

**CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP
April 5, 2005
7:00 p.m.**

I. SILENT ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CITY CLERK:

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Dick Spinner, Manager of Gulf Golf, stated that the Treasure Island Chamber of Commerce will hold a First Night at Gulf Golf on Friday, April 8th from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. He said miniature golf will be \$3.00, free finger foods will be offered and there will be a cash bar and a live band. Mr. Spinner said the proceeds will benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

Mr. Frank McConnell read a letter written by a Canadian visitor regarding foreigners paying parking meter violations in Treasure Island. He said the visitor did not have quarters for the parking meter at the parking lot at the south end of Sunset Beach and that change was not available at the Beach Pavilion because it was closed. Mr. McConnell stated that the visitor received a \$15 parking ticket that was payable only by check or money order. He said the visitor tried to pay the fine at City Hall and was sent to the Police Department and finally to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) building on 66th Street. Mr. McConnell stated that the visitor suggested that a change machine should be located where people can access it when the Beach Pavilion is closed.

Mayor Maloof stated that the 20th annual Morgan Regatta will be held at the Treasure Island Tennis & Yacht Club (TITYC) on April 15th and 16th and that the party on April 15th is open to the public.

III. MINUTES:

Motion was made by Commissioner Gayton and seconded by Commissioner Kraus to approve the minutes as written. Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Mayor Maloof stated that item #'s 9 and 10 have been removed from the agenda.

2. Presentation of 50th Anniversary Poster – Ruth Philipon –

Ms Ruth Philipon expressed her gratitude to the Mayor, the Commissioners and to Mr. Tony Amico for making it possible for her to create the 50th anniversary poster. She stated that Mr. Tony Amico funded the printing costs and the artist's commission for the posters and she presented him with a signed and framed poster. Ms. Philipon stated that the project took over 4 ½ months to complete and that the paper is acid-free and of archival quality. She indicated that contrary to claims of frivolous spending with taxpayer money, these posters were of no expense to the taxpayers. Ms. Philipon stated that she is not a frivolous artist and this was not a frivolous venture. She said she personally tried to create a very positive personal image of Treasure Island to evoke fond memories and a pride of Treasure Island. Ms. Philipon said that 5,100 posters were printed and that she would sign as many as the City would like her to. She stated that she has waived her rights to all royalties and any copyright.

Mayor Maloof thanked Ms. Philipon and she said the poster's beauty will live on since it is not dated. She also said it will continue to be a souvenir for years to come.

3. Mast Arm Traffic Signals at 104th, 107th, 108th & Paradise Blvd, TI Causeway –

Traffic Engineer Jerry Dabkowski gave a presentation regarding the state-of-the-art crosswalk and mast arm designs for the intersections at 104th, 107th and 108th Avenues and at TI Causeway and Paradise Boulevard. He said the designs were 60 percent complete.

City Manager Ralph Stone stated that the crosswalks will include flashing lights and a countdown system for pedestrians to gauge how long they have to cross the crosswalk.

The City Manager stated that these two intersections are good locations to test the new crosswalks before integrating them on Gulf Boulevard and for other neighborhoods. He said that if the Commission is in favor, he recommended sharing these designs with the community to gain their input.

Commissioner Gayton asked if the crosswalks are the same as the crosswalks at the Florida Aquarium. Mr. Dabkowski stated that the proposed crosswalks are visible in daylight unlike those located at the aquarium.

The City Manager stated that these crosswalks will provide barriers to force traffic to slow down through the downtown area.

Commissioner Gayton asked how the City can convince FDOT that additional crosswalks are needed on Gulf Boulevard. Mr. Dabkowski stated that the City would need to provide FDOT with studies that support the addition of crosswalks.

Commissioner Gayton stated that there are no crosswalks on Gulf Boulevard from from 117th Avenue to 126th Avenue. He said this area is dangerous with up to 5 lanes that pedestrians must contend with to cross the street.

Commissioner Gayton asked if FDOT stipulates how many crosswalks the City can have. Mr. Dabkowski stated that a study with technical data would be necessary to get FDOT to address the matter.

Mr. Dabkowski stated that “yield to pedestrians” is now a law that was just passed in the past 6 months.

