

**CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND, FLORIDA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
September 17, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 6:11 p.m. by Mayor Maloof.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Maloof

B. ROLL CALL:

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

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Sid Rice played the Morse code for SOS. He stated that usually that stood for Save Our Ship but in this case it stood for Save Our Services. He asked the Mayor to take the lead to save our services. He asked the City Commission to think outside of the box. He suggested that they take the issues and not draw a line in the sand. He suggested redevelopment but with guidelines. He has had people who are interested in developing the northern end of the island, but feel that the regulations are too stringent. He feels that the city should give guidance to help generate more revenue. He stated that the City Manager and City Planner need guidelines. He feels that the City Manager could come up with good ideas if given guidelines. The Rices don't have a problem with guidelines, and he is sure that others don't either. It can be done if they take the lead.

Dominique Reiter stated that she echoes Sid Rice's comments because the Chamber is very involved in trying to keep our businesses going. They are having a ribbon cutting at Luxury Nails in downtown Treasure Island. October 11th is the Treasure Island October Beachfest. They will have five bands, a VIP tent, and a silent auction.

Charlie Weisgerber spoke regarding Can-Am week. The highlight is their annual Canadian Thanksgiving Dinner, which will be held on Monday, October 13th. Tickets are available at the Chamber of Commerce. Also, the Chamber is active in supporting the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, which is October 10th at 7:30.

Butch Ellsworth stated that he received a notice at his house last night. He stated that it was unsigned, and he challenged the person that left it to get up there and speak.

Chuck Williams stated that Sid's position is extremely important. He sees Treasure Island having a bridge to nowhere. We have lost revenue from the bridge. It is not a money issue, but how you are spending it. A lot of good things are happening in Treasure Island. We have to look at the spending and stop beating up on the residents in the city.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the September 3, 2008 meeting and workshop are available for approval. It was moved by Commission Bildz and seconded by Commissioner Minning to approve the minutes as printed. Upon roll call the vote to approve was unanimous.

E. BUDGET 2nd PUBLIC HEARING:

City Manager Reid Silverboard made comments about the budget and budget process. It is the operational plan for the City for the upcoming year. We spend March, April, and May thinking about what our needs will be for the upcoming year. We know what some of them are, but not all of them. Things happen in the course of the year that can impact the budget. Our budget has a variety of funds, and this is something that sometimes gets lost. The funds that are comprised in the general fund are things like police and fire, roads, and the general operation of the City. There are funds like the LOISS fund, and other special revenue funds. There are enterprise funds where we budget our wastewater, stormwater, and sanitation. Those funds are operated on a business basis. We charge fees to operate those funds. We are not allowed to operate at a deficit under Florida law. We must have a balanced budget. Revenues for this upcoming year have been a big issue for the City and all local governments in Florida with the tax reform and Amendment 1 that has passed. Our general fund millage rate began at 2.998. The City Commission, after a series of meetings, has whittled the proposed millage rate down to 2.4999 mills, which is 8% below the rollback rate. The rollback rate is the millage rate that would generate the same revenue as the previous year. That would be a 0% increase in property tax dollars. This means that we will be getting \$371,000 less dollars in property taxes in the upcoming year. When added to the 9% decrease from last year, we are operating on \$688,000 less than last year. As you have heard on television, state revenues are down. We are having to use approximately \$64,000 from our fund balance to balance our budget this year. That is in addition to approximately \$360,000 that had to be used last year. To assist in this we have had to increase fees for many of our services. We are proposing additional parking meters, and transferring money from our gas tax funds to support the costs of the causeway. The Commission has voted to increase the taxes for our utilities, which will begin in January. That is a total of \$299,000 that goes to offset the \$688,000 decrease in property taxes that we will receive. We are still close to \$450,000 less in property taxes this year to provide the level of services that our residents have come to expect. We are proposing an increase in refuse fees, but it goes to offset the increase that is being passed on to us by Waste Management. We have had huge increases in fuel, and must replace a truck. We are proposing a 5% increase in our sewer fees. We have just been notified by St. Petersburg that they are going to increase our fees 7.7%. We are not offsetting that entire increase. In addition, we have a variety of capital projects that we must do out of our wastewater fund. Our stormwater increase sounds like a lot, but it will still mean that we must use additional funds out of our fund balance to balance that fund. We have to line and maintain our stormwater facilities. Our total increase in utility bills for a typical resident is about a \$3.28 increase, or about a 6% increase. Our general fund budget is almost 2% lower than the current year budget. We have had increases in wastewater, solid waste, and stormwater. For the first time the city staff has laid out a capital improvement plan so that the Commission and the city can see what we have ahead of us. These are projects like sea walls and bridges. The total budget has increased by 2.5 million. Those increases are in our enterprise funds. In terms of personnel we have reduced personnel by an additional 4 positions. That is in addition to the five full time and 2 part time positions that we had last year. We have reduced our health insurance coverage which gave us a 2% decrease. We have also eliminated funds for the library. That is 107,140. We have also rebid our insurance coverage. We hope to be saving around \$100,000. We have been faced with major hits such as fuel costs and the trolley. We have been able to negotiate savings in overtime and holiday pay with our

