Starkey regarding a recent inspection of Elnor Island. Ms. Starkey's report indicated that the island is "inundated" with trash, and that it appears to be "devoid of any active bird life". Ms. Starkey's report makes several

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recommendations including an extensive clean-up campaign, removal of raccoons, and future inspections of the island.

D. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Ordinance 03-03 – Vehicles on the Beach – 2nd Reading & Public Hearing –

After hearing the reading of Ordinance 03-03 –Vehicles on the Beach, the Commission noted that the second reading and public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25th.

2. Accepting Report of the Canvassing Board –

The Commission noted that the Report of the Canvassing Board will be reviewed for acceptance on Tuesday, March 25th.

3. Solid Waste Rate Increase –

The City Manager indicated the solid waste rate increase is the second of a three step rate increase that was instituted a year ago at the request of the City's Auditors to correct a negative cash flow in the account. He stated that the Commission previously authorized a 15% solid waste rate increase in 2002, a 10% rate increase in 2003 and a 5% rate increase in 2004 to bring the account to a cash neutral position. The City Manager stated that if approved, the 10% rate increase would be effective with the June 2003 billing cycle.

The Commission will consider this resolution on Tuesday, March 25th.

4. Wastewater Rate Increase –

The City Manager stated that the reclaimed water project will cause a reduction in the use of potable water. He said that because sewer rates are based on potable water usage, the rates will need to be adjusted upward to achieve a revenue neutral position. The City Manager stated that according to the City of St. Pete Beach, the City of Treasure Island can expect at least a 25% reduction of potable water usage. The City Manager stated that the Commission is being asked to authorize a public hearing on May 27th to formally discuss wastewater rates. He said that the hearing must be advertised on the April cycle of the utility bills.

Commissioner Ellsworth asked if the City would plan to monitor the decrease in potable water usage and make adjustments accordingly.

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The City Manager stated that the City will monitor the potable water usage at 6 months, 12 months and 24 months intervals.

Commissioner Maloof asked if the residents that will not be using reclaimed water would still have a 25% increase in their wastewater bill.

The City Manager responded affirmatively but stated that City Staff would revisit this issue prior to the public hearing on May 27th.

Commissioner Blush asked when the reclaimed water hookups are scheduled to take place.

The City Manager stated that Pinellas County Utilities has scheduled a public meeting for April 16th to advise the community on how the reclaimed water hookups will take place. He said that it is his understanding that hookups will occur for residents as follows:

- Sunshine Beach and the Isle of Capri in May
- Isle of Palms and Sunset Beach in June/July
- Downtown and Paradise Island in August

Commissioner Ellsworth asked when Pinellas County Utilities is expected to send out flyers to the residents regarding reclaimed water hookups.

The City Manager stated that the flyers will go out to residents thirty days prior to the hookup date for the area they reside in.

The City Manager urged the public to attend the meeting if they have any questions regarding reclaimed water.

The City Manager stated that the public meeting regarding reclaimed water will be replayed for each area prior to the hookups taking place.

Commissioner Maloof asked if the City Manager had any information regarding the flyers that were distributed by an independent company that was offering to handle reclaimed water hookups.

The City Manager stated that City Staff attempted to call the company but the phone number listed was fictitious.

The Commission will consider the resolution on Tuesday, March 25th.

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5. Traffic Signal Bid Awards for Gulf Boulevard at 112th and 117th Avenues

The City Manager stated that \$175,000 was budgeted for the replacement of two sets of traffic signals on Gulf Boulevard. He said that MPG & Company came in with the lowest bid at \$176,590.00. The City Manager recommended awarding the project to MPG because the firm provided the lowest bid and is installing other traffic signals for the City. He further stated that the City is very pleased with MPG's performance.

The Commission will consider the resolution on Tuesday, March 25th.

6. Selection of Bond Counsel for Final Design of the Causeway Drawbridge

The City Manager stated that the City Attorney and he are recommending the appointment of Nabors, Giblin and Nickerson as Bond Counsel and Bryant, Miller and Olive as Disclosure Counsel.

The City Manager stated that a disclosure counsel is necessary with revenue bonds to disclose data such as financial revenue sources for prospective bond purchasers.

Mayor Atkinson asked if it is possible to hire one firm for both bond and disclosure counsels.

Mr. Jim Denhardt, City Attorney, stated that the City Manager and he asked if it was possible to hire one firm for both bond and disclosure counsels and all of the firms strongly recommended against it. He said that, in addition, there would be no cost savings to the City by using one firm for both roles.

The City Manager stated that the combined fees range between \$50,000 if the City sells \$20,000,000 in bonds and \$100,000 if the City sells \$40,000,000 in bonds.

The Commission will consider the resolution on Tuesday, March 25th.

