

CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP MEETING
June 17, 2003
7:00 p.m.

A. SILENT ROLL CALL BY EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT:

Mayor Mary Maloof	Present
Commissioner Phil Collins	Present
Commissioner Irving S. Ellsworth	Present
Commissioner Richard Kraus	Present
Commissioner Barbara Blush	Vice-Mayor Present

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Hugh Ruckdeschel commented that there is graffiti on the boat ramp sign at Lagoon Lane and 123rd Avenue. He also wanted to thank Commissioner Kraus for spending time discussing reclaimed water with him.

C. MINUTES:

Motion was made by Commissioner Kraus and seconded by Commissioner Collins to approve the minutes from the meeting of May 23rd and June 3rd, 2003, as read. Commissioner Blush said there was an error in the minutes of June 3rd – under “Public Comments”, Mr. Ystrom thanked the City for removing the poles on the beach. Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

D. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Children’s Regatta Special Event at TITYC and Treasure Bay

Mr. Tito Vargus and Mr. Les Lathrop were present representing the 16th Annual Bruce Neubauer Optimist Regatta and addressed the Commission. Mr. Vargus said the event had been held previously at Admiral Farragut Academy but has encountered some hardships there. After discussing the event with the Yachting Committee, it was suggested they approach the City of Treasure Island in hopes of bringing the event here. The event attracts approximately 70-100 entries which include families and their children.

Mr. Vargus is requesting permission to use a portion of the Treasure Bay Golf and Tennis Center along the north seawall to install a portable launching ramp with a floating platform attached, to use the north half of the club house for registration and the bathroom facilities and a portion of the parking lot. In addition, the committee would like permission to park along Paradise Boulevard. This event will

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take place Saturday and Sunday, September 20 and 21, 2003.

Mr. Les Lathrop said he would like to make this a joint effort, like the Christmas Boat Parade, whereby the City and the Yacht Club work together. This event will be advantageous to the hotel/motel industry as well as the business sector.

Mr. Lathrop said the event will need volunteers to assist and if anyone is interested to contact him.

Commissioner Kraus said he would not like to see any parking in the triangle grass area at Dolphin Drive and Paradise Boulevard.

Commissioner Blush asked about insurance for this event. The City Manager said the TITYC would provide a policy. Commissioner Blush said this event will be fabulous opportunity for kids.

A resolution will be prepared for Tuesday's meeting.

2. EMPLOYEE MEDICATION INSURANCE RENEWAL

Mr. Fred Turner, Personnel Director, and Mr. Chris Gehring from the Gehring Group (our benefits consultant) were present to discuss health insurance renewal for the FY 03-04.

Mr. Turner said the City has engaged the services of the Gehring Group in obtaining the best possible health insurance benefits for the employees of the City. He passed out to the Commission the results of a survey from the employees indicating they are very pleased with our coverage.

Mr. Turner introduced Mr. Gehring who explained the process they go through in obtaining the best possible coverage within our budget. He said the package that staff is recommending will increase our costs by 15% and employees will be paying a higher co-payment.

Mr. Gehring explained that his agency is a full-service firm that will be available to help employees with problems they may encounter with their health insurance as well as assisting with other benefits.

The City Manager said the City changed agents this year and that staff is pleased with the Gehring Group, especially in obtaining only a 15% increase in health insurance premiums when the industry standard is much higher.

Staff is recommending the Commission endorse the 698T plan provided by United

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Health Insurance.

A resolution will be prepared for Tuesday's meeting.

3. PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY ON CAUSEWAY EAST BRIDGE

Commissioner Kraus reported that he had lunch with Councilor Rick Kriseman and Deputy Mayor Mike Dove from St. Petersburg to discuss a number of issues regarding the bridge including the collection facility and six-lanes for a "pass only" lane either on the eastbound or westbound lane(s). They also discussed a pedestrian walkway for temporary use on the east bridge which is under construction. He said that Councilor Kriseman and Deputy Mayor Dove were receptive of the City putting up the walkway and said that they would help by providing the temporary sidewalks. They further indicated that they would see if there was any funding available to help with the bridge costs.

Commissioner Ellsworth reported on a meeting he had with Ms. Jane Renka, who is the Director of Marketing with PSTA. She indicated that PSTA has agreed to provide free bus transportation for pedestrians and bicyclists across the causeway bridge. Individuals desirous of crossing the bridges will be picked up by the trolleys at the eastbound bus stop located on Central Avenue at Sunset Drive and at the west bound bus stop located on the Causeway at 79th Avenue and transported across the bridge. City Manager indicated that appropriate signage would be put up so individuals are aware of this service.