Commissioner Gayton asked who would pay for a study to be conducted. Mr. Dabkowski stated that it can be done jointly with FDOT or separately as part of the City’s or FDOT’s budget.

Commissioner Kraus stated that drivers can now be ticketed if they do not stop for a pedestrian that is on a marked crosswalk.

Commissioner Bildz asked that Mr. Dabkowski take the designs to the residents in the two neighborhoods where the crosswalks are to be installed as well as to the civic associations.

The Commission requested that a presentation regarding the two proposed state-of-the-art crosswalks and the mast arm signals be held at the Community Center and that all residents be invited to attend and the City Manager responded affirmatively.

4. Bascule Bridge Closure Periods –

Public Works Director Don Hambidge reported that the demolition for the northern half of the bridge was 97 percent complete.

The Public Works Director stated that Johnson Brothers is now waiting for Progress Energy in order to begin the concrete pours.

Mr. Jim Phillips of EC Driver and Mr. Jim Meagher of Johnson Brother explained the process for the concrete pours.

The Public Works Director stated that the bridge will be closed during the concrete pours and that traffic would be diverted and that the pours would start in May.

Commissioner Gayton asked how many pours will be done. Mr. Phillips said there will be 4 major pours and at least 12 smaller pours. He said the total number of pours will be determined by Johnson Brothers.

Commissioner Gayton asked who is liable during these concrete pours if a truck should break through the deck. Mr. Phillips said that Johnson Brothers would be liable.

Commissioner Gayton asked if the Coast Guard has responded to the City's request to reduce the number of bridge openings to 2. The Public Works Director stated that the City is still waiting to hear back from the Coast Guard on the matter.

1. Indonesian Women's Delegation –

Mayor Maloof presented a proclamation honoring the Indonesian Women's Delegation.

Mayor Maloof introduced Dr. Judith Scourfield McLauchlan, a Professor of Political Science at the University of South Florida (USF) representing the delegation.

The delegates introduced themselves in English or with the help of an interpreter.

The purpose of their 21 day visit was to experience the impact of women in politics in the United States.

5. Pedestrian/Bicycle Access on Bascule Bridge -

The Public Works Director reviewed with the Commission the agenda cover memo that explains the three options for addressing pedestrian/bicycle access on the bascule bridge and staff's recommendation.

1. Establish a walkway.

The Public Works Director stated that during phase 1 of construction, the bridge will be too narrow to support an ADA compliant walkway and that any walkway would not meet safety standards. He said that the bridge will be closed completely during phase 2 of construction.

2. Provide shuttle service over the bridge.

The Public Works Director stated that a shuttle service would cost the City \$323,547 for phase 1.

3. Do not provide for pedestrian/bicycle access on bascule bridge.

The Public Works Director stated that staff is recommending that no pedestrian and bicycle traffic be allowed on the bascule bridge until the new bascule bridge is completed. He said the PSTA does provide an alternative route around the bridge.

Commissioner Kraus stated that he thought the City could use currently owned City vehicles and part time staff to provide the shuttle service. The Public Works Director stated that the number of drivers and the vehicles are based on the length of time and the service necessary to provide shuttles.

The City Manager stated that staff received a number of calls on this subject at first but that no calls have been received since then. He said there is an intense amount of construction in a concentrated area that makes it unsafe for pedestrians to use the bascule bridge.

The City Manager stated that there were also two unanticipated issues that surfaced.

1. The two contracts with E.C. Driver and Johnson Bothers have only \$1 million in contingency funds.
2. The 24-hour bridge surveillance will cost the City over \$300,000 per year.

He said that after taking all the factors into account, providing for a shuttle service would not constitute money that is being well spent by the City.

6. Civic Leaders Recommendation for Beach Trail Extension –

Mr. Frank McConnell reviewed with the Commission the Civic Leaders recommendations for the extension of the beach trail.

Commissioner Ed Gayton asked that the recommendations be shared with the Beach Stewardship and Beautification Committees to get their input and the City Manager concurred.

Commissioner Bildz asked what the next step is for the extension of the beach trail. The City Manager stated that a scope of work must be developed and the conceptual locations for extension of the trail both north and south need to be

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addressed as well as suggested improvements for the existing trail.

