

**CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND, FLORIDA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP
May 20, 2008**

The workshop was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Mayor Maloof.

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Consideration of Res. 08-46, Interlocal Agreement for Secondary EOC Emergency Power Upgrades.

Fire Chief Charlie Fant gave a brief explanation of this item. The Pasadena Community Church allows us to use their facility as a secondary Emergency Operation Center in the event of an emergency. We have installed antennas and other equipment. We have also put in very limited emergency power. We have had an evaluation done, and for \$15,000 we can upgrade the power system to provide power to most of the building. This would be shared equally in the amount of \$5,000 each by each of the three communities that share the facility.

Commissioner Bildz asked why we would have to use our generator. Chief Fant explained that we have it available and it would be towed there anyway. If we didn't use it we would be sharing the cost of renting one. As soon as we can return to the island that generator would be coming back here, so it is only to be used during the height of the storm. Commissioner Minning asked if we got remunerated for the use of the generator. Mr. Silverboard stated that we keep track of all expenses, equipment use, and man hours to be submitted to FEMA in the event of a reimbursable event. Mr. Fant stated that we would submit what we could, and would share the cost of the fuel.

This item will appear on the June 3, 2008 Commission Meeting agenda.

2. Consideration of Res. 08-47, Group Medical Insurance Renewal.

Personnel Director Fred Turner gave a brief explanation of the renewal rates that he has negotiated. He recommends Alternative #2 as the best choice for the City and employees. The most significant change is the addition of a calendar year deductible, but it lowers the cost of office visit co-pays and the out of pocket maximums to be paid. It would save the City \$16,000 over our current rates.

Commissioner Collins asked why Mr. Turner doesn't like Alternative #5. Mr. Turner answered that it has a \$1,000 deductible before it pays anything. It also raises the doctor visits from the current \$15 to \$20.

Mr. Turner stated that as we did last year we could go back and renegotiate another plan. The only possible issue is that if we reduce staff and get below 100 covered lives we can't get the same underwriting classification.

Commissioner Collins stated that we would be saving \$60,000 if we went with Alternative #5. Commissioner Bildz stated that the difference was actually \$50,000 between the two alternatives. Commissioner Gayton asked for an explanation of the deductible. Mr. Turner explained that it was the amount that the employee would pay out of pocket before the plan started to cover anything.

Commissioner Minning stated that Alternative #5 would cost an individual an additional \$750 out of pocket and a family an additional \$1500 out of pocket over Alternative #2. We are facing economic difficulties, but so are the employees. He stated that he likes the savings for the City, but feels that Alternative #2 is a reasonable alternative for the City.

Commissioner Collins asked if based on his observations, did Mr. Turner still feel that Alternative #2 was still the best choice for the City. Mr. Turner stated that there were advantages and disadvantages to all of the alternatives. Mr. Silverboard stated that we made a modest reduction in the health care coverage last year, and we are proposing a moderate reduction this year as well. The general employees did not receive their step increases last year, and only a very small cost of living. It is not the employees' fault that we are in a difficult financial situation, and we will have many years of looking at our expenses.

Commissioner Collins stated again that he likes Alternative #5 because of the savings to the City. Commissioner Bildz stated that he agrees with Commissioner Collins. Commissioner Gayton asked for clarification regarding the amount that the employee would have to pay out of pocket under alternatives #5 and #2. It would be \$1,000/\$2,000 under alternative #5, and \$250/\$500 under alternative #2. Commissioner Gayton stated that it is rare that we can offer a good benefit for a reduction in price. He agrees with the City Manager and would feel more comfortable offering alternative #2. The difference in out of pocket to the employee is much more in alternative #5. Commissioner Minning stated that he agrees with Commissioner Gayton and the City Manager. Mayor Maloof stated that she agreed with that as well.

This item will move forward to the June 3, 2008 meeting agenda.

