

**CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND, FLORIDA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP MINUTES
September 9, 2009**

The workshop was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Mayor Minning.

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Consideration of Resolution 09-66, SWFWMD Cooperative Funding Grant Agreement

Public Works Director, Jim Murphy, gave an explanation of this item. Last December the Department of Public Works applied for funding to make stormwater water quality improvements. They have been successful in obtaining funding from SWFWMD. He is asking them to approve the agreement in the amount of \$300,000, of which SWFWMD will pay 50%. The projects were included in the storm water plan. The project must be completed by February 1, 2011. We have to have a consultant on board by December of this year.

Commissioner Collins asked if we send it out when the interceptor collects the debris. Mr. Murphy explained that we use the vacuors to collect it and take it to the solid waste facility. Commissioner Collins asked what the cost would be to collect and dispose of it. Mr. Murphy explained that the cost would be minimal. At some point we may have to discuss additional resources to clean the devices, but we are not there yet.

Commissioner Bildz asked Mr. Murphy to discuss the construction aspect. Mr. Murphy stated that several roads would have catch basins installed, and the water discharge would go into the intracoastal waterway. Commissioner Bildz asked if roads would be dug up to install pipe. Mr. Murphy answered in the affirmative. Commissioner Bildz asked how long it would take. Mr. Murphy stated that it wouldn't be an immense amount of time, but he doesn't know exactly how long. Commissioner Bildz asked if those three roads would have to be repaved. Mr. Murphy stated that they would at some point.

Commissioner Gayton asked about the devices discussed in exhibit B. Mr. Murphy explained that we are being given latitude to use either a standard separator device or catch basin specific devices that do the same thing. We will be allowed to use whichever process is the most cost effective and appropriate to the area. Commissioner Gayton asked for clarification on the address and asked if it should be West Gulf Boulevard rather than Gulf Boulevard. Mr. Murphy answered in the affirmative. Commissioner Gayton suggested that it be corrected before the agreement is signed.

Commissioner Coward asked if this will help us in our charges from the City of St. Petersburg. Mr. Murphy stated that it would not as it addresses stormwater only. Mr. Silverboard explained that it will help us with our water quality, which will lessen the financial impact that future regulations will have on the city.

Mayor Minning asked if Mr. Murphy had discussed this with a consultant yet. Mr. Murphy stated that they will be going out to bid for one soon. Mayor Minning stated that the agreement covers SWFWMD in the event of overages, but nothing protecting the city. Mr.

Silverboard stated that it was his experience in the past that they were able to get additional funding from SWFWMD when engineering costs went over the estimates.

Commissioner Bildz stated that this project has been a long time coming, and is a good compromise. It is nice to see it finally come to light.

This item will move forward to the September 23, 2009 meeting agenda.

2. Consideration of Applying for Elnor Island Rodent Eradication Grant Funding

City Planner, Lynn Rosetti, gave an explanation of this item. The Commission had indicated to her that they wanted to do something about the rats on Elnor Island. She has spoken with the USDA and Fish & Wildlife, and they suggested that we follow the Egmont Key protocol. For three weeks they will put out rat traps, and then monitor quarterly and put out traps as needed. She was asked to write a proposal to Fish & Wildlife for funding. The USDA estimates will cost approximately \$16,588. She is asking their permission to apply for grant money in the amount of \$17,000 for this two year program.

Commissioner Bildz asked if there is another way to eradicate the rats if we do not get the grant money. Ms. Rosetti stated that there is money at SWFWMD that we could ask for. The USDA indicated that Elnor Island is significant enough to do rat control on as it is a bird sanctuary. Commissioner Bildz stated that if the USDA people that spoke at the Beach Stewardship meeting were hired they will do a great job.

Commissioner Gayton asked for clarification as to what was meant by Elnor Island and adjacent islands and whether it was talking about the island owned by the Suncoast Sea Bird Association. Ms. Rosetti stated that she is only aware of Elnor Island. Mayor Minning stated that the USDA had originally wanted to piggy back the two islands, but have since decided that it would be better to do the two on their own. It would just be for Elnor Island. Mayor Minning stated that this is a last step. We have made a commitment, and have done a lot to clean up the island. This would be the last step in the bird population returning. Ms. Rosetti stated that this would coincide nicely with the remaining two years of the eradication of the exotics on the island as well. Fish and Wildlife answered very quickly when we asked for funding before, so she anticipates the same now. This is the direction that they steered us in a year ago.

