

**CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND, FLORIDA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING ON PROPOSED FY 2008-09 BUDGET
July 22, 2008**

The workshop was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Mayor Maloof.

I. ROLL CALL

Mayor Mary Maloof		Present
Commissioner Phil Collins	District 1	Present
Commissioner Ed Gayton	District 2	Present
Commissioner Bob Minning	District 3	Present
Commissioner Alan Bildz – Vice Mayor	District 4	Present

II. OVERVIEW OF BUDGET

City Manager, Reid Silverboard, gave a brief explanation of how they would proceed with the workshop. He explained that the budget was a financial operations plan for the next year. The budget year begins on October 1st, and ends on September 30th. The budget has a variety of funds. It is required to be balanced. Revenues must match expenditures. The budget is divided into the General Fund, Enterprise Funds, and Special Revenue Funds. The General Fund provides the funding for the administrative element of the City. The Enterprise Funds pay for our business operations such as the sewer. It is financed by user charges. Revenue Funds are dedicated to specific purposes. Our budget for the upcoming year is not much larger than last year. Our budget, including transfers, is \$16,782,727. That is about \$2.7 million higher. Most of that is due to capital projects. Some of it is due to the costs of things such as energy and oil that are affecting everyone. There are four positions being eliminated. All of them are currently vacant. This is in addition to the five full time positions and two part time positions that were eliminated this past year. That is about a 10% reduction in our workforce over the past two years. We are recommending a modest cost of living increase for non-union employees. We are still negotiating with the Police and Fire unions. We are moving the salary ranges to reflect the 4% increase that we are recommending. The Commission has recently approved modifying the health insurance program, which reduced benefits slightly. It allowed us to reduce our costs by approximately \$16,000.

One change is creating a non-departmental area in the budget. This will cover expenses that are not specific to one department. We have also created a Customer Service Division to account for the recent addition of the passport service at City Hall. We have created a comprehensive Capital projects program. We are also providing contingencies in our various funds. Contingencies are for unexpected costs that arise during the year that we can not anticipate.

This was a tough budget to put together. The General Fund is probably in the worst financial shape of any of the funds. It has taken the brunt of the reductions in revenue from the property tax reform movement that has taken place over the past

few years. We have lost over \$500,000 in tax revenues. We have also moved the cost of the bridge and causeway to the General Fund. The costs every year will be increasing. We are not able to find corresponding revenue that will cover the cost that the bridge adds to the General Fund. It has put a drag on our General Fund. This year we spent money from our fund balance to balance our budget. In our audit for the FY ending 2007 we spent around \$180,000. This current year we are budgeting \$285,000 to balance our budget. We will be using most of that this year. We can't continue to drain our fund balance. What we have had to propose is a way to fully fund our General Fund through a variety of fee increases as well as some tax increases. This budget is predicated on a millage rate of 2.7998 mils, which is a slight increase over the rollback rate. The reason the millage is higher is because our assessed values have been reduced by over \$200,000,000. Of that, \$63,000,000 is due to the increased exemptions allowed by Amendment 1. The housing market has reduced our assessed values by around \$130,000,000. Those two factors have an impact of reducing our revenues close to \$400,000 by themselves. Due to that we have had to recommend going to a small part of a mil over the rollback rate. This is the equivalent of the amount necessary to fund the library. We are requesting a small increase in garbage fees to pay for the increased cost of energy. Our costs for diesel and gas will be around 90% higher than this year. We are asking for a 5% increase in the recycling fee which matches the increase that we have in the contract with Waste Management. We are requesting an increase in the Communications Services Tax, which would bring it to the maximum allowed. This has to be approved prior to September 1st, so we will bring this to the Commission at the first meeting in August so that we can meet the deadline. We are also proposing to increase the Public Service Tax on water and electricity from 6% to 10%, which is the maximum allowed by law. This also has to be done by September 1st to go into effect on January 1st, 2009. We are recommending an increase in a variety of fees. This was an extremely difficult budget to put together. We have tried to hone it down to as fine as we could do it. There isn't much to cut in this budget. There are capital projects, but most of them are funded through either LOISS money or fees that will be generated through the rate study that will be presented on Thursday.

