

CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND, FLORIDA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP MINUTES
July 21, 2009

The workshop was called to order at 7:36 p.m. by Mayor Minning.

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Consideration of Res. 09-49, Yard Waste Disposal Alternative

Mr. Murphy gave a brief explanation of this item. They are attempting to save money. This would allow them to dispose of yard waste at \$24 per ton rather than the \$37.50 that they are currently paying at the Pinellas County facility. They would piggy back on a contract that was issued by the City of Largo. Several cities in Pinellas County are taking advantage of the benefits of this contract. In addition to the savings in price it would also save staff time as they wouldn't be waiting in line.

Commissioner Collins stated that he thinks it is great. Commissioner Bildz said that if they can save that kind of money then they should. Commissioner Coward asked if they could take the \$11,000 savings out of the budget if they approve the contract. Mr. Murphy answered in the affirmative.

This item will move forward to the August 4, 2009 meeting agenda. Mr. Murphy stated that they could have a contract in place by the end of August. Mayor Minning asked if he had checked on the permits and licenses. Mr. Murphy answered in the affirmative. They have all the proper licenses and permits in place. Mayor Minning then asked if they had inspected the facility. Mr. Murphy stated that the foreman had gone there and was very satisfied with what he saw. They also spoke with the cities of Largo and Gulfport, and both cities are very happy with the service. The facility does not limit the sizes or amounts of waste that they will accept, so this could allow them to change the way they approach yard waste disposal.

2. Consideration of Res. 09-50, Road Resurfacing Bid Award

Mr. Murphy gave a brief explanation of this item. The Commission has been given copies of the bids and the bid results. They went out to bid for resurfacing residential roads in the Palms and Capri area. They had roughly a half million dollars set aside for this work. They also had a list of roads that they thought would take more than what they had set aside. When they received the bids they were surprised that they came in lower than what they had anticipated. He asked that they approve this with a not to exceed amount of \$497,000.

Commissioner Bildz commented that he was surprised that Causeway Blvd., 108th, and 104th were left off this list. They have a lot of truck traffic since the bridge was finished. He is pleased to see that Palms and Capri will be finished, but he is very concerned about the other three roads. Mr. Murphy agreed, but explained that there are drainage issues along the causeway that have to be addressed before they pave. He feels that it would be throwing money away if they pave before fixing the drainage issue. The roads that they are addressing have not had anything done since they were developed.

Commissioner Coward stated that she would rather see them save the additional money for the causeway. She knows that they have to get some work done on the drainage, but feels that we need to get started there. Mr. Murphy gave a brief explanation of how they could solve some of the drainage problems. Commissioner Coward stated that we should get started on that if that is what is holding up the paving on the Causeway. She stated that they should reconsider the additional streets up to the \$500,000 and work on the causeway. Mr. Murphy stated that the problems on the causeway seem to be limited to the areas where they are seeing significant drainage problems. Commissioner Coward stated that we really don't know that until we get some engineering studies done to see what the underlying problem is. She feels that we need to do that sooner rather than later. There is a tremendous amount of truck traffic along there.

Mayor Minning asked what Mr. Murphy's plan is to get the drainage situation addressed. He stated that he wants to get the assessments done within the next few months. They may be able to do some of the work in house rather than pay someone else. If they don't pave it next year they would look at doing it in 2010-2011. Commissioner Coward stated that that is too far off. Mayor Minning asked when the drainage would be finished. Mr. Murphy stated that it would be in the next year. Mayor Minning asked him to come back to the Commission with a plan.

Mr. Murphy clarified that the paving system that would be used on the roads on the list that they have will be different than what they would use on the causeway. The causeway paving would be an FDOT type pavement. They would use something like a super pavement that would be more durable than what they would use on the residential roads.

