

**CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP
March 1, 2005
7:00 p.m.**

I. SILENT ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CITY CLERK:

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Frank McConnell spoke on behalf of Voters Watch and he thanked the residents that attended the debate as well as City staff (as follows) for setting up and broadcasting the event:

Mark Santos
Jeff Jensen
Steve DeMerritt
Stanley Bradley
Dave Bell

Mr. McConnell stated that the story the St. Petersburg Times ran regarding the Treasure Island Tennis & Yacht Club's variance request wrongly indicated that Commissioner Kraus was against granting the variance instead of Commissioner Collins.

Mr. McConnell spoke as the Chair of the Civic Leaders' Group and he provided the Commission with background regarding the progress of the group.

Mr. George Haddad stated that Commissioner Collins was incorrect when he indicated that Commissioner District 1 candidate Rick Taylor accepted an out-of-state contribution. He said the contribution in question was made by him and that he would like the community to know that he is a resident of Treasure Island for at least six months per year.

Mr. Haddad stated that the dunes provide the only barrier for the beach against the ravages of the sea. He expressed concern for the dunes in relation to the beach trail extension project. Mr. Haddad stated the dunes could be trampled and he said the trash from people using the trail may create a fire hazard. He stated that Sunshine Beach has very little room to support a beach trail. Mr. Haddad suggested

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that an environmental impact study be conducted before considering the extension of the beach trail.

A resident stated that the beach trail already goes as far north as the Holiday Inn. He said if the trail is extended further north the sand dunes will be affected and he expressed concern for the property owners if the dunes are removed. He also indicated that people would be unable to see the water if the dunes were moved to the eastern side.

Mr. Julian Fant stated that when he moved to Treasure Island in 1961, there was no City Manager and each Commissioner served as a department head. Mr. Fant stated that he served as Mayor for 10 years and as Commissioner for 15 years. He said he feels that the City Manager is capable of performing more than one job. Mr. Fant said he sincerely hopes that the Commission will consider the major issues we presently face as a community.

Mr. Harry Black stated that he is the President of the Hotel/Motel Association and a member of Friends of Treasure Island. He stated that Friends of Treasure Island has produced a brochure that provides questions and answers to clarify the proposed Charter Amendments that will be on the March ballot. Mr. Black said the brochure is not meant to persuade but rather to inform the public regarding the meaning of the proposed Charter Amendments. He stated that the Friends of Treasure Island will be holding an informational meeting, open to the public, regarding the proposed Charter Amendments at the Bilmar banquet room on March 3rd at 5:00 p.m. He said light refreshments will be served.

Mr. Black stated that he would like to see the beach trail extended to the south.

Ms. Barbara Blush, President of the Treasure Islettes, stated that 80% of the proceeds from the group's bingo games go towards scholarships for students and 20% is donated to charities. On behalf of the Islettes, she presented Mayor Maloof with a check for \$100 for the wounded servicemen.

III. MINUTES:

None.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Pinellas County Utilities Presentation of Potable Water Trunk Lines Project -

Mr. Carlos Solis, Senior Engineer of Pinellas County, gave a presentation and

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answered questions of the Commission regarding the Isle of Capri Water Main Replacement Project.

2. Mayor & City Commissioners Items for Discussion –

- A. Mayor Maloof**
- B. Commissioner/Vice-Mayor Richard Kraus**
- C. Commissioner Phil Collins**
- D. Commissioner Ed Gayton**
- E. Commissioner Alan Bildz**

(Overall list of issues and individual Commissioners' lists are attached.)

Each of the Commissioners and the Mayor presented their lists of issues they would like the City to address. Each of the issues was discussed with the City Manager as well as the other Commissioners.

The City Manager stated that the Commission has come up with a total of 32 to 33 ideas that have been well thought out. He said the next step is to allow staff to address resources and budgeting. He said he would bring the list back to the Commission so that it can set priorities. The City manager said none of the items are frivolous and that it's a matter of prioritizing and allocating resources for the projects identified.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

None.

VI. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

City Attorney Maura Kiefer stated that she received a letter from the land use attorney, Siemon & Larson, P.A. that included an estimate of \$3,000 for a legal opinion regarding the proposed condo/hotel regulations. She said there may be other fees tacked on as well.

Commissioner Collins asked what the charge was for West Law. The City Attorney stated that most firms charge extra for West Law, which is a computerized research database.

Commissioner Collins asked about the other charges listed on the estimate. The City Attorney stated there is a charge of \$100 per hour for planning & design and \$250 per hour for legal work.

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The Commission agreed to authorize a resolution authorizing a payment of \$3,000 to Siemon & Larson, P.A. for a legal opinion at the next regular Commission meeting.

The City Manager stated that City Planner Lynn Rosetti attended a recent Transit Governance Task Force meeting regarding the proposal by the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) to force all the communities to participate in a Countywide transit system. He said that St. Pete Beach City Manager Mike Bonfield suggested a combined Commission meeting with St. Pete Beach, Treasure Island and representatives from the Transit Governance Task Force. The City Manager stated that there is \$3,000,000 in taxes at stake. He said this meeting would be a working meeting among the elected officials as opposed to a public hearing. He said he would keep the Commission posted regarding the details of this tentative meeting.

Mayor Maloof suggested inviting Kenneth City and Belleair Beach to the meeting. The City Manager stated that the meeting may be limited due to the number of people that must fit behind a dais. He said Tierra Verde also would be affected by this proposal.