Mr. Silverboard asked for the Commission to set down some ground rules. He asked that if there is something that a Commissioner objects to, would they vote on it then. If there are no objections they will proceed forward. The consultants will be doing a presentation on the proposed rates that they are suggesting.

Commissioner Gayton stated that he is sitting on the other side of the fence representing the taxpayers. Where is the tax relief? This calls for an increase in taxes of \$433,000. Ad Valorem taxes have been increased \$2.8 million since 2001. He stated that it is his responsibility as a representative of the community to get the increase in taxes as close to zero as possible.

Commissioner Bildz asked for clarification on the additional homestead exemption and whether it would be automatic. It will be. Commissioner Bildz stated that Commissioner Gayton's goal was admirable. Commissioner Bildz asked about

public comment. Commissioner Minning suggested that they be allowed to comment at the end.

III. REVIEW OF DEPARTMENTS:

1. General Fund Revenues

Mr. Silverboard stated that they are proposing a 3.79% increase in the current millage. Commissioner Gayton asked him several weeks ago about the amount of revenue collected in the current year versus what would be collected at the rollback rate. The difference is due to new construction. We did propose an additional 0.671 mil which is specifically to pay for the library. The library has been relatively controversial in past years. If the additional millage is not approved then we would be \$107,000 short. We anticipate adding to our fund balance in this upcoming year as opposed to having to use a portion of our fund balance. We hope that we will end up with about \$127,000 added to our fund balance in the coming year. We handed out the fund balance reconciliation. We ended the last fiscal year with an undesignated, unreserved fund balance of \$1.5 million. When the new fiscal year started we transferred the money that had been in the Beach Improvement Fund, the Public Works Sinking Fund, and the EMS Sinking Fund into the General Fund. We designated \$500,000 for the beach. In addition we also appropriated \$285,000 to make this current year budget balance, which left us with a fund balance of \$1.432 million. If we hadn't added the money from the Beach Fund and the two sinking funds it would have been \$1.2 million. We anticipate that by the end of this year that we will use at least \$64,818 of our appropriated fund balance, which will bring our fund balance down to \$1.367 million. Because we are not going to appropriate any money out of there on October 1, 2008 our fund balance should be the same. By the end of next year we should be able to add to fund balance \$127,000, bringing the balance to just short of \$1.5 million. Our policy has been to have approximately 15% in fund balance.

Commissioner Gayton stated that what they received today looks pretty good. His problem with it is that their audited statement that they signed off on was \$1.6 million. Mr. Silverboard stated that he checked with Mr. Cristini yesterday, and the ending fund balance was \$1,509,688. Commissioner Gayton stated that they would have to ask him the question when he attends the Commission meeting. For now they will work with the \$1,509,688. Mr. Silverboard explained that this is the unreserved balance. If we adopt all the fee increases we will end up with \$1,494,000 at the end of FY2009. Commissioner Gayton stated that we should not increase taxes to bring the fund balance higher than the 15%. He feels that the budget can be reduced by \$148,000.

2. City Commission

The City Clerk gave a correction to the Travel and Per Diem line bringing the total to \$5,175. Mr. Silverboard explained that we have decreased donations in this budget. Things like the regatta and boat parade have been removed.

Commissioner Minning asked about the two items for elections and what referendum was anticipated next year. Mr. Silverboard stated that they anticipated having a referendum on the downtown redevelopment issue. Additionally, the cost for ballots and voting by mail has increased due to changes in voting methods.

Commissioner Minning asked for an explanation of the Miscellaneous Commissioner Requested Expense line. Mr. Silverboard explained that he gets requests throughout the year from Commissioners for items that are not budgeted.

Commissioner Minning asked to revisit the Travel and Per Diem line. The Commission spends the second highest amount. He suggested that they consider dividing the conferences. Commissioner Gayton agreed. It was suggested that they send only two people to the Florida League of Cities, and two to the Suncoast League meetings. This will also reduce the education line.

Mr. Silverboard asked what they wanted to do about elections. It was agreed to remove the amount for the referendum election.

