

**CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND, FLORIDA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP
August 21, 2007**

The workshop was called to order at 6:28 p.m. by Mayor Maloof.

Mayor Maloof asked the Commission to add an item to the workshop in order to vote on it at the September 5th meeting. It involves the sales and gas tax, and the County needs approval before the second meeting in September. The Commission agreed to discuss this as item #12.

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Presentation by Al Bartolotta Regarding Livable Communities Initiative

Mr. Bartolotta, from Pinellas Planning Council, gave a presentation. The objective of this project is to give the county and municipalities some language to adopt programs to create livable communities. The MPO approved this project in December of 2006, and passed the resolution in June, 2007. Much of the project addresses density and transportation. A goal is to reduce the need for automobiles and provide an environment where people can walk to where they live, work, and do business, and provide adequate public transportation.

Commissioner Minning asked how this project would be tied into the Pinellas Trail. Mr. Bartolotta stated that it was a parallel effort to work with the cities and provide connections to the trail as much as possible. Commissioner Minning asked if this would be local, or if they were trying to come up with a "one size fits all". It will be individual to each city. They are hoping to provide common language.

Mayor Maloof stated that they would like to see it happen here.

Commissioner Minning asked if they would be asking for the city's endorsement. Mr. Bartolotta answered in the affirmative. Commissioner Minning asked if it should go to the Planning and Zoning board for their review. The Commission agreed that it should be by consensus.

2. Res. 07-65 Veteran's Day Boat Parade Donation

City Manager, Reid Silverboard, gave a brief explanation about this item. He stated that we have not budgeted money for a donation, so if a donation is made it will have to come out of contingency. Commissioner Collins stated that we have never budgeted for this. Mr. Silverboard stated that if this was an expenditure that they thought should be made each year it should be budgeted for. Commissioner Bildz stated that budgets are tight at this time. Commissioner Collins stated that we should support our Veterans in the boat parade. Commissioners Minning and Gayton and Mayor Maloof added their support. This item will move forward to the September 5th meeting agenda.

3. Res. 07-66 Wag the Beach

Dominique Reiter gave a brief explanation of the activities that would be held at this event. It will be held from 9:00 to 12:00 on November 17th. They are not asking for any resources from the city. The St. Pete Times has donated litter bags. They are requesting parking on the beach for the event. They would start setting up at approximately 7:30, and all the cars would likely be off the beach by 1:00.

Commissioner Collins wanted it made clear that the cars would have to be removed immediately following the event.

Commissioner Gayton stated that he supports everything but the parking on the beach. He doesn't want to set a precedent that cars would be parked on the beach for every event. Sun, Sand & Symphony is different. Ms. Reiter stated that this would be during daylight hours, and they would have more control over the area. They are concerned about the parking situation in town, and how far people would have to go with their dogs. It would be a convenience for the people attending.

Commissioner Bildz stated that he agrees with Commissioner Gayton. Sun, Sand & Symphony is different – it is held at night and there are fewer kids on the beach. There are also more participants, so it is more difficult to find parking for all those cars for that event.

Commissioner Collins stated that he doesn't have a problem with the parking on the beach. If people park in areas where they are not supposed to they should be immediately towed.

Commissioner Gayton stated that his problem is starting a precedent for every event that is held on the beach.

Commissioner Minning asked how many events come before the Commission to use the beach. He does not want to establish a precedent for parking on the beach. Mr. Silverboard stated that there are no other events that are held regularly, and other events would be judged individually on their own merit. Commissioner Minning could support two events a year, but does not want to set a precedent.

Commissioner Collins asked how many people participated last year. Ms. Reiter was unable to provide that information. It is being well publicized, so the participation should be much greater this year.

Commissioner Gayton asked where the designated parking area will be. Ms. Reiter stated that it will be the same area that they were parked for Sun, Sand & Symphony in the area of 112th Avenue entrance to the beach, to south of the dune area near 109th Avenue. The Boy Scouts will be directing them to the appropriate area. There are also volunteers from the Humane Society.

Commissioner Bildz asked if they would be closing off the beach trail in order to drive over it. Ms. Reiter stated that they would have someone directing traffic in order to keep the trail open.

Mayor Maloof stated that she had received good feedback from last year's event.

This item will move forward to the September 5th meeting agenda.