Commissioner Ellsworth thanked the City Manager for his help.

Commissioner Collins asked what would happen if individuals did not want to take the trolley and proceeded to walk. How does that affect us with liability?

The City Manager responded that the bridge is closed to pedestrians. The City Attorney said that the City is doing everything it can to make it clear that this is private property. That does not mean if someone walked over and got hurt there would not be a lawsuit. But, this is a risk we have to undertake. If named in a lawsuit, there is a strong possibility the case would be dismissed since the City has all the appropriate signage and reports.

A motion will be prepared for the meeting on Tuesday to go ahead with the Free Transportation.

4. ACQUISITION OF NOORDHOEK PROPERTY FOR SVTP

Commissioner Blush said she has not heard from the Noordhoek family concerning

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the acquisition of the Circle K property. At this time, there is nothing to report.

Mr. Ruckdeschel said he is not in favor of the City purchasing this property. He feels the City has spent too much money on Sunset Beach.

Mayor Maloof said this property would be used for handicapped parking as well as parking for City vehicles.

5. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS – PRESENTATION OF URS STUDY

The City Manager reported on the options available to the City to continue the operation of the trolley system on St. Pete Beach and Treasure Island. He said there are five options:

- 1) Join PSTA
- 2) Continue current service contract with PSTA
- 3) Private company service contract
- 4) Get into the transportation business between the two cities
- 5) Do nothing

The cost to join PSTA would be about \$1-1/2 million. If we continue with the present contract, PSTA indicated that the cost would be \$420,000 and 1/3 would be the responsibility of the City of Treasure Island. Our present contract was funded with some monies from a federal grant.

The City Manager said a meeting is scheduled with Commissioner Calvin Harris on Monday, June 23rd to discuss the trolley system and the renewal of the PSTA service contract. He asked the Commission to wait until after this meeting to make a decision.

Mayor Maloof asked what will happen to the handicapped service if the system is discontinued. The City Manager reported that there is no legal requirement for the City to provide public transportation or service for the disabled unless federal funding is involved.

This item will be discussed further at the next workshop.

Ms. Cathy Rothwell, a resident on the Isle of Capri, spoke in favor of the trolley system. As an individual who does not drive, this is her only form of transportation.

6. REGULATIONS CONCERNING AIRCRAFT ON THE PUBLIC BEACH

The City Manager said he has received complaints about para-motors on the beach.

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Complaints about this activity range from safety issues related to both the take-offs and landings and the occasional low flying activities of the operators. Complaints were also received about the loud noise that emanates from these machines. In researching our City Code, no legislation was found on this activity. Staff found in searching Pinellas County that Clearwater has a very good ordinance that regulates aircraft and other flying things on or in public parks and beaches. Staff suggests that the Commission should consider this ordinance as a good model.

Commissioner Blush said that she has received numerous complaints and indicated that there is a definite need for an ordinance to protect our citizens.

Commissioner Kraus asked about kites and said that he would not like this activity included in the ordinance. The City Attorney indicated that he would edit the Clearwater ordinance and would not include kites.

The City Attorney indicated that he will have an ordinance ready for Tuesday's meeting.

7. FDLE GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Mayor Maloof received notification of grant funds available to Pinellas County from the Department of Justice and Consumer Services for certain projects within the County. A resolution will be prepared endorsing Pinellas County's application for these grant funds.

8. REMODELING IN MAYOR/COMMISSIONERS OFFICE

The City Manager provided the Commission with an estimate and drawings for the proposed workstations in the Office of Mayor/Commission. The money for this project will come from Pennies for Pinellas and funds are available.

Commissioner Kraus passed out an estimate he received from another firm to the Commission. He asked why the City did not go out to bid for this project.

The City Manager indicated that it was not required to go out to bid due to the dollar amount. He indicated that the proposal he received was from a firm who offered the lowest price on the State Contract.

Commissioner Ellsworth said that since this second proposal was distributed at the meeting, the City should obtain additional proposals. The Mayor and Commission concurred and requested that the City Manager obtain additional quotes at the equivalent specifications.

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9. FLC VOTING DELEGATE

The City Manager said this is a yearly event and usually the Mayor is appointed as the voting delegate at the Florida League of Cities Annual Conference.

A resolution will be prepared for Tuesday's meeting.

10. DONATIONS

The City received a donation from the Isle of Palms Civic Association in the amount of \$200 for use by the Recreation Department as well as an anonymous donation of video tapes for use by the IT Department in recording the Commission and Board meetings.

Motion to accept these donations will be on the agenda for the next Commission meeting.

E. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

1. Financial Report thru May 31, 2003

The City Manager said the City is progressing well – revenue is well above budget and expenditures are about 1% above budget.

The County public hearing for the fireworks ordinance is next Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Since this meeting will conflict with the City's Commission meeting, Chief Pelkington will be going to the meeting representing the City in support of Commissioner's Welch's proposal.

Commissioner Blush indicated that she e-mailed Commissioner Welch in support of the ordinance. Commissioner Ellsworth said that he would like to go to the meeting to show the City's support for the ordinance. The City Manager reminded the Commission that a quorum of three is necessary for Tuesday's Commission meeting.

F. REPORTS & COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commission Collins wanted to thank Mr. Bob Dowling for inviting him to the Elnor Island cleanup as he was able to explore the native habitat. He said that it was a very informative event.

Commissioner Collins also wanted to thank Mr. Don Hambidge for working with him

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in repairing the intersection at 125th and 7th on the Isle of Capri. He said there was a problem with the road needing some repairs and that Public Works got right on it.

Commissioner Ellsworth was advised by Mr. Hambidge that there was a leak in the reclaimed water pipes on Gulf Boulevard between 112th and 117th. The County asked if the City would mind if crews worked until 9:00 p.m. to get the repair completed earlier than scheduled. This way the County would be out of there by the 4th of July. Commissioner Ellsworth feels they should be allowed to work late to get the work done so there will not be a traffic problem during the 4th of July.

The City Manager said the City authorized the County to work the late hours.

Commissioner Kraus commented on how nice the day was for the Dedication of Sunset Vista Trailhead Park.

Commissioner Blush thanked staff for the nice Dedication of the park. She reported on the Hotel/Motel Association meeting and said there was an outstanding program presented by Detectives' Lovelace and Schilt of the Treasure Island Police Department. They gave a presentation on employee background investigation.

Commissioner Blush reported on the Beach Stewardship Committee meeting. She indicated that Ms. Nicole Elco is taking Mr. Jim Terry's place as Director of Coastal Services with the County. She announced that Sunset Beach is scheduled for renourishment in the spring 2004. She also stated that Dr. Pruitt reported on the Sandsharing Project.

Commissioner Blush reported that she and Mr. Hambidge met with some condominium owners from the St. James to work with them regarding the traffic problem they are having due to the bridge construction. She said that Mr. Hambidge came up with a recommendation which he presented to the owners and is awaiting a reply.

Commissioner Blush suggested that individuals send e-mails to Commissioner Welch in support of his fireworks proposal.

The Mayor asked about the cat tails at the pond at Treasure Bay golf course. The City Manager said the City is working on a project to reduce the cat tails to 20-25 percent of the pond area over the next two years.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Harry Black, President of the Hotel/Motel Association, spoke in support of the trolley system. He said would like to see the service remain.

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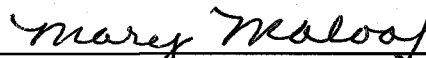
Mr. Benjamin Hetrick and Ms. Betty O'Hearn spoke regarding the upcoming Mayor's Prayer Breakfast on July 1st. Mr. Hetrick thanked Commissioner Blush and Mr. Hambidge for the fine work they did on the traffic situation at the St. James. He said that he was very impressed.

Ms. Olivia Cox thanked the City Manager, Commissioner Ellsworth and Commissioner Kraus for their help in getting the pedestrian catwalk. She also read a part of the original indenture from 1938 for the Causeway.

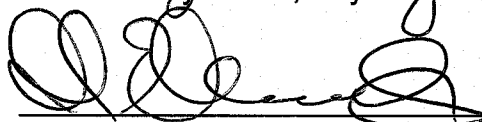
H. ADJOURNMENT:



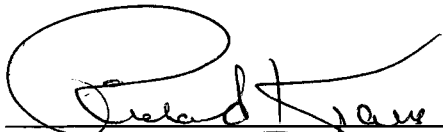
Phil Collins - District 1



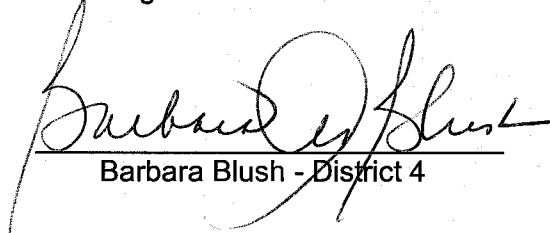
Mary Maloof, Mayor



Irving S. Ellsworth - District 2



Richard Kraus - District 3



Barbara Blush - District 4

ATTEST:



Charles S. Coward, City Clerk