

**CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND, FLORIDA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP
SEPTEMBER 5, 2007**

The workshop was called to order at 7:17 p.m. by Mayor Maloof.

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Treasure Island Historical Society

Robert Dowling spoke representing the Treasure Island Historical Society. He introduced Donna White, who started the Historical Society. They have met with the City Manager to discuss some of the items that are presented in the packet materials. They are now an active Florida Non-profit Corporation. Their membership is now at 44. They hold monthly meetings on the second Monday of each month. He gave a brief report on their current activities. They are looking for display areas to display the items that they have. They are looking for sponsorship, and for additional materials to display. Items are currently stored off island in a humidity controlled storage area. They would like the City to endorse and support the Historical Society's efforts through a resolution or proclamation. They are requesting use of city owned property at no charge for fund raising events and for cataloging. They will eventually be looking for support for a museum. They are also looking for support from citizens in the form of memberships. Citizens can contact Donna White for further information, or to arrange for the donation of items or to volunteer to assist in cataloging items.

Commissioner Collins asked if T115 could be used for this purpose. Mr. Silverboard stated that he saw nothing to prohibit showing a power point demonstration or providing some programming that would be in the community interest. Commissioner Collins asked if it would be appropriate for an announcement asking for donations to be on T115. Mr. Silverboard answered in the affirmative.

Commissioner Minning asked where to send the \$25 membership fee. Checks should be made out to the Treasure Island Original Historical Society and sent to the Chamber office.

Mayor Maloof presented Mr. Dowling with an engineering study done on the Treasure Island Bridge that was done by a Wall Street firm in 1949.

Commissioner Bildz stated that he was concerned with staff time. Our staff is already heavily burdened. He also expressed concern with the use of city buildings, as there is not much space. Mr. Dowling stated that this would be on a time and space available basis. Commissioner Bildz also stated that he could support the use of City facilities at no charge only if there was not another function. He expressed concern with the future plan for the museum and how it would be done. Mr. Dowling stated that it was a concept, and they would go before the Planning Board at the appropriate time.

Commissioner Minning asked what kind of endorsement or support they would need from the Commission in order for them to apply for grants. Mr. Dowling stated that they were not sure at this time, but would be asking the City Planner, Lynn Rosetti, for help with that.

Ms. White asked for clarification on how to speak to the Commissioners without violating the Sunshine laws. She can speak to them one at a time.

Mr. Dowling asked Ms. Rosetti for some input on the process to apply for grants. Ms. Rosetti gave information on several state organizations where they might apply for grants. She suggested several resources that were available.

Mayor Maloof wished them luck with their project. Ms. White requested the donation of old frames to get started.

2. Res. 07-84 Madeira Beach Middle School Use of the Treasure Island Pirate

Mr. Silverboard gave a brief explanation of this item. The principal of Madeira Beach Middle School has asked for permission to use the likeness of the pirate in the City Logo. Since this is trademarked, the Commission would have to give permission for the use of the logo. Commissioner Collins asked if the logo should also be copyrighted. Attorney Peck explained that upon creation of an item you have a copyright. There is a mechanism for registering that copyright.

It was suggested that they be allowed to use it with the provision that there is some reference to Treasure Island on it. This item will move forward to the September 19, 2007 meeting agenda.

3. Res. 07-69 Water Pollution Control Rate Adjustment

Mr. Silverboard gave a brief explanation of the item. This item was reviewed at the last budget workshop. The increase is less than originally proposed. St. Petersburg will be increasing their rate by 4.7%. He will be attending a public hearing on this tomorrow. They feel that they can justify their rate increase. It is intended to cover the proposed 25% surcharge that they have indicated that they will impose on the city at the beginning of January, 2008. We are seeking legal recourse on the implementation of that surcharge, and hope to be able to challenge it, but we have to recognize that it is likely that there will be some sort of surcharge, and will need to collect sufficient funds to cover it. A single family homeowner currently pays approximately \$55.00. This increase would be approximately \$5.48 per month, or a little less than \$70 on an annual basis. Commissioner Collins stated that this would be a worse case scenario, but it could be less if the surcharge ends up being less than 25%. He asked about other cities paying less. Mr. Silverboard explained the situation in St. Pete Beach. As other cities' contracts are expiring St. Petersburg is imposing the surcharges. There are already communities paying the surcharge. Commissioner Gayton asked for the information on the public hearing. Commissioner Bildz stated that it is a user fee, and goes to pay for the use of the sewer, and that the average family would be paying \$2 per day to ensure that they have the use.

This item will move forward to the September 19th meeting agenda.

