

**CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
June 28, 2005
7:00 p.m.**

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Maloof

B. ROLL CALL:

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

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Bill Laubach, attorney for the Police Benevolent Association, stated that Treasure Island is in a position to lose some of its police officers due to inequities in pay in comparison to other beach communities. He said Treasure Island offers the fourth lowest pay to police officers of the beach cities. Mr. Laubach stated that the Police Department does not wish to be absorbed by another agency.

Mr. Bernie Wolfson stated that he received an e-mail indicating that the City would be purchasing dreidels for Hanukkah and he asked if the City also plans to purchase menorahs and Hanukkah lights. Mayor Maloof stated that she would speak to Mr. Wolfson on this matter.

Mr. Frank McConnell stated that Administration has recommended cutting the Sun, San & Symphony from the budget and he said he hoped that the City can find a way to fund this event.

Ms. Heidi Horak expressed her concern regarding the vegetation used for offsite parking near her house. She said the property owner was allowed to use non-native palm trees and sod that requires water pesticides and fertilizer. Ms. Horak stated that she expressed this concern at a recent Planning & Zoning Board meeting but the board chose not to act on it.

D. MINUTES:

None.

E. ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. Recognition of 50th Anniversary Participants –

Mayor Maloof recognized and thanked members of City staff, the civic associations and many volunteers that participated in the 50th anniversary events.

Mayor Maloof suggested that the City repeat some of the events next year.

2. Ord. – Utility Deposit Adjustment (2nd Reading & Public Hearing) –

After hearing the 2nd reading of the ordinance pertaining to utility deposits, amending Section 54-1(a) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Treasure Island, Florida, pertaining to utility deposits; increasing the utility deposit from \$100.00 to \$150.00; providing an effective date, motion was made by Commissioner Gayton and seconded by Commissioner Kraus to approve the ordinance as read.

Mayor Maloof declared a public hearing. There being no comments, the public hearing was closed.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

3. Res. – Approving Design for Intersection at Paradise/Treasure Island Causeway –

After hearing the reading of the resolution approving the intersection improvements at Paradise Boulevard/TI Causeway and authorizing Administration to solicit bids for construction, motion was made by Commissioner Kraus and seconded by Commissioner Collins to approve the resolution as read.

Public Works Director Don Hambidge provided a report on the number of car accidents that occurred at the intersection at 104th, 107th & 108th Avenues from January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2004.

Mr. Billy White stated that he was disappointed that the Commission tabled the issue of improvements for the intersection at 104th, 107th & 108th Avenues. He stated that he spoke in favor of installing a traffic signal at this location and that the City has funds budgeted for this improvement.

Mr. Benjamin Hetrick stated that letters written by twelve local businessmen were in favor of installing a traffic signal at 104th, 107th & 108th Avenues. He stated that he spoke to Police Chief Joe Pelkington and that the Police Chief agreed that there should be a traffic signal at this location. Mr. Hetrick asked the Commission to reconsider this issue.

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Ms. Jacqueline Johnson, owner of Jacqueline's Salon & Day Spa, stated that she has witnessed many accidents and near accidents at the intersection at 104th, 107th & 108th Avenues. She asked the Commission to study the traffic patterns at this intersection and to reconsider tabling this item.

Commissioner Bildz stated that Traffic Engineer Jerry Dabkowski indicated that a traffic signal was not necessary at this location.

Commissioner Kraus stated that although the Commission did not receive the warrant study on December 7th, the Public Works Director stated that the warrant study called for a traffic light at the intersection at 104th, 107th & 108th Avenues.

The conclusion of the warrant study stated:

The projected increase in volumes created by the removal of the tolls on the Treasure Island Causeway Bridge and the Downtown Redevelopment plan, will affect the overall traffic level of service on 104th Avenue, 108th Avenue, and 107th Avenue. Based upon the future Traffic Signal Warrants, as outlined in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, section 4-c, and the above analysis for projected growth of traffic, the intersection at 107th Avenue and 104th Avenue/108th Avenue will experience excessive side street delay. This projected delay along with future roadway improvements justifies the need for the consideration of traffic signalization. The traffic signal will provide a safe gateway into the Downtown area.

The City Manager stated that City Attorney Maura Kiefer indicated that she recommended that the Commission consider the recommendations of the Traffic Engineer and the Public Works Director due to the public safety issue.

The City Manager added that the configuration of the intersection combined with the future downtown redevelopment could cause future safety issues. He said that the City will obtain construction documents so that the project can go to bid at a later date if the Commission so desires.

Mayor Maloof stated that many people feel that the intersection at 104th, 107th & 108th Avenues currently does not foster a pedestrian friendly environment. She said she hoped the Commission would not delay the installation of a traffic signal for this area.

