

**CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
February 24, 2004  
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. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Collins requested that the replay schedule for the candidate debates be added as agenda item #9 under Items of Business.

Mr. Frank McConnell thanked the Commission and City staff for assisting with the set up and broadcasting of the candidate debates.

**D. MINUTES:**

Motion was made by Commissioner Kraus and seconded by Commissioner Collins to approve the minutes from the meeting of February 10<sup>th</sup> as written. Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

**E. ITEMS OF BUSINESS:**

**1. Presentation for Rotary Golf & Tennis Challenges –**

City Manager Chuck Coward announced that Recreation Director Cathy Hayduke, Tennis Pro Phil Girardi and Golf Pro Gary Metzger were present to accept the City's share of the proceeds from the Rotary Golf & Tennis Challenge on behalf of the Recreation Department.

Mr. John Burke of the Gulf Beaches Rotary presented the Recreation Department with a check for \$2,781 that will be used to provide scholarships to children and families needing assistance to participate in golf, tennis, and summer recreation camp programs.

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**2. Proclamation re: EPCRA Awareness Week –**

Mayor Maloof announced that the week of February 22 thru 28, 2004 would be observed as Tampa Bay EPCRA Awareness week in order to heighten the awareness of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act.

**3. Ord. – LDR 5-foot Height Increase for all Buildings – (Second Reading & Public Hearing) –**

After hearing the second reading of the ordinance pertaining to land development; amending Chapter 68; of said land development regulations to modify schedule of lot and bulk regulations pertaining to height regulations; providing for a height increase of five (5) feet for all buildings in all land use districts in the City of Treasure Island; providing for repeal of inconsistent ordinances or resolutions; providing for amendment(s) to the land development regulations of Treasure Island, Florida; providing for severability; providing for an effective date, motion was made by Commissioner Blush and seconded by Commissioner Kraus to approve the ordinance as read.

Commissioner Ellsworth abstained from voting due to his connections to one of the largest owner's of commercial general property in Treasure Island.

Upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Commissioner Collins	Aye
Commissioner Kraus	Aye
Commissioner Blush	Aye
Mayor Maloof	Aye

**4. Res. – Authorizing Expenses Reimbursement for Mrs. Petit and Mr. Atkinson –**

After hearing the reading of the resolution authorizing expense reimbursement for Mrs. Petit and Mr. Atkinson, motion was made by Commissioner Blush and seconded by Commissioner Collins to approve the resolution as read.

Commissioner Blush asked what City account the funds would come from and the City Manager responded that the funds would come from the General Fund.

Commissioner Collins stated that he did not feel the Commission should provide reimbursement for any future bills from Attorney Tim Ferguson on this matter.

Mr. Leonard Kaul commented that he felt the reimbursement requests should be

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denied due to a conflict of interest in the legal representation by Attorney Ferguson.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

**5. Res. – Authorizing Free Parking for the Sunset Beach Yard Sale -**

After hearing the reading of the resolution granting permission to the Sunset Beach Civic Association to use the Sunset Beach parking lots for their annual garage sale, 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.

**6. Res. – Authorizing Repairs to Certain Gulf Boulevard Sewer Lines –**

After hearing the reading of the resolution authorizing JTV to repair certain Gulf Boulevard sewer lines at a cost of \$173,862.00, motion was made by Commissioner Ellsworth and seconded by Commissioner Kraus to approve the resolution as read. Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

**7. Decision to Place Weight Limits on the Causeway Bascule Bridge –**

The City Manager stated that he and the Public Works Director Don Hambidge would be addressing the Commission on the legal and structural elements of the bascule bridge.

The City Manager reported that he and the Public Works Director devoted 100% of their time from Thursday through Monday on the following:

1. Securing the funds from the \$50 million grant.
2. Finishing the design and obtaining the Coast Guard permit.
3. Pursuing the State taking over the long term maintenance of the bridge.
4. Ensuring the current bridge remains operational until the new bridge is constructed.

The Public Works Director reported that he and Mr. Jim Phillips from E.C. Driver inspected the underneath of the bascule bridge and observed that the bottom portion of the deck has been reduced from 8 inches to less than 5 inches of concrete due to corrosion from saltwater. He stated that, as a result, Mr. Phillips recommended that the weight limit for the bridge be reduced to 4 tons. The Public

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Works Director said that the bridge currently has a calculated 4.2 ton capacity and that if it reached a 3 ton capacity it would have to be closed.

Commissioner Collins asked if the Coast Guard was contacted to obtain approval to reduce the number of drawbridge openings. The Public Works Director stated that the Coast Guard has approved single leaf openings but did not approve reducing the number of openings.

The City Manager stated that two years of data would be required to make a formal application to the Coast Guard to reduce the number of bridge openings.

Commissioner Blush asked how often the inspections would be conducted in the future. The Public Works Director stated that the condition of the bridge will dictate the frequency of inspections, but that inspections currently are taking place monthly.

Commissioner Ellsworth asked how the inspections are documented and the Public Works Director said that a digital camera is used.

The City Manager stated that after receiving Mr. Phillip's letter on Friday, he directed the Public Works Department to post new signs lowering the weight limit for the bridge to 4 tons.