Commissioner Gayton suggested they remove the line item for the computer. Mark Santos, IT Director, explained that they would only replace it if necessary, but if it was necessary the funds would be available.

Commissioner Collins asked if the reduction in the Florida League of Cities line would preclude the City Manager and City Attorney attending. Mr. Silverboard stated that it would be in the individual department budgets.

3. Administration

Mr. Silverboard explained the increase in the Travel and Per Diem line. He needs to attend trainings to get the necessary points to keep his certifications.

Commissioner Minning asked how much of the administration salaries came from Enterprise Funds. Mr. Silverboard explained that it all comes from the General Fund. The General Fund is reimbursed for any work that he does for the other funds. We have not had a cost allocation plan. Commissioner Minning suggested that they look into pulling some of it out. Mr. Silverboard suggested that they needed to do a cost allocation plan, but that he could not pay for it out of this budget. The overall increase in administration is 1.8%.

4. Personnel

Mr. Silverboard explained that Mr. Turner has now been assigned risk management duties, which had previously been assigned to the Finance Department.

5. Finance

Mr. Silverboard explained that in the past we have budgeted the city insurances in Finance, when they weren't a cost of Finance. Those insurances have been moved to non-departmental. He is trying to get the cost centers as accurate as possible so that he knows what it costs to run these operations. Creating a non-departmental account helps with that.

Commissioner Minning asked a question about Travel and Per Diem. There are nine days with per diem. Is there an overnight stay involved? Ms. Chapman explained that this year's FGFOA was being held in the St. Petersburg area. The per diem would pay for mileage and meals. Commissioner Minning asked if the City required an overnight stay to pay for meals. Mr. Silverboard stated that we would not pay for hotels, but would pay for meals not covered by the conference, mileage, and parking. There would not be a set dollar amount that we would give someone. It is a reimbursement not a fixed per diem. Ms. Chapman stated that it could probably be reduced a small amount. Commissioner Minning asked about policy again. Ms. Chapman explained that if meals are reimbursed with no overnight stay they are a taxable benefit. Commissioner Minning suggested that they document the policy for clarification.

Commissioner Gayton commented on the reduction in personnel in this department.

Commissioner Minning asked about the \$5,000 for unemployment. Ms. Chapman stated that the person leaving the position may be eligible for unemployment benefits so they should be budgeted. Mr. Turner stated that they shouldn't get it as it was a voluntary termination. They can apply, and may receive the benefit.

6. City Clerk

Mr. Silverboard explained that the main increase in this department is for records storage.

7. Legal

Mr. Silverboard explained that in this budget we have budgeted \$70,000 in the WPC and Sewer Fund for expenses related to the dispute with St. Petersburg on the sewer surcharge. Rather than have the General Fund pay for the expense we put it in the Sewer Fund where it belongs. That is in addition to the \$71,000

that is here. Part of the \$25,000 miscellaneous is ongoing litigation on the Gulf Coast Recovery matter.

Commissioner Collins asked what was included in the Dues and Publications line. Mr. Silverboard stated that she had asked for what was budgeted in the current year and for litigation that we know is coming. He doesn't know about the publications. Commissioner Collins asked that they be provided with this information.

8. Information Technology

Mr. Silverboard explained that in the past all computer purchases and related equipment were budgeted in this budget. We have now put those purchases in the department that is requesting it, or into non-departmental. That allows us to show the costs more accurately where they belong.

Commissioner Minning asked about the travel and per diem. The total is high. Mr. Santos gave an explanation of the line item.

Commissioner Collins asked about the \$90 for clothing. It is \$30 each for one city polo shirt for each employee in the department.

9. Police

Mr. Silverboard explained that the personnel cost for salaries does not reflect the cost of an increase for the unionized employees.

Commissioner Minning asked if we have any idea of what those are at this time. Mr. Silverboard stated that we do not know what will be negotiated.

