

**CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP
February 3, 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. Robert Nicholson stated that he attends St. John's School and is a member of St. John's Church. He said that he worked on the 2003 Isle of Palms Christmas Parade and thanked the participants as well as those that came out to see the parade.

Mr. Carl Ystrom stated that he did not appreciate the "mud slinging" by one of the new Commissioners. He asked the business people and the residents to work together and be productive.

Mr. Les Byrne commented that he did not appreciate the looks back and forth between Commissioner Kraus and Commissioner Collins. He stated that his vehicle was vandalized on Wednesday, January 29th while a Voters Watch meeting was taking place next door.

Mr. Frank McConnell, President of Voters Watch, stated that he condemns this behavior and that he would be surprised if anyone from Voters Watch was involved in this type of activity.

Mr. Ben Hetrick stated that he too felt that the eye contact between Commissioner Collins and Commissioner Kraus was obvious and that he hopes it does not happen again.

Mr. Mike Daughtry stated that while he sympathizes with Mr. Byrne, he feels that Commissioner Collins and Commissioner Kraus are expressing their beliefs and he congratulated them for it. He also stated that he too had been the recipient of vandalism during the citizen initiative process.

III. MINUTES:

Motion was made by Commissioner Kraus and seconded by Commissioner Collins to approve the minutes from the meeting of Tuesday, January 20th as written. Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. John's Pass Bridge Aesthetics Package – FDOT –

Mr. Jeff Sawyer of Parsons Brinckerhoff, an FDOT Consultant, gave a presentation on the John's Pass Bridge Project. He stated that the bridge will be 33 ½ feet tall at the highest point above the mean high water level. Mr. Sawyer stated that the project will cost \$56 million and that construction is slated to begin in the fall of 2005.

He said that Gulf Boulevard will be narrowed to one lane in each direction during the construction of the southbound bridge and during the construction of the northbound bridge there will be two lanes in each direction. Mr. Sawyer stated that a public information meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 2nd at the Treasure Island Community Center.

Commissioner Ellsworth stated that the design looks beautiful but he asked if it would still be functional for fishing. Mr. Sawyer stated that fishing will be provided for on designated sidewalks and platforms.

Commissioner Kraus asked what the life expectancy of the bridge is and Mr. Sawyer said 75 years.

Commissioner Kraus asked if the purpose of the added width to the navigational channel is to accommodate cruise ships coming through. Mr. Sawyer responded affirmatively and indicated that the standard Coast Guard width requirement is 100 feet.

Commissioner Blush asked what the final slope design is and whether it will be ADA compliant and Mr. Sawyer responded that the slope will be 5.6% and that it is made to be ADA compliant.

Commissioner Blush asked what the medallions will be used for. Mr. Sawyer stated that artwork or a city logo could be placed in the medallions.

Mr. Jeff Warner asked if pedestrians will be able to cross the bridge during construction and Mr. Sawyer responded affirmatively.

Mr. Warner asked why the bridge tender is being moved from the southeast side to

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the southwest side of the bridge. Mr. Sawyer indicated that it is a construction staging issue.

Mr. Warner asked if dredging would be necessary in order to widen the channel. Mr. Chris Ray from Parsons Brinckerhoff stated that dredging would not be necessary because the minimum depth for the channel is 14 feet and the channel is closer to 20 feet deep.

Mr. Carl Ystrom asked if bicyclists will be able to use the bridge and Mr. Sawyer stated that bicyclists will be accommodated for by the 10-foot open shoulder.

Mr. Julian Fant asked about further scour problems occurring at the piers that will be used to support the bridge. Mr. Sawyer stated that the scour will be reduced once the existing structure is removed.

A winter visitor expressed his concern that the new structure will not attract the quantity of fish that gather in John's Pass now due to the pilings and rip-rap structure that is in place.

Mr. Warner asked if catwalks could be provided underneath the bridge. Mr. Adam Perez of FDOT stated that there will be a paved section underneath the bridge that people can use for fishing.

