

**CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND, FLORIDA  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES  
September 23, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Minning at 6:03 p.m.

**A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Mayor Minning

**B. ROLL CALL:**

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

**C. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Noel Johnson stated that she has provided the Commission with a copy of the Treasure Island code and site plan review. She would like to know what the city's interpretation of the word "except" is. Mayor Minning suggested that she allow the City Attorney to respond to that. Ms. Kiefer stated that it means that no site plan review is required for single family dwellings unless the dwelling abuts the Gulf of Mexico or the public beach.

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the meeting and workshop of September 9, 2009 are available for approval. It was moved by Commissioner Bildz and seconded by Commissioner Coward to approve the minutes as corrected. Upon roll call the vote to approve was unanimous.

**E. BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. Consideration of Res. 09-65 Setting the Final Millage Rate For FY 2009-10 (Public Hearing)

Mayor Minning read the required statement regarding the final millage rate.

The Public Hearing was opened by Mayor Minning at 6:09 p.m.

John Fore stated that he wanted to compliment Commissioner Gayton on his hard work and focus in trying to save the taxpayer's money. He made comments regarding the increase in the millage rate. In 2007 the rate was reduced by 9%. In 2008 there was a 5% increase in the rate. This year the Commission is proposing a 7.5% increase in the rate. This rate is 2.25% above the rollback rate of 2007. He asked Mayor Minning what year he was referring to when speaking about the rollback rate. Mayor Minning explained that it was the rollback rate from 2008/2009. Mr. Fore stated that he was confused as to the year referred to. He stated that an increase in the tax rate is an increase in taxes. The amount of total ad valorem taxes is based on the tax rate and assessed value. The

rate discussed will not result in a tax decrease for the average homesteaded property owner. He feels that it is irresponsible to raise the tax rate during the worst recession since the depression just to increase the reserves. He has no idea what adverse affect this will have on the community.

Kevin Johnson stated that he has heard a lot of people talk about the budget. He has heard people say that their house has been reevaluated but they have to pay more. He read that Indian Rocks Beach has law enforcement and fire separate. In Treasure Island the figure is combined. He stated that the average taxpayer would like to see what each costs.

Mr. Silverboard stated that the recommended police budget was \$2,776,388 and the fire budget was \$1,356,803.

The Public Hearing was closed by Mayor Minning at 6:18 p.m.

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

Commissioner Bildz stated there is a lot of confusion when the assessed values go down and the rate goes up. This is not the highest amount of ad valorem taxes that we have collected. The City has made incredible cuts. If property values go up he feels that the millage rate will go down. Our employees have no raises this year. There were layoffs three years in a row. He is comfortable with the 2.6868. It is \$100,000 less than what Administration recommended. He doesn't think there is a magic number, but he is comfortable with this rate.

Commissioner Gayton stated that he has not changed his mind since the last meeting and he will not be supporting this. Everyone looks at the prior rates from when the property assessments were increasing. We didn't lower the rates then. He doesn't hold out hope that it will happen when values increase again. He stated that we have added to the Police budget, and had the money to do it without increasing the millage. We haven't looked at decreasing the Fire Department. We have not looked at decreasing any essential services. The only thing we are doing is increasing our fund balance. He doesn't feel that this is the time that we should be putting money aside to increase fund balance. Why didn't we do that when we increased revenues? It doesn't make sense to him. We also set aside \$180,000 and put it in a designated fund balance for bridge repairs and operation. We did everything that we said we would do, we gave the City Manager everything that he wanted, plus gave the Police Department another officer and \$54,000 in overtime. He feels that the residents need the money more than we do, and he will not be voting for the increase.

Upon roll call the vote to approve was 4-1 with Commissioner Gayton being the dissenting vote.

Mayor Minning read the required statement regarding the final millage rate. He then complimented staff and the Commission for the time spent on the budget. He feels that it is fair and it is a reduction.

2. Consideration of Ord. 09-07 Budget and Appropriations For FY 2009-10 (Second Reading & Public Hearing)

The Public Hearing was opened by Mayor Minning at 6:26 p.m. There being no public comment the Public Hearing was closed by Mayor Minning at 6:26 p.m.

It was moved by Commissioner Coward and seconded by Commissioner Collins to approve the ordinance as read.

Commissioner Gayton made a correction to his statement regarding the amounts of ad valorem taxes collected from 2002 to 2007. It increased from \$1.6 million to \$4.7 million.

Commissioner Coward asked about the balance in the mast arm account and what was going on with it. Mr. Silverboard stated that the manufacturer has to certify the welds, and the contractor is waiting for that. Commissioner Coward asked if it was different than what we installed on the causeway and Paradise. Mr. Silverboard stated that the difference is that those are not state roads.

Commissioner Coward stated that it might be a good exercise for them to look at three years of numbers to see where the increases are. It isn't too soon to start looking at next year.

Upon roll call the vote to approve was unanimous.

Mayor Minning read the required statement regarding the budget.

**F. ITEMS OF BUSINESS:**

3. Consideration of Ord. 09-06, Banning Kegs on the Public Beach and Parks (Second Reading & Public Hearing)

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

The Public Hearing was opened by Mayor Minning at 6:30 p.m.

John Fore stated that he has been living on Sunset Beach for about twelve years. He is on the beach quite often. He runs the beach from Land's End to John's Pass. He has the opportunity to make a lot of observations on the beach. He made comments on the beach rules posted on the signs at the beach access points. He can never recall seeing a keg on the beach. He does not believe that they are a problem. This proposed ordinance is probably innocuous and may address the Sunset Beach situation. He feels that it will not change behavior and the expense of redoing all the beach signage isn't worth it.