Commissioner Gayton asked for an explanation of the proposal from the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Silverboard stated that he had asked the Chief to get a proposal to have the Sheriff's Department take over the dispatch services. He was also asked to get proposals for detectives and someone to take over records. He has provided the Commission with a copy of their proposal. The Sheriff also gave them an unsolicited proposal to do the whole thing. Mr. Silverboard feels that the prices are out of line to do the whole thing. He looked at each individual element. For doing dispatch we would have an initial start up cost for one year of \$12,480 plus the training and data input. The cost of doing the dispatching would be \$132,635. These prices are preliminary and we would need to negotiate the details. The cost for our current dispatch is approximately \$240,000. There would be a savings the first year of about \$90,000, and roughly \$110,000 thereafter. That would change from year to year.

Commissioner Minning asked if there was thought of talking to St. Pete Beach or Gulfport about these services. Mr. Silverboard reported that St. Pete Beach had asked for a proposal from the Sheriff as well, but has decided not to do it this

year, but would sometime in the future. They have a slightly different issue. Their software is antiquated and will be expensive to replace. They will also be going with the court and records system, but it will not be this year. He has not looked at St. Petersburg or Gulfport.

Commissioner Gayton asked what the cost to the city was now for everything that the Sheriff has proposed. Have we done a cross comparison? Mr. Silverboard stated that he has done that. He will put it together and provide them with it tomorrow.

Commissioner Bildz asked what the difference was between service bonuses and retention bonuses. Mr. Turner explained that we no longer have retention bonuses. Commissioner Bildz asked if we still needed to budget for five retention bonuses. Mr. Turner stated that we did not. The \$7,000 can be removed.

Commissioner Gayton asked to discuss Marine Patrol, and asked why the elimination of this item is less than what was budgeted for it last year. Mr. Silverboard stated that there is a capital project to replace the engines on the boat, but we will not need to have that expense. It is not included in the budget. Commissioner Gayton asked what the reduction was by eliminating the marine patrol. Mr. Silverboard explained that the position wasn't being eliminated, only the operating expense for the boat. The savings was approximately \$12,000. Commissioner Gayton stated that it didn't seem like a big savings. Commissioner Bildz stated that with all the waterfront that the city has, he didn't think it was worth it to cut it. Mayor Maloof stated that we don't know what the Sheriff or Fish & Wildlife was going to do with their budget. Commissioner Collins clarified the number of officers that would be on patrol if we kept the marine patrol function. Commissioner Collins asked Chief Casey's opinion on this. Chief Casey explained that we are often the only Marine Patrol in the area and are often called in to assist in other cities. He feels that \$12,000 is a good investment for the level of public safety that it provides. The staff is sufficiently trained that they can take the boat out at any time. Commissioner Collins asked about the life span of the hull on the boat. Mr. Silverboard stated that the boat should last many years. The engines have been rebuilt in within the last twelve months. They can get us to at least October of 2009. Commissioner Gayton stated that he felt that the hull was good for at least 30 years.

Commissioner Minning asked a question about the gas costs in the breakdown. Gas should be \$4.25 per gallon, and oil should be \$2.50 per gallon. The total requested should be \$76,500 for gas and \$700 for oil.

Commissioner Gayton commented that a sailboat ran aground at Caddy's. Someone walked out to the boat, disconnected the motors, and took them. This happened in broad daylight with people on the beach. Chief Casey stated that most crimes took place during daylight hours.

The Commission will resume discussion on this budget on Wednesday.

10. Fire & EMS

Mr. Silverboard stated that he had recommended cutting out the stipend for the volunteers. Commissioner Bildz suggested that they put it back in.

The workshop was recessed at 2:50 p.m. It was resumed at 3:05 p.m.

Mr. Silverboard stated that he had eliminated the stipend at the last minute to try to get the budget down. Last year the Commission felt that there was a benefit to keeping it. Commissioner Bildz stated that he wanted to see this revisited. Mr. Silverboard explained the increase in contractual services. It is mainly for physicals that were previously budgeted in personnel. The cost of electricity is up; there is a slight increase in vehicle repair, and equipment repair. Chief Fant explained that there was some equipment that needs to be hydrostatically tested this year.

Commissioner Bildz asked if there were enough staff on duty to man both trucks on each shift. Chief Fant explained that there was not. The second truck is used as a back up.