3. Consideration of Res. 08-48, Request for an Insurance Consultant.

Mr. Turner gave a brief explanation of this item. We are paying premiums in excess of \$500,000 for all the different coverage that we have. Some of the coverage is difficult to obtain. We have always renewed with the League of Cities and taken their advice. He feels that it would be good to have an outside consultant who does not sell insurance come in and analyze our risk and levels of coverage. He would like to put a Request for Proposal out by the beginning of July, and get responses by the end of July or beginning of August. He would like a consultant to handle that process. It is around \$15,000 to \$18,000 to hire a consultant, but if we save 3% off our premiums it will more than pay for that. In addition, it will give us peace of mind that we are properly insured. He would like to get proposals to bring back to the next meeting.

Commissioner Collins asked if Mr. Turner felt confident that hiring a consultant would save us at least that much in premiums. Mr. Turner answered in the affirmative, and stated that it would also assure us that our coverage is correct.

Commissioner Gayton asked if there were no longer insurance agents that could handle this for us. Mr. Silverboard stated that we can shop now without a consultant. What Mr. Turner is saying is that we have never had an outside party do the analysis to ensure that our coverage is appropriate. This would be someone who does not sell insurance. It would help determine our insurance needs, help us to go out for proposals, and then review the proposals. Commissioner Gayton commented that when he was in business he relied on his insurance agent to do that for him. Mr. Silverboard stated that this would be an impartial consultant. Commissioner Gayton asked where the money for this would come from. Mr. Silverboard stated that it would come out of the various funds.

Mayor Maloof asked if it would be someone who specialized in government. Mr. Turner answered in the affirmative.

Commissioner Collins asked what would happen if the Florida League of Cities used the same consultant. Would our insurance be cheaper? Mr. Turner stated that we would analyze the situation and choose the lower cost alternative. Mr. Silverboard explained that the League of Cities is an insurance company. There are others out there as well that specialize in government. We are hoping that the League of Cities would sharpen their pencils and that we will get some reasonable quotes from the other firms as well. Mr. Turner stated that there would be some differences in the way they would propose.

Commissioner Minning stated that he would be interested in going out with an RFP. Attorney Kiefer stated that she agreed that it would be a good idea to do so. Ms. Kiefer gave a brief explanation of the PRM investment pool that also insures municipalities. She will provide the Commission with some information on that. She also commented that the League of Cities has put out at least a quarter of a million dollars in attorney's fees.

This item will move forward to the June 3, 2008 meeting agenda. Mr. Turner will bring back proposals for the Commission's consideration.

4. Discussion – 6 Month Budget Review

Finance Director Ruth Chapman gave a brief update on the budget as it stands at six months. She did not include the Causeway Fund that was rolled into the General Fund. She only covered the expenditures that were not covered by the grant.

Commissioner Gayton asked where the \$53,000 revenue that was discussed in Paragraph three came from. Ms. Chapman gave an explanation of where those funds would have been in previous years. Commissioner Gayton stated that we have already accumulated \$75,000 in gas tax money that was not in the General Fund last year. He asked if that amount should be \$53,000 plus the \$75,000. Ms. Chapman stated that she understood what he was saying, but wasn't sure where it should be shown. Mr. Silverboard stated that those funds were to pay for street maintenance. Commissioner Gayton commented that he understood where the money was going, but that this amount was not included in the General Fund last year. A brief discussion of the Gas Tax Fund ensued.

Commissioner Gayton stated that this revenue status does not give him a warm feeling. He discussed areas where there would be shortfalls, and expressed concern that if we kept taking money out of reserves then the reserves would be depleted in just a few years. He gave an analysis of where he saw the budget at this time, at the end of the year, and at the

end of several years out. Mr. Silverboard discussed preliminary audit figures and stated that the fund balance is higher than on the earlier reports.

Commissioner Minning commented that he appreciated the time that Commissioner Gayton put into this. He stated that we as a Commission have some control over whether these are the numbers that we end up with. He also did an analysis. It is not a valid assumption that the second six months will be the same as the first. Some things are weighted towards the first six months, and some the second. He asked Mr. Silverboard where we are at the end of six months. Mr. Silverboard answered that we are reasonably close to budget, that we will have to dip into fund balance as planned, and that next year would be difficult.

