

**CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP AND MEETING  
May 25, 2004  
5:30 p.m.**

**A. SILENT ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Mary Maloof		Present
Commissioner Phil Collins		Present
Commissioner Ed Gayton		Present
Commissioner Richard Kraus	Vice-Mayor	Present
Commissioner Alan Bildz		Present

**B. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**1. Fixed Bridge Construction Activities –**

Public Works Director Don Hambidge outlined the construction progress of the east and west fixed bridges. He stated that the processed earnings are 87% of the scheduled earnings and the scheduled completion of the two fixed bridges is November, 2004. He discussed phases I and II construction activities for the fixed bridges.

**2. Bascule Bridge Preparation Steps –**

Mr. Jim Phillips of E.C. Driver reviewed the design criteria for the bascule bridge that included; 21 foot vertical clearance, 4 lanes, 10 foot wide multi-use path on the north side, no toll plaza and a 75 year design life.

Mr. Phillips discussed the selected level 2 of aesthetics for the bascule bridge that includes a Florida, vernacular design including ornamentation and architectural elements.

**3. Bascule Bridge Basic Construction Phasing –**

Mr. Phillips reviewed the phased construction approach selected to allow for vehicular traffic. He stated that the north half will be constructed first and there will be no pedestrian traffic allowed during the first 18 months of construction. Mr. Phillips said there will be a 3 month detour during construction of the bascule span of the bridge.

The Public Works Director outlined the schedule of administrative events for the construction of the bascule bridge including; completing the City's LAP certification, obtaining approved permits and completing the qualification & price based selection.

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The City Manager reviewed two important advances the City has made recently with regards to construction of the bascule bridge

- A. The Coast Guard advertisement has been published.
- B. FDOT has agreed to send the LAP agreement to FHWA for its review.

Commissioner Collins asked how much wider the new bascule bridge will be. The City Manager stated that the bascule bridge will be approximately 35 to 40 feet wider.

Commissioner Collins asked if the aesthetics for the new John's Pass Bridge are level II or III. The Public Works Director stated that the aesthetics will most likely be at level II for the John's Pass Bridge according to the renderings.

Commissioner Collins asked if there would be a detour for boat traffic during construction of the bascule section of the bridge. The Public Works Director responded affirmatively and said that the Coast Guard would send out notices to mariners.

Commissioner Collins asked why the bascule bridge will have 4 leaves versus 2 leaves. Mr. Phillips stated that the phased construction process requires 4 leaves allowing the bridge to remain open to vehicular traffic during all but 3 months of its construction. The City Manager stated that the decision to keep the bridge open to vehicular traffic will cost an estimated \$10 million as opposed to the bridge being completely closed during the two year construction period. Commissioner Gayton asked what agency has possession of the \$50 million grant presently. The City Manager stated that the grant remains in Washington, DC but that it has been included in the State's FDOT work program for the fiscal year 2004/05 beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>. The City Manager stated that the City will fund the project up front and receive the grant funds from the State by submitting an application for reimbursement. He said City staff has spoken with U.S. Representative Bill Young's office regarding establishing a line of credit where the interest incurred can be charged to the project.

The City Manager stated that FDOT has indicated that the LAP agreement should be approved by the end of June. He said the Commission would then accept the grant by signing an FDOT contract authorizing the City to spend the grant funds which will take approximately 30 days. The City Manager stated that the contractor selection process will follow next with an RFP that will go out in August and the Commission scheduled to award a contractor in October.

**4. Old Bridge Weight Limit Enforcement –**

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The City Manager stated that the primary objective of the weight limit restriction is to extend the life of the existing bridge until the first half of the new bridge is constructed (approximately 2 years).

The City Manager stated that the goal is to turn around vehicles that do not meet the weight restrictions rather than issue tickets to drivers. He said it's important to have enforcement efforts focus on the west end of the bridge in addition to the east end.

The City Manager stated that the police officers are paid around \$30 per hour with overtime rates to enforce the weight limit restriction and requires that one of the police vehicles be dedicated for this purpose.

The City Manager stated that an internal committee was formed to address issues relating to the weight limit restriction. He stated that the City Attorney is looking into the legality of having civilians and the City's toll plaza employees turning vehicles around. The City Manager said that Wackenhut, a private security firm, submitted a proposal to enforce the weight limit restriction at the west end of the bridge. The City Manager stated that if the City is authorized to use civilians to turn vehicles around, the police officers can focus on reinforcing the weight limit restriction.