Police Department. In our contingency account for the general fund we have \$50,000 for unexpected expenses. In the general fund we only anticipate spending about \$23,000 for capital projects. Projects that are funded with LOISS funds do not impact the general fund. These are funded by the Penny for Pinellas money. We are resurfacing streets. That costs more every time the price of oil goes up. We are installing new parking meters along the beach. We have put in money to begin the process for replacing the Capri and Palm bridges. We have \$10,000 budgeted for the engineering assessment. In future years we have a substantial amount of money budgeted for those projects. We are replacing boat ramps, buying a replacement backhoe, the beach walk at 109th Avenue will be expanded from 7 feet to 11 feet, retrofitting buildings, there is money for central beach trail improvements, minor improvements to tee boxes, repairing the tile at Sunset Vista Park, and replacement of playground equipment. We have had issues with playground equipment. The total amount of our LOISS funded improvements is \$584,000. Our capital improvement fund has NOAA Beach Funding (a \$384,000 grant), parking improvement, boat ramps, dune walkovers, a marina grant of \$80,000 to expand the marina here at City Hall, \$84,000 for putting in boat slips at Treasure Bay, private grants of \$29,000 for dock repair, in Sanitation there is \$129,000 to purchase a grapple truck. In our stormwater fund it is a total of \$115,000. The biggest increase is in our sewer fund. We have to renovate our pump station, for 1.6 million. Lift station #3 is in the process of being renovated for \$166,000. Sewer relining is budgeted for \$300,000, and manholes, \$300,000. This is important, because if our water has high levels of chemicals we are charged a surcharge by St. Petersburg which is over and above our normal charge. We are paying a surcharge each month for this bad water. In order to cut this down we need to aggressively attack the tightness of our sewer system so that less groundwater and rainwater seeps into our sewer system. We buy about 350 million gallons of water from Pinellas County. We send approximately 660 million gallons to be treated. About 76% additional is seeping into our system. In the long run it will help to keep down the costs of our system. The increase in our budget for this year is in capital projects, not the operating side. There is nothing extravagant in this budget. The capital projects that are included must be done. This program covers a five year period. Each year the City Commission will take a look at the next year's level of projects and decide which will be funded, and will reorder the priorities. The total for the five year period is over \$32 million. We cannot put off doing these items any longer. We have got to take care of the City.

1. Consideration of Res. 08-92 Setting the Final Millage Rate (Public Hearing)

It was moved by Commissioner Bildz and seconded by Commissioner Minning to approve the resolution setting the final millage rate at 2.4999. The public hearing was opened by Mayor Maloof at 6.52 p.m.

Diane Donnelly stated that she loves living on Treasure Island and is proud to live here. One of the things that she loves is to bring visitors across our new bridge, and the first thing they see is Treasure Bay. To those that think it is just golf and tennis, go and visit. She read an excerpt from a study on Parks. She found it curious that Treasure Bay is not listed as a park on the City's website. It is not just tennis and golf. It is a park, a playground, and the view from there is spectacular. It gives residents the opportunity to play without paying country club rates. There is basketball and volleyball there. She asked that they do not reallocate funds from Treasure Bay.

Hugh Ruckdeschel thanked the Commission for doing something with the boat ramp. He has a copy of the budget. It now costs \$45. He has gone through it very

thoroughly, and believes that they have done a good job this year. You have had to cut personnel, and given us a slap in the face on this agenda with all the service fees. Regarding the gentleman that spoke earlier about the bridge to nowhere, they should note that that was a requirement of the grant. It was not something that we wanted to do; it was something that we had to do. It is not a bridge to nowhere; it is a bridge to \$50,000,000. Pass the millage rate as is.

There being no further comments, the public hearing was closed at 7:01 p.m. by Mayor Maloof.

The Mayor read a statement regarding the final millage rate. It is 2.4999, which is 8.52% less than the rollback rate.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve the resolution was unanimous. The mayor stated that the final millage rate is set at 2.4999 for the fiscal year October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009. The Mayor read the statement that is required by law to be read.

2. Consideration of Ord. 08-12 Budget and Appropriations (Second Reading & Public Hearing)

It was moved by Commissioner Bildz and seconded by Commissioner Minning to approve the ordinance as read. The public hearing was opened by Mayor Maloof at 7:03 p.m.

Jim Lorenz stated that if we have to close the gap on the budget, the first thing you do is to cut non-essential services. Non-essential would be recreation, tennis, baseball, bus transit. You did reduce the millage rate, but you came through the back door on that one. You increased the utility and communications tax, but it is an affect on the millage rate. You can't deduct those taxes from your income tax. He would much rather see it in the millage rate.

Margie Schoenaner asked that they reject the proposed budget. She is asking for lower taxes, as mandated by Amendment 1. She is appalled at a 20% budget increase. They are taking away things that make Treasure Island a nice place to live. They are increasing fees for things like a lobbyist, or money to expand the city marina. Now is not the time to look for ways to spend more money. Madeira Beach's budget is 37% less than ours. Why can they manage their money better than you can manage ours? Every time we have a windfall in tax revenues you spend it, and now you want to continue to spend money. She suggested that they reject this budget and ask Madeira Beach how to lower the budget. Mayor Maloof asked Ms. Schoenaner to meet with her regarding her comments.