Mayor Maloof stated that Commissioner Gayton puts a lot of time into his analysis, but if he is getting erroneous numbers it might be better if he met with the City Manager to get a better grasp of the figures. Commissioner Gayton stated that he is going by what was provided. His intent was not to challenge anything, but to show the citizens that we don't have an excess fund balance and need to be careful of what we take out of it. We have a tremendous shortfall, and nowhere in the revenues does he see us making up anything. The Commission agreed that we will have to make some hard decisions.

Commissioner Collins asked for an explanation of the funds being held in "Fund B". Ms. Chapman explained that "Fund B" was a holding account, and we have not booked the revenues from "Fund B" because it is not liquid until it has been moved to "Fund A". It is frozen until the State Board of Administration releases the money to "Fund A". Mr. Silverboard stated that this is related to the bad investments made by the SBA's Local Government Investment Pool. Hopefully we will get it all back at some point in time.

5. Discussion – St. Pete Beach Slow Speed Minimum Wake Zone (Requested by Commissioner Bildz).

Commissioner Bildz commented that hopefully it would be the St. Pete Beach/Treasure Island Slow Speed Minimum Wake Zone. We now have the opportunity to pass the same ordinance that St. Pete Beach has recently passed making the Slow Speed Minimum Wake Zone a seven day a week one rather than just weekends and holidays.

Commissioner Minning stated that he personally uses Blind Pass with his boat. He doesn't use it as much on week days as he does on weekends. He thinks the weekend traffic probably far exceeds weekday traffic. He has only received one e-mail regarding this issue. He hasn't seen any problems, so doesn't see a reason to change it. Commissioner Bildz stated that this does not restrict the use of Blind Pass; it just asks boaters to slow down until they get to the Gulf. St. Pete Beach has in their ordinance 200 feet from any dock, no matter where in the city, for their Slow Speed zone. Mr. Silverboard stated that he isn't sure that it is enforceable. Commissioner Bildz commented that if we made it the same all the time it would be easy to enforce. He attended the St. Pete Beach Commission meeting last week, and their police were in favor because it would be easier to enforce.

Mayor Maloof commented that when they looked at this before there was a lot of public comment, and she felt that what they did was a fairly made decision, so she would rather not change it.

Commissioner Collins stated that he has received two e-mails opposed to this. He has not heard anything else.

Richard Kraus spoke to the Commission as a 49 year resident and boater of this area. He feels that the arrangement works, so why change it just because St. Pete Beach has asked. Often it is small groups of people that gather together on these types of issues, and the majority doesn't know there is anything going on. From a safety standpoint, the more regulated and constricted the waterways become the more congested the open areas will become. This area is part of Treasure Island's allure, and we really don't need to further restrict the area. Due to the condition of the economy and high fuel prices, boating is probably down. St. Pete's ordinance states that it is to provide for the safety of boaters. He is not aware of any accidents in Blind Pass. There is nothing to fix. He asked that with a majority consensus they put this aside and not carry it forward for a vote.

Mayor Maloof stated that she called the Mayor in St. Pete Beach regarding this decision. He told her that he felt pressured by certain residents into this because of dolphins and manatees being killed. Mayor Maloof stated that in the past they had been told that they had to have mirror ordinances in adjoining communities, but she is not sure that it is the case. Mr. Kraus stated that there is no such requirement, and if dolphins and manatees were being killed we would have heard about it in the news. He asked that they leave the ordinance as is.

Commissioner Minning stated that when the ordinance was passed in 1997 the vote was unanimous, including the Commissioner from District 4. Commissioner Bildz stated that we should go by what the people that live there say. They are the ones that see the unsafe antics. Do we have to wait until somebody dies? The people in St. Pete Beach that live on Blind Pass are the ones that are for it. It will only cost people an extra five or ten minutes to get through. We are not asking them to not go through the pass, but to slow down. Mr. Kraus stated that if these issues did exist it is not a question of speed, but of enforcement. People speed all the time in the streets, and it is an enforcement issue. Penalizing everyone that uses the waterways is not the answer.