Commissioner Gayton asked if there was a particular time that we should do this. Mayor Minning stated that it was recommended that the best time to do this was January. Ms. Rosetti stated that she will prepare this application as soon as possible.

3. Consideration of Resolution 09-68, Adjustment to Stormwater Utility Rates

Mr. Silverboard gave an explanation of this item. The proposed budget includes increasing the stormwater utility rates by 10%. The stormwater utility fund is currently operating at a deficit. In the past the General Fund and the Sewer Fund have been subsidizing the Stormwater Utility Fund. Our goal is to have each fund self-sustaining.

Commissioner Collins clarified that the increase is barely a penny a day for the average household, and will generate an additional \$32,000. Mr. Silverboard stated that the previous item on the SWFWMD grant gets its funding from this fund.

Commissioner Bildz asked if this gets us where we need to be, or can we anticipate future increases? Mr. Silverboard stated that we will still need future increases. This doesn't get us close.

Mayor Minning asked if this is in the plan. Mr. Silverboard explained that we need to update the plan, but we have not budgeted to do that. We should put it in the following year's budget.

This item will move forward to the September 23, 2009 meeting agenda.

4. Consideration of Resolution 09-69, Approval of EMS ALS Agreement for FY 2009-10

Fire Chief Fant gave an explanation of this item. He stated that he did not expect to be here this year with a new agreement, but the five year agreement that was in place has been cancelled by Pinellas County. They have reduced the funding and the term of the contract to just this upcoming year. The loss in funds is due to a change in their funding philosophy. He recommends that they approve this because it amounts to 31% of the Fire Department budget.

Commissioner Bildz asked if he is working on the next year's agreement yet. Chief Fant stated that they have not started yet. Mr. Silverboard stated that there may be a lawsuit regarding the funding. St. Pete Beach may be starting it. When this started they were to put every community on the same footing. It appears that some cities have threatened to sue, and when they did that the County met with them and worked out a different deal. That is a bone of contention. We will probably be asked to join in on that lawsuit. If that happens we will bring it to the Commission for discussion. The City Attorney will have to talk with the attorneys from any cities that may be a party to the lawsuit. Commissioner Gayton asked if St. Petersburg and Clearwater were the cities that got a special deal. Mr. Silverboard stated that St. Petersburg was one of the cities. Mayor Minning stated that this was discussed at the Mayors' Council meeting last week, and they will be investigating this further. Chief Fant explained that this has been going on for some time. We have received reasonable amounts of funding in the past. The majority of their funding has been for emergency medical costs. Now they are only willing to reimburse us for minimal medical costs. Mayor Minning asked for clarification of the amount of money that we are to receive for engine replacement. Mr. Silverboard stated that it is unclear whether we will get the \$32,000 for it or whether they will hold it. If they hold it our reimbursement will be approximately \$90,000 less, rather than the expected \$60,000 reduction. Chief Fant stated that he has heard that some departments have received it, and some have not.

This item will move forward to the September 23, 2009 meeting agenda.

5. Consideration of Resolution 09-64, Supplemental Budget Appropriations for FY 2008-09

Finance Director, Jim Keranen, gave an explanation of this item. The purpose is to add additional funding to the current year budget for items that were not included when the

budget was passed. These are for unexpected expenditures that have come up throughout the year.

Commissioner Coward stated that it is her understanding that most of this money has come from grants, and is not additional money that we are spending. The only exception to that was the library. Commissioner Bildz clarified that the Commission approved the library funding.

This item will move forward to the September 23, 2009 meeting agenda.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Gayton asked if we have heard anything from HDR regarding the downtown Special Area Plan. Mr. Silverboard stated that he will have Ms. Rosetti e-mail it to them within thirty days.

Commissioner Coward asked about the engineering firm for the causeway. Mr. Silverboard explained that Mr. Murphy is going over the scope of services now with the engineering firm.

III. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

Commissioner Gayton asked about the mediation with Brown Construction. Ms. Kiefer stated that there is ongoing litigation going on that is being handled by our insurance. The mediation meeting was cancelled and there is nothing that has occurred at this point. This is for the collapse of the Garden Room roof. Ms. Kiefer will give them a status report on this.