Mayor Maloof thanked the consultants and the representative from FDOT for the presentation and she commented on how pleased she was to see the aesthetic elements that have been incorporated into the design.

2. Downtown Master Plan – Phase II –

City Manager Chuck Coward stated that Public Works Director Don Hambidge and he have been working with Mr. Jerry Dabkowski, Vice President of Volkert & Associates, on Phase II of the Downtown Master Plan to address issues such as traffic flow, pedestrian safety and parking. The City Manager stated that the goal of the master plan is to provide for small town ambience, harmony between the residents and businesses and further beautification.

Mr. Dabkowski presented the Commission with an overview of the Downtown Master Plan – Phase II and stated that it is being modeled after Dunedin. Mr. Dabkowski explained that traffic lights are being recommended on Gulf Boulevard at 104th or 106th Avenues and at 108th Avenue to provide for traffic calming on 107th Avenue. Crosswalks are also being recommended to accommodate pedestrians that are attempting to cross Gulf Boulevard to get to the beach.

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The City Manager stated that the total cost of the project would be approximately \$750,000. He said there is very little construction involved and that Treasure Island has applied for a federal grant in the amount of \$450,000 that can be applied to this project. The City Manager stated that the Commission is being asked for permission to bring the plan to the community in the spring to get their input.

Commissioner Ellsworth asked if there is a plan to address the clock tower in the interim. The City Manager stated that after the plan is in place 107th Avenue would become two lanes instead of four allowing for the lanes to be widened around the tower. He said if the Commission wishes to modify the lanes now; it would cost about \$25,000 to open the exit curbs.

Commissioner Ellsworth asked how long it would take to implement the master plan and the City Manager stated that it could be implemented within two years after the City Commission gave its approval.

Commissioner Blush asked if adding a traffic light at 106th Avenue would cause traffic delays at 104th Avenue. Mr. Dabkowski stated that half of the traffic may use 104th and the other half may use 106th Avenue.

Commissioner Collins asked if adding a traffic light at 108th Avenue would result in backups for traffic and fire trucks. Mr. Dabkowski stated that the traffic lights will include a pre-emption device for fire trucks.

Commissioner Kraus stated that he supported the idea of getting input from the community regarding the master plan.

3. Drawbridge Construction Selection Methodology –

The City Manager reported that he met with Mr. Ken Hartmann, FDOT Secretary – District #7, regarding the distribution of the \$50 million in Omnibus grant funds for the causeway bridge project. He stated that the purpose of the visit was to ask Mr. Hartmann for his support in the transfer of the funds in a timely manner due to the rapid deterioration of the current bridge.

The City Manager stated that Mr. Hartmann pointed out that it is not uncommon for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to take an administrative fee off the top and to require a match of funds. The City Manager reported that he has made calls to Washington and to the lobbyists in order to be proactive in securing the \$50 million in grant funds that has been awarded to Treasure Island.

The City Manager stated that Mr. Hartman has expressed opposition to the idea of FDOT taking over the new bridge after construction is complete. The City Manager

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said that Treasure Island will most likely enter into an agreement with FDOT before it has been established whether or not FDOT will accept the bridge.

The City Manager stated that construction of the causeway bridge is slated to begin 9 months ahead of the John's Pass Bridge project in January 2005. He said that both projects are expected to take three years to complete and that the two agencies will work closely in scheduling this work effort.

The Public Works Director reported that FDOT is supporting the use of a qualification based bid process but that it does not need to be based on 100% plans. He said that the plans are currently at 60% so it will take a little more time to make sure FDOT and the Department of Transportation will accept the bid.

The City Manager stated that staff will be prepared to address the Commission on the Qualifications based bid process in more detail in April or May.

4. Dumpster Replacement Purchase for 2004 –

The Public Works Director stated that staff came up with a design and developed specifications for the purchase of new dumpsters and received 3 proposals in response. He said that staff recommends that the City purchase dumpsters from Florida Can, the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$16,830.00.