Commissioner Bildz stated that Sunshine Beach and Sunset Beach have experienced too much erosion for a concrete walkway. He suggested boardwalks be used in these areas.

Commissioner Bildz asked what was meant by the recommendation for breakout areas for buskers. Mr. McConnell stated that the Civic Leaders were suggesting breakout areas be planned for performers such as jugglers and singers.

Commissioner Bildz asked what the point was of providing the Commission with the Civic Leaders recommendations for the beach trail since the project is already underway.

Mr. McConnell stated that it provides the Commission with an opportunity to get a general consensus for recommendations regarding the extension of the beach trail.

The City Manager stated that the Civic Leaders group develops its own agendas and that the extension of the beach trail was one of the major issues the group wanted to address. He said the issue still needs to go before the community for its input.

Mr. McConnell stated that the Civic Leaders group is addressing downtown redevelopment as well. He said the Civic Leaders meet on the first and third Mondays of the month at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Gayton suggested that a feasibility study be conducted before extending the beach trail north and he said there is an issue with 5 homes that are located past the Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL) between 101st and 103rd Avenues.

Mr. Frank McConnell suggested that the City conduct a feasibility study and then hold hearings to obtain public input before proceeding with the project.

Mayor Maloof asked Mr. McConnell to let the members of the Civic Leaders group know how much she appreciates their dedication.

7. Ord. – Condo/Hotel Ordinance (2nd Reading & Public Hearing 4/12/05) -

City Attorney Maura Kiefer stated that she received the legal opinion from Siemon & Larson and that the legal firm found that the condo/hotel regulations are “fine”.

The City Attorney stated that she made stylistic changes that “beefed up” the intent

of the ordinance but the no new provisions or sections were added. She said the Commission may proceed with the second reading and public hearing next week.

Commissioner Gayton stated that he did not recall subpart (12) of Section 68-494 requiring tourist taxes. The City Attorney stated that the value of the tourist's stay is subject to a tourist tax.

Commissioner Collins asked if this matter would have been under the purview of the legal firm, Siemon & Larson. The City Attorney stated that she spoke to the firm regarding tourist taxes.

Commissioner Gayton asked why the owner is subject to a tourist tax since the tax would only be collected when the unit is being rented out.

Commissioner Gayton asked if the addition of tourist taxes would be considered a substantive change between the first and second reading of the ordinance. The City Attorney stated that it is not necessary to go back to first reading but the Commission could choose to do so.

Commissioner Gayton suggested leaving out the language that was not included in the ordinance at first reading. The City Attorney asked if the Commission would like to delete the bold face type for subparts (5) and (12) of Section 68-494. The Commission directed the City Attorney to leave out the bold face language for subpart (12).

8. Ord. – Term Limits for Boards and Committees (2nd Reading & Public Hearing) –

The Commission will consider this ordinance for second reading and public hearing at the Commission meeting on Tuesday, April 12th.

9. Acceptance of the CAFR Report for Fiscal Year 2003/04 –

This item was removed from the agenda.

10. Purchase of Replacement Emergency Generator for Police/Fire –

This item was removed from the agenda.

11. Purchase of Mobile Data Equipment –

Fire Chief Charlie Fant reviewed with the Commission the agenda cover memo recommending approval of the purchase of two mobile data terminals to

provide for communications between the emergency response vehicles and the 911/Emergency Communications Center.

The Fire Chief indicated that he recommended the purchase of Panasonic Computers and Motorola modems in lieu of the previously recommended Motorola Computers and modems. He said that if the Commission authorizes this purchase, the cost would increase from \$14,600 to \$17,000 but that the funds are currently available in the EMS equipment sinking fund.

The Commission will consider a resolution with the Fire Chief's recommended changes at the Commission meeting on Tuesday, April 12th.

12. BIG-C Resolution Supporting Undergrounding of Utility Lines –

The Commission will consider this resolution at the Commission meeting on Tuesday, April 12th.

13. Announcement of New Website Domain Name –

Information Technology Coordinator Mark Santos stated that the new Website mytreasureisland.org is available online as of today. He said the previous E-mail addresses will remain in existence. The Information Technology Coordinator stated that the previous Website will run concurrently for the present time but that it will be phased out eventually.

