

**CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP
January 6, 2004
7:00 p.m.**

I. SILENT ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CITY CLERK:

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Chris Hearn announced that a beach cleanup of Sunset Beach would take place on Saturday, January 10th and that anyone interested should meet at Caddy's at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Bill Bennington stated that he would like to see the City pursue negotiations with Mr. Amico regarding his recent land proposal.

Mr. Bennington asked the Commission to consider tabling the decision to make a Charter amendment regarding the super majority issue.

Mayor Maloof stated that she has been in contact with Mr. Amico and that there has been no move on his part to discuss his land proposal further.

Mr. Carl Ystrom thanked the City for allowing the paramotors to hold a "Fly-in" on the beach.

Mr. Ystrom made comments on the super majority issue and stated that it would be impractical to make a Charter amendment.

Mr. Charles Weisgerber stated that he did not support the City sanctioning Voters Watch to hold the upcoming candidate debates.

Mr. Harry Black stated that he did not want the super majority issue to become a Charter amendment.

Ms. Marie Barba stated that she did not see a difference in whether the super majority issue was handled by ordinance or Charter amendment.

Ms. Barba stated that she supports the ordinance allowing a 5 foot height increase

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across the board.

II. MINUTES:

Motion was made by Commissioner Kraus and seconded by Commissioner Blush to approve the minutes from the meetings of December 9th and December 16th as written. Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Mayor Maloof stated that discussion items 1 and 2 are scheduled for public hearings on Tuesday, January 13th.

Mayor Maloof stated that discussion item #4 has been deferred.

3. Ord – LDR Super Majority Voting Issue for Height and Density Changes

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Mayor Maloof stated that the LDR super majority issue is procedural in nature and that the Commission was instructed to be very careful about placing ordinances in the Charter. She said that the Citizen Initiated Referendum was written as an ordinance by the citizens not as a Charter amendment.

Mayor Maloof stated that the super majority ordinance could be revised so that it reads that it could only be changed by referendum.

Commissioner Kraus stated that the super majority issue is not an LDR but rather a policy and that as a policy it would fit under the umbrella of a Charter amendment.

Commissioner Collins stated if the Commission passes an ordinance that it could be repealed by present or future Commissions. He said that, as a Charter amendment, the ordinance has to be changed by the electorate.

City Attorney Jim Denhardt stated that the super majority issue can be handled as an ordinance or as a Charter amendment.

The City Attorney stated that the Commission could repeal or amend an ordinance passed by the Commission but he thought a citizen initiated ordinance would have to be repealed or amended by a vote of the electorate.

The City Attorney stated that if the Commission wishes to make sure the super majority ordinance could not be changed by future Commissions that language could be added that states that the ordinance can only be changed or modified by a

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vote of the electorate.

Commissioner Collins stated that he did not see any reason why the ordinance should not be a Charter amendment.

The City Attorney stated that he could prepare it as an ordinance or an ordinance with the proposed amendment made by the Mayor or as a Charter amendment.

The City Manager stated that there is no legal restriction on whether the super majority issue is best handled in an ordinance or Charter format and that the answer to Commissioner Collins' question is based on academics. He said the super majority issue should be handled as an ordinance that can be changed only by a vote of the electorate rather than a Charter amendment, but that it can be written either way. The City Manager said that political scientists would probably say that the issue should be formatted as an ordinance rather than as a Charter amendment.

Mayor Maloof stated that an ordinance should be passed so that the structure of the Charter is not altered.

Mr. Chris Hearn stated that he felt the super majority issue could be addressed by ordinance.

Mr. Hearn commented on House Bill 0435 relating to residential acquisition fees and stated that the bill requires approval by a majority of the registered voters. He asked if our ordinance means what we think it means and suggested that the City research this.

Commissioner Kraus stated that he would like to see the ordinance with Mayor Maloof's proposed amendment.

The City Attorney stated that he could have the ordinance ready for the next workshop meeting.

The Commissioners agreed to discuss the issue further at the next workshop meeting.

5. Variance Request - The Surf Motel Pool Setback – Quasi-judicial Hearing – No Discussion –

Mayor Maloof indicated that a public hearing on this application would be held on Tuesday, January 13th.

6. Beach Pavilion Staffing Levels –

The City Manager stated that City staff is recommending that the Commission pass a resolution providing for 7-day limited staffing at the Beach Pavilion.

Commissioner Collins stated that if the City staffs the pavilion for 5 days per week that the City would save another \$10,000 over staffing it for 7 days per week.

Commissioner Blush stated that she received 3 letters from residents regarding the use of the Beach Pavilion that she wanted the Commission to consider.

Commissioner Collins asked if vandalism is occurring when the pavilion is closed. The City Manager stated that the pavilion is closed between 10:00 pm. and 8:00 a.m. and that there is a minimal amount of vandalism during those times.

Mr. Ronald DeBiase stated that he and his wife submitted a letter of interest regarding staffing the pavilion and expressed his concern regarding not being able to use a grill at the facility. He requested permission to meet with Recreation Director Cathy Hayduke to discuss the RFP in further detail.