The City Manager stated that the cost to the City to provide this enforcement is \$90,000 annually. He said that if Wackenhut is hired that it would cost the City 2/3 the amount that is paid to police officers for weight limit enforcement.

The City Manager stated that the City is currently providing manpower for enforcement at the west end of the bridge Monday through Saturday from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm.

## **5. Bridge Long-Term Operation and Maintenance Costs –**

The City Manager stated that the long term operation and maintenance costs are a separate issue from the construction of the bascule bridge.

The City Manager provided the Commission with a document detailing the costs in operating and maintaining the entire Treasure Island Causeway after the toll plaza is removed in the amount of \$935,000.

The City Manager reviewed a memo he wrote to US. Representative Bill Young regarding the State taking over the operation and maintenance of the bascule bridge. He said the State approached Representative Young and inquired about

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the City creating a sinking fund for the tolls collected to pay for the long term operation and maintenance of the bascule bridge.

The City Manager recommended that the City continue to negotiate with the State to operate and maintain the newly constructed bascule bridge in perpetuity. He said the City would realize an immediate cost savings of approximately \$240,000 which represents the largest single cost in the operation and maintenance of the Treasure Island Causeway. He said that the State has resisted taking ownership of the bridge up to this point.

The City Manager also recommended that he City negotiate with the City of St. Petersburg to operate and maintain the east one third of the causeway that exists in St. Petersburg.

The City Manager stated that Treasure Island could reduce the costs to operate and maintain the causeway to \$500,000 or less if; the State takes ownership of the bascule bridge, the City of St. Petersburg takes over the operation and maintenance of the east one third of the causeway and Treasure Island implements some internal cost savings measures.

**C. ADJOURNMENT:**

**D. REGULAR MEETING CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 PM:**

**E. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Mayor Maloof

**F. ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Mary Maloof		Present
Commissioner Phil Collins		Present
Commissioner Ed Gayton		Present
Commissioner Richard Kraus	Vice-Mayor	Present
Commissioner Alan Bildz		Present

**G. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mr. Bill Edwards stated that he represents a political group called *“Friends of Treasure Island, Inc.”*. He asked that anyone interested in joining the group contact him at 360-4207. Mr. Edwards said that the group will be working to find new ways to support the City and the downtown area. He stated that members of the group will be watching and attending the Commission meetings to be sure that the people in this community are represented the way they should be.

Ms. Pam Anderson, President of the Isle of Capri Civic Association, requested

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approval to place a plaque in honor of former Commissioner Stephanie Lavino at the bus shelter by Roselli Park.

Motion was made by Commissioner Collins and seconded by Commissioner Gayton to authorize the placement of a plaque honoring former Commissioner Stephanie Lavino at the bus shelter by Roselli Park.

Commissioner Bildz asked whether the City or the civic association would pay for the plaque and Ms. Anderson indicated that the civic association would pay for it.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

Mr. Chris Hearn thanked the Commissioners for doing an excellent job. He stated that he was pleased with the City attorney selected by the Commission.

Mr. Bob Dowling provided a report on the Elnor Island cleanup. He recognized and thanked the volunteers that participated and assisted in the cleanup. Mr. Dowling asked for approval to hold another cleanup effort in June or July and the Commission agreed. Mayor Maloof thanked Mr. Dowling and the volunteers for participating in the cleanup.

Mr. Tom Rogers expressed concern regarding setbacks required by the land development regulations (LDR's) Section 68-541 of the City's Code of Ordinances. He stated that setbacks are required to be uniform in each districts. Mr. Rogers said that the City currently has no side yard, front yard and rear setbacks regulations; except vertical setback ratios that do not apply to single family, duplex and commercial buildings. He asked the Commission to address the issue.

City Attorney Maura Kiefer stated that the issue of setbacks was discussed in conjunction with a proposal for a large condominium complex in Sunset Beach by the Planning & Zoning Board and she said that the Board does not agree with Mr. Rogers' legal interpretation.

Ms. Olivia Cox thanked Mr. Dowling for allowing the public to participate in the Elnor Island Cleanup project.

Ms. Cox stated that the Treasure Island Citizens for Responsible Progress (TIP) will be holding a meeting at the Community Center on Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. to present ideas to unite the community. She invited the residents and the business associations to attend and said that light refreshments will be served.