Hugh Ruckdeschel stated that he is not speaking on the whole budget. He is speaking on the library budget. He read the personnel related lines in their budget. The salaries are 68% of the budget. If anyone is going to cut, he doesn't call this a cut. Why are there four librarians on the payroll? He doesn't want to help pay them that kind of money. He has been opposed to the library funding for a good many years. We didn't have reports. If you start at John's Pass and drive down Gulf Blvd. to the other end of Madeira Beach, they have more people than we do. Redington

Beach has the lowest budget in the County. They have a lot of condos. He wrote an e-mail to the members of this Commission indicating that we didn't use the system of everyone giving their name, address, and city that they lived in for the record. The response that he received stated that other communities will be affected, and discussed the previous funding issues. He stated that we pay almost twice as much as the other cities. They should raise their own budgets. Why should we pay all that money when we are not given figures on how many use the library? Get the information straight before coming to our city. He asked why the meetings were changed to Wednesdays. He felt it was a scheme against the Commission for the newspapers to run articles the morning of the meeting.

Richard Kraus stated that these are tough times requiring tough decisions. He has been asked why the city should fund golf and tennis and not the library. The answer lies in the comprehensive plan. Chapter six addresses recreation and open spaces and the requirements for them. It is required by the state, and is passed by ordinance. He is sure that their decisions were made with a lot of thought and were difficult, and he supports their decision to opt out of the library consortium.

Paul Starr stated that he was holding a copy of the budget that they got the figures from. There are items in this year's budget that will require spending in future years. You are committing the city to double this year's budget within four years. You make minor cuts, but then increase other taxes and fees. What makes them think that the residents can support a 19% increase? Their fees are not optional or voluntary by the citizens. There is no difference between a tax and fee. In past years you have ignored infrastructure. Now you say the infrastructure is critical. We now get less service and you want to charge more money for it. He read from a list of capital improvements. It is Mr. Silverboard's responsibility to propose a budget, and the Commission's responsibility to reject the budget.

Ken Weiss stated that he was here to represent the library in an attempt to get the Commission to reconsider funding the library. He has read the budget and he doesn't think that we need to go through every issue. At each point in time one area of the city has a problem. It is important for all of us to understand that this is a community issue. There are 3600 people that use the library. When he hears \$500,000 to repair 3 boat ramps he wonders how many people use them. This is a certainty that does cut across the entire community. We don't have our own library, but we made a commitment to this library. He appreciates that they have all worked very hard on this budget, and these are extremely difficult times. Maybe we don't need \$500,000, maybe \$400,000 would work. Maybe the \$50,000 to fix the sundial is someone else's liability since it is fairly new. How will this reflect on this community? Kenneth City is the only other community that does not participate in the library. He did research on Treasure Bay and met with Mr. Silverboard and Cathy Hayduke. There were 10,000 non-resident rounds played at the golf course, and 1,000 resident rounds. Jan Horah was asked to attend tonight, and she is available to answer questions, with his assistance.

Jan Horah was present representing the library. She stated that the Commission seems very interested in numbers. The library is a public service. It is not a question of how many people use it – it is there if you need it. If Treasure Island is

not a member you can't use another library either. You get a card at any library in Pinellas County, and you can use it at any library in the County.

Mayor Maloof stated that several years ago Ms. Horah had provided them with a cost per transaction to use the library. Ms. Horah stated that it was approximately \$15 per person, which is the cheapest of all the libraries in the county.

Commissioner Gayton commented on Ms. Horah's comment that numbers don't mean anything. He stated that from all the amount of people that have let them know that they support the library, he has received an equal amount of e-mail from people asking that they not increase taxes to fund the library. No matter what that number is, we still have people that aren't interested in the library. That's why it is important to understand what those numbers are. Reid has asked you for months for a number. He still has not received one, and he thinks it is very important. If we had a list of 5,000 people he would have voted to fund the library. We've received a 5,000 number, a 2,500 number, a 3,500 number. He is not looking for the names. She sent them a Treasure Island circulation letter. More residents go to St. Pete Beach library than to the Gulf Beaches library. There were 4,208 items taken out in February. How many people does that represent, and how do you know that those items are from Treasure Island residents? He asked Ms. Horah for an explanation of how she knew those items were from Treasure Island. There are 3,642 active cards in Treasure Island. When someone registers for a card they provide their address. The card is bar-coded. Commissioner Gayton asked if the barcode differentiated between Treasure Island and St. Pete Beach. Ms. Horah stated that it did.