7. Contract with E.C. Driver for Final Design of the Causeway Drawbridge

Mr. Don Hambidge, Public Works Director, reported that the fixed bridges have been designed and that the design effort for the bascule bridge is 30% complete. He stated that the City still needs to finalize plans and get permits for the bascule bridge. The Public Works Director stated that he has received a scope of work and cost estimates from E.C. Driver for the final design contract of the bascule bridge

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totaling \$2,079,185.00. He stated that he made some changes to the scope of work and minimized duplication of effort where possible to arrive at a contract cost of \$1,979,185.00.

Mayor Atkinson complimented the Public Works Director on getting the contract below \$2,000,000 which is within the budget.

The Commission will consider the resolution on Tuesday, March 25th.

8. Donation to Fired Department from Rita DeJohn –

Mayor Atkinson read a letter from Ms. Rita DeJohn thanking Lieutenants Tim Michael and Bob Nash and Joe White, EMT for saving her life.

Mayor Atkinson stated that he received calls from Ms. DeJohn and her granddaughter stating that the Fire Department personnel definitely saved her life.

Commissioner Blush stated that she spoke to Ms. DeJohn who couldn't say enough about the Fire Department's quick response to her respiratory distress emergency.

The Commission will consider the resolution on Tuesday, March 25th.

9. Bid Award for Fourth of July Fireworks –

Ms. Cathy Hayduke, Recreation Director, recommended that the Fourth of July fireworks display be awarded to Bell's Fireworks Company in the amount of \$13,000. She stated that although Bell's Fireworks Company did not provide the lowest bid, the firm's bid provided more variety in the types of shells used and the firm has handled the City's Fourth of July fireworks display in the past.

The Commission will consider the resolution on Tuesday, March 25th.

10. Planning & Zoning Board – Request for Insurance Clarification –

The City Manager stated that the City has received a letter from Mr. Gary Walker, the Vice Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Board, regarding liability coverage for individual members of the Board. He stated that there was some concern that the City was not covering board members' legal expenses for the recent ethics hearings. The City Manager stated that he would prepare a presentation for the Commission on this subject.

Commissioner Blush stated that she would like coverage for travel expenses that board members' incurred during the ethics hearings considered as well.

Attorney Denhardt stated that there are two issues involved:

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- A. Insurance coverage for acts and omissions
- B. Coverage or reimbursement for legal expenses as a result of sitting on one of the boards.

Attorney Denhardt stated that while he is still looking into the matter, he is confident that the City will reimburse the legal expenses incurred by the individuals who were accused of ethics violations and then absolved.

11. Resignation of P & Z Board & Beautification Committee Members -

The City Manager stated that letters of resignation were submitted by Planning and Zoning Board members, Rex Huskey and Jean Wendel. The City Manager stated that a resignation letter was also submitted by Beautification Committee member Carol Sheehan.

The Commission will appoint new members to the Planning & Zoning Board and the Beautification Committee after the upcoming Runoff Election.

12. SBCA Yard Sale -

Commissioner Blush stated that the annual Sunset Beach Civic Association yard sale will take place from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm on Saturday, March 29th. She requested the Commission's approval for the free use of City-owned parking lots except parking lot #2 ½.

It was noted that SBCA was misspelled as SPCA on the agenda.

The Commission will consider the resolution on Tuesday, March 25th.

E. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

Attorney Denhardt reported that the City has been named in litigation filed by Commissioner Blush regarding the recall petition that was filed against her. He stated that he has filed a response on behalf of the City and the City Manager.

Attorney Denhardt reported that the City is also involved in litigation relating to the appeal of a speeding ticket. He said that he hopes this case will be concluded shortly.

Attorney Denhardt reported that he received an appraisal for the Noordhoek property in the amount of \$696,700. He stated that he will provide the Commission with his recommendations after reviewing the appraisal.

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The City Manager reported on the financial report for February, 2003. He stated that expenditures are 1% over this month which is an improvement from the 3% that expenditures were over last month. He stated that finances are in order and on track.

The City Manager stated that he will make copies of the Elnor Island inspection report for the Commission to review. He further stated that the status of Elnor Island will be placed on the agenda for the new Commission to discuss.

Commissioner Maloof stated that she could contact representatives from Fish & Wildlife and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Spoil Management Team regarding Elnor Island if necessary.

The City Manager stated that Elnor Island is owned by the City and that the City has a duty to maintain its natural environment. He said that he would speak to the City of Madeira Beach to determine the measures the City has taken to maintain the spoil islands in Madeira, if any.

Mayor Atkinson stated that he is concerned about the status of Elnor Island as well. He stated that steps must be taken to encourage birds to nest on the island. He said that he appreciated the status report that Mr. Dowling provided to the Commission.

The City Manager stated that lane restrictions on the Treasure Island Causeway will commence as of Monday, March 24th.