Commissioner Kraus asked if the wheel assembly is bolted or welded on. The Public Works Director said that the wheel assembly is bolted on so the wheels can be changed out in the field.

Commissioner Collins stated that it appears there are no hooks on the dumpsters. The Public Works Director stated that a bar is used on the sides of the dumpster rather than hooks on top to lift them.

The Commission will consider a resolution for the purchase of replacement dumpster in the amount of \$16,830.00 at the Commission meeting on Tuesday, February 10th.

5. Amico Offer to Exchange Land –

Mayor Maloof stated that Mr. Tony Amico would like to trade the Noordhoek property in exchange for parking lot #4.

Commissioner Kraus stated that while the City would gain 6,000 square feet for the Sunset Trailhead Vista Park; a density/zoning change would be necessary for Mr. Amico to build condominiums on the property that now is parking lot #4. He said

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that the City also would lose revenue from City-owned parking and public access to the beach. Commissioner Kraus said that this purchase would violate several policies in the City's Comprehensive Plan and that overall the trade would not benefit the residents or tourists.

Commissioner Blush stated that she had concerns similar to Commissioner Kraus. She said that she did not consider it a good swap due to the density issue and the loss of beach parking.

Commissioner Collins stated that he agreed with Commissioner Kraus' and Commissioner Blush's comments. He said he did not see any benefit to the City from this trade.

Commissioner Ellsworth suggested that Mr. Amico come to a Commission meeting and present the idea so he could explain if there is some way the City would benefit from the trade.

Mr. Harry Black stated that he was representing the Island Inn. He said that there are already existing parking problems in the area and that he has had cars towed from his parking lot when it is busy. Mr. Black also said that the boat ramp gets a lot of use and that parking lot #4 is necessary to support the boat ramp. He said that he had a letter from a person that owns property across the street that has the same concerns. Mr. Black said the condominium association would entertain purchasing the parking lot for its use if it was for sale.

Ms. Heidi Horak stated that the City has a fiduciary responsibility not to trade people's right to public beach access. She suggested that the City focus on finding ways to improve public access.

Mr. Walter Herring stated that he agrees with Commissioner Kraus and Commissioner Collins that the City should not make a trade in order to gain 3 parking spaces when 16 spaces will be lost. He said that there are two beach accesses on either side of Caddy's property that are not posted as such and he asked that the signs be put back up. The City Manager stated that he would see that the signs are put back up.

Mr. Frank McConnell stated that the City must enhance citizens' access to waterfront lands. He said that any action reducing the public's ease of access would be difficult to replace.

Mr. Sid Appel said that he concurs with Commissioner Kraus' and Commissioner Collins' comments.

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Mayor Maloof stated that she would inform Mr. Amico that the Commission would not be bringing the issue forward for a vote.

6. Sign Code – Temporary Banners for New Businesses –

Commissioner Collins stated that he would like new businesses to be allowed to have banners in front of the buildings for a 30-day period. He said that he would like the item placed on the agenda for a vote.

Mayor Maloof stated that she spoke with the City Manager about adding the use of a banner once each year to advertise a special event as well.

Commissioner Blush suggested that the parameters on the size of banner be included.

The City Manager stated that an ordinance would be drafted for the meeting on Tuesday, February 17th. He stated that because it would be an LDR ordinance, it would have to be referred to the Planning & Zoning Board.

Commissioner Ellsworth suggested that staff consult with a sign or banner company before drafting the ordinance.

7. Ord. – LDR Five Foot Height Increase for all Buildings (Public Hearing Feb. 10th) –

Mayor Maloof stated that a public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10th.

Mr. Carl Ystrom stated that the five foot height increase is necessary due to the demand for higher ceilings.

V. REPORTS & COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS:

The City Manager stated that the deadline for proposals to be submitted in response to the RFP for City Attorney Legal Services was February 2nd. He said that 8 proposals were received and that the Commission should decide the procedure to review them.