Mayor Maloof stated that the number of items checked out doesn't indicate how many individuals checked out the items, and there are repeats. Ms. Horah stated that they can't count how many people use the library because there are things that they don't require a card for to participate in. Commissioner Gayton tried to explain to Ms. Horah that they can't support a library that 100 people use per month, but if it is 1,000 people they can. Mr. Weiss asked if there was any other service that based its inclusion on how many people used it. He used golf rounds as an example. We also fund the trolley and boat ramps. He doesn't see usage attached to anything else in the city. Commissioner Gayton stated that \$500,000 was attached to grant money. Commissioner Gayton stated that when people play golf or tennis they pay, whether they are residents or non-residents. The library is the only thing that people do not pay to use. Mr. Weiss stated that Treasure Island pays the least amount per person for the library.

Taylor Muncie stated that she is in third grade and is 8 years old. She lives with her grandmother, and they can't afford to pay to use the library. Her dad passed away when she was three years old. She used to go there with her dad. The Fun Center is gone and she used to go there all the time. Now she goes to the library. She stated that she loves Treasure Island and loves the library.

Gwenda Barnitz introduced her granddaughter Una. Una is a user of Treasure Bay and a summer camp member. Ms. Barnitz is here to speak in favor of the library. She has exchanged e-mails with all of them. The newspaper reported that 2500 people hold library cards. 35% of residents support the library. She stated that if they do not support the library they will be sending Treasure Island back in time and

will portray the people of Treasure Island as uncaring yokels. There are homebound people on fixed incomes that can't afford the library. A Commissioner told her that withdrawing support was a financial decision not a moral one. She urged the Commission to follow the mayor's lead and continue to support the library.

Nancy Lee stated that it was hard for her to understand why we couldn't afford a library and other beach communities could. She feels that a library is a cornerstone of any community. Why was that one part that was going to be cut, but boat ramps are not? Why does Treasure Bay have to be maintained if people from other cities can use it? There were many things that were brought up that she can't understand why we can't afford to have access to a library. She asked that they think about this before they vote against it. Quite a few people came out in favor. Ms. Maloof stated that the city does not belong to PSTA, which saves the people a lot of money, because it would be put on their tax bill by the county. It would be more than three times as much. Mr. Silverboard explained that there is a millage rate that is charged by the county for this. We get less service this way, but it is about ¼ of the cost that we would be paying otherwise. Mayor Maloof explained that the other thing was the bridge. We got the money from the federal government to build it, but we must maintain it. We are one of two communities in the state of Florida that have a bridge. The other community charges a toll and bridge passes. We are in a crisis in the state of Florida, and the whole country. Ms. Lee stated that that was more important to why we should keep the library. Mayor Maloof shared that Florida was #46 in property taxes in the nation.

Steve Kochick stated that he was speaking as a private citizen and not as a representative of the City of Madeira Beach. He would not be a Commissioner or Vice Mayor today if he hadn't been able to go to the library and read the ordinances and educate himself. Many times he has to make a decision that he doesn't want to make personally, but has to make them for the benefit of the community. He has figures from Ms. Horah. He read the figures on the number of library cards in the communities that participate in the Gulf Beaches Library. In season 600 people per day go through that door. Off season 300 people per day use the library. Any business in the five towns would love to have that kind of traffic. He has never had to call the Police or Fire Department, but he pays for them. We could hire private security at \$10 per hour, and call Pinellas County if needed. That would save money. Many communities have strictly volunteer Fire Departments. We have a responsibility in government to do what is best for the community. This isn't a luxury; this is something that is essential to the community. I would never come before you and speak on your issues, but as a community years ago we joined together to do this better. He suggested that they now join together for health insurance and the same for general liability insurance. We have to have trust within each other that when communities sign the agreement they stick with it.

Dolores Hayney stated that she called the main consortium. We are getting a discount for belonging to this library. If we didn't have that library we would be paying \$237,000. That is a discount. The reason we pay so much of the bill is because we have the most citizens. We get a 10% discount. Pleasures of the mind are being sacrificed for pleasures of the body. Treasure Bay is not being asked to give up anything. If every family is being asked to pay \$100 for the library, then people that use the Recreation Center should pay a fee also. She finds it unfair

taxation. We are subsidizing the out of towners. People that play golf and tennis usually have more money than people that use the library. Why should the library take the whole cut? She does not consider the golf and tennis center as a park that a lot of people use.

Bernice Lavery stated that she uses the library every week. She picks out her books on the computer and then gets a call that they are ready to be picked up. Some people can afford the \$100, but some can not. She feels that the library should be accessible to everyone.

Ken Jacobsen, from Madeira Beach, stated that as a former elected official he feels that you are obligated to represent your constituents. In this case it seems pretty clear what their constituents want. He apologizes for the confusion on the figures. In a way they are all correct. According to statistics, 50% of the people in the United States have library cards. The librarian comes up with a proposed budget which then goes to the Library Board of Trustees. There are two people from each city on the board. After that is done it is divided up according to census figures, with the exception of the 10% discount that Treasure Island gets.

B.C. Acton stated that we spend thousands of dollars on items that we don't need, and won't spend \$100,000 on something that we need. She is quite sure that there is plenty of money in this budget to come up with the money for the library.

Pauline Salzman stated that she had asked the lady from the library if people like her that don't go to the library but download books were counted in their figures. They are not.