Commissioner Collins asked if we had an agreement worked out with any of the fuel companies for a discount on fuel. Mr. Silverboard explained that we had a fleet card with Rally that gives us a one cent discount on fuel. Rally gives a five cent discount when you prepay for gas. We could purchase prepaid fuel cards. We have also contacted the City of Madeira Beach about joining in with them to upgrade their tanks and accommodate our fuel needs as well. Commissioner Collins asked that in the meantime we investigate the prepaid fuel card to save the five cents per gallon.

Chief Fant explained that most of the budget for his department is personnel costs. We have a contract with Pinellas County EMS for some of the funding. Mr. Silverboard stated that we have been contacted by Pinellas County informing us of a 2.31% reduction in the current year. The Fire Chiefs have met with the County staff. They will honor the contracted amount that we are supposed to see this year, but will reduce their increase to approximately 2%. Chief Fant gave a brief explanation of the reimbursement from the County. We will be receiving an additional \$5,000 over what is shown in the budget.

Chief Fant explained that the volunteers not only provide support, but also donate equipment. They are earmarking donations now to purchase a pumper in the future.

Commissioner Gayton stated that with the addition of the \$5,000 from the County it would only be an additional \$1,200 to add the stipend for the volunteers back in, and suggested that they do so at this time. It was agreed by the Commission to add it back in.

11. Community Improvement

Commissioner Collins asked about the grant expenses in the operating expenses line. Mr. Silverboard explained that it was the Elnor Island grant. We have gotten approval to do the eradication of the Brazilian Peppers. This is additional money for doing further clean up of the island. Ms. Rosetti explained that the grant was for \$14,000, up to \$50,000. We have asked them to utilize the money for clean up and predator control, and have been approved. We will be asking Fish & Wildlife for additional funding. We are not sure how much that will be yet, as we are taking the program out to 2011. We have no expenses. When something occurs we utilize money and get reimbursed. If there is an expense we have to show it, but we will show corresponding revenue for it. It is not shown in the revenues, so it will have to be noted there.

Commissioner Minning asked about the overtime budgeted for weekend inspections. He asked if the clients should be billed for that. Ms. Rosetti stated that we do not have a charge for that. Mr. Schwartz explained that the fee increases did not include charging for special inspections because it was never there before. It does not happen often, but when we have a company like Publix we accommodate them. It is a nominal fee, and we need it just in case. Commissioner Bildz stated that other places have a special charge for this.

Commissioner Gayton asked how they were able to have a decrease in personnel services. Ms. Rosetti explained that it was a decrease due to the elimination of Mike Wichman's position. Ms. Chapman made a correction to the salary, FICA, retirement, and Worker's Compensation lines due to an error in the Building Official's salary.

Commissioner Bildz asked if we needed a line item for unemployment. Mr. Silverboard stated that they did not.

The new total for Community Improvement is \$485,720.

12. Public Works

a. Beautification

Commissioner Gayton asked for clarification on the number of employees, as Mr. Silverboard had indicated that there would be a position cut from this division. Mr. Silverboard explained that one position was being cut, and 5% of the Public Works Director's salary and benefits would be included in this line.

Commissioner Gayton counted the employees and feels that it is the same as last year. Mr. Murphy stated that he will check it and report back at tomorrow's workshop.

Commissioner Minning asked about the overtime amounts for special activities such as the Symphony and Fourth of July. If we are not holding the events we shouldn't need the additional overtime. Mr. Silverboard explained that he is proposing that we do Sun, Sand & Swing again, but only if all costs are covered. Much of these costs will be shown in the Recreation budget. These are examples of the types of things that overtime money is needed for, and not a specific list of items.

Commissioner Bildz asked what the difference was between a service bonus and a sick pay bonus. Mr. Turner explained that a sick pay bonus was paid when someone retires and is entitled to be paid a portion of their sick pay, or when someone has accrued six months of sick leave.

Commissioner Bildz asked about the supplies and materials line. He doesn't see plants there. Mr. Silverboard stated that these are examples and not specific lists.