Mayor Maloof stated that the Commission would discuss the proposals at the Commission meeting on Tuesday, February 10th.

VI. REPORTS & COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Ellsworth stated that his wife would like to thank people for their kind

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words and the cards they sent.

Commissioner Ellsworth thanked the Public Works Department for filling in the pot holes on the Isle of Palms.

The City Manager reported that construction has begun on the mast arm traffic signals on Gulf Boulevard at the Isle of Capri and the Isle of Palms.

Commissioner Ellsworth stated that there a Suncoast League meeting hosted by the City of Largo will take place on Saturday, February 21st at the East Bay Country Club. He said that Ms. Dottie Reeder, President of the Florida League of Cities, will be a guest speaker.

Commissioner Kraus reported that he attended the 2004 convention of the Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motorized Fire Apparatus in America (SPAAMFAA) that was hosted by the Dalmingo Society and Treasure Island. He said that it was a terrific event.

Commissioner Blush reported that she attended Pinellas County Commissioner Morroni's dinner honoring firefighters and EMS personnel on Friday night. She said it was another heart-wrenching testimonial to our heroes in Pinellas County.

Commissioner Blush thanked staff for taking care of the sign Ms. Daughtry asked to have removed on Harrell Avenue.

Commissioner Blush reported that she too attended the Dalmingo convention and said she spoke to a few of the organizers who had nothing but praise for the City of Treasure Island, the facilities and Fire Chief Fant.

Commissioner Blush reported that she attended a BIG-C meeting on Wednesday where the Senior Vice President of Progress Energy gave a presentation. She said that Mr. Eddie Lee from the Gulf Beaches Kiwanis offered the organization's services to all applicable municipalities that would like the opportunity to set up a town meeting/candidate forum with an experienced moderator.

Commissioner Blush reported that she advised the BIG-C that Treasure Island passed a resolution opposing HB409/SB686 on Tuesday, January 27th. She said that she asked the City Manager to send a copy of the resolution to the BIG-C and she asked that Commissioner Collins and Commissioner Kraus submit their supporting documents so they can be passed on to the BIG-C as well.

Commissioner Blush read a letter she received from Congressman Bill Young thanking her for her support of his efforts to provide federal assistance for the

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replacement of the causeway bridge. She said that she had previously written him a thank you letter on behalf of the constituents of district 4.

Mayor Mary Maloof reported that she and her husband as well as Commissioners Collins and Commissioner Ellsworth also attended County Commissioner Morrioni's dinner on Friday. She said that Sheriff Rice, a Treasure Island resident, was honored at the dinner.

Mayor Maloof stated that everyone has the right to speak at the meetings and she asked that everyone be kind and considerate of others.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Marie Barba expressed her appreciation of the current Commission and thanked the electors that voted for Commissioner Collins and Commissioner Kraus. She said the voters want to send the proponents for uncontrolled growth a message, "We don't want more density. We don't want taller buildings. We want controlled growth with the strongest consideration given to the environment and the residents."

Mr. Glenn Kaisner urged everyone to keep politics out of the City meetings and he asked the voters to judge the candidates by their qualifications and not by their mudslinging.

Ms. Rhonda Anderson stated that a videotape of the meeting of January 27th was not available due to a problem with the audio. She asked that the City use audio tapes as a backup to the videotaped City meetings.

Commissioner Collins responded that he understood that a videotape is available and asked that it be replayed intermittently on channel 15. City staff confirmed that the tape would be replayed.

Mr. Byrne stated that the people of Treasure Island want 10-foot ceilings and that is why the five feet height increase is necessary. He said that he has not asked for this type of variance.

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VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Mary Maloof, Mayor

Phil Collins - District 1

Irving S. Ellsworth - District 2

Richard Kraus - District 3

Barbara Blush - District 4

ATTEST:

Charles S. Coward, City Clerk