Jeff Warner stated that he uses Blind Pass all the time, and this is one of the few times that he disagrees with his Commissioner. He sees no need for this at this time. Until someone can come through with some viable evidence he does not see a reason for this. The heaviest traffic is on the weekends and holidays. He rarely disagrees with his Commissioner, but he can't agree with this. Recreational boating is huge, not only in Treasure Island, but in the entire state of Florida. With the way things are now we shouldn't be doing anything to slow that down.

Mayor Maloof asked Ms. Kiefer if she was aware of any issue that would require both municipalities to have matching ordinances. Ms. Kiefer stated that she is not aware of anything. Commissioner Bildz stated that it is an enforceability issue. If St. Pete Beach has a slow speed and we don't all the fast boaters will be on our side. He suggested that we fill the house next meeting and bring this forward for a vote. Mayor Maloof commented that she has gone to Sunset Beach Homeowners meetings and they do request that, but she feels that what they have in place is fair.

Mayor Maloof asked the opinion of the Commission as to whether they should move forward with this. Commissioners Collins and Minning stated that they don't see a need to change it. Commissioner Gayton stated that it is good to have the people's opinion, but sees no need to move it forward at this time.

6. Discussion – Central Beach Trail Improvement Project (Requested by Commissioner Minning).

Commissioner Minning stated that this has been sitting idle for some time, so he felt that it should be brought up for discussion.

Mr. Silverboard gave a brief update on where the Commission had left this. The Commission had previously passed a resolution stating that it wasn't going to extend the trail either north or south, but that it would look into updating the existing trail using the recommendations in the Graham study. He doesn't feel that we can afford to do all the improvements. The estimated cost several years ago was almost \$1,900,000. We are not in a position to fund that at this time. What the Commission needs to decide is what we do want to do out there. Perhaps the Commission should have a special meeting to take a walk out there to see what is there now, and what you want to do with it. We need to set up a process for determining how we are going to decide what to do out there. Once we have an idea of what we want to do out there we have to get some estimates on the funding and how we would pay for it. In addition we have the NOAA fund, which is \$380,000. They have given us permission to put in the wayfaring icons, limited approval for putting in some walkways, and to repair walkways, and some signage. Other than that we cannot use that to do extensive renovations of the existing beach trail. It was specifically denied in our request.

Commissioner Collins asked about the \$380,000 and if it had decreased from the original amount. Commissioner Minning clarified that it was originally \$425,000. Commissioner Collins asked if the money would go back to the State if we don't use it all. Mr. Silverboard stated that they have tentatively agreed to our plan to use it, and if we don't use it, it goes back to the trust. Commissioner Collins stated that we should get started on this right away and use as much of this money as we can. He was disappointed that we are not allowed to repair the beach walk. He likes the idea of going along the beach walk as a group.

Mayor Maloof stated that we also have a donation in the amount of \$10,000 from the Islettes to be spent on the beach trail.

Commissioner Gayton asked for clarification as to whether any of the NOAA money could be used for anything on the beach trail plan. Mr. Silverboard stated that we could possibly repair a sidewalk, but that is about it. Commissioner Gayton stated that we should get started immediately on the improvements that were to be paid for with the NOAA money and asked what they had to do to move forward. Mr. Silverboard stated that we have to submit our plans, get their approval, and then go out for bid. Commissioner Gayton stated that he liked the idea of the walk down the beach walk also.

Mr. Silverboard stated that he will plan an afternoon in June for the Commission to get out there. He stated that if we could find a way to get the major components done by the private sector as part of their requirements for increasing density as a trade off we might be able to get the private sector to undertake some of these improvements. He is not suggesting that we throw away the book in terms of density, but at some point in time we are going to have to look at density in that area anyway.

Commissioner Gayton suggested that they get moving on this, decide what they want to do and get going.