Mayor Maloof asked how we were doing with treating palm trees. Mr. Murphy explained that we were still treating, and would continue treating next year. Mayor Maloof asked if a tree that falls down is made into mulch, and if so, did the organism live in the mulch. Mr. Raus explained that in the past if they suspected that a downed tree was infected they took it to the incinerator rather than mulching it.

Commissioner Minning asked about the Paradise Boulevard project. Mr. Murphy explained that the trees are distressed because of their contact with the power lines. We have determined that the trees have a salvage value, so we are proposing that the trees be salvaged and replaced with something more suitable. Mr. Silverboard explained that we would be going out for proposals for removal of all trees, we would be paid for the ones that had value, and they would be replaced with new material. Commissioner Minning asked if we had received a schedule for trimming from Progress Energy. Mr. Murphy stated that we haven't received a schedule for routine trimming, but that they had been out there recently for some spot trimming. Commissioner Minning asked why it was being addressed now. Mr. Silverboard stated that this was to get it off our plate. Commissioner Bildz commented that the longer we wait the less valuable the trees will be. Mr. Silverboard explained that we have been told that we risk the trees being infected with disease if we wait. We will sell the trees, get \$45,000 or \$50,000 for them, and replace them with something appropriate. Commissioner Minning stated that when they meet with the Civic Association they need to stress the urgency of the situation. Mr. Murphy commented that we should address this as soon as possible. The purpose of his visit with the Civic Association was to get their input as to what they could use in the median.

Commissioner Collins stated that in Mr. Silverboard's budget message they were doing away with Christmas and Halloween decorations, but he sees Halloween decorations in the supply budget. Ms. Hayduke explained that the only Halloween decorations included in her budget were for the annual haunted house. Mr. Silverboard explained that it was a standard list of examples of types of expenditures, not an exact list of items to be purchased.

Commissioner Gayton suggested that they come back to this item, and revisit the Christmas decorations at the end of the budget discussions.

b. Beach Improvement

Mr. Silverboard explained that the big thing here was eliminating the fees for the consultant. Commissioner Gayton asked what else was eliminated. Mr. Silverboard stated that there was an error. There should be \$7,000 under contractual services.

Commissioner Minning asked about the \$5,000 for the new beach access signage. He stated that he believes they can be covered by grant money. Mr. Silverboard stated that the NOAA grant would not cover the signage on the beach side. The NOAA grant will pay for the signage on the street side. Mr. Raus explained that these are the "NO" signs. The dune walkover grant does not include signage. Mr. Silverboard explained that we are using all the grant money, plus the \$180,000 from the County.

Commissioner Minning commented that we are probably through the majority of what we need in terms of Cliff Truitt and Coastal Tech. He does think that he has valuable input and would like to see something that would allow us to call him back in if we have specific issues that we need his expertise for. Commissioner Bildz asked if this could be handled by a phone conference. Mr. Silverboard asked who would decide when he is called. Commissioner Minning feels that the committee could decide that. Mr. Murphy suggested that they use the money from the contingency funds if his services are needed. Mr. Silverboard commented that there is not a staff person who is monitoring his usage currently. Commissioner Bildz commented that Rick Raus was in the closes contact with him, and would be the one that would go to the City Manager to alert him to the need to call him in. Mr. Raus explained that there would be times that he would be needed. There are times when we need to go through the DEP process again, and we would need him then.

c. Municipal Facilities

Mr. Silverboard explained the salary allocations in this division. The overtime is based on the actual forecast. The special pay line will be reviewed and adjusted as necessary, and they will report back to the Commission on this.

Commissioner Minning asked the reason for the decrease in water. Mr. Silverboard explained that part of it has gone to non-departmental.

Commissioner Bildz asked why we had a Christmas Tree Lighting if we had no Christmas decorations. Mr. Silverboard explained that the Christmas decorations that were cut were the decorations up on the poles. All other events would be held. He suggested that if in the future we are able to put them up again we lease them rather than purchase them. Commissioner Bildz pointed out that the \$5,000 was not a large amount of money for something that so many people enjoy. The Commission will revisit this after they finish their review.

d. Causeway

Mr. Silverboard explained that they allocated half of the time of the Assistant Director and 5% of the Director's time, which explains the increased personnel costs. Under contractual services they have added a consultant for the controls. They have budgeted for a piece of the audit here. This is the last year that this should be in here. We still have funding that we received this year, so we still have to do the single audit at a cost of \$5,000. The \$5,000 would be used on an as needed basis only.