4. Res. 07-78 Solid Waste Rate Adjustment

Mr. Silverboard explained the increase that was discussed at the last budget workshop. This provides a 5% increase in the solid waste collection for normal garbage. It includes a 67% increase in recycling. We are in a new contract with Waste Management, and the contract increased considerably. We are also proposing a fee for picking up bulk items such as white goods. There would be a minimum fee for the pickup, then a per item fee.

Commissioner Collins questioned the amount of the increase in costs for recycling, and the cost to each household for it. Public Works Director, Don Hambidge, explained the reason for the increase. Commissioner Collins asked about the pickup of additional bulk items prior to the increase, and whether people could put these items out for pick up, or if they had to call and arrange for a special pick up. Mr. Hambidge explained that they should call and make advance arrangements. When the new rates go into affect on October 1st they would call, and be billed for the items.

This item will move forward to the September 19th meeting agenda.

5. Discussion – Bascule Bridge

Mr. Hambidge gave answers to the questions that were asked by Commissioner Bildz in his request to put this item on the agenda.

1. There may be some single lane closures as needed. He realizes that it was difficult during closures, but they were necessary for the safety of citizens.
2. The trailers will be removed as soon as the construction company closes the project out. It may be until the end of November.
3. The staging area has been there since the beginning of the reclaimed water work. It should be completed and gone by the end of October.
4. The project was completed on budget, but will not be paid 100% by the grant. We got some funding for the police patrols, but still had to pay \$180,000 for the 24/7 police protection. There were several other items that have been refused. The will not pay for the electrical item, or the sealing of the cracks. It will be approximately \$205,000 that the City will have paid. The CEI and the construction work should come under the grant. If the federal highway hadn't taken its cut it would have been under the \$50,000,000. Mr. Silverboard stated that it was a great accomplishment to do this. Mr. Hambidge stated that the Commission's approval of the contingency enabled them to make decisions and do what they needed to do.
5. Mr. Hambidge stated that the request for the County or State to take over the bridge was a political question. Operationally there is no reason for them to want to take it over.
6. JBC would like us to take over the bridge tenders today, but we will take over the operation and bridge tenders at once. It will be sometime in October.
7. He didn't order the medallions until we knew we had money for them, so they will not be available until mid-December. The contractor will come back then to install them. We don't need to wait for that to take over the bridge.

8. The road construction signs will stay up as long as there are people working on the bridge, likely sometime between now and the end of October.

Commissioner Gayton asked about the 20 MPH speed limit signs and whether it will be 35 MPH when there are not workers present anymore. Mr. Hambidge answered in the affirmative.

Commissioner Collins stated that Mr. Hambidge has done an outstanding job on the bridge, and that the city owes him a debt of gratitude for what he did. Mayor Maloof also thanked him for his hard work and dedication.

6. Res. 07-67 EMS/ALS First Responder Agreement Renewal

Fire Chief, Charlie Fant, gave a brief explanation of the item. It is a straight forward renewal of the agreement with Pinellas County. The communities that provide emergency service receive a reimbursement from the county for first responder services. The agreement calls for a 3% increase for the upcoming fiscal year, and a minimum of 3%, or a price index increase for the next 4 years. The contract is proposed for a term of 5 years at this time as opposed to the 10 years in the past. He feels that is more appropriate than 10 years, as it allows them to address issues more quickly. The date should be changed from 2017 to 2012.

Commissioner Collins read a paragraph that was written by the board of commissioners and asked for clarification of it. Mr. Fant explained that it should be disregarded – it was addressed in a letter received later.

Commissioner Bildz suggested that the contract is very lengthy, and perhaps doesn't need to be reprinted for the next meeting.

This item will move forward to the September 19th meeting agenda.

7. Res. 07-80 Beach Renourishment Reserves

Mr. Silverboard gave a brief explanation of this item. This fund will be absorbed into the general fund. We will be reserving \$500,000 for emergency beach renourishment as a match if needed. It would not be able to be used for any other purpose without specific Commission action.

Commissioner Collins asked what other projects could be affected by freezing the use of this money. Mr. Silverboard stated that nothing else would be affected. There would be things that it could be used for, but it would take a specific action of the Commission to free it up for use, including beach renourishment. Commissioner Minning explained that right now there is already \$500,000 there – it is just being moved from the beach fund to the general fund.

Commissioner Bildz explained that currently parking meter money goes into the beach fund. When this is moved to the general fund that money will go into the general fund. He asked when the rates would increase.

This item will move forward to the September 19th meeting agenda.

8. Res. 07-81 Attendance Requirement for Boards and Committees

Mr. Silverboard gave a brief explanation of this item. The Commission has discussed developing a uniform policy for attendance by board and committee members. The Code Enforcement Board has a policy in place, but none of the other boards and committees do. It is being suggested that members cannot have more than three unexcused absences in a rolling twelve month period. It would be the chairman's responsibility to notify the City Manager of excess absences.

