

CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND, FLORIDA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP MINUTES
May 19, 2009

The workshop was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Mayor Minning.

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Consideration of Res. 09-30, John Levique Pirate Day Parade

Suzanne King, and Linda Rice, representing the John's Pass Village Association, spoke regarding the parade that they would like to hold. They asked for permission for them to have a parade that would go from City Hall to John's Pass. They would like to include Treasure Island. They are working with the American Legion. They would also include any businesses that would like to have a float in the parade. They would go with the flow of traffic at approximately 20 MPH, so it shouldn't cause a problem with traffic. This is their hurricane awareness event for the barrier islands. They have representatives from the county and other agencies that will be participating.

Commissioner Gayton stated that he put an article in the Isle of Palms newsletter informing the residents about this request. Ms. King stated that it shouldn't be more than 50 vehicles, if that; and they would be willing to stop for traffic if necessary. Commissioner Gayton stated that if they could stop for traffic then he had no objection to it. Ms. King stated that it shouldn't be more than fifteen minutes.

Commissioner Collins stated that he understood that it would be continuous, irrespective of the lights. Ms. King stated that it was her understanding as well, but that they would not object to stopping at lights. Commissioner Collins asked why they were not starting in Madeira Beach. Ms. King explained that it would enable them to go with the flow of traffic.

Commissioner Coward asked for clarification on the number of vehicles. Ms. King stated that due to the short amount of planning time this would not be a large event this year.

Commissioner Bildz stated that he hoped that they would respect our parking lot and use the trash cans and recycle bins. Ms. King stated that they would take care of clean up.

Commissioner Collins asked what they had so far. Ms. King explained that they had four vehicles so far. Commissioner Collins explained that his only concern was due to the recent "run" that they had and the complaints that they received from residents regarding traffic issues. He has no objections if they follow the traffic lights and there is no interruption of traffic flow. Mr. Silverboard stated that it shouldn't be a problem so long as there are no gaps. It is a matter of how it would be managed from a traffic standpoint. Commissioner Collins asked which lane would be better to use. Mr. Silverboard stated that if there is only going to be three cars then it isn't an issue. If it is going to be 50 then it could be a disruption. Commissioner Collins stated that he would have fewer objections if it were in the left lane. There are less people turning left than turning right. Mr. Silverboard explained that they would have to get a permit from DOT, and DOT will tell them which lane they would have to be in.

Commissioner Coward asked if they were going to have police officers at the stop lights. Mr. Silverboard explained that it will depend on the size of the parade.

This item will move forward to the June 2, 2009 meeting agenda.

2. Consideration of Ord. 09-04, Business License Fees

Mr. Silverboard explained that this is one of the three taxes that we are allowed to increase. State law dictates that we are only allowed to increase this by 5% every two years. If we do not do this now then it will be two years before we can consider it again. The bills have to go out in July. Mr. Silverboard gave a correction to the list of fees.

Commissioner Coward asked if this would go to the general fund. Mr. Silverboard answered in the affirmative. This is one of only three taxes that go into the general fund.

Commissioner Bildz pointed out that this was a 5% increase that would only generate \$3,100 for the entire year.

This item will move forward to the June 2, 2009 meeting agenda for first reading.

3. Consideration of Res. 09-31, Medical Insurance Renewal

Jennifer Valdes, Personnel Director, gave a brief explanation about the item. They went out to bid for insurance coverage this year. They tried to maintain benefits at the current level for the smallest increase possible. They received a bid that offered benefits at a slightly lower level for a cost decrease. It would also allow employees to "buy up" to a higher level at their cost. She also received bids for dental, life, and disability insurance at small savings to the city.

Commissioner Collins asked for clarification on the potential 3% savings that could be obtained by releasing the broker. Ms. Valdes explained that if they chose PRM they would provide the services that the broker is providing. It is a duplication of services. It would mean that they would not renew the contract with the current broker when it expired. She felt that the biggest thing that the broker does is to go out to bid. If we choose PRM it is a two year commitment, therefore we do not need the services of the broker. It would be a savings of approximately \$48,000.

Commissioner Coward asked if Ms. Valdes has spoken with any other cities that use PRM. She has spoken with Belleair. They are very satisfied and have nothing but good things to say about the network and their rates are very good. Ms. Valdes introduced Richard Schell, who is the broker employed by PRM. He gave a brief explanation of how participating in the pool works. The pool has been in business for 20 years, and they have not had an entity leave in 15 years. Mr. Silverboard explained that the price shown in the report is for a 15 month contract, which allows us to get all of our renewals to an October 1st date.