Commissioner Minning asked about the retirement, and whether it included part time employees. Mr. Turner explained that they were eligible to participate in the 401A if they wanted to. Commissioner Minning asked if we were fully funding that. Mr. Turner explained that those employees that participate put in 5% of their salary, and the city puts in 8% of the salaries of participating employees.

Commissioner Gayton asked what the expenses for 07-08 were for. Mr. Silverboard explained that it was the expenditure for the grant money that we received. We will have offsetting revenue for it. Commissioner Gayton asked what the estimated use of that amount would be. Mr. Silverboard stated that it would all be used.

Commissioner Gayton suggested that they put the Causeway House on the market immediately and the proceeds be put towards tax reductions. Mr. Silverboard stated that this is the wrong time. Commissioner Collins asked about leasing it. Mr. Silverboard stated that we would have to check out the condition. Commissioner Gayton stated that we should do anything that we can to reduce taxes for this year. Commissioner Bildz said that he would like to see them see what they can get for it. Mr. Silverboard suggested that the money be set aside for future use. Commissioner Gayton stated that they should give tax cuts to the people that are expecting them due to Amendment 1 and the 9% rollback from last year. Commissioner Bildz stated that we are sitting on a house that isn't being used. He'd like to see what we can sell it for and decide what to do with the money later. Commissioner Collins asked

what it is worth in the tax rolls. He agrees with Commissioner Gayton to some extent, but doesn't think that we should sell it short. Commissioner Gayton stated that most of the people that are buying properties in the City are tearing the buildings down. It is a beautiful lot with access to the water. We should find out how much it is worth. Commissioner Bildz stated that we bought the house for a specific purpose and we no longer need the property. Mr. Silverboard asked if they wanted to approve the cost of an appraisal. Whatever cost of selling the property we negotiate will be a lot of money in terms of commission. We can get an appraisal done for a couple of hundred dollars. Commissioner Gayton stated that the property isn't worth anything, it is the lot, and we should see what the lot is worth. Commissioner Collins suggested checking with an auction company and to consider what they can do. Mr. Silverboard needs to check with the City Attorney to see if we need a referendum to sell. Commissioner Bildz stated that it was only property within the city limits. Mr. Silverboard stated that there might be a realtor in town that would tell us what it is worth with no strings attached. Commissioner Collins suggested that we see the value on the tax rolls for it. The Commission agreed to take a look at it to see what we can get for it. Commissioner Gayton wants to sell it and reduce taxes this year. Mayor Maloof wants to put the proceeds towards the Causeway. Mr. Silverboard will bring information back to them on Thursday.

The Mayor allowed public comment at 4:55 p.m. Dominique Reiter stated that she is a citizen as well as a representative for the Chamber of Commerce. She commented that she feels that the library will be very controversial. She hopes that we will keep the Marine Patrol, and is glad that they kept the funding in for the volunteer fire department. She hopes that they will get rid of the expense of the causeway. She then addressed the area of 107th Avenue. There are few businesses left there. The Chamber was involved in the Christmas Parade last year, and volunteered their assistance again for this year. She suggested that they solicit funds from the Civic Associations for the Christmas decorations. She offered to partner with the City on Sun, Sand & Swing. Mayor Maloof thanked Ms. Reiter for her comments.

John Wade addressed the Commission regarding the boat slip rents. He is a long term renter there. The rental fees have gone up 300% since he's been there. He suggested that the City allow a mooring field as a profit center. Mayor Maloof thanked Mr. Wade for his comments.

VI. Setting Special Meeting to Adopt Tentative Millage Rate

No action taken

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The workshop was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Maloof.

Mary Maloof, Mayor

Phil Collins – District 1

Ed Gayton – District 2

Bob Minning – District 3

Alan Bildz – District 4

ATTEST:

Dawn M. Foss, City Clerk