John Burke stated that the Beach Stewardship Committee is responsible for the beach, and suggested that they refer this to them for their comments. Commissioner Collins agreed, and suggested that the Beach Stewardship Committee be invited to join them on their walk along the beach. Commissioner Gayton stated that he agrees as well, but thought that the committee didn't want to take on any more responsibility. Mr. Burke stated that they didn't want to take on xeriscaping.

Heidi Horak asked if someone would explain what changes are being proposed to that plan. Mr. Silverboard stated that there are no changes proposed. Ms. Horak stated that certain parts could not be funded. Mr. Silverboard stated that there were some things that could not be done because we couldn't afford it, and nothing has been decided yet as to what will be done. Ms. Horak stated that she has spoken to Mr. Silverboard and Commissioner Minning regarding what should be done there. She is opposed to large sculptures, silly landscaping, and colored sidewalks. She encouraged them to let the Beach Stewardship Committee do their job and take their comments to heart.

7. Discussion of Boat and Boat Trailers in the Required Yard Areas in the RU-75 Zoning District.

Mr. Silverboard stated that this was mostly an informational item. The City went through a lot of meetings on this subject. The current code says that you can have those things, but must be stored within the building area, and outside the setback areas. We have recently received a list of properties that are mostly in the Isle of Palms that have alleged violations. We are about to embark on our code enforcement efforts by first giving a courtesy notice. If that fails we will proceed with the code enforcement process and bring them to the code enforcement board. If we start this in the Isle of Palms we will have to continue with the other areas as well. You might start hearing complaints about the enforcement of that code. That is what the Commission and Planning Board at that time recommended based on a lot of community input.

Commissioner Gayton stated that these violations were on the Isle of Palms. Most were from out of town, but there were some that were friends of his. He doesn't see why we would even consider not enforcing the ordinances as they are now. We have an ordinance on the books. These are neighbors that have talked to neighbors before complaining. This has to be done throughout the city.

Commissioner Bildz stated that we just heard about the benefits of recreational boating. He doesn't like this law. People should be able to park their boat on their property, and the law should be changed.

Commissioner Gayton stated that we had many citizens asking that the laws be enforced. We have had citizens come forward. We had unanimous decisions by the LPA and this Commission. We discussed this for hours. There is no reason for more discussion. Let's just enforce the ordinance.

Commissioner Minning agreed. He has received the same feedback.

Commissioner Collins stated that the only comments he has received were from people asking why the ordinance hasn't been enforced. He likes the idea of a courtesy notice, and asked if people would be given time to comply. He suggested giving people two weeks rather than five days as it might take time to find an alternative location for their boat.

Commissioner Gayton stated that we shouldn't deviate from the ordinance. If the ordinance states five days then it should be five days. Commissioner Collins stated that the city has some responsibility in that they have not enforced the ordinance. Commissioner Gayton stated that the city is reasonable. If someone needs extra time they could request an extension. Commissioner Bildz stated that if they don't comply in the five days they will not be fined on the sixth day. Mr. Silverboard stated that if people communicate we will be reasonable with them. Commissioner Gayton stated that 99% of the people probably don't know that they are not allowed to have it there.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Gayton asked about the boat ramps. Mr. Silverboard stated that they would be started any day now. Commissioner Bildz asked about the dune walkovers. Commissioner Minning explained that Mr. Raus was working to get a "turtle friendly" plan in place.

Commissioner Gayton asked for an update on the sewer surcharge. Ms. Kiefer stated that she has sent a letter to St. Petersburg asking for a meeting and is awaiting their response.

Commissioner Gayton asked about the traffic light at 104th and Gulf Blvd. He had asked for a copy of the concurrency report from Publix. Mr. Silverboard stated that he has asked staff for that information. Commissioner Gayton asked that this be put on the agenda for the next workshop. He believes that our ordinances require the developers to supply us with a concurrency report stating that they have looked at conditions such as sewer and roads, and if there is anything that needs to be done it is the responsibility of the developer. They are supposed to supply that report before they get a permit to develop. He would like to see the report. He is asking because he has read in the newspaper that the \$300,000 from Publix might not be available in the future. During site plan review the traffic light was never mentioned. The Publix representative said that he was working on a plan with the city for a crosswalk there. Whether a light is necessary there or not he doesn't know. He would like to see whether we have a concurrency study, and wants to discuss it at the next workshop.