Mayor Maloof stated that this issue was discussed at length at the Mayors Council's meetings. She said that some communities feel that all communities should be absorbed into a Countywide transit system while others communities disagree.

The City Manager stated that a countywide transit authority would provide a significant source of revenue for the County at a tremendous cost to our residents.

VII. REPORTS & COMMENTS BY COMMISISONERS:

Commissioner Collins asked for a status on the John's Pass Marina. The City Manager stated that the marina is at the end of its useful life and it has sustained hurricane damage. He said there are insurance issues, with boat owners that have leases to store their boats in the building, that need to be resolved before the structure can be torn down. The City Manager stated that the Building Official talked with the property owner, Side Rice and asked for a schedule for the building's demolition.

Commissioner Collins asked if it is possible to upgrade the streetlights at the Isle of Capri. The City Manager stated that the City has a contract with Progress Energy in which the City pays \$7,000 monthly for the poles. He said he would look into costs and illumination standards and report the information back to the Commission.

Commissioner Collins asked how Progress Energy keeps track of the streetlights with bulbs that need to be replaced. The City Manager said that a resident should

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contact the City when a light is out and the City will identify the streetlight by the number on the pole and contact Progress Energy.

Commissioner Gayton requested that the City discuss the beach trail extension as three (3) separate projects (south north, and the mid trail area). He said that if the engineering, design and permitting is handled separately it will expedite the extension of the trail in the areas that have no opposition.

Commissioner Gayton stated that the Sunshine Beach Flea Market will be held on Saturday, March 12th from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

Commissioner Gayton stated that the Isle of Palms garage sale will be held on Saturday, March 19th.

Commissioner Kraus stated that there is a vacancy on the Code Enforcement Board and he encouraged anyone that is interested to contact him or to drop by City Hall and fill out an application.

Commissioner Kraus stated that a blood drive would be held on Thursday, March 3rd from 1:30 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Commissioner Bildz stated that the Sunset Beach Civic Association is holding its annual yard sale on Saturday, March 19th. He asked anyone interested to contact Ms. Betty Lipke at 367-1422.

Commissioner Bildz stated that he informed Mr. Steve West of DEP that all of the ropes and stakes have been removed from the sea oats.

Commissioner Bildz stated that he invited Mr. West to speak at a future Beach Stewardship Committee meeting. He said Mr. West is responsible for issuing the permit for beach renourishment.

Mayor Maloof stated that the Commission would like to send its sympathy to the Smith, Angelo and Melody families for the tragic, sudden death of Joel Melody.

Mayor Maloof stated that she attended a reception honoring Mr. Jerry Dabkowski as "Traffic Engineer of the Year".

Mayor Maloof stated that the Suncoast League of Municipalities will hold its annual conference in May at Howie-in-the-Hills.

Mayor Maloof stated that she attended the BIG-C meeting, as Commissioner Kraus was unable to attend.

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Mayor Maloof stated that Ambassador Mel Sembler received the distinction of having a building named "The Mel Sembler Building" in Rome, Italy. She said all of the U.S. Embassy's staff will be housed in this building.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Clara Lee Selby stated that she would like the beach that is known as St. Petersburg Municipal Beach to be known as Treasure Island Municipal Beach.

Dr. George Greenfield suggested the City consider hiring an expert to research and write grant applications.

Dr. Greenfield commented regarding safety issues for pedestrians crossing Gulf Boulevard in the Sunshine Beach area. He requested that the City look into providing safety islands in the median and marked crosswalks across Gulf Boulevard.

Dr. Greenfield stated that he supported Commissioner Gayton's suggestion to handle the beach trail extension as three separate projects.

Dr. Greenfield stated that beach access and beach walkover issues should be addressed by the Beach Stewardship Committee.

A resident commented that it is also difficult to cross Gulf Boulevard in the Sunshine Beach area due to the sunset.

Ms. Donna Hendrickson thanked the Commissioners for conducting themselves with integrity and fairness. She said the voters in District 3 need to ask themselves whether they want to be represented by a trusted neighbor and friend that will work hard or by someone that is looking out for the profit margins of developers. She urged the voters to make their decisions carefully and wisely.

Mr. Glenn Kaisner stated that many of the items discussed on the list of issues have been discussed in the past and nothing has been done. He challenged the Commission to follow through and do something with the lists they submitted.

Mr. Frank McConnell stated that the Civic Leaders included its preliminary recommendation deals with the extension of the beach trail south and an upgrade of the existing trail and not for the extension of the beach trail north.

Mr. McConnell stated that he did not understand how the Commission could hold a retreat that would be held in the *Sunshine*. The City Manager stated that the City

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would post notices of the retreat and invite the public to attend. He said it is a pretty common activity in other cities and intended to be informal.

Mr. Black commented that the Commission came up with several very good ideas. He said he hoped to see these ideas on future agendas. Mr. Black said the Commission needs to address the LDR's.

Mr. Black said that the Florida Hotel/Motel Association was in favor of the revised condo/hotel regulations but he said the association questioned why the occupational licenses are being issued on a per unit basis. He said the Florida Hotel/Motel Association suggested that occupational licenses be issued on a flat, across the board basis for each condo/hotel.

IX. ADJOURNMENT:

Mary Maloof, Mayor

Phil Collins - District 1

Ed Gayton - District 2

Richard Kraus - District 3

Alan Bildz - District 4

ATTEST:

Ralph Stone, City Clerk