Ms. June Brown asked the Commission to consider obtaining input from the community for the selection of a new City Manager. Mayor Maloof stated that the interviews will be open to the public and a "meet and greet" event will be scheduled

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to give the residents an opportunity to meet the candidates for the position of City Manager.

Ms. Betty O'Hearn asked for a status regarding the Smarte Cart being placed at the clock tower bubble to monitor traffic. The City Manager stated that the Smarte Cart is in need of repair and the City is waiting on parts to be delivered from the manufacturer. Ms. O'Hearn requested that the City consider renting a Smarte Cart and the City Manager stated that, with the Commission's permission, he would look into it.

Ms. Pam Anderson stated that Sunset Vista Trailhead Park has no ADA compliant parking available and asked the Commission to have the City Attorney look into the matter. Mayor Maloof stated that the Commission would address the issue.

#### **H. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion was made by Commissioner Kraus and seconded by Commissioner Gayton to approve the minutes from the meetings of April 28, and May 4, 2004 as written.

Commissioner Collins noted a correction to page 11 of the minutes from the meeting of May 4, 2004.

Commissioner Bildz noted a correction to page 1 of the minutes from the meeting of May 4, 2004.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

#### **I. ITEMS OF BUSINESS:**

##### **1. Res. – Authorizing An Employment Agreement with Don Hambidge -**

After hearing the reading of the resolution authorizing an employment agreement with Don Hambidge, motion was made by Commissioner Gayton and seconded by Commissioner Collins to approve the resolution as read.

Commissioner Bildz stated that the City does not intend to sever Mr. Hambidge's employment at the expiration of the contract.

The City Manager stated that Mr. Hambidge's duties would revert to the duties of the Public Works Director without interruption at the end of the employment agreement.

Commissioner Bildz asked if the Commission could authorize additional bonuses

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over and above the \$5,000 annual bonus as provided for in the agreement. The City Manager stated that the Commission would have the authority to do so but that it should be done at the direction of the City Manager since the Public Works Director is not a direct employee of the Commission.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

**2. Res. – Designating Fire Chief Charlie Fant as Interim City Manager –**

After hearing the reading of the resolution designating Fire Chief Charlie Fant as interim City Manager/City Clerk, motion was made by Commissioner Kraus and seconded by Commissioner Collins to approve the resolution as read.

Commissioner Bildz stated that Fire Chief Fant serving as interim City Manager will put department heads at ease with the transition.

The City Manager stated that Fire Chief Fant has the full support of the department heads. He said he feels that the community and the Commission also have full confidence in Fire Chief Fant serving as the interim City Manager. The City Manager stated that we all are appreciative of him for volunteering to accept this position.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

**3. Res. – Calling a Referendum Election for an Advisory Question on Term Limits for City Boards and Committees –**

After hearing the reading of the resolution pertaining to term limits for all appointed boards and committees of the City of Treasure Island, Florida; pertaining to term limits for all appointed boards and committees of the City of Treasure Island, Florida; proposing a referendum to determine whether the electorate desires for the City Commission to enact term limits on all appointed boards and committees of the City of Treasure Island, Florida, providing for a vote of the electorate as to such measure, scheduling the date of such referendum election, providing an effective date, motion was made by Commissioner Gayton and seconded by Commissioner Collins to approve the resolution as read.

The City Attorney stated that the word “appointed” was added to the resolution to make it clear that the resolution applies to appointed and not elected officials.

Mayor Maloof stated that the Commission has the responsibility of replacing board and committee members.

Commissioner Gayton stated that it is an advisory question for the citizens of the

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community to decide whether they would like term limits for boards and committees.

Ms. Suzanne Deady asked what the purpose would be of placing this item on the ballot since the referendum would only be advisory and the Commission could choose not to endorse it. She expressed her concern that if term limits are applied retroactively that it could mean some of the boards would have all new members and no members with experience.

The City Manager stated that the cost to place this item on the ballot would be minimal since the presidential election will take place in November.

Commissioner Collin stated that the reason for the referendum is to determine how the community feels about term limits for board and committee members. He said the Commission will proceed according to how the community votes on the matter.

The City Attorney stated that the referendum provides for amendments to resolutions and ordinances establishing terms for boards and committees. She said that means that issues such as effective dates and retroactivity can be addressed when amending the applicable ordinances and resolutions.

