

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL  
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA  
MONDAY, MAY 22, 2006  
1:30 PM

The Workshop Meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida was called to order by Mayor Steven Abrams at 1:30 p.m.

ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE:

Mayor Steven L. Abrams  
Deputy Mayor Susan Whelchel  
Council Member M. J. Mike Arts  
Council Member Peter R. Baronoff  
Council Member Bill Hager (arrived at approximately 2:10 p.m.)

Also attending the meeting were:

City Manager Leif J. Ahnell  
City Attorney Diana Grub Frieser  
City Clerk Sharma Carannante

**PROCLAMATION:** Emergency Medical Services Week - May 15 through May 20, 2006

Fire-Rescue Services Acting Chief Tom Wood accepted the proclamation, introduced members of his staff, and commented on the services provided by Fire-Rescue personnel.

**STAFF PRESENTATION:** Hurricane Preparedness

Nicole Gasparri, Assistant to the City Manager, gave the PowerPoint presentation, which focused on enhanced communication for residents; community coordination and partnerships with homeowner associations, businesses, and medical facilities; and internal staff preparations including, but not limited to, debris removal, mass care preparations, and distribution points; details were provided. She noted that additional generators, tarps, and ice and water supplies have also been ordered. Ms. Gasparri concluded her presentation and answered questions from Council; attention focused on accommodations and emergency care for pets, arrangements with nursing homes, the location of distribution points, and a "flag" program. Mr. Ahnell provided additional information in regard to proposed supplementary distribution points. Mayor Abrams suggested deployment of signs throughout the City, advising residents to tune into AM1650 after a hurricane. Overall, City staff and Council agreed that while the City will do everything possible to