Mr. Silverboard stated that Nicole Elko has left the employment of the county. Our beach renourishment that was scheduled to begin this month has now been rescheduled for the spring. He expressed our concern with Bob LaSalla to make sure that our project did not fall through the cracks. It is also of concern to St. Pete Beach because it also involves the renourishment of Upham Beach. He was told that Will Davis and Andy Squire will take over Nicole's projects, and in addition they have outside technical support. They assured him that there should be very few delays due to the changeover in the department. He asked what the reason was for the delay. They didn't know and will find out for us. Our contact person will be Andy Squire.

Mr. Silverboard asked the Personnel Director, Jennifer Valdes, to come up to speak. We have been asked by the Town of Indian Shores to piggy back on our insurance program. It would be a nice savings for them. Their policy needs to start October 1st. We only have one meeting to bring the interlocal agreement to the Commission before their deadline of October 1st. Ms. Valdes explained that the Town of Indian Shores only has eighteen employees, which makes them ineligible to participate on their own. They went out to bid, but did not receive favorable quotes, with the exception of piggy backing on our rates. We just received the information today. They understand that we have all the decision making power, and have only asked to be informed. Language has been suggested by PRM allowing us to cancel them in the event of non-payment. Commissioner Coward asked if PRM brought this to her today. Ms. Valdes stated that she was approached by Indian Shores a couple of months ago asking about our insurance process. They went out to bid and didn't receive favorable quotes. PRM couldn't quote them because they didn't meet the minimum number of employees and suggested to them that they piggy back with us. Commissioner Bildz stated that he is all for helping our neighboring communities, but not if it costs our city

anything. Ms. Valdes explained that they would be set up as a separate division. All the claims would be tracked to that division number, and our rates next year would be based on our claims alone. We would also have the ability to charge them for any difference due to their being included in our contract. Commissioner Bildz asked if it would cost her or her office hours. Ms. Valdes stated that it would take staff time to get it set up, but from that point on it shouldn't. Commissioner Gayton stated that he is in favor of helping our neighbors but isn't in favor of rushing it. He wants the City Attorney to review it, and wants more information. He is not in favor of circumventing the rules of procedure for this. Commissioner Bildz stated that the only way this can get done for the town of Indian Shores would be if we were to hold a special meeting. Commissioner Gayton stated that they should have done this months ago, and he is not in favor of rushing it. Commissioner Collins asked if claims would be going through Ms. Valdes' office. She explained that they would go through PRM directly. Commissioner Collins clarified that the only affect would be their claim rate, and asked if there are any other negative affects. Ms. Valdes stated that at this time there is nothing else, but she is asking PRM for confirmation of that. We will have to pay for their insurance in our payment and get reimbursed by them. Commissioner Collins stated that he agrees that we shouldn't rush this. Ms. Valdes stated that their Commission is discussing this at their meeting tonight as well. She doesn't know why it took this long. Commissioner Collins stated that we should wait until they make their decision and then look at it again. Commissioner Gayton stated that he agrees. This item will move forward to the September 23, 2009 workshop agenda. Commissioner Bildz stated that we would not be able to pass this by their deadline. Commissioner Coward stated that we can not make their problems ours, and they should reimburse for our staff time. They should try to get an extension from their current insurance company. Ms. Valdes stated that they are trying but so far their insurance carrier is not acting favorably to that. It was agreed to let them make their decision and submit it to us, and we will follow our normal process. Mr. Silverboard stated that we would advise them of that.

Mr. Silverboard reported that the swimming advisory for Treasure Island has been lifted.

IV. REPORTS & COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Collins stated that the streets would start being resurfaced in the Isle of Capri very soon. Residents will be given information soon.

Commissioner Collins thanked the Chamber and city staff for the event over the weekend.

Mayor Minning stated that he felt that the Beach Blast was well done and thanked City staff and the Chamber for their work. He also thanked City staff for their work on the budget.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

The workshop was adjourned at 7:38 p.m. by Mayor Minning.

Robert Minning, Mayor

Phil Collins – District 1

Ed Gayton – District 2

Carol Coward – District 3

Alan Bildz – District 4

ATTEST:

Dawn M. Foss, City Clerk