Kevin Johnson stated that he walks the beach every day, and has often been offered beer from kegs.

The Public Hearing was closed by Mayor Minning at 6:37 p.m.

Commissioner Bildz stated that we probably do have to do a better job of enforcing the rules. This was brought up by complaints that have been received. People will drink whatever they take to the beach.

Mayor Minning stated that he has seen someone wheeling two kegs to the beach on a dolly.

Upon roll call the vote to approve was unanimous.

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

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

Mr. Silverboard stated that he received a call today from Bob LaSala. He wanted to explain to him that they were adjusting the funding being made to St. Pete Beach. Their amount was being increased, and Mr. LaSala didn't think that they should have done that. St. Pete Beach had threatened to sue the county on this issue. It was counter to St. Pete Beach's agreement to voluntary cutbacks in EMS funding. Mr. Silverboard explained to him that this was not voluntary, and that in 1989 we were also providing services including an ambulance. We had provided them with a budget reflecting that amount. He asked if Ms. Kiefer should speak with the attorney for St. Pete Beach to see if there are issues that are applicable to Treasure Island. Mr. LaSala is hoping that the situation will not unravel. Mr. Silverboard stated that he understands Mr. LaSala's position, but it is his opinion that Treasure Island is subsidizing other areas of the county and we are not getting our fair share back. He asked Chief Fant if anything had been said about where it would leave us if the agreement isn't signed by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mayor Minning commented that St. Petersburg also got their funding based on the 1989 funding. Mr. Silverboard stated that he would like Chief Fant to speak with South Pasadena as he has heard that they are trying to do the same thing.

Chief Fant stated that he thought that St. Pete Beach responded with a letter explaining what the decrease in funding would do to their staffing. This was not a voluntary agreement. They had told us that everyone would be treated the same, but they are not doing that. In the information that they received earlier, St. Petersburg and South Pasadena's numbers were not included. He doesn't know what the answer is if we do not have an agreement in place, but he doesn't believe that we would be the only ones that do not approve the agreement.

A brief discussion was held regarding waiting for further information and having a special meeting if need be. Commissioner Coward asked how it would affect the Fire Department's operations. Mr. Silverboard explained that their funding comes from the General Fund and it would affect the revenues. Chief Fant explained that there is always a delay in receiving the funding.

Commissioner Gayton asked what the dollar figure was based on 1989 numbers. Chief Fant stated that it would be almost double what our current budget is. We have not been

funded at that level for many years. The county's position is that they only need to augment one paramedic per 24 hour shift, plus coverage for sick and vacation. His submitted budget was over \$600,000, and we were funded at an amount that is an approximately \$225,000 reduction.

It was moved by Commissioner Bildz and seconded by Commissioner Collins to table this item until we receive further information. Upon roll call the vote to approve was unanimous.

Ms. Kiefer asked if they wanted her to educate herself on the issues for the possibility of litigation. She gave a brief explanation of the issues that they may consider. Commissioner Gayton stated that we are already funded. We are looking for additional funding. Mr. Silverboard stated that he feels that Ms. Kiefer should speak with the city attorneys in St. Pete Beach and South Pasadena to get the background on the 1989 litigation that set the standards in the County. Beyond that it is too early to consider litigation.

Upon roll call the vote to approve was unanimous.

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

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

Commissioner Coward asked about the required completion dates and if there are penalties if we are not completed by that date. Mr. Silverboard stated that if it looks like we will not be finished we will have to get an amendment to the agreement. Mr. Murphy explained that we would have to keep SWFWMD informed and amend the date if necessary. He stated that he is confident that we can get the work completed in the timeframe unless something extraordinary happened.

Commissioner Collins stated that the district is responsible up to \$150,000. If something went over, would Treasure Island be responsible for the difference? Mr. Murphy answered in the affirmative. Mr. Silverboard explained that when he did a similar project in Belleair Beach it went over. They were able to go back to the board and were given additional funding, but there were no guarantees. Mr. Silverboard stated that when we get the bids, if they are over we can refuse the bids, decide to pay the difference, or approach SWFWMD for additional funding. We would be responsible for change orders if they exceeded the total of \$300,000. If the bid comes in over we would be responsible for the additional money. We would not award the bid if there was a problem with that. Mr. Murphy stated that during the course of the project we would keep SWFWMD informed and either request additional funding or reduce the scope of the project to stay within the budget. The key will be to work closely with the agency.

Upon roll call the vote to approve was unanimous.

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

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

Commissioner Collins stated that this amounts to about one cent per day.

Commissioner Gayton asked to review the estimates on page 120 of the budget. He asked which fund balance the appropriations were coming from. Mr. Silverboard stated that they were coming out of the storm water fund balance. We are reducing the fund balance to balance the budget by taking \$231,000 out of fund balance, which will bring the fund balance down to \$510,000.

Commissioner Bildz stated that this is only pennies per day, but it keeps adding up. If you look at your entire tax bill, 50% is for schools. It is the fees for sewer and garbage and storm water adds up. Insurance is the biggest expense. We will be proposing more increases next year.

Commissioner Gayton stated that we are increasing taxes and fees to the highest that we can go on some of them.

Upon roll call the vote to approve was 4-1 with Commissioner Gayton being the dissenting vote.

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

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

Commissioner Bildz pointed out that this is money that the Commission had already approved; it is not extra money being spent. Commissioner Coward stated that it is mostly grant money that came in and had to be appropriated.

Upon roll call the vote to approve was unanimous.

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Minning at 7:07 p.m.

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Robert Minning, Mayor

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Phil Collins – District 1

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Ed Gayton – District 2

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Carol Coward – District 3

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Alan Bildz – District 4

**ATTEST:**

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Dawn M. Foss, City Clerk