The Public Works Director stated that the warrant study did find that a traffic signal is necessary for the intersection at 104th, 107th & 108th Avenues and he said he is

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recommending the installation of the traffic signal for safety reasons.

Commissioner Collins suggested that the Commission proceed with voting on the design for the intersection at Paradise Island/TI Causeway now and address the intersection at 104th, 107th & 108th Avenues at a later date.

Mr. T. Grafton Abbott stated that a traffic signal at the intersection at 104th, 107th & 108th Avenues would inhibit his access from the Malyn Condo/Motel Resort when traffic is backed up waiting for the traffic signal light to change.

Commissioner Gayton stated that the Commission has not taken the issue of installing a traffic signal at 104th, 107th & 108th Avenues off the table. He said he was glad to see residents and business owners expressing their opinions on this issue. Commissioner Gayton stated that the issue has been referred to the Civic Leaders to review and make a recommendation.

Commissioner Bildz asked the City Attorney if she felt the City is open to a possible liability situation by if a traffic signal is not installed at this intersection.

The City Attorney stated that her opinion has not changed and that the Public Works Director has made his recommendation and informed the Commission that there is a safety issue at the intersection at 104th, 107th & 108th Avenues.

Commissioner Collins stated that there is no safety issue currently and that if it becomes an issue the Commission can address it at that time.

Commissioner Bildz urged the City Manager to have the police provide more enforcement in the downtown area.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

4. Res. – Budget reconciliation for East/West Bridges –

After hearing the reading of the resolution approving a final payment to Johnson Brothers Corporation in the amount of \$101,728.76 for the construction of the East and West Treasure Island Causeway Bridges construction project, motion was made by Commissioner Kraus and seconded by Commissioner Gayton to approve the resolution as read.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

5. Res. – Appointment of Florida League of Cities Voting Delegate –

After hearing the resolution designating Mayor Mary Maloof as the City of Treasure Island's voting delegate and Vice Mayor/Commissioner Phil Collins as the alternate voting delegate at the Florida League of Cities convention to be held in Orlando, Florida during the dates of August 18 to August 21, 2005, motion was made by Commissioner Gayton and seconded by Commissioner Bildz to approve the resolution as read.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

6. Res. - Local Option gas Tax Renewal –

After hearing the reading of the resolution supporting the extension of the local option fuel tax for a ten-year period; supporting a distribution formula with 60% distribution to Pinellas County and 40% distribution to municipalities within Pinellas County; and providing an effective date, motion was made by Commissioner Kraus and seconded by Commissioner Gayton to approve the resolution as read.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

F. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS:

1. Motion - RE: Noise Litigation Settlement & Related Issues –

The City Attorney stated that she would appeal the two noise citations and request direction from the Pinellas County Circuit Court regarding the interpretation of the City's Noise Ordinance.

The City Attorney stated that she would like to request another executive session on Tuesday, July 12th to discuss the litigation and that she would like to have Florida League of Cities' Attorney James Yacavone attend.

The executive session was scheduled to take place on Tuesday, July 12th at 6:00 p.m.

G. REPORTS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Collins stated that a Code Enforcement Board hearing regarding a code violation at 12305 3rd Street East was scheduled for July 6th at 3:00 p.m.

Commissioner Kraus stated that the results of the speed studies will be discussed in August.

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Commissioner Kraus stated that a BIG-C meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, June 29th at St. Pete Beach.

Commissioner Bildz stated that the Sunday edition of the *Neighborhood Times* included an article regarding the enforcement of the ban on the use of personal fireworks.

Commissioner Bildz urged the Commission to pass a resolution regarding eminent domain opposing public land being passed on to private developers.

Mayor Maloof announced the passing of Ms. Violet Stewart who served two terms as a Commissioner for District 3.

Commissioner Kraus requested that the City fly its flags at half mast in honor of Ms. Stewart.

H. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Billy White asked when the issue of a traffic signal for the intersection at 104th, 107th & 108th Avenues would be placed back on an agenda for discussion. Mayor Maloof stated that the issue would come before the Commission again after the Civic Leaders have addressed it. Mr. White urged the Commission to listen to the recommendations made by the City Manager, the City Attorney and the Public Works Director on this issue.

Mr. Benjamin Hetrick stated that although he is a member of the Civic Leaders Group he said he did not feel this type of safety issue should be influenced by the Civic Leaders.

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I. ADJOURNMENT:

Mary Maloof, Mayor

Phil Collins - District 1

Ed Gayton - District 2

Richard Kraus - District 3

Alan Bildz - District 4

ATTEST:

Jennifer Nye, Deputy City Clerk