Mayor Minning stated that the Commission needs to decide whether to do the additional streets or should they save the money for the causeway. Commissioner Gayton stated that they have been waiting a long time to get these streets done and they should continue paving the streets. If there is additional money needed for the causeway then they should look in other directions for the money for the causeway. Mr. Silverboard stated that he agrees with Commissioner Gayton. The roads in that area are in serious condition and need the attention. While we have that good price we should do it. With the surplus in the LOISS fund and what should be added to it in the coming years funding shouldn't be an issue for the causeway. Of all the complaints that he receives regarding paving, Palms and Capri are the ones that he receives the most complaints about.

Commissioner Bildz asked if we are responsible to pave east to Park Street. Mayor Minning answered in the affirmative.

Commissioner Gayton commented that 6th and 9th Streets were being left off, and some parts of other streets were being left off. He asked that they consider not doing only a portion of a street that runs straight through, and asked that all the side streets be completed. He also asked for a list like the one that they were given be given to them for next year and the year after. He asked that they use a rating format that the Commission can explain to citizens. Mr. Silverboard stated that they will modify the format.

This item will move forward to the August 4, 2009 meeting agenda.

3. Consideration of Res. 09-51, TIGER Grant Work Authorization

Mr. Murphy gave a brief explanation of this item. During the budget discussions they had a conversation about the Capri and Palms bridges. They have had an opportunity to secure some grant money from the USDOT to replace these bridges. They are both over 50 years old. They both have structural issues. In a recent bridge assessment the Capri bridge was ranked a 55 and the Palms bridge a 44.8 out of 100. They were determined to be functionally obsolete. The FDOT announced that local governments could apply for grant money for bridge repairs. The applications have to be completed by September 15th, and the projects have to be completed by February 17th, 2012. He has asked their Engineer of Record, Volkert, to do a due diligence report on what the likelihood of getting a grant would be. According to their report, we stand a very good chance of getting funding. Kimley Horne was asked to look at the project in terms of do-ability. They reported that it is doable so long as we get the permit process started. We are asking for approval to authorize Volkert and Associates to complete the rest of the work necessary to apply for the grant. It will take approximately \$10,950 and three weeks to complete the work. He is recommending that they spend the roughly \$11,000 and have a very good chance of getting the roughly \$4 million that they need to repair these bridges.

Commissioner Bildz asked where the money would come from. Mr. Murphy stated that the money would come from the LOISS funds. The account they would use is approximately \$4,000 short of what they need, so he is asking that they make up the rest of the money that they need. Commissioner Bildz stated that he feels that they should move on this quickly.

Commissioner Gayton asked if they would have enough time to complete this if it was voted on at the first August meeting. Mr. Murphy stated that he gave them the timeline and they had no issues with it.

Commissioner Collins asked about the costs to complete the various tasks. He clarified that the total cost was roughly \$14,000.

Commissioner Coward stated that if there is a possibility of getting money for those bridges then we should move as fast as we can because we don't know when this opportunity will arise again.

Mayor Minning asked what the eligibility criteria was and how much we would be asking for. Mr. Silverboard stated that we would be asking for as much as we can get. Mr. Murphy stated that we meet all the eligibility criteria for the grant funds. Commissioner Collins read an excerpt from the report in the agenda packet. Mayor Minning asked if we would apply for the full amount of reconstructing both bridges, and if so, was the full amount grant eligible. Mr. Murphy stated that the full amount should be grant eligible and we would apply for the full amount of \$4 million.

Commissioner Gayton asked about an estimate that had been given to them by EC Driver in the amount of \$2.7 million. Mr. Murphy stated that this estimate was the amount that came out of going through the grant process. The efforts that they will have to do with the dual track and the permitting in tandem will add to the costs. Commissioner Gayton asked if it would be easier to get \$2.7 million than \$4 million. Mr. Murphy stated that he didn't think so.

Commissioner Coward asked if we would have to work with the state on this like we did on the other bridge, and if so, would they take a portion of it for administration. Mr. Murphy answered in the affirmative, and stated that that amount was built into this amount.