Commissioner Bildz asked about the status of the Sunset Vista Park dune walkover removal. Mr. Silverboard stated that things have been bogged down, and we are trying to get the approval of DEP as well as the Florida Community Trust. We are sending a proposal to DEP to put in two new dune walkovers that come out in the pavilion area that are a compromise for letting us remove the useless dune walkover. We are hoping to use some of the materials from the old walkover. We still have grant money from the county that we might be able to use. We can't move forward now because it is turtle season, and we have to get approval from those two agencies. If DEP will sign off we feel that by doing it that way we can take that to the Florida Community Trust, show them that we have a plan and approvals we will be more successful in getting them to let us move forward.

III. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

Ms. Kiefer reported that Jay Daigneault will be representing Treasure Island tomorrow in Atlanta on the Matthew Schwarz/Gulf Coast Recovery case. 75% of their cases are decided solely on written briefs, 25% on oral arguments. Hopefully we will have a decision this year. Commissioner Gayton asked if we were moving forward on the current violations. Ms. Kiefer answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Silverboard reported that he and Mike Bonfield from St. Pete Beach met with Tim Garling from the PSTA. They did agree to reduce the hourly rate that they have begun charging us for this last year of service. They have reduced it from \$70 to \$65.41 per hour. We have started negotiating a new contract, and will probably be looking at a one year extension. We will be discussing trolley service as part of the budget.

Mr. Silverboard gave a reminder that this Saturday is Sun, Sand & Swing.

Mr. Silverboard reported that summer camp registration has begun. He urged residents to take advantage of the summer camp program as it is a good program. He is talking with Mike Bonfield about coordinating recreational programs with St. Pete Beach.

Mr. Silverboard reported that the Property Appraiser will have our property values to us by June 27th.

IV. REPORTS & COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Collins reported that the Green Armada has volunteered to assist with the July Elnor Island cleanup. They are an environmental group that works all around the country.

Commissioner Collins reported that a long time resident of the Isle of Capri, Mr. Gorman passed away yesterday. He offered condolences to Mr. Gorman's family.

Commissioner Gayton clarified that there would be another cleanup in June. Commissioner Minning stated that it would be Saturday, June 28th. Commissioner Minning gave a brief explanation of what was done, and what would be done in the future.

Commissioner Gayton thanked the American Legion for replacing the torn flag at Triangle Park.

Commissioner Minning thanked everyone who showed up on May 10th to work on Elnor Island. It was a lot of fun and very rewarding to see how much was done. He reported that there are rodents on the island. Bob Dowling and Dennis Velasco have been going out and setting rat traps. He has asked Ms. Rosetti to find out if we can get an amendment to the grant to hire professional exterminators.

Mayor Maloof commented that it was a lot of fun. There were Treasure Island residents, as well as a group called Nature Matters. Two women drove from Apollo Beach because they had seen the cleanup notice on the internet.

Mayor Maloof showed a plaque that we received yesterday. It was an award from Roads and Bridges Magazine. Our bridge was voted one of the top 10 in the United States.

Mayor Maloof has had a request from a friend and Rotary Club member. He is asking for unused prescription or over the counter medications. He is going to Columbia, and to China. They are needed before June 10th, so please bring in donations before June 5th.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Heidi Horak reported that she is back from the Historic Preservation annual conference. She gave a report on some of the history of Pensacola, where the conference was held. Any city that takes on historic preservation decides to do it again. She reported on how Pensacola is developing their downtown, and how they handle events. She had the opportunity to talk to many people about what works and what doesn't.

Kevin Johnson reported that he came back from the Panhandle recently as well. The beaches were beautiful. The buildings were 20 stories high. He appreciates Treasure Island. He read from a prepared statement regarding the budget and taxes.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

The workshop was adjourned at 9:06 p.m. by Mayor Maloof.