Mayor Maloof stated that while she is generally opposed to term limits because you risk losing board and committee members with experience and knowledge, but that she honors the community's opportunity to vote on the issue.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

**J. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**1. Interview of Executive Recruitment Firms –**

The City Manager stated that he provided the Commission with a memo that outlines the interviews scheduled with executive search firms. He said that all 3 firms have agreed to meet with the Commission Friday morning on June 4<sup>th</sup> as follows:

9:30 a.m. Bob Chambers – Chambers Management Consulting Services

10:15 a.m. Tom Freijo – The Mercer Group, Inc.

11:00 a.m. Bob Slavin – Slavin Management consultants

The Commission indicated its approval of the executive search firm interview schedule.

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## **2. Beach Trail Extension Project - NOAA Grant -**

The City Manager reported that Dr. Bob Minning, Commissioner Collins and he toured the beach trail on bicycles last Sunday.

The City Manager provided the Commission with an outline of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) grant. He stated that the grant is in the amount of \$380,000 divided evenly for the extension of the beach trail to the north and the south. The City Manager stated that the grant gave preliminary approval for this project from NOAA and DEP. He said that while the City has received preliminary approval, some of the field DEP divisions refuse to issue a permit for the extension of the trail from Sunset Vista Trailhead Park (SVTP).

The City Manager stated that a design/engineering consultant will be required to develop the route options, meet with residents and the community to gain their input on the project and meet with DEP to address permitting issues. He recommended the Commission consider placing funds in the fiscal year 2004/05 budget to hire a design/engineering consultant.

Commissioner Kraus expressed his support of extending the beach trail and said that he looks forward to exploring the City's options and addressing the community on the project.

Commissioner Collins asked what is included in the designer fee is of \$30,000. The City Manager stated that the fee encompasses working drawings, construction drawings and bidding.

Mr. Richard McLean stated that the current Commission is the most talented and dedicated Commission he has seen in over 30 years. He provided the Commission with a drawing and said that he is opposed to a beach trail on Sunshine Beach because it is too narrow.

Commissioner Gayton stated that he created the drawing Mr. McLean referred to and that it was not an engineering drawing.

Mr. George Greenfield provided the Commission with a picture of Sunshine Beach directly after a storm. He stated that the beach along Sunshine Beach looks wide during sunny weather but the beach dramatically dissipates due to waves during any kind of storm activity. Mr. Greenfield said that any walkway would act like a seawall and cause severe beach erosion.

Commissioner Bildz asked if Mr. Greenfield would be opposed to the extension of

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the beach trail from SVTP to the existing trail. Mr. Greenfield stated that he is not opposed to the current beach trail because it exists in an area where the beach is considerably wider.

Commissioner Kraus asked if the Beach Stewardship Committee has addressed the extension of the beach trail and Mr. Greenfield responded negatively and stated that the item would be added to next agenda for discussion.

Commissioner Collins asked Mr. Greenfield when the picture was taken and he responded that it was taken about one year ago.

Dr. Bob Minning stated that the purpose of the bike ride that he took with Commissioner Collins and the City manager was to look at alternatives and not to come up with one set plan.

Dr. Minning encouraged the Commission to come up with alternatives to present to the community as well as DEP and the Army Corps of Engineers. He also suggested that the City obtain input from the citizens and put out an RFP for the project.

Mr. John Burke stated that he agreed with Dr. Minning's remarks and disagreed with the comments made by Mr. McLean and Mr. Greenfield because erosion would not be an issue if the trail is placed on the east side of the sand dunes.

Commissioner Kraus stated that he would like the City to proceed with addressing the project in the upcoming budget cycle.

Commissioner Gayton asked if there was any opposition from residents regarding extending the trail south. The City Manager responded affirmatively and said that there are several people opposed and several people in favor of the project. He said the Commission may be required to weigh the needs of the community overall with the will of the residents that live directly next to the trail after receiving input from the public and the engineers.

Commissioner Gayton asked if there are any issues with owners of private property that will be affected by the project on the south end. The City Manager stated that Mr. Sid Rice owns property that extends past the beach and into the water on the north end and said. He said he did not believe there were any related issues on the southern end. The City Manager stated that the City has requested a legal opinion from Attorney Tom Pelham to address this matter and a reply is expected in 45 days. The City Attorney stated that she would follow up on the legal opinion with Attorney Pelham and report back to the Commission.