Ms. Kiefer asked if Gulfport was involved in the trust, and asked if Ms. Valdes was still on the Board of Directors for the property and casualty side of the trust. It is a volunteer position, and her term is up in October. She has been working with the City of Gulfport because they have a new Human Resources Director. Mr. Silverboard stated that if we join the trust we

will have a representative to the Board of Directors. Ms. Kiefer stated that she was on the board for a short time representing Indian Rocks Beach. Ms. Kiefer stressed that this was a two year commitment and they would have to be sure to non-renew in a timely manner if they chose to non-renew. Mr. Schell explained that this is a fully funded self-insured pool. There is a \$16 million surplus. The fact that nobody has left the pool in 15 years is a good indication of the service and cost of their product. Commissioner Collins stated that we could automatically give our notice, and then not act on it if we chose not to. He asked how many years we have been with United Healthcare. Ms. Valdes stated that it has been since 1997.

Commissioner Gayton clarified that the cost to renew United Healthcare was a 9% increase, and the cost to go with PRM was a 4% decrease. This is a 13% decrease rather than going with United Healthcare.

Commissioner Coward asked if the 4% included the 3% to the broker. It is included in the cost to renew United Healthcare.

Commissioner Collins asked for clarification on the coverage in the PRM plans. Ms. Valdes explained the co-pays and deductibles. Some coverage is slightly different than the current plan.

Mayor Minning asked about the typical increases. Mr. Schell explained that last year the increase was 5%, the year before that it was 0%. Mayor Minning asked about the referral process. Ms. Valdes stated that you have to designate a primary care physician, but you do not need a referral to see a specialist.

Commissioner Bildz asked if we would have a member on the board, and who it would be. Mr. Silverboard stated that he would recommend that it be the Personnel Director. Mr. Schell explained that they meet quarterly to discuss items that would be brought up for vote at the next meeting. Commissioner Collins stated that for items that are large dollar amounts the Commission should be the one making the decisions. Ms. Valdes stated that these are publicly noticed meetings, but that we would be one vote. She could bring agendas to the Commission. Mr. Schell stated that they do have entities where the Commissioners participate.

Ms. Kiefer asked for clarification regarding the requirement for a two year commitment and whether the rate was guaranteed for fifteen months or the entire two years. The rate would be guaranteed for fifteen months, and they would be obligated to pay the rate for the second year. Commissioner Bildz stated that on the plus side the fifteen months would go until the beginning of the fiscal year.

Ms. Kiefer asked for a copy of the contract that would be signed.

This item will move forward to the June 2, 2009 meeting agenda.

4. Financial Update for Quarter ending March 31, 2009, continued

Jim Keranen, Finance Director, gave a brief explanation of the reports that he has provided to the Commission. They were based on the questions that they had at the last workshop.

Commissioner Gayton thanked Mr. Keranen for the analysis that was provided. It is very informative and easy to read. He stated that he felt that the expenditures in the new analysis were more realistic. He thinks that it is a do-able plan and he commends him and the rest of city staff. Mr. Keranen stated that there are a few areas that we need better numbers. Commissioner Gayton thanked the City Manager also.

Commissioner Gayton asked about the postage expenditure line. Mr. Keranen explained that the amount spent was misposted and needs to be reclassified. Commissioner Gayton then asked about another line item. Mr. Keranen explained that this is an IT line that will zero out when the expenditures are reclassified to the correct account. Commissioner Gayton then asked about the contractual services line in Community Services. Mr. Keranen explained that the over expenditure is the result of the HDR contract. There are some carry-overs that will cover that.

Mr. Keranen thanked Commissioner Bildz for bringing to his attention a keying error. The Police Department dues should be \$3,300, not \$33,000.

Commissioner Bildz asked about the court fees. Mr. Keranen explained that these are allocated on a monthly basis out of the fines that we receive. Commissioner Bildz explained that these used to go to the Beach Improvement Fund and they are now going to the General Fund.

Commissioner Coward asked about the money that we potentially owe to the City of St. Petersburg. Mr. Keranen explained that right now we are accounting for the percentage that we anticipate taking off, and we are establishing an escrow account. He will be establishing a reserve account for it. Commissioner Collins asked how the money would be redistributed if we prevail in the lawsuit. Mr. Silverboard stated that he would recommend using it for capital projects in the wastewater account. Mayor Minning asked if the rates would stay the same. Mr. Silverboard answered in the affirmative and explained that it would allow us to avoid a rate increase. We have not totally funded our capital needs and were anticipating having to borrow. This would put off having to borrow and to increase rates.

Mayor Minning asked a question on the projected solid waste surplus. Mr. Keranen stated that it is tight. Mr. Silverboard explained that when we transition to the County doing our billing we lose about two months of revenue now, but we get it on the back end. We think we'll be ok when the year is done. We have had savings in fuel, and have reduced personnel.

Mayor Minning stated that Mr. Keranen did a nice job and he appreciated the effort.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Collins asked if there were any new developments on the La Quinta project, and also the project where they were going to tear down the Chinese restaurant and rebuild. Mr. Silverboard stated that La Quinta project is dead in the water. The Surfside project is active and they have been working with staff.

Commissioner Gayton stated that at the last meeting they requested an update on downtown redevelopment and asked if there was any information. Mr. Silverboard explained that Ms.