Commissioner Collins stated that any ambiguity should be cleared up, such as who a member should report an absence to in advance of a meeting. Mr. Silverboard stated that we could add an item to clarify that.

Commissioner Gayton stated that the language in the resolution states that the member "may" be removed. He feels it should state that they "shall" be removed. We currently have the authority to remove members.

Commissioner Bildz stated that it shouldn't have to go to a Commission Workshop for discussion. If a member has an absentee problem the board should have the authority to remove them. Mr. Silverboard stated that the City Attorney advised this because they are appointed by the Commission. Mr. Peck concurred. Commissioner Gayton stated that it is not that way on the Code Enforcement Board, and all boards should be the same way. Commissioner Collins agreed. Commissioner Minning commented that rather than calling it the chairman, it should simply read the chair.

Joe Roberts thanked the Commission for addressing this. He stated that there is a problem on the Planning and Zoning board. They have had meetings where they did not have a quorum. Members do this to give back to the community. There is a member that has gone to one meeting in six months.

Commissioner Collins asked if this would be from this point forward, or would it be retroactive. It would be from this point forward.

The wording was clarified, changing "may" to "shall", and changing "chairman" to "chair". Commissioner Bildz stated that if the wording was "shall", why vote on it, if there is no choice, and suggested that it be changed to "should". Commissioner Gayton and Mayor Maloof stated that they thought it should be shall. Commissioner Bildz stated that the majority of our boards do a wonderful job.

This item will move forward to the September 19th meeting agenda.

9. Res. 07-83 Planning Board Appointment

Commissioner Bildz stated that Steve Gingrich has resigned, and he believes he will have an applicant before the next meeting. He also stated that the City is in dire need of applicants.

Commissioner Minning stated that there will be a pending opening in District 3, and asked for volunteers.

10. Res. 07-85 Employee Health Insurance

Mr. Turner gave an explanation of the changes in the employee health insurance. The new plan will be approximately 4% less than the current plan. The differences shift costs to the users of services such as the emergency room, hospital inpatient and outpatient, and diagnostic tests.

This item will move forward to the September 19th meeting agenda.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Collins asked what the status was for the crosswalks and new lights that were discussed several weeks ago. Mr. Silverboard explained that Mr. Hambidge has reviewed the locations with the contractor and we are still waiting for the proposal from the contractor. The new lights have been incorporated into the bid specifications. We have not gone out for bid yet. Commissioner Collins asked when to anticipate the bids going out. Mr. Silverboard has been unable to get the answer from Mr. Hambidge. He will discuss it at tomorrow's staff meeting.

Commissioner Collins asked about an abandoned home on 4th Street. It is in need of attention, and he has received complaints about it. Mr. Silverboard will be addressing Code Enforcement under City Manager comments.

Commissioner Collins asked about the time frame for the work on 102nd, and clarified that it will be repaired and not replaced.

Commissioner Collins asked if we had received the reimbursement for the fireworks. Mr. Silverboard stated that we have not received the check, but it has been agreed upon. There has been another mishap with that company this past weekend.

Commissioner Gayton asked for clarification as to whether the signals being used in St. Petersburg are being included in the bid requests. Mr. Silverboard stated that he did not think there would be a specific signal included. Positive comments were made about the signals being used in St. Petersburg.

III. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

Mr. Silverboard discussed Code Enforcement with the Commission. In the past the city has gone in and abated problems with properties, and then there is no violation, and the city has done the work for nothing. He feels that it should be stopped, and the code enforcement process of citing and taking to the code board be followed. This allows the city to file a lien if they are fined and don't pay. It also allows us to charge an administrative fee to cover the work that is done to monitor these properties. That is not being done currently. We now have the public coming in and being dissatisfied with us for not getting the property mowed. We have a situation where the electricity is turned off, and now we have to deal with it. He does not feel that it is the city's responsibility, and should be the homeowner's responsibility. With the current mortgage situation we may see more and more of these properties. We should be doing a more aggressive job of contacting these lenders to take care of the properties. We will in some instances have to mow properties, but we are reducing our public works crews by three, so it will be an effort to keep up with our own properties. He suggested that we go out to bid to find an outside contractor to do this work when necessary. We would then be able to place a lien to cover it, and also impose an administrative fee. We have difficulty foreclosing on a lien on

homesteaded property, so it might be a long time before we are able to collect the money. He has been trying to get the process changed, and the thinking in the code enforcement area. We should be as friendly as possible to our residents, but when we have someone who consistently doesn't comply we should take them to the board and file a lien. We should try to avoid getting in the position of taking care of many properties in town.