The City Manager observed that Mr. DeBiase's suggestions would involve fundamental changes to the specifications and therefore would require the RFP to go out to bid again.

Commissioner Collins asked what other fundamental changes there would be other than refrigeration and the use of grills and if the facility's plumbing was adequate. The City Manager stated that the building was not designed for use as a restaurant/kitchen cooking facility and that the plumbing and electric infrastructure is not adequate to support this type of use.

Commissioner Blush asked if it would be possible to allow the DeBiases' to meet with staff to come up with recommendations for changes to the current policy at the Beach Pavilion as well as revised specifications for a new RFP. She also stated that she would like to hear the recommendations from a vendor that has 15 years of experience.

Commissioner Kraus stated that the Commission should still address the 5-day/7-day limited staffing of the Beach Pavilion so that the City can take advantage of the cost savings now.

Mayor Maloof stated that the Commission should allow Sunset Beach residents to comment on this as they have expressed concerns in the past regarding the crowds

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and odors that would stem from the facility being used to sell food items.

Commissioner Kraus suggested that Staff draw up a resolution with revised staffing on a 7-day basis for the facility now, while Mr. DeBiase works with staff on the RFP for discussion later.

Mr. Harry Black asked the Commission to consider staffing the pavilion on a 7-day basis so that tourists would not find that the facility is not being properly maintained and that the restrooms are locked.

The Commission will consider a resolution for 7-day limited staffing of the Beach Pavilion on Tuesday, January 13th.

7. Soroptimist Request to use City Auditorium –

Mayor Maloof stated that Soroptimist International is requesting approval for use of the City Hall Auditorium to hold a benefit pancake breakfast on Saturday, March 6th.

Commissioner Blush stated that historically the Commission has granted the use of the City Hall Auditorium because the money from the event is donated to charities.

The Commission will consider a resolution granting Soroptimist International the free use of the City Hall Auditorium on Tuesday, January 13th.

8. Request for Elnor Island Cleaning Permit –

Mayor Maloof stated that the cleanup committee is requesting permission from the Commission to schedule another cleanup effort at Elnor Island.

Commissioner Kraus asked what date has been established for the cleanup. The City Manager stated that the cleanup is scheduled to take place on Saturday, January 17th with a rain date of Saturday, January 24th.

The Commission agreed to give the group permission to hold the cleanup effort at Elnor Island.

9. Election Debates – Use of City Hall Auditorium –

Mr. Frank McConnell stated that Voters Watch is requesting approval to use the City Hall Auditorium to hold the candidate debates.

Mayor Maloof stated that she has also received requests from residents to have the League of Women Voters hold the candidate debates.

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Mayor Maloof asked who is moderating the event. Mr. McConnell stated that he would be the moderator for Voters Watch.

Commissioner Kraus expressed his support for Voters watch being granted permission to hold the candidate debates at City Hall.

Commissioner Collins stated that he supports Voters Watch holding the debates but he would also be open to the League of Women Voters being given the opportunity. He asked if it would be possible to get the format that each group uses for candidate debates.

Mr. J.D. Hadsall stated that he has heard no complaints from anyone regarding Voters Watch handling the candidate debates.

Mr. Bill Bennington stated that last year Voters Watch allowed one resident to ask approximately 10 questions of the candidates. He said that he would like the League of Women Voters to handle the debates.

Mr. Chris Hearn stated that he supports Voters Watch handling the debates.

Mr. Carl Ystrom stated that he does not support Voters Watch handling the debates.

Mayor Maloof asked Mr. McConnell to fax the format for the candidate debates to City Hall for the Commission's review.

Mr. Jim Dobyms indicated that Ms. Norma Reinhardt of the League of Women Voters commented that Voters Watch has a legitimate format for the candidate debates.

10. Senate Bill 0686 –

Commissioner Blush stated that this bill relates to a home rule issue rather than an issue of height and density.

Commissioner Kraus asked why Treasure Island voted to support a bill that would allow any increases to height and density. He said that Indian Rocks Beach voted to oppose this bill and a letter and resolution was sent to the Treasure Island Commission on November 15th regarding this. Commissioner Kraus stated that he did not receive a copy of the letter and resolution until December 16th.

Ms. Marie Barba stated that she is very leery of the BIG-C representing Treasure Island's interests.

Commissioner Blush stated that each of the barrier island communities is represented on the BIG-C and that the BIG-C allows these communities to have a stronger voice with the County.

Mr. Hearn indicated that he felt that the issue should have been discussed by the Commission before Treasure Island voted on it at the BIG-C. Mr. Hearn commented that he supports the bill overall and that the only applicable part for Treasure Island affects the downtown area.

Mr. McConnell expressed his concern that a letter addressed to the Mayor and Commissioners was not delivered to the Commissioners immediately.

Mr. Bill White commented that the Commission appoints people to represent the residents on boards such as the BIG-C.

V. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

1. Bridge Work Program for 2004 and Delivery Options -

The City Manager reviewed a revised project timeline for the bascule bridge that was included in the agenda packet for the Commission's review. He said that the Omnibus Transportation Bill is scheduled to go before the Senate on January 21st and (if passed by the Senate) could go before the President for signature by the end of the month.

The City Manager stated that changes will need to be made to the design of the bascule bridge due to the removal of the toll facility.

The City Manager reported that there are two major issues to be addressed in the construction of the bascule bridge as follows:

1. Will the City be able to build the bridge according to our specifications as opposed to a standard FDOT bridge?
2. Will the State take over the operation and maintenance of the bridge after it is constructed?

2. FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance Program -

The City Manager reviewed a memorandum from Community Improvement Director Mike Wichman regarding a cost benefit analysis that the City is required to submit along with the E-grant application for National Flood Insurance Program projects.

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The City Manager reported that the City has hired a temporary Engineering Consultant that will assist the Public Works Department for the next 2 years.

The City Manager reported that a paramotors "Fly-in" was held this past weekend. He said that 65 pilots attended and that the group was very pleased with the venue provided.

The City Manager stated that the annual kite flying event will be held on the Martin Luther King holiday weekend.

The City Manager reported that the Commission has been provided with a list of the accomplishments for FY2002-03.

VI. REPORTS & COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Collins asked when the mast arm traffic signals will be in place at 117th Avenue. The City Manager stated that there is a 30-day curing time and that the installation will be complete by mid month at 112th and 117th Avenues.

Commissioner Collins asked if the City will scale back on the fees paid to Alcalde & Faye now that the federal grant has been made available. The City Manager stated that the fees paid to Alcalde & Faye will remain the same until the funds from the Omnibus Transportation Bill have been distributed. He said that the federal lobbyist is assisting in getting the bill passed by the Senate and signed by the President as well as pursuing a list of other federal grants that the City is eligible for.

Commissioner Ellsworth reported that construction on the mast arm traffic signals has begun at 112th Avenue. The City Manager stated that the City received a \$150,000 grant to pay for the mast arm traffic signals from Pinellas County.

Commissioner Kraus stated that a beach cleanup will take place on Saturday, January 10th and that anyone interested should meet at Robby's at 7:45 a.m.

Commissioner Blush asked when the concrete posts for the mast arm traffic signals will be pulled at West Gulf and Gulf Boulevard. The City Manager stated that they would be pulled at the same time they are pulled from 112th and 117th Avenues.

Commissioner Blush reported that Mr. John Burke was honored as the "volunteer of the year" by the Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce at the Don Cesar on Saturday, January 3rd.

Commissioner Blush read a letter from an 89th Avenue resident who commended

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several individuals from the Public Works Department for their work in keeping up the streets and landscaping in that area.

Commissioner Blush reported that the benches donated by the Treasure Islettes for use at the playground areas are now in place. She thanked the Islettes for the donation.

Mayor Maloof reported that she attended a meeting concerning beautification and traffic calming for the Central Avenue corridor. She said that they felt Treasure Island took the lead on the beautification of the corridor and that they would like to match Treasure Island's accomplishments.

Mayor Maloof reported that she received positive feedback regarding the paramotors "Fly-in". She said that she was pleased that the Commission was able to reach a decision on this issue that seems to be working out for everyone.

Mayor Maloof asked for a volunteer to attend a planning meeting for Operation Donation on Tuesday, January 13th at 9:00 a.m. and Commissioner Kraus agreed to attend in her place.

Mayor Maloof stated that she will be attending the final training for municipal officials in February and April.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Bill Bennington stated that the Commission needs to listen to its constituents and bring the Santa parade back to Treasure Island.

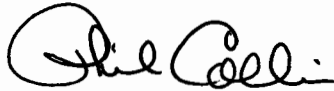
Mayor Maloof stated that the Commission would see if the civic associations would handle their own Santa parades.

Commissioner Ellsworth stated that the Isle of Palms Civic Association did an excellent job with their Santa parade.

Mr. Nick Monsoor stated that he was back from Ontario and wished the Commission success in the New Year.

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VIII. ADJOURNMENT:



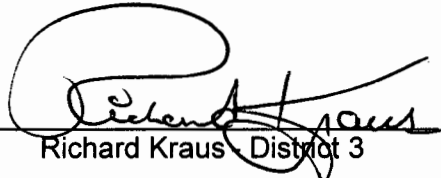
Phil Collins - District 1



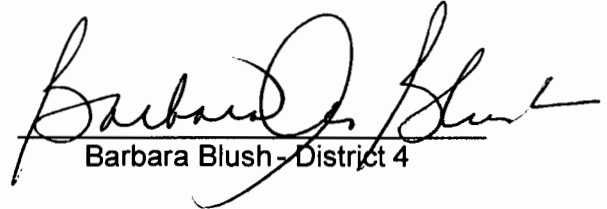
Mary Maloof, Mayor



Irving S. Ellsworth - District 2



Richard Kraus - District 3



Barbara Blush - District 4

ATTEST:



Charles S. Coward, City Clerk