The City Manager stated that the Commission normally would be scheduled to have a workshop meeting on April 1st and a regular meeting on April 8th. He said that because the Runoff Election is on April 8th the Commission will need to decide on a meeting schedule that works around the election.

The Commission agreed to have a workshop meeting on Tuesday, April 1st at 7:00 p.m. and a regular meeting on Monday, April 7th at 3:30 p.m.

F. REPORTS & COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Maloof stated that the beach Stewardship Committee was selected to receive a "Future of the Region" Award from Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council for its Beach Management Plan. She presented the award to Commissioner Blush as a member of the beach Stewardship Committee and as the person who submitted the forms and application to the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council for consideration.

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Commissioner Maloof commented that she is also concerned about the crosswalk at Sloppy Joe's. She stated that she noted pedestrians running across the sidewalk and vehicles trying to maneuver around the pedestrians at the same time.

Commissioner Ellsworth stated that he is planning to represent the City of Treasure Island at Legislature Day in Tallahassee. He said that he has set up meetings with Senator Jones and with Representative Carassas. Commissioner Ellsworth stated that he is still in the process of setting up a meeting with Representative Waters.

Commissioner Blush stated that she had a meeting with the City Manager and Representative Waters recently. She said that she and the City Manager were able to give Ms. Waters an overview of the status with the TOP's program and the Causeway Bridge Construction Project.

Commissioner Blush stated that the work is coming along nicely at Sunset Vista Trailhead Park. She reported that the handrails will be installed next week and the construction of the arbor and the pavilion as well as the installation of the mosaic tile and landscaping will take place soon. Commissioner Blush said the park should be open to the public by the middle of May.

Commissioner Blush thanked City Staff for providing most of the program on rules and regulations relating to beach activity for the Beach Stewardship Committee's meeting on March 12th. She said that the Committee heard from Public Works, the Police Chief, the Fire Chief, the City Manager, and the Building Official regarding what the City does to maintain Treasure Island's beaches.

Commissioner Blush stated that the next meeting of the Beach Stewardship Committee on April 9th will be an informational session on sea turtles and other wildlife. She said that Mr. Glenn Harmon, the "Turtle Man" from Clearwater Marine Institute will be a guest speaker. She said that Ms. Carol Kitts, Code Enforcement Officer, will also speak regarding the City's turtle lighting ordinance to explain how the City is getting citizens to comply with it.

Commissioner Blush stated that she spoke with Ms. Mary DeBiase from Sunset Beach who wished to publicly thank the Public Works Department for assisting her in locating a lost puppy. Commissioner Blush stated that two employees working out on the beach went above the call of duty in helping her locate the puppy.

Commissioner Blush stated that Mr. Art Lind, a former Treasure Island Fire Chief, passed away in South Pasadena recently. She spoke with Fire Chief Charlie Fant and he said that memorial donations to the volunteer Fire Department would be gratefully accepted.

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Mayor Atkinson reported that he attended his ethics hearing in Tallahassee on March 13th. He said that both Ms. Roseanne Petit and he were absolved of any wrongdoing.

Mayor Atkinson stated that he traveled to Tallahassee a day before his ethics hearing to lobby on the City's behalf. He said that he took a copy of the T3 Federal Transportation Grant Application and a letter he wrote to Congressman Young regarding the Causeway Bridge Replacement Project for the state legislators to review. Mayor Atkinson also spoke before a legislative subcommittee regarding a bill that the "Big C" asked Representative Carassas and Senator Jones to bring before the Legislature to prevent the County from redirecting funds from the beach renourishment budget.

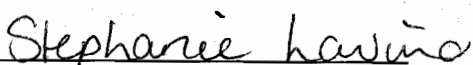
G. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

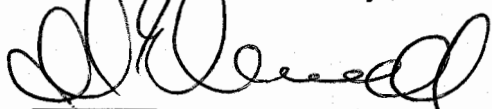
No public comments were made.

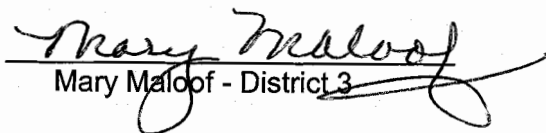
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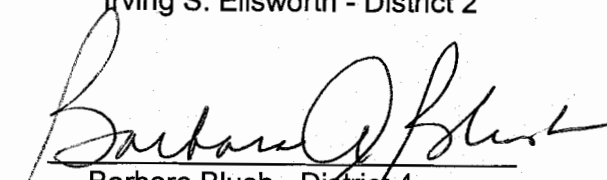
H. ADJOURNMENT:


Leon G. Atkinson, Mayor


Stephanie Lavino - District 1


Irving S. Ellsworth - District 2


Mary Maloof - District 3


Barbara Blush - District 4

ATTEST:


Charles S. Coward, City Clerk