Commissioner Bildz commented that the Causeway Bridge construction video was very well produced.

The Commission congratulated the Information Technology Coordinator and Information Technology Assistant Jeff Jensen on the outstanding job they are doing with the TITV channel 15 broadcasting.

The Information Technology Coordinator stated that Treasure Island leads the other beach communities in local government broadcasting.

14. Community Development Block Grant Program Support –

The Commission will consider this resolution at the Commission meeting on Tuesday, April 12th.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

None.

VI. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

1. PSTA Resolution -

The City Manager stated that there is a ten year moratorium on the Pinellas County Suncoast Transit Authority's (PSTA) resolution. He said therefore, no special meeting is necessary to discuss the possibility of Treasure Island being absorbed into a Countywide transit authority.

Commissioner Gayton asked the City Manager to explain to the audience the background regarding the PSTA's attempt to get Treasure Island to join a Countywide transit authority.

The City Manager stated that Treasure Island, St. Pete Beach and a few other beach municipalities chose not to join the PSTA. He said the PSTA attempted to generate more revenue (\$700,000 or .7 mills per taxpayer) by forcing these communities into a Countywide transit authority. The City Manager stated that there would be no corresponding increase in services or programs. He said the contract the City has for the beach trolley service is sufficient and that neither St. Pete Beach nor Treasure Island supports joining a Countywide transit authority.

Commissioner Gayton stated that it would cost the City \$610,000 per year if the City were forced to join a Countywide transit authority. He suggested that the City Manager and the Commission monitor the moratorium closely since it was only imposed by a resolution.

2. Schedule for Issues Workshop –

The City Manager asked the Commission to confirm the date and time of April 19th at 1:00 p.m. to hold the Commission Issues workshop and the Commission concurred.

3. State Supreme Court Decision Regarding Beaches –

The City Attorney stated that the State Supreme Court found Miami Beach liable for failing to warn the public of known recurring rip tide currents. She said she met with the City Manager, the Fire Chief and the Recreation Department to discuss posting proper signage such as "no lifeguards - swim at your own risk" and "strong current".

The City Manager stated that "strong current" signs would be placed at the two passes (Blind Pass and John's Pass) and "no lifeguards - swim at your own risk" signs at the beach access points in addition to the other signage that is in place.

VII. REPORTS & COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Collins asked if the Commission would be in favor of initiating a Code Review Board to address property maintenance issues that are not currently addressed in the current Codes.

The City Manager stated that he was amenable to creating a Code Review Board and that members of the Code Enforcement Board could be part of this committee.

The City Manager stated that he planned to meet with Community Improvement Director Michael Wichman and the Code Enforcement Officers to discuss the current Codes as they relate to property maintenance issues.

The City Manager stated that the Codes provide a minimum standard for property maintenance. He said that for the most part, the residents comply voluntary with the Codes.

Commissioner Collins stated that tree limbs were an issue regarding power outages during the hurricanes last year. He said he contacted Progress Energy and that the company will be trimming back the tree limbs throughout the island.

Commissioner Collins thanked staff for filling in the potholes at 117th but he said there are still potholes at 126th Avenue and 7th Street East.

Commissioner Collins stated that Kid Capri will take place on April 17th on the Isle of Capri between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. He said there will be chalk painting on the sidewalks, fire engines, policemen with canines, etc. Commissioner Collins stated that the event is for children all over the island and not just for the children of the Isle of Capri.

Commissioner Kraus stated that a beach cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 9th and that anyone interested should meet at Robby's Pancake House at 7:45 a.m. or at the Waffle House at 8:30 a.m.

Commissioner Bildz stated that he attended Treasure Island Business Association (TIBA) mixer on Thursday, March 31st. He said he learned that there are over 70 vendors waiting to join the Farmers Market. Commissioner Bildz suggested that the City may want to consider allowing the use of the Community Center Park for the market.

Commissioner Bildz reminded the audience of the Juvenile Diabetes fundraiser that was scheduled to take place on Friday, April 8th.

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Mayor Maloof stated that she would be traveling to California to attend her grandson's christening.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS"

None.

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