Commissioner Bildz asked if the residents on the south end that are opposing the

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beach trail extension gave any specific reasons for their opposition. The City Manager stated that the main concern was that they did not desire to have a fixed public facility between their property and the water.

The City Manager stated that, with the Commission's consensus, he would include funds for engineering in the LOISS (Penny for Pinellas) fund of the proposed budget. He recommended the Commission consider finishing the existing trail with amenities such as rest stop areas, small shelters and trash receptacles so the public would know what to expect with the completion of the beach trail extension.

Mr. Greenfield expressed his concern that the existing trail is too narrow and he suggested widening the existing trail.

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

The City Manager stated that he would pursue renting a Smarte cart to monitor traffic in the downtown area.

The City Attorney stated that former City Attorney Jim Denhardt sent a demand letter in the amount of \$3,000 to former Police Officer Chad McMonigal 30 days ago. She said that she has not yet heard back from the officer's attorney. The City Attorney stated that she would review the employment agreement and advise the Commission on how to proceed at next week's Commission meeting.

Commissioner Gayton asked if the City Attorney had discussed the LPA's review of the height and density ordinances. The City Attorney stated that the LPA will meet to discuss the issue later in the month and that she would report back to the Commission on the issue after this meeting. Commissioner Gayton asked the City Attorney to find out why the LPA tabled the issue until it receives more information from herself as well as the Pinellas Planning Council prior to the LPA meeting and she responded affirmatively.

**L. REPORTS BY COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Collins thanked the City Manager for arranging the beach trail bicycle tour and he recommended that the other Commissioners take the tour.

Commissioner Collins asked how many Smarte Carts the City has and the City Manager stated that the City owns one Smart Cart.

Commissioner Collins reported that he received a letter and pictures from Ms. Pam Anderson regarding a fence that is in need of repair at Roselli Park. The City Manager stated that the Commission approved a purchase order for the fence repair

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last October but for some reason the materials were never ordered. He said that Public Works Director Don Hambidge is reviewing the bid with the company. The City manager stated that the Public Works Director will come before the Commission at the meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup> to re-authorize the fence repair. He said the City hopes to have the fence repaired prior to the start of baseball season.

Commissioner Kraus stated that Treasure Island will be hosting the BIG-C meeting on Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at City hall.

Commissioner Bildz stated that he would like the City to issue commendations to board and committee members when they resign to show appreciation for their service.

Mayor Maloof stated that the Hurricane Awareness program will be held at the Community Center on Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> broadcast on TITV channel 15.

Mayor Maloof stated that the Sun, Sand & Symphony will be held on Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Maloof reported that she received a letter from the Education Coordinator at Pinellas County Utilities inviting anyone that is interested to take a tour of the South Cross Bayou Water Reclamation facility.

Mayor Maloof reported that she will be attending the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government workshop *on Leadership in a Networked World*.

Mayor Maloof encouraged residents to fill out and return the business survey distributed by the Treasure Island Partnership.

Mayor Maloof stated that the Treasure Island Partnership is a 501-C3 corporation and that its purpose is to promote and support the businesses in ways that City cannot or does not participate in. She said that several Mayors are members of the Tampa Bay Partnership.

Mayor Maloof asked residents to thank Commissioner Leslie Waters for her support in attempting to get FDOT to accept ownership of the bascule bridge upon its completion.

**M. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Fire Chief Charlie Fant thanked the Commission for allowing him to serve as the interim City Manager. He thanked Mr. Chuck Coward for his support, leadership and guidance for the past 7 years.

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Mayor Maloof stated that the Commission, staff and the community appreciates his volunteering to serve as interim City Manager.

Mr. Bob Dowling stated that Mr. Jack Powers fell ill. He said that Mr. Powers volunteered thousands of hours to the City.

Mr. Dowling asked citizens, non-profit groups, civic associations to put aside political differences and support the Commission as it faces building the bascule bridge and re-uniting the City in peace and harmony. He asked citizens to honor Mr. Powers by being good Samaritans. Mr. Dowling quoted former President John F. Kennedy and stated, "Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country. He encouraged citizens to call their Commissioners and ask what they can do for Treasure Island. Mr. Dowling pledged his support to Treasure Island including its elected officials and administrators.

**N. ADJOURNMENT:**

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Mary Maloof, Mayor

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Phil Collins - District 1

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Ed Gayton - District 2

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Richard Kraus - District 3

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Alan Bildz - District 4

**ATTEST:**

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Charles S. Coward, City Clerk