Rosetti and Steve Shoecraft would be meeting with stakeholders and will have a draft for staff review within six to eight weeks. He has not received a time frame on that yet.

III. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

Ms. Kiefer reported that the Schwarz trial has been moved to January. There is a rule of procedure in federal court called 30B6 regarding corporate representatives. She is the corporate representative for the city. The only issue is the legal issue of necessity.

She has been receiving calls and concerns from the Treasure Island Police Department regarding the collection of fines at the Clerk of Court's office. They would like to deputize clerks within the municipality to enable them to collect the fines. This would allow payments directly to the city when they are not contested. Mr. Silverboard stated that we do not have the capability to manage that at this time. Ms. Kiefer stated that there is a vendor that has software that would enable people to pay online. Commissioner Gayton stated that St. Pete Beach does not use the Clerk to collect fines. Ms. Kiefer will look into that. She stated that there are ways to collect money that will save the city money. Mr. Silverboard explained that the Clerk takes \$10 on each ticket, regardless of the amount.

Commissioner Gayton asked about the St. Petersburg lawsuit. Ms. Kiefer stated that we have amended our complaint and it should be served in the next week or two. We have received a public records request which we have responded to. They have asked to view the documents that we have found through our research. Our goal is to get a summary judgment as soon as possible.

Mr. Silverboard stated that we have received the first draft of the warrant study for 104th and 108th. Both show that we are in need of traffic lights at those intersections. We will be putting this on a workshop in June and will have the consultants here to explain their findings. Part of the strength of the warrant study is the number of pedestrians that are crossing at that intersection.

Mr. Silverboard stated that we have received preliminary numbers on the undergrounding. He will be sending it to the Commission. The cost does not include the cost for restoration of the pavement or the cost for obtaining easements, or the cost for taking the line from the edge of property to the meter box and changing over the meter box. We have no way of knowing what the cost will be to individual properties. He will put together a staff report and give that to them. We can ask for a binding estimate from the utilities which we would have to pay for. The cost, right now, is around \$4.6 million for one mile of street. He will get the memo out to them within a week or ten days. Commissioner Bildz asked if it will be the city's cost to replace meter boxes on private properties. Mr. Silverboard stated that it would be up to the Commission. The utilities are saying that it is not their responsibility. Some communities have been paying the cost to bring it to the house.

IV. REPORTS & COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Collins offered to attend condo or civic association meetings.

Commissioner Gayton reported that the Isle of Palms Civic Association would be holding its annual spaghetti dinner on May 26th at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

Commissioner Coward thanked the city for doing the traffic count on Paradise. She wrote something for their newsletter. For the most part it wasn't bad, but they do have speeders. The police have stepped up coverage there. There are more speeders coming in than going out. The police will talk to individuals and ask them to slow down.

Commissioner Coward attended the library meeting yesterday. She was relieved when there was an explanation for misinformation that was published in the newspaper.

Commissioner Coward requested that some of the tennis courts be resurfaced more quickly as they are getting dangerous.

Commissioner Bildz stated that the only thing that was right in the article regarding the library was that there is a library there. He then read a letter from Mary Brown regarding the allocation estimates. Commissioner Bildz stated that they are doing better, and are proposing a 1% budget decrease from last year. Our contribution could be about \$78,000, which is much better than the \$107,000 from last year.

Commissioner Bildz reported on his attendance at the Suncoast League of Cities conference that he attended on Saturday.

Commissioner Bildz commented on the increased DUI enforcement that will be taking place this upcoming weekend.

Mayor Minning made comments on the letter that was received regarding the land transfers between the state and Caddy's. The state assured us that the renourishment would not be jeopardized. They are asking that the city establish an ECL prior to the future renourishment project. He will be meeting with Nicole Elko regarding this. Ms. Kiefer asked about the survey that Cliff Truitt was paid to do. Mayor Minning stated that it was for the mid-island area of the beach. We volunteered to do the ECL in the mid-island area and the state didn't want us to go forward with that. Now they are requiring it in the Sunset Beach area. Commissioner Gayton suggested that we ask them for one in the mid-beach area as well.

Mayor Minning stated that we have received a report from the DPW on the savings that they have achieved.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dan Corson spoke regarding money and the barter system. He suggested that the more income we can generate the better. We do not want to lose the tourists. The beach is pristine until you get to the area around Caddy's. He would like to see law enforcement stepped up as far as littering in that area. He sees them out and knows that they are busy. We have laws already and they should be enforced. Instead of giving out \$16 parking tickets give out \$500 tickets for littering. Enforce the speeding and stop sign violations. That is big money.

Mr. Gehring from the Gehring group apologized for being late for his item. Mayor Minning thanked him for his work on the bids.

Commissioner Collins stated that Treasure Island is hosting the BIG-C meeting on May 27th.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

The workshop was adjourned at 8:03 p.m. by Mayor Minning.