Commissioner Collins stated that he visited the property in question, and the pool has not been shocked and is going to start impacting the neighbors. He would like to put something on the agenda for the next meeting to do something about this. He is in favor of liening the properties and imposing large administrative fees. This is for chronic offenders. Mr. Silverboard stated that this particular property is going to be on the next code enforcement board agenda to be adjudicated. This should have been taken care of two months ago. Commissioner Collins asked how long the property has to be in that state before the city can start putting a fine on the property. Mr. Silverboard stated that the citizen questioning the 90 days had been given misinformation. We have to give them a reasonable time to comply. If they don't comply we can ask the board to meet more often, if needed. We have to get used to working that way and get procedures in place.

Commissioner Gayton stated that he agrees with what Mr. Silverboard is saying, and doesn't see the need for it to be on a meeting agenda. The past administrative policy has been very lax. Mr. Silverboard is suggesting that we tighten up that administrative policy, and enforce more aggressively.

Mr. Silverboard stated that once they are taken to the board once, and they come out of compliance, they can be fined immediately. It will make it expensive enough for them to want to take care of the property.

Commissioner Collins stated that the reason he requested it to go to the meeting was to get it started faster, and asked if it could be taken care of without a meeting. Mr. Silverboard stated that it is already been started, and doesn't feel that a meeting is necessary. He was advising them of what he has started.

Joe Roberts stated that the property being discussed is in his backyard, and he feels that it is a health hazard. He complained in July in writing. He was told that it will be coming before the board on the 27th. He is happy that the code enforcement board is being proactive. He noticed that the property on 107th that has come before the board has tall grass again.

Commissioner Bildz stated that we should not be mowing people's grass for free. He asked Mr. Silverboard if they had gotten prices on a firm to take care of the causeway. Mr. Silverboard stated that the people that take care of the causeway do other things too, so it would be more expensive.

Commissioner Gayton stated that he would like to see the city go out tomorrow and shock the pool, but wondered if we were permitted to go on private property. Mr. Silverboard stated that if there was a health threat we can. Mr. Peck stated that you can not go on someone's property without implied permission unless there is immediate danger. Mowing the grass or shocking the pool would not be acceptable without an administrative warrant. Commissioner Collins stated that we should get this started to deal with the pool now. Commissioner Gayton stated that he agrees with Commissioner Collins, and asked for clarification on the procedure. Mr. Peck explained what has to be done. The City Attorney would file this at the direction of the City

Commission. Mr. Silverboard stated that he needs to discuss this with the City Attorney and will take the appropriate action.

Mr. Silverboard reported that he and Commissioner Minning would be meeting with representatives from NOAA tomorrow regarding the \$380,000.

IV. REPORTS & COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Collins reported on the BIG-C meeting that was held last week. They had a speaker on derelict boats. It costs approximately \$20,000 to remove a derelict boat from Hurricane Hole, which is a popular spot to abandon a boat. They also had a presentation by a company that assists cities in securing grants. All of its members are former government officials. This may be a less expensive alternative than what we are currently paying for.

Commissioner Collins has been talking with business owners here in Treasure Island. They are all saying that their business is terrible. He is proposing holding a symposium to discuss doing national advertising to attract business to Treasure Island. He volunteered to chair this. He would like to hear from business owners this week.

Mayor Maloof read several very complimentary letters that she received regarding the bridge.

Mayor Maloof reported that the Brighthouse issue was discussed at the Mayor's Council meeting today. They are going to approach the League of Cities for assistance.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dominique Reiter commented that she attended all the budget meetings. She did not hear the pick up items addressed. She asked what mechanism would be used for condo owners who don't have solid waste bills. Mr. Silverboard stated that they would be setting up an administrative process that would require some sort of authorization for associations and they would be letting the associations know.

Ms. Reiter commented that she is unhappy with the work done on 2nd Street. It was not returned back to its original condition. She is upset that they will just be doing a patch job. They have cut out the grass between the sidewalk and the street. Her association just spent \$2,000 on a beautification project, and she was assured by the construction manager that it would be returned to its original state, but that has not been done. She wants the road repaved correctly, and wants the correct sod replaced everywhere it has been disturbed.

Joe Roberts commented on the new 90 gallon containers. There is a situation where multi-unit properties are leaving them near the street, and it is unsightly. Commissioner Collins stated that it seems to be a problem in rental homes. Mr. Silverboard stated that we need to send a letter telling them to get them out of sight. They can be cited if they don't comply.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

The workshop was adjourned at 9:23 by Mayor Maloof.