Marie Barba stated that most of the people that she knows don't have library cards. We are all going through bad times. We all have to make sacrifices. We have three options. One is to fully fund the library, one is to partially fund the library, and one is to not fund at all. She feels that they should partially fund the library for that reason. This would also give them time to compile correct statistical data. She believes that reducing the funding would send a signal to the cooperative to take a look at their expenses. The internet is the future. She did some studying of her own and found the correct answers for some of the questions. The total count of 3,600 members is for active members, according to Pinellas County. The librarian in St. Pete stated that it is 2,600 active members. She suggested that they do more fact finding before they fund. Several communities mandate that every address be verified against the property appraisal records. Treasure Island does pay the least per capita for the library. Her suggestion is that the number of households be the basis for the stats. Treasure Island could subsidize \$25 for each household that participates. Scenario two would be that frequent users be subsidized at \$50. There are other options that could be done. She thinks they should keep the millage rate as is. Indian Rocks Beach is not part of the cooperative, but they do subsidize 50%.

Kevin Johnson is against raising taxes. If everyone in Treasure Island that they say has a library card paid the \$100 it would be enough to fund the entire library budget. He suggested that they consider funding \$20.

Mary Fitzgerald stated that she has spoken with Reid and with Ed about this and has tried to keep up as far as the newspapers are concerned. There is little choice tonight. The millage rate has been passed. She suggested that they use money from the reserve fund this year so that we can be part of the library and uphold our responsibility to the five towns. The other suggestion is one possibility would be a referendum on the ballot. The commissioners could put it on, or it could be put on by petition. Another possibility would be to sell the Treasure Island Causeway home that was purchased to house the people manning the bridge. These are possibilities. There may be other ways to adjust the budget. There is no way to raise the millage.

Mary Brown, Executive Director of the Pinellas County Library Cooperative, stated that this is distressing. This was done because it is always better when you join together. She explained that in order to participate you have to be a member city, or residents have to pay the \$100 membership fee. The numbers that are given are as correct as possible. There is always the possibility of human error. We have merged several computer platforms into one. The 3,642 number is the number that she gave to Jan. It was pulled from the most recent data base, and is over a five year span. They only keep the most reason transaction data. Statistically they will be able to provide better numbers in the year ahead. We do not register people according to zip code, but by city. It has been difficult to pull the numbers together, and she feels that the most reason numbers are accurate. It is disturbing to hear that people can not afford a library card, and children will be turned away. We support our membership. We don't see any of the money. The only money that comes through us goes back to you. She would not presume to judge your budget. She has not analyzed it. She understands the restraints that they are under. She asked them to feel confident that they will do their best to provide accurate information. They will work to provide their services as best they can.

Commissioner Gayton asked if out of the 3,600 number, if four family members could have four cards. Ms. Brown answered in the affirmative. It is not tracked by household. Approximately 20% had the same address. Commissioner Gayton asked if the information was available without the names. She stated that she is limited to statistics.

Commissioner Collins stated that he has used the library since he's lived here, and doesn't want to see the library leave, but he is accountable to the residents of Treasure Island. Initially he wondered how many people use the library. It is difficult to get that information accurately. He is big on compromise. One of his concerns is that the budget for the library was \$600,000. He has now been informed that it is \$519,000. Ms. Brown stated that she gets the final budget and end of the year audit, but that is for the Gulf Beaches Public Library, but they don't break it down into the five members of that library. Commissioner Collins commented that we have approximately \$516,000, and \$350,000 is stated as salaries for four employees. Ms. Brown stated that she wants to look at that because she feels that there are more staff members than that. Commissioner Collins stated that we have a \$516,000 budget, and three quarters of it is salaries. He feels that they should be looking at the salaries and the number of hours of operation. Perhaps the hours could be cut back. He doesn't want Treasure Island to drop out, but in order for us to have selling points for those opposed to the library we need to have something to offer. We have cut our budget as far as it can be cut. He is asking that they take another look and

get serious about cutting it down. Come up with some reasons for us to take another look at it. He wonders if there is a way to amend the budget and consider a compromise. He would like to amend the budget so that with compromise from the consortium and compromise from us we can reach a good conclusion. Every single person has a priority on their agenda. He promised Taylor Muncie that she will be able to go to the library next year, regardless of the outcome of the budget. Ms. Brown stated that she was available to them at any time to assist them.

Commissioner Bildz asked what kind of identification was required to get a library card. She stated that they needed a photo ID, preferably a Florida driver's license. If they are from out of state they need a form of local identification.

Commissioner Minning stated that we cannot increase the millage. We would have to do this through supplemental appropriation using the reserves.

Commissioner Collins asked Mr. Silverboard to explain what they could do. Mr. Silverboard stated that the Commission could fund all or a part of the library through the supplemental appropriations and fund balance. Commissioner Collins asked if we could sit down with people from the consortium to see if there was a compromise. Mr. Silverboard stated that the Commission would have to fund the budget, and some level of participation tonight, and then meet with them. The correct way would be for them to pass a resolution asking for them to review their budget. Ultimately it is up to them to determine whether or not they want to do anything. We don't have a resolution this evening, but the Commission can vote tonight to take money out of fund balance to fund the library. Commissioner Collins asked if they could appropriate the money, and then if they vote not to fund the library return it to fund balance. Mr. Silverboard answered in the affirmative.