Commissioner Collins asked if all bridges in Florida had to go through the FDOT. Mr. Murphy stated that if they are getting money through a grant then you do, but these bridges are private bridges and we shouldn't have to. Mr. Silverboard clarified that they are located on city streets as opposed to a state road or highway. Commissioner Collins asked if they would be the same height as they are now, or taller. Mr. Murphy stated that they would likely be very similar to what they are now.

Commissioner Bildz asked if two weeks would help them and should they vote on it tonight. It was the consensus of the Commission to advise them to get started and they will finalize it at the August 4th meeting.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Bildz stated that there are still a few buoys out at Caddy's that say swim area and they are causing confusion with the boaters. Will they be removed soon? Mr. Murphy stated that they will be removed as soon as the weather allows.

III. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

Ms. Kiefer gave a brief update on the Save Our Beaches case where private property owners sued claiming that the beach nourishment projects should stop because they were interfering with their property rights. The Florida Supreme Court issued a decision siding with the government citing the need for beach nourishment, and affirmed that owners could not claim the accreted lands. This has now been appealed to the US Supreme Court, who has accepted the case. Each municipality is being asked for a pledge of funds to help finance the submission of amicus briefs to the US Supreme Court. She suggested that they put an item on the next workshop to send a resolution of support to the Florida League of Cities, and pledge a contribution if possible.

Commissioner Bildz stated that there is a BIG-C meeting coming up. He feels that the BIG-C communities need to get involved as they benefit greatly by the renourishment. He suggested that each community contribute \$500. Commissioner Gayton stated that he agrees. Mayor Minning stated that he agrees but is concerned with the timing. He suggested that he prepare a letter for the League supporting their position. It was agreed by consensus for him to do so. Commissioner Bildz suggested that they consider this the workshop and put a resolution on the next meeting agenda.

Ms. Kiefer stated that it was astounding, because the courts ruled on this based on Florida's unique situation with the renourishment and storm situation. It is important that the US Supreme Court look at this closely. Commissioner Gayton clarified that the US Supreme Court has agreed to hear the case. This case will affect the entire country. Ms. Kiefer agreed as it will affect eminent domain and constitutional issues. Commissioner Bildz stated that Florida is the model for beach renourishment worldwide.

Ms. Kiefer gave an update on the St. Pete sewer case. St. Pete has made a motion to move this case to the Federal court. She is analyzing this with her co-council Ms. Zelman. Unless we file a motion to remand it back it will remain in federal court. Commissioner Gayton asked if she could provide them with a copy of the filing. She will forward that to them. She has also received the transcript that he requested of the last executive session.

Mr. Silverboard stated that our Legislative delegation has asked OPPAGA to look into the Fire and Rescue service in Pinellas County. They have accepted that assignment. Today he and representatives from many Pinellas County cities attended a meeting with the two representatives to discuss the issue with Pinellas County and the fire service. They were asked many questions about what our problems were with providing the service. They were told that the problem was money and the shifting of costs from one entity to another. He feels that what the county is trying to do is shift a portion of the cost that they are legally responsible for providing to the local governments to tax for. They will be meeting with a variety of county representatives. The study is going on. There isn't a time frame, but they should have something in a few months. They don't know that they will recommend a specific course of action, but will provide a series of alternatives that can be looked at.

IV. REPORTS & COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Gayton gave a reminder from the Fire Chief that citizens should call 9-1-1 for any emergency that requires a Fire Department response. Do not try to contact the Fire Department on a non-emergency administrative line. This line is not always monitored.

Commissioner Coward has received a request from people that live in the Treasure Island Yacht Club to put in some white striping so that they can get across the street. They are having difficulty crossing due to the traffic on the bridge. She asked to put it on the list of items to look into. Mr. Silverboard stated that we are already looking into it and it should be done within the next few weeks.

Commissioner Bildz stated that the ad hoc committee is ready to meet but nobody can agree to a date.

Commissioner Bildz reported on the meeting that was held at Sunset Beach on Sunday. They are working on the issues that will be discussed at the special workshop on August 5th at 6 p.m.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

The workshop was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. by Mayor Minning.