**8. Emergency Ordinance – Pertaining to Weight and Vehicle Restrictions on the Causeway Bascule Bridge -**

The City Manager reported that an emergency ordinance that provides for the enforcement of weight restrictions on the bascule bridge has been drafted for the Commission's consideration. He stated that the ordinance allows for the use of the bridge by any vehicle that includes two axles and four tires but vehicles with 6 tires or 3 axles are restricted. The City Manager stated that small trailers are allowed as long as the vehicle and the trailer combined do not have more than 6 tires and have 3 axles. He indicated that the condition of the bridge requires emergency action and recommended that the Commission pass the ordinance at this meeting.

The City Manager stated that (in the near future) the City would look into developing a permit system to allow for the small business person that has a vehicle that does not quite meet the requirement of the axle regulation, to traverse the bridge if the vehicle's weight is less than 4 tons.

The City Manager stated that staff is also working at a proposal to provide owners of vehicles that do not meet the emergency ordinance requirements with reimbursement for annual toll passes that were purchased.

City Attorney Jim Denhardt stated that it is within the Commission's purview to enact

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an emergency ordinance at the same meeting without prior advertising.

After hearing the first reading of the emergency ordinance pertaining to weight restrictions of motor vehicles on the main bascule bridge of the Treasure Island Causeway, finding that an emergency situation exists that necessitates limiting vehicle weight on the main bascule bridge of the Treasure Island Causeway, finding that an emergency situation exists that necessitates limiting vehicle weight on the main bascule bridge of the Treasure Island Causeway; adding a new Section to Article I of Chapter 50 of the "Code of Ordinances of the City of Treasure Island, Florida" providing for weight restrictions on the main bascule bridge of the Treasure Island Causeway and providing penalties; providing for the inclusion of such ordinance in the "Code of Ordinances of the City of Treasure Island, Florida"; providing an effective date, motion was made by Commissioner Ellsworth and seconded by Commissioner Kraus to approve the ordinance as read. .

Commissioner Ellsworth asked how fines would be imposed for violators and the City Attorney stated that fines would be imposed according to the pursuant to Florida Statute 316.555.

Commissioner Collins suggested that a sign be placed before the approach to the bridge so that drivers of vehicles not meeting the restrictions would have sufficient time to turn around. The City Manager stated that 24"x30" signs have been ordered.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

After hearing the second reading of the emergency ordinance pertaining to weight restrictions of motor vehicles on the main bascule bridge of the Treasure Island Causeway, finding that an emergency situation exists that necessitates limiting vehicle weight on the main bascule bridge of the Treasure Island Causeway, finding that an emergency situation exists that necessitates limiting vehicle weight on the main bascule bridge of the Treasure Island Causeway; adding a new Section to Article I of Chapter 50 of the "Code of Ordinances of the City of Treasure Island, Florida" providing for weight restrictions on the main bascule bridge of the Treasure Island Causeway and providing penalties; providing for the inclusion of such ordinance in the "Code of Ordinances of the City of Treasure Island, Florida"; providing an effective date, motion was made by Commissioner Kraus and seconded by Commissioner

Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

## **9. Debate Replay Schedule –**

Commissioner Collins requested that the candidate debate tape be replayed for the

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next two weeks and over the weekend in place of the Commission meeting tapes and the City Manager responded that the replay schedule would be adjusted accordingly.

**F. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**1. Review of Letter in Opposition to the City's Inclusion in PSTA –**

Mayor Maloof requested that the letter addressed to the Pinellas County Board of Commissioners be sent out and the Commission approved.

**G. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS:**

The City Attorney advised the Commission that he received a telephone call from Attorney Thomas Pelham regarding the request for a proposal to provide a legal opinion on beach issues. He said Attorney Pelham stated that he would provide the City Attorney with a proposal by early next week.

The City Manager reported that he contacted all five of the law firms the Commission had shortlisted to interview for the position of City Attorney. He stated that four of the five firms have accepted interviews on Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> and that Attorney Morrison (fifth law firm) indicated that he would be out of town from March 18<sup>th</sup> through April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The City Manager said that the Commission could choose to interview the four firms and decide later whether to set up an interview with Attorney Morrison and the Commission concurred.

**H. REPORTS BY COMMISISONERS:**

Commissioner Kraus stated that there would be a flag pole dedication and ceremony honoring the residents of Paradise Island who have served or are serving in the military at the entrance of Paradise Island on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. He requested that anyone who has family members that are in the military contact Ms. Ruth Bartlett.

Commissioner Kraus stated that the American Legion Post #158 located on 111 108<sup>th</sup> Avenue officially opened on Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m.

Commissioner Blush reported that a BIG-C meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> in Redington Beach.

Commissioner Blush stated that Ms. Carol Malkin would like to remind everyone that the annual Arbor Day celebration will be held on Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

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Commissioner Blush reported that she attended a dedication and naming ceremony of the Seminole Community Library at St. Petersburg College (Seminole Campus) in honor of Senator Dennis Jones.

Commissioner Blush stated that Mr. Bob Dowling e-mailed a status on the Elnor Island cleanup project.

**I. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None.

**J. ADJOURNMENT:**

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Mary Maloof, Mayor

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Phil Collins - District 1

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Irving S. Ellsworth - District 2

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Richard Kraus - District 3

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Barbara Blush - District 4

**ATTEST:**

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Charles S. Coward, City Clerk