Mayor Maloof polled the Commission regarding taking funds out of fund balance to fund the library while trying to work with the library. The amount of the first payment is \$26,000, which is due on October 1st. Mr. Silverboard stated that we have to make the payment, and he doesn't know what their board will require regarding the other member cities. Commissioner Collins asked if we put the \$26,000 aside, and not spend it unless we come to a solution, could we do something quickly. Vice Mayor Kochick from Madeira Beach felt that if they spend the \$26,000 for the first quarter they could come up with a solution for this. They are open to negotiation. He would champion this to the other communities. Commissioner Collins suggested that we put this on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Silverboard stated that we make clear whether we make that first payment or not. Mr. Kochick stated that we would have to have a clear decision before October 1st. We will have to call a special meeting to act on this. Mr. Silverboard stated that trying to get five cities to reach a decision within two weeks, and then work with the library, realistically can't happen. We should make a decision to fund for a specific length of time, such as three or six months, and state that we will not be funding further than that. We have not gotten this year's service contract. Mr. Silverboard stated that if they are going to get paid they will have to get the service contracts out soon. Mr. Kochick suggested that the library extend the contract for 30 days in order to resolve this. The board would have to make that decision. Mr. Silverboard stated that under the three year contract, we are members until we give notice 180 days before the contract ends. We are not dropping out of the library. We are telling them that we do not have the funds for the

service contract for the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Kochick will ask for an emergency meeting of the library board to begin negotiations as quickly as possible.

Commissioner Minning stated that he would like to explore other compromises, such as reimbursing part of the \$100 fee to residents. Commissioner Collins stated that he feels they have reached an understanding to look at other options.

Commissioner Bildz stated that his objection was the amount that was coming out of fund balance. We can not keep treating fund balance as our piggy bank. Commissioner Collins stated that we are not doing this until we find out what the amount drops to. We could consider user fees. Commissioner Bildz stated that it would still come out of fund balance.

Mayor Maloof stated that there were only three people that e-mailed her that did not support the library. The other Commissioners stated that they received more than that. Mayor Maloof stated that she supported Commissioner Collins' suggestion. Commissioner Collins stated that they were parking money for the possible use of the library. The consortium would be charged with lowering their budget, or their fee for us to stay in. At that point we can decide yes or no. Mr. Kochick asked what they had in mind for a lower figure. Commissioner Collins stated that he had no particular number in mind, but there was a lot of money there that could be lowered. He is coming up with ideas for them to look at. He is asking it so that it trickles down to this community. He is asking for reasons why. Commissioner Bildz stated that if the library board lowers their budget then all communities will support it. The problem here rests solely with the library board.

Mayor Maloof asked if we had a consensus on the library compromise. Commissioner Minning stated that they should vote on the budget and agree to come back within 30 days to decide.

Frank Adis, from Madeira Beach, stated that they are banking on an individual that doesn't have the authority to assist them. Why are they waiting until the last minute to ask for information? You have board members that should be doing this for you. They are not paying their share. Commissioner Collins stated that they are trying to come up with a compromise.

There being no further comments, the public hearing was closed at 9:18 p.m. by Mayor Maloof.

Commissioner Bildz stated that this was a tough budget. He isn't happy with it, and doesn't feel that anyone is happy with it. We have raised fees and taxes, and are still taking money out of fund balance. We are giving employees raises and beautifying the causeway. We are paying 100% of the cost of health insurance for our employees. With all of our workshops, this is the best budget that we have been able to come up with. He didn't vote for the other tax increases, but he is supporting this budget because it was the best we could do.

Upon roll call, the vote to approve the ordinance was unanimous.

Mayor Maloof read the required budget statement.

The meeting was recessed at 9:22 for a short break.

The meeting reconvened at 9:35.

Mayor Maloof presented a certificate to Mark Santos, IT director. He is now a Certified Chief Information Officer.

F. ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

3. Consideration of Ord. 08-04, Establishing the Sunset Beach Parking District (Second Reading & Public Hearing)

It was moved by Commissioner Bildz and seconded by Commissioner Minning to approve the ordinance as read.

Mr. Silverboard explained that we have been notified by Nicole Elko that if we pass this ordinance as is we could be jeopardizing our beach renourishment funding. Staff is recommending that we defer this to the second meeting in October to come up with a proper solution.

The public hearing was opened at 9:38 by Mayor Maloof.

Marie Barba stated that this has come up several times over the years. Mayor Stubbs explained that the city owns one foot on each side of everybody's house. He told them that they could take it, and the neighbors came together. She hoped that they consider that whoever gets the cars on their side, that the other side gets the easement.

Mr. Silverboard stated that he has talked to the Police Chief about this. They have discussed having an alternating system where parking would be allowed on each side on certain days. The burden would be shared equally.