4. Res. 07-68 Gulf Beaches Public Library Service Contract

Mr. Silverboard gave a brief explanation of this item. Part of the agreement that was passed was to have an annual service contract specifying the amount of the annual contribution.

This item will move forward to the September 5th meeting agenda.

5. Ord. 07-09 Business Tax Increase

Mr. Silverboard gave a brief explanation of this item. The legislature allows an increase in these fees of 5% every two years. It will generate approximately \$2,500 more in revenue. The fees were rounded to the nearest nickel, and none exceed the 5% increase allowed by the legislature.

This item will move forward to the September 5th meeting agenda.

6. Ord. 07-08 Supplemental Appropriations

Ruth Chapman, Finance Director, gave a brief explanation of this item. This ordinance covers the additional funds necessary over what was budgeted. This includes money transferred from the LOISS funds to the Causeway funds, as well as additional money from the general fund, and from the police contraband fund.

Commissioner Gayton thanked Ms. Chapman for her detailed explanation of the LOISS fund and Causeway fund. He stated that \$2,500 was authorized in the 2006/2007 budget, and over \$12,000 was spent. He asked what the additional monies were spent for. Ms. Chapman stated that she does not have a detailed list, but she will provide one for the next meeting. From now on, the money collected during the year will be spent in the following year after being approved in the budget.

Commissioner Bildz stated that no department head went over budget, and these were all reimbursements. Ms. Chapman stated that the funds were not appropriated for the roof repairs, but the money was reimbursed. Commissioner Collins asked about funds used for damage to a police vehicle that was damaged in an accident. Commissioner Minning asked a question about the roof repairs and the insurance payments. Ms. Chapman stated that \$145,000 was received in FY2006, and \$36,000 was received in this fiscal year. Some of the expenditures were in the prior fiscal year. There were more expenditures in this fiscal year, but more revenue in the prior fiscal year. Commissioner Minning asked if it was a wash after receiving the insurance settlement. Ms. Chapman stated that we have not spent all the revenue, but she wasn't sure if all the contents had been replaced yet.

This item will move forward to the September 5th meeting agenda.

7. Res. 07-74 Increase in Parking Violation Fines

Mr. Silverboard explained that the parking fines were discussed in the budget workshops. Other communities were surveyed. We are proposing to increase the \$15 fines to \$20, which would be in the ballpark with surrounding communities.

Commissioner Gayton asked about the percentage that was taken for the collection of the fines, and if we had looked at what other cities did. Mr. Silverboard stated that state law only permits the county to collect the fines. Other cities were contracting out the collection of the

finer, or trying to collect them themselves. It has been put on hold while the Clerk of Courts tries to get legislation passed allowing each entity to collect its own fines. We will be looking at a private collection agency, who will charge approximately \$5 per ticket, which is much less than what the county charges.

Commission Collins asked if there were a lot of companies that do this. Mr. Silverboard stated that there are several. We are also looking at contracting with another city.

Mayor Maloof stated that she had received a complaint by e-mail that someone tried to put money in the meter, and it wouldn't accept it. They were then ticketed. She asked if there was recourse under those circumstances. Mr. Silverboard stated that there was.

This item will move forward to the September 5th meeting agenda.

8. Ord. 07-07 General Wage Adjustment Ordinance

Fred Turner, Personnel Director, stated that this will adjust the pay plan to reflect the 3% cost of living increase that is included in the budget. No changes in pay grade classifications were suggested in the first section. The others were increased by 3%. The general employees who are non-union will not be getting a step increase; they will only receive the cost of living increase.

Commissioner Bildz asked about the City Clerk being in salary range D with a salary amount, but the Commission sets the salary. He suggested putting it in Salary Range G without a salary amount. Mr. Turner agreed that it was a good idea. Mayor Maloof asked if there was a benefit to having it in either place. Mr. Turner stated that it would be more correct in Range G.

This item will move forward to the September 5th meeting agenda.

9. Res. 07-73 Changes in Career Service Manual

Mr. Turner explained the changes in the Career Services Manual. They are mostly "housekeeping" type changes.

Commissioner Collins asked about "returning participation". Mr. Turner explained that employees who want to participate in the retirement plan contribute 5% of their pay, and the city contributes 8%. Employees usually start their participation with their first raise, which is traditionally a step raise of 5%, which enables them to participate without lowering their take home pay. Commissioner Collins asked if the 8% contribution was normal for cities. Mr. Turner stated that it is for public employers.

Commissioner Bildz asked if the employee chooses not to participate, does the city still contribute. Mr. Turner stated that they do not.

Commissioner Minning asked how many employees participate. Mr. Turner explained that they are all required to now, but with this change they would not.

This item will move forward to the September 5th meeting agenda.

10. Res. 07-72 City Clerk Salary

Mr. Turner explained that this would set the City Clerk's salary. Commissioner Bildz stated that this is a large increase, but it would still be a low salary.

This item will move forward to the September 5th meeting agenda.

11. Discussion of Brighthouse Channel Realignment

Mr. Silverboard explained that we have received communication from Brighthouse stating that they will be realigning the channels in the Tampa Bay region to make them all the same channel line-up. The federal government has mandated that all transmissions be done in a digital format. This will move all of the public access, government, and educational channels into the digital tier. He has expressed concern to Brighthouse about the regular viewers of government access who will be most likely to have basic cable having to pay additional fees to take on another tier in order to watch these channels. He was told by a representative of Brighthouse that they will provide the boxes to access them upon request. There is some concern that we will have to pay for boxes for the TV's at City Hall. There are some minor changes that we will have to make to our website and to our logo used on the channel. In two years everyone will have to have a digital box. The federal government is developing a program for subsidizing the purchase or rental of these boxes, but the details have not yet been worked out. Our channel will be moving in a few months, and we will be putting information out there regarding it. People may need help in setting up these boxes, and he has requested that assistance be provided to those who need it.

Commissioner Collins asked about the digital boxes that will be given out. He asked about the city being given them as well. That has not been decided yet. 60 to 70% of the subscribers in Treasure Island already have the digital boxes. The digital boxes that will be given out at no charge will be programmed to only receive the three government channels.

Commissioner Gayton asked Mr. Silverboard to ask why beach communities are charged 25% more for their service than the inland communities.

12. Penny for Pinellas and 6 Cent Local Option Gas Tax Revenue Sharing

Mr. Silverboard explained that the county recently sent out the interlocal agreements that need to be signed in order to receive the distribution from these funds. The agreements need to be signed by September 14th. Because of that deadline he is requesting that this item be placed on the September 5th meeting for formal action.

Commissioner Bildz clarified that the only difference in the gas tax was a date change. Mr. Silverboard answered in the affirmative. Commissioner Bildz asked if our Penny for Pinellas percentage went up or down. It stayed the same. Commissioner Gayton asked what our percentage was. It is approximately one half percent.

This item will move forward to the September 5th meeting agenda.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Gayton stated that the Commission received their proposed budget last week, and he feels that we are where we want to be with the General Fund. If the General Fund changes, we have a transfer from Local Option Gas Tax Fund we have a transfer of

\$150,000. This is a special fund. It is collected by state statute, and designated for specific purposes. He asked if it could be used for anything in the general fund after transfer. Mr. Silverboard stated that there are specific usages for it, and it is all transportation related items. As an accounting function the Finance Director will be able to show that at least \$150,000 will have been spent on transportation related expenses.

Commissioner Gayton asked about the Enterprise funds. He doesn't feel that we spent enough time on the budget hearings on this item. There will be an increase in the water pollution control of \$781,000, a 33% increase. In solid waste there will be somewhere between \$275,000 and \$400,000. There will also be a \$64,000 recycling increase. We are looking at over a million dollars in increases in fees for just two enterprise funds. That is going to be much more than the citizens will receive because of the roll back rates. It is important that before we get to the September public hearings we take another look at these three items. As of July, 2007, in the Water Pollution Control Fund, we have only spent 44% out of the 83% that we were scheduled to spend. He believes that we have extra monies in that fund. St. Petersburg will be charging us additional fees, but we compensated for that last year by increasing 35%. We are now asking for another 33%. That is \$1,400,000 in two years. We owe it to the residents to go back and look at these funds. He suggested having another budget workshop dealing with just the enterprise funds. He believes that we can cut the solid waste back to a zero increase. The salaries are increasing, and he thought the purpose of the new trucks was to decrease those expenses.

Commissioner Minning agrees that solid waste could use another look. He stated that the infrastructure needs to be looked at and upgraded. He would like staff to provide the commission with an outline of what needs to be done to bring the system up to a satisfactory level. Mr. Silverboard stated that we do not have that information available at this time. We need to do one or two lift stations each year, and we are currently not doing that. We need to replace the transmission line that runs from here to South Pasadena. Laterals are leaking, which is what is responsible for the surcharge. The fee increase last year was not for the surcharge that is being charged this year. This is approximately \$500,000, and is over and above the additional surcharge for last year. The recycling contract will be increasing approximately \$70,000. We have not been establishing rate structures that provide the additional funds needed to replace the infrastructure and provide the equipment that we need. It has nothing to do with the property tax reform. Even if it had not taken place we would need to have these increases to balance our budget.

Commissioner Gayton agrees with the recycling increase. He doesn't see where we need any increase in solid waste. There should be a decrease. Mr. Silverboard stated that we did not generate sufficient revenue this year. Commissioner Gayton stated that this is why we should have another workshop to discuss these things. We have not seen a plan yet. Mr. Silverboard stated that \$500,000 of the increase is the additional surcharge. We have no choice in that increase. We are going to fight it, but still have to plan for it. Commissioner Gayton stated that the biggest one was water pollution control. We have not spent what we planned on at this point. Mr. Silverboard stated that there are projects that have not been done yet that are budgeted for this year. Commissioner Gayton stated again that we should have a workshop to discuss this. He is not willing to increase the fees without having another workshop.

Commissioner Collins asked how long it would take to get the numbers together. Mr. Silverboard stated that he doesn't know if there is a facilities master plan done for this item. It will likely take a week or more to get this information together.

Commissioner Gayton stated that he is only concerned with this year's increase. Nobody will mind the increase if they see the need for it.

Commissioner Bildz stated that he doesn't want to wait until we have sewage running into the bay to see the need. Commissioner Gayton stated that in the past we have approved money as needed, and we have money available in the revolving loan fund. Commissioner Bildz stated that he doesn't see the need for a workshop. We will be voting on this at the next meeting. Some of this has come out of Penny for Pinellas money in the past.

Commissioner Minning stated that he wants to see these funds be self contained, and have the revenues match the expenses. He feels that there is still some slack in there. He has notes that are comparable to the comments brought up tonight. We should be able to fully explain where the money is coming from, and where it is going.

Commissioner Gayton requested a one hour workshop on Tuesday, the 28th at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Bildz stated that he agrees with the reluctance to vote on increases, but doesn't see the need for a special workshop. Mr. Silverboard stated that these fees will be discussed at the September 5th workshop. Notice will be on the water bills stating that fee increases will be voted on at the September 19th meeting.

Commissioners Gayton and Minning want to meet before the budget is discussed.

The workshop will be held on Tuesday, August 28th at 3:00.

Commissioner Gayton stated that the LPA asked that attendance at board and committee meetings be incorporated into the ordinances. He stated that he didn't feel that the ordinances needed to be changed. Ms. Kiefer stated that the ordinances regarding Planning and Zoning state that the Commission can remove a member at any time for any reason. The Planning and Zoning board has no authority to remove a member on its own. If you want to give the P&Z the same leeway that the Code Enforcement Board has you would need to change the ordinance. Mr. Silverboard suggested that they pass a resolution that would be applicable to the boards and committees setting forth a policy on attendance. Commissioner Bildz stated that it sounded like the ordinance would need to be changed for the P&Z. Mr. Silverboard stated that a policy such as they couldn't miss more than three meetings unexcused or they would be removed. Commissioner Minning stated that the only board that has their own authority to remove is Code Enforcement. He is not sure that it is appropriate to put that authority onto the boards and take it away from the Commission.

Commissioner Collins asked about the artwork on the bridge. Mr. Silverboard stated that it is supposed to be repaired before the 25th. Commissioner Collins suggested that the bill not be paid in full because it is not completed.

Commissioner Collins asked about the house on 103rd that had a fire. Mr. Silverboard stated that the building has been secured. The Deputy Building Official has spoken with Mr. Schwarz regarding getting it taken care of. They are still dealing with the insurance company and trying to secure the funds to get the building razed. Commissioner Collins asked if we could give them a time limit. Mr. Silverboard stated that we would do what we could. He will check with Neal to see where it is.

Commissioner Collins asked if the city should put signs up on the beach warning them about lightning. Mr. Silverboard stated that we will consider it when we are redoing the regulatory signs on the beach.

Commissioner Collins stated that St. Pete Beach received a \$4,000 credit from Bell's for the incident that happened. He asked if Treasure Island had received anything. Mr. Silverboard stated that we received \$3,000. Commissioner Collins asked about the barge and if we had talked with Madeira Beach about sharing next year. Mr. Silverboard stated that we have talked with them but no agreements have been reached. He also explained that the reason that St. Pete Beach received more than we did because their display was more costly.

III. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

Ms. Kiefer stated that the federal trial has now been moved to October. Judge Moody has granted an extension to October. They filed a motion to abate due to a pending issue in the 11th Circuit Court. We will be filing an opposition to that. She expects a quick response, and will be surprised if it is granted. Commissioner Bildz asked if it is granted, does she know when the 11th Circuit will come up. Ms. Kiefer stated that it shouldn't apply as there are many issues that have nothing to do with our case. A motion for summary judgment was filed in April, and we are still waiting for that.

Ms. Kiefer stated that she has almost finished with her public records review regarding the sewer rates with St. Pete. They are looking at information St. Pete Beach. The public hearing to raise the rates is on September 5th or 6th, and she suggests that someone attend and object to the rate increase. They have sent a draft agreement, which is in their favor. She has identified legal issues. Mr. Silverboard pointed out that this is for the rate increase only – not the surcharge.

Ms. Kiefer stated that there was a conference regarding the erosion control like held a few weeks ago. They are identifying problems, but not addressing solutions. The Florida Supreme Court has not addressed erosion yet.

Ms. Kiefer gave an update on several lawsuits. Sunset Bay LLC has filed a complaint due to the denial of a special exception. She feels that it can be resolved, and requested an executive session to discuss this case.

Mr. Silverboard reported that he had received a call from Leslie Craig with NOAA. They have received our information for the memorandum of understanding. They would like to come down and talk to us about this. He requested that Commissioner Minning be present at the meeting.

Mr. Silverboard stated that he has received a draft agreement from the county offering us \$180,000 in funding to put in additional beach dune walkovers. We would need to identify where they would be installed. He suggested that the Beach Stewardship Committee make recommendations where they should be installed. We should be able to put in four or five of them. The only local match required is staff monitoring the project. It is a reimbursable grant.

Mr. Silverboard stated that the palm in front of the Floridian has been diagnosed as dead, and will be replaced shortly with another palm.

Mr. Silverboard stated that the Commissioner has been provided with a report on the Lenehan matter.

Mr. Silverboard stated that on the issue of the ECL, we have different entities within the DEP taking different positions. We are asking the Secretary to give us a consistent answer. Nicole Elko drafted that letter.

Commissioner Gayton asked Ms. Kiefer if the Commission needed to pass a resolution asking for the Beach Stewardship Committee's opinion on the walkovers. Ms. Kiefer stated that staff can make that recommendation.

IV. REPORTS & COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Minning stated that he wanted to thank Mr. Silverboard and staff for the Mayor/Commission report forms. They are helpful.

Commissioner Minning reported that the PICA summer outing was successful.

Commissioner Minning stated that he spoke with Mr. Hoffman during the break, and he wants to continue on the Marina Committee.

Commissioner Minning commented that the TRIM notices are out.

Commissioner Bildz reported that he spoke with Jerry Dabkowski at the FLC conference. He asked him when the lights would be synchronized. Mr. Dabkowski stated that he thought the county had the money, and was waiting for a request. He also wondered why Publix was not required to provide a light.

Commissioner Bildz stated that the Mayor of Pembroke Pines is the new president of the FLC. He will be asking all cities for a resolution regarding global warming.

Commissioner Bildz stated that there were budgets being approved in the near future, and we should let our representatives know about cuts that we don't want.

Mayor Maloof stated that tonight the County Commission is having a public hearing on the tourism density.

Mayor Maloof received an e-mail today that Friday August 24th will be the first meeting of the new transportation board. She would like someone to attend.

Mayor Maloof stated that the Florida League of Cities was a great meeting. The theme was affordable housing. The speakers were very good.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 by Mayor Maloof