

CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
October 28, 2003
7:00 p.m.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Maloof

B. ROLL CALL:

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

C. MINUTES:

Motion was made by Commissioner Kraus and seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth to approve the minutes from the meetings of October 7th and 14th as written. Corrections were offered by Commissioners' Collins, Kraus and Blush.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve the amended minutes was unanimous.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Mary Daughtry stated that the Land's End boardwalk is sinking in and that there is red tape over it. The City manager stated that he would be glad to look into the matter.

Ms. Daughtry asked for the reclaimed water signs and barricades to be removed from Sunset Beach.

Ms. Daughtry asked that the City look for ways to cut the budget so that a bond issue is not necessary.

Ms. Daughtry stated that if the current width of 10 feet for walkways on the causeway bridge was reduced to 5 feet, a savings of \$2 million would result.

Ms. Olivia Cox stated that she was donating a microphone on behalf of the *Treasure Island Citizens for Responsible Progress* for use at City meetings. Mayor Maloof thanked Ms. Cox and stated that the item would be placed on the next workshop.

Ms. Cox thanked Public Works Director Don Hambidge for replacing the broken lenses on the causeway bridge.

10/28/03

Mr. Michael Daughtry suggested that the Commission consider cutting back on the bridge by building a 4 lane toll facility instead of a 6 lane facility.

Mayor Maloof asked if the width of the walkways on the causeway bridge related to ADA requirements. The City Manager stated that a width of 10 feet was necessary for the walkways to be considered as a multi-purpose trail as well as to connect them with the Pinellas Trail. He said that the minimum width required is 6 feet but that 10 to 12 feet is the normally accepted width for these types of walkways.

Commissioner Kraus stated that he thought a 5 foot walkway is ADA compliant and the City manager responded affirmatively for sidewalks but stated that it could not be considered a part of the Pinellas Trail at that width.

Ms. Pam MacIntyre stated that she felt that City should scale back on some of the aesthetic items in order to reduce the cost of the bridge project.

E. ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. Ord. – Amending Qualification Period for Municipal Election – 2nd Reading & Public Hearing -

After hearing the 2nd reading of the ordinance pertaining to elections; amending section 14-9 of the "Code of Ordinances of the City of Treasure Island, Florida" pertaining to the qualification of candidates for municipal election; amending and moving up the time periods for qualification of such candidates, motion was made by Commissioner Kraus and seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth to approve the ordinance as read. Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

2. Ord. – Setting Second Tuesday in March for Municipal Elections – 2nd Reading & Public Hearing –

After hearing the 2nd reading of the ordinance pertaining to the date of municipal elections; amending section 3.03 of the Charter of the City of Treasure Island, Florida, pertaining to municipal elections; changing the date of municipal elections from the first Tuesday in March to the second Tuesday in March of each year, motion was made by Commissioner Blush and seconded by Commissioner Kraus to approve the ordinance as read. Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

3. Ord. – Setting Runoff Elections for the 4th Tuesday following the Regular Election – 2nd Reading & Public Hearing -

After hearing the 2nd reading of the ordinance pertaining to elections; amending section 14-3(b) of the "Code of Ordinances of the City of Treasure Island, Florida"

10/28/03

pertaining to elections; providing that any required runoff election is conducted on the fourth Tuesday following the regular or special election, motion was made by Commissioner Collins and seconded by Commissioner Kraus to approve the ordinance as read. Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

4. Res. – Employee Group Dental, Life and LTD Insurance –

After hearing the reading of the resolution designating the providers of employee dental, life and long term disability insurance commencing on November 1, 2003, motion was made by Commissioner Kraus and seconded by Commissioner Blush to approve the resolution as read.

Commissioner Kraus noted that subparagraph 2 of the resolution should read "Dental" instead of "Delta".

Commissioner Blush thanked Dr. Mevoli for the information he provided to the Commission at the previous meeting.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

5. Res. – Setting Causeway Toll and Annual Pass Rates for FY 03-04 –

Mayor Maloof provided answers to several questions she said have been posed by the public as follows:

Why has the Commission waited to address the condition of the bridge? Mayor Maloof said the current City Manager began addressing the replacement of the bridge right after he was hired.

Why hasn't the City given the bridge to the State? Mayor Maloof stated that the City has tried to negotiate with the State but the State was not interested.

Why does the City charge tolls when other bridges in the area do not? Mayor Maloof stated that Treasure Island owns the causeway bridge whereas the John's Pass and Blind Pass bridges are owned by FDOT.

Mayor Maloof stated that the City has hired lobbyists to lobby at the state and federal levels. She also stated that philanthropic donations are another source of funding to be explored. Mayor Maloof stated that the Commission will discuss cutting the budget for the bridge in November. She said that the Commission and staff are covering every base possible but that tolls have to be raised to fund the project.

10/28/03

Mayor Maloof asked the City Attorney to read the resolution.

The City Manager stated that Mr. John White from First Southwest was present to answer questions of the Commission.

The City Manager stated that according to the new bond projections, raising the cost of the tolls to between \$80 and \$100 will most likely finance the required bond issue.

The City Manager stated that Mr. White would address how unanimity of the Commission factors into credit ratings.

Mr. White stated that the following issues relate to credit rating:

1. Tolls should be reasonable and competitive.
2. Six months history of the tolls at the new rate should be established prior to approaching the rating agencies.
3. Rating agencies will measure the impact of the rates set by the Commission.

Mr. White stressed that commitment from both the community and the Commission is very important in establishing credit. He stated that if the Commission votes 3 to 2 to pass a resolution on raising the tolls, it does not show a strong level of commitment from the Commission or the community. Mr. White recommended that the Commission maximize the tolls with the full commitment of the Commission.

Commissioner Kraus stated that the potential for loss at \$100 could override any cushion the City hopes to establish. He said that he feels the community is committed at \$80 but not at \$100 and suggested that the Commission consider setting the cost of the annual pass at \$80.

Commissioner Collins suggested that the Commission strive for a unanimous vote at \$80.

Commissioner Ellsworth stated that the Commission has to raise the cost of the toll and that it may still be necessary to have a General Obligation bond issue. He asked the City Manager what the total cost savings would be if the City cut the walkways to 5 feet and eliminated the aesthetics of the bridge. The City Manager stated that if; the lanes of the toll plaza were reduced to 4 lanes, the width of the walkways were reduced to 5 feet and the aesthetics eliminated, the total cost savings would be approximately \$5 million.

10/28/03

Commissioner Ellsworth asked if there are any grants available to fund a 10 foot wide walkway. The City Manager stated that the City was not awarded a 2003 grant from MPO but it may be possible to receive a grant in the future.

Commissioner Ellsworth stated that he would vote for an \$80 annual pass and that he hoped that it would not leave the City with a shortfall.

Commissioner Blush thanked everyone for their input and comments. She stated that she was willing to vote for the \$80 annual pass in order to negotiate for a consensus.

Mr. Chris Hearn stated that he would support Treasure Island by continuing to purchase an annual pass. He suggested that the Commission come up with a figure for staff to work towards for budget cuts.

Mr. Alan Bildz stated that he was glad that the Commission was considering an \$80 annual pass rather than a \$100 pass. He asked the Commission to avoid raising property taxes and said that people on fixed incomes would be hit hardest. Mr. Bildz suggested that the Commission look at the budget and find out where cuts can be made.

Mr. Jim Dobyms stated that he sent out a survey to 1,200 Treasure Island residents regarding paying \$100 for an annual pass. He said that 83.1% of the respondents were opposed to a \$100 annual pass. Mr. Dobyms stated that he would provide the Commission with the results of the survey as well as comments made by those who responded.

Ms. MacIntyre asked how the toll would be collected when it raised to \$1.00. Mayor Maloof stated that dollar bills would be collected by the change only toll and that eventually new toll gates would be constructed.

Ms. MacIntyre asked how the walkway is to be considered part of a trail. The City Manager stated that there would be a 3 mile trail connection between the Pinellas Trail, St. Petersburg and the Treasure Island Beach Trail at the County Park at 104th Avenue. He said there is a 10 feet wide trail planned for the 3 mile lane and that it is already being constructed on the fixed bridges.

Ms. MacIntyre stated that the trail stops at Topp's Supermarket and Mayor Maloof stated that there are plans to extend the trail further down in that area.

Commissioner Kraus stated that the first year's revenues from the coin toss and annual passes would generate the same amount that would be realized by the

10/28/03

increase in bonding capacity from charging \$80 to \$100 for annual passes.

Commissioner Kraus stated that at this time the City does not know what the bonding capacity is going to be, what grant money will be available or what the actual cost of the bridge will be.

Commissioner Kraus stated that as far as commitment from the residents, they are vastly more comfortable with a cost of \$80 rather than \$100 for annual passes.

Commissioner Kraus suggested that the resolution be revised to show a cost for the annual pass of \$80 rather than \$100.

City Attorney Jim Denhardt stated that the resolution could be changed to read \$80 for annual passes instead of \$100 and Mayor Maloof asked him to read the resolution with the \$80 figure.

After hearing the reading of the resolution increasing the cost for causeway annual toll passes from \$30 to \$80 and the individual toll rate from \$.50 to \$1.00; providing an effective date, motion was made by Commissioner Ellsworth and seconded by Commissioner Blush to approve the resolution as read.

Commissioner Kraus asked if the charges for extra axles should be addressed by the resolution. The City Manager stated that a follow-up resolution would be brought before the Commission on that subject.

Commissioner Blush stated that she appreciated everyone working to reach a consensus.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

6. Referring Ordinance for Five-foot Building Height Increase to LPA –

After hearing the reading of the resolution referring proposed amendments to Chapter 68 of the Land Development Regulations of the City of Treasure Island to the Treasure Island Planning and Zoning Board for review and recommendation; providing a time period for the Planning and Zoning Board to report to the City Commission; providing for the holding of advertised hearings on such proposed ordinance; providing an effective date, motion was made by Commissioner Ellsworth and seconded by Commissioner Collins to approve the resolution as read.

Commissioner Collins asked about changing the requirement for a super majority to a simple majority of the electorate in order to make changes to the LDR's. The City

10/28/03

Attorney stated that the Commission should go ahead and refer this ordinance to the LPA and that he would prepare an ordinance for the Commission to review the super majority issue.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

7. Res. – Special Event Permit for Downtown Farmers Market –

After hearing the reading of the resolution authorizing the Treasure Island Business Association to hold a Farmers' Market in the vicinity of 107th Avenue for six months, motion was made by Commissioner Blush and seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth to approve the resolution as read.

Upon roll, the vote to approve was unanimous.

8. Res. - Interlocal Agreement to Negotiate Wastewater Treatment Contract –

After hearing the reading of the resolution authorizing an interlocal agreement with the Cities of Gulfport and Oldsmar to negotiate a continuation contract with the City of St. Petersburg for wastewater treatment, motion was made by Commissioner Kraus and seconded by Commissioner Blush to approve the resolution as read.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

9. Res. – State Lobbying Contract with Fowler & O'Quinn –

After hearing the reading of the resolution ratifying an agreement with Fowler & O'Quinn to provide representation before the State Legislature on behalf of the City of Treasure Island in its efforts to obtain State grant funding for the Causeway Bridge Replacement Project, motion was made by Commissioner Blush and seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth to approve the resolution as read.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

10. Res. – Purchase of 2004 Police Vehicles –

After hearing the reading of the resolution authorizing the Police Department to purchase two new replacement vehicles and one additional Police vehicle from the Florida State bid list in the amount of \$80,076, motion was made by Commissioner Blush and seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth to approve the resolution as read.

10/28/03

Commissioner Kraus noted that Item 3 should read "Ford" instead of "Food".

Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

11. Res. – Authorizing Beach Wildlife Inventory –

After hearing the resolution authorizing the Treasure Island Beach Stewardship (Committee) to proceed with a Beach Wildlife Inventory Project, motion was made by Commissioner Blush and seconded by Commissioner Kraus to approve the resolution as read.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

12. Res. – Calling Awareness of Cycling as a Means of Transportation –

After hearing the reading of the resolution calling for greater awareness of cycling as means of transportation, motion was made by Commissioner Kraus and seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth to approve the resolution as read.

Mayor Maloof stated that she asked for this item to be placed on the agenda and that it came from the MPO. She expressed concern that some cyclists are not using the walkways on the bridge. Mayor Maloof asked cyclists to wear light clothing and to have lights on their bicycles.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

F. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS:

The City Manager stated that Tuesday, November 11th is Veteran's Day. The City Manager offered 3 scheduling options for the Commission meetings in November.

Commissioner Ellsworth asked if there was any urgency to address the items that are scheduled for discussion and the City Manager stated that there was no urgency.

The Commission decided to hold a workshop meeting on November 4th and a joint special meeting and workshop on November 18th.

The City Manager asked Police Chief Joe Pelkington to address Mr. Chris Hearn's question regarding a police chase policy.

The Police Chief went over the section of the Police Policy Manual relating to police

10/28/03

chases and stated that the police do not usually get involved in pursuits for minor violations. He stated that safety issues with the public and the officers must be weighed when making a decision whether to pursue a vehicle.

Mayor Maloof stated that the Commission would read the section and advise if they had any questions.

G. REPORTS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Ellsworth reported that Commissioner Blush and he viewed the installation of the decking at the St. James Bridge on Friday, October 24th.

Commissioner Kraus reported that he also viewed the decking being installed. He said there are a total of 55 sections at 42 tons per section that will be used for the west side of the bridge. Commissioner Kraus said he was impressed at how the crane is able to place these sections with pinpoint accuracy.

Commissioner Blush reported that she attended the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber Board meeting on Thursday, October 23rd. She said that she plans to attend a retreat is scheduled for November 7th. Commissioner Blush stated that she was elected Chair of the Government Committee for the Chamber and that it will take effect in January.

Commissioner Blush stated that there would be a Big-C meeting on Wednesday, October 29th. She said that Ms. Nicole Elko (Pinellas County Coastal Management) and Ms. Jackie Hand (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) would be speaking on the Sand Key Project.

Commissioner Blush thanked Assistant Public Works Director Hal Bruce for taking Commissioner Ellsworth and her on the bridge tour. She stated that they also viewed the repair work taking place at the drawbridge.

Commissioner Blush thanked staff for the Employee Awards Luncheon that took place earlier today.

Commissioner Blush reported that the Drum Circle seems to be breaking up earlier since daylight savings time has taken effect. She stated that she hopes this trend continues so that a workable solution can be reached.

Mayor Maloof stated that she attended the Florida Redevelopment Association conference last week in Tampa. She said that the conference concentrated on redevelopment in downtown and blighted areas.

10/28/03

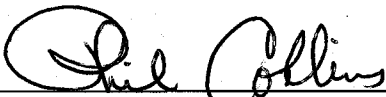
Mayor Maloof presented the Commission with a painting that she received from the West Lane Band of Niagara Falls, Canada while the band was here to celebrate Canadian Thanksgiving.

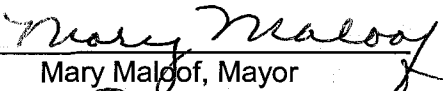
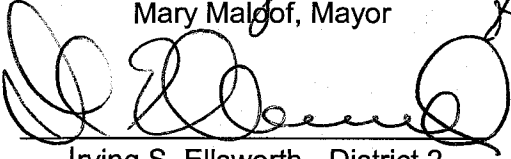
H. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

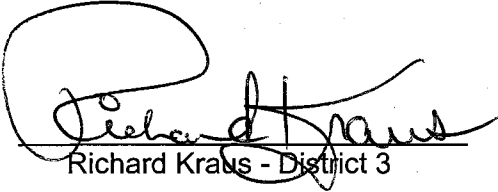
None.

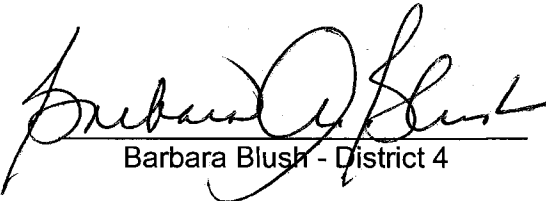
10/28/03

I. 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