W. A. Read Jr. stated that he built the 7th house past the "Y" on Sunset Beach in 1937. They mortgaged their house in Tampa for \$25, and had to put \$800 into their house in Tampa. They had \$1,800 for their house at Sunset Beach. He used his retirement money to fix it up. He's only 85, and plans on staying there for a while. He has been in private practice as a land surveyor and engineer in Bartow for years. He has experience in how to outwit the system. We are sending all our money overseas. The library is overseas, the sewer is overseas. We have a system in the United States of volunteers. He volunteered his services to the Police Chief. He never heard from him. He called the City Manager, and didn't get through to him either. He was told that he should talk to Commissioner Bildz, but he didn't get the message. He has a plan for Sunset Beach. None of the streets in that section of Treasure Island are suitable for parking and to have two way traffic. You can get by with one way traffic and have parking. Each resident should have at least two parking places. The streets are not adequate for parking. There are parking violations all over, and those parking violations should be remedied by some kind of

a plan. This was a subdivision for residents. It has become a race track on Bayshore Drive. There is parking all over the side streets, and he can't get a parking place. They had aliens come in on Labor Day, and there wasn't a parking place to be found. People are occupying part of the city right of way, but they won't clear cut them. They should make it private and let the residents issue the permits. They need some levity. They need to start thinking. We could have our own city water, our own sewage system. They could put a well out on the mangrove island to supply the city with their own water. He has developed mobile home parks with septic tanks. They can run the effluent to a treatment plant. You have pure water when you get through with treatment. We have a system already to collect it. All you'd have to do is pump it to a piece of land. If you want parking on the beach, build safe havens – build five or ten story parking garages. People will drown without them.

The public hearing was closed at 9:54 by Mayor Maloof.

It was moved by Commissioner Bildz and seconded by Commissioner Gayton to table the item until the second meeting in October. Upon roll call the vote to table was unanimous.

4. Consideration of Ord. 08-11, Revision of Parking Fines (First Reading)

It was moved by Commissioner Bildz and seconded by Commissioner Minning to approve the ordinance as read.

Commissioner Bildz stated that they have a chart showing the other municipalities. Most fines are \$30 across the board. Maybe they are going to raise their fees, but maybe we are overstepping our bounds going to \$45 across the board.

Mayor Maloof stated that she received a lengthy e-mail from a resident stating how bad that was to visitors, and asking if we wanted to send that message to tourists.

Commissioner Collins stated that sometimes people are five minutes late to a parking meter, and he would hate to see someone get a bad taste in her mouth over a \$45 parking fine. Commissioner Bildz stated that it has happened to all of us. The only thing he can relate this to is that people will park illegally, but won't care because \$20 is cheaper.

Commissioner Collins asked if you could have different fines for parking in front of someone's house versus at the meter. Mr. Silverboard stated that they could have different fines for different infractions. Commissioner Collins stated that parking in front of a fire hydrant, or someone's house should be high as that is blatant, but an over time meter is not as serious. Mayor Maloof agreed with Commissioner Collins. Commissioner Collins stated that we have the attendant on the weekends, and if he sees someone there for several hours he will issue a ticket.

Mr. Silverboard stated that the City Attorney advises that we need to make a change on page two of the ordinance. We added in the surcharge the last time. She has concluded that we delete section B. That would mean that at least for the time being we would also have to change the fine in a regulated parking permit area. It was

originally proposed to \$40, and Commissioner Bildz asked that it be increased to \$45. It was done as \$30 plus a \$15 surcharge. It would change to \$45. Ms. Kiefer stated that the reason for the change was after reviewing the sheet for the other municipalities they are not according to state statute. To be on the safe side they should keep the no parking zone at \$30. You can not go above the state statutes. Commissioner Minning suggested that they reduce the overtime parking to \$30 as well.

Commissioner Collins asked if there was a problem with giving someone another ticket if the times were put on the ticket. That would eliminate someone parking all day at a meter without putting money in. Mr. Silverboard explained that nobody in Pinellas County does that now. We are putting in an additional 192 parking meters, and have one parking attendant. Ms. Kiefer stated that if it was written into the ordinance then someone could be cited more than once.

Mayor Maloof asked for an amended motion. It was moved by Commissioner Collins and seconded by Commissioner Bildz to issue tickets every two hours for expired meter parking. Each two hour interval would be a separate violation. Commissioner Gayton asked if anyone in the country was doing this. Mr. Silverboard will research and report back at second reading. Commissioner Gayton stated that he didn't feel that this was very friendly towards tourists. Police Chief Casey suggested that they keep this consistent throughout the city, and put signs up in parking lots explaining the rules. They currently issue tickets every eight hours. Commissioner Collins stated that they should do it every two hours.

Mayor Maloof asked about changing the costs on other violations. Chief Casey was asked for an explanation on backing into the space. The purpose is to be able to see the tag. That is a state statute. Commissioner Bildz asked what overtime parking in an unmetred area was. Mr. Silverboard stated that it was marked with a sign specifying the limit. Mayor Maloof asked what improper parking was. Chief Casey explained that it was a catch-all citation that addresses odd parking situations.

The fines will be set as follows:

Backed into space: \$30

Mr. Silverboard suggested that they reduce all to \$30 except for improper parking, which will stay at \$40 and for parking in a regulated parking space, which would stay at \$45. Commissioner Collins stated that fire lane zones should stay at \$40.

It was moved by Commissioner Minning and seconded by Commissioner Bildz to amend the ordinance as stated above. Upon roll call the vote to approve was 4-1 with Commissioner Gayton being the dissenting vote.

5. Consideration of Res. 08-81, American Cancer Society Relay for Life Use of the Beach

It was moved by Commissioner Collins and seconded by Commissioner Minning to approve the resolution as read. Upon roll call the vote to approve was unanimous.

6. Consideration of Res. 08-91, Topher Morrison, Inc. Use of the Beach

It was moved by Commissioner Bildz and seconded by Commissioner Minning to approve the resolution as read.

Commissioner Gayton moved that they remove the sentence allowing the city manager to approve future events removed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bildz. Upon roll call, the vote on the amendment was 4-1 with Mayor Maloof being the dissenting vote.

Upon roll call the vote to approve the resolution as amended was unanimous.

7. Consideration of Res. 08-72, Water Pollution Control Rate Adjustment (Public Hearing)

It was moved by Commissioner Minning and seconded by Commissioner Gayton to approve the resolution as read.

The public hearing was opened by Mayor Maloof at 10:22 p.m.

W.R. Read stated that parking meters are not legal in public right of ways. This is why he suggested ten story safe haven parking garages. Mayor Maloof explained that we have a five story height restriction. Mr. Read stated that there have been tsunamis. He has been paying this tax ever since he owned his house. He read a list of how much he has paid every year since 1999. This year he is estimating that he will be paying over \$700, up from \$239 in 1999. He feels that it is exorbitant and they should stop the fees. We also pay SWFMD fees, and they do nothing in Treasure Island. He would like that investigated. Mayor Maloof explained that we are paying a charge for treatment, and a surcharge. The extra money is not helping us.

There being no further comment, the public hearing was closed at 10:29 p.m.

Upon roll call the vote to approve was unanimous.

8. Consideration of Res. 08-74, Solid Waste Rate Adjustment (Public Hearing)

It was moved by Commissioner Minning and seconded by Commissioner Bildz to approve the resolution as read.

Commissioner Collins stated that the average household will go up about 25 cents per month per household. The percentage may sound like a lot, but it is a very small amount.

The public hearing was opened by Mayor Maloof at 10:31 p.m.

Mr. Read asked which item this was. Mayor Maloof explained that it was item 8, and the amount of increase was 25 cents. Mr. Read stated that his only problem was that he has no place to put his garbage can.

There being no further comment, the public hearing was closed at 10:31 p.m.

Upon roll call the vote to approve was unanimous.

9. Consideration of Res. 08-73, Stormwater Rate Adjustment (Public Hearing)

It was moved by Commissioner Collins and seconded by Commissioner Minning to approve the resolution as read.

Commissioner Collins explained that the average increase was 86 cents per month.

The public hearing was opened by Mayor Maloof at 10:33 p.m.

Mr. Read stated that he doesn't have a problem with the 83 cents. The problem is that it is increasing every year and we aren't getting more benefit. Everything here is flooded when it rains.

There being no further comment, the public hearing was closed at 10:34 p.m.

Upon roll call the vote to approve was unanimous.

10. Consideration of Res. 08-88, Award of Proposal for City Insurance Coverage

It was moved by Commissioner Gayton and seconded by Commissioner Minning to approve the resolution as read.

Commissioner Minning asked if the proposal was part of the resolution. Mr. Silverboard stated that the agreement could be attached after it was signed. Commissioner Minning asked if we had a dollar figure. Commissioner Bildz commented that it was an additional \$25,000 savings.

Fred Turner gave a brief explanation of the two proposals. He feels that they should save the extra amount of money and go with the lower proposal. Commissioner Bildz asked if there was a cap for next year. Mr. Turner answered in the affirmative, providing that our events are normal. Commissioner Minning stated that it was a good investment to get the insurance consultant in.

Upon roll call the vote to approve was unanimous.

11. Consideration of Res. 08-83, General Wage Adjustment

It was moved by Commissioner Gayton and seconded by Commissioner Collins to approve the resolution as read. Upon roll call the vote to approve was unanimous.

12. Consideration of Res. 08-86, Supplemental Budget Appropriations

It was moved by Commissioner Minning and seconded by Commissioner Bildz to approve the resolution as read.

Commissioner Collins asked the City Manager to give a brief explanation of what this was. Mr. Silverboard explained that we were amending the budget that ends this month to accommodate additional unforeseen expenses that came up this year. We have to have a balance budget, and must appropriate money that is spent that is reimbursed by grant funds as well.

Upon roll call the vote to approve was unanimous.

13. Consideration of Res. 08-90, Signature Authority for Finance Director

It was moved by Commissioner Bildz and seconded by Commissioner Collins to approve the resolution as read. Upon roll call the vote to approve was unanimous.

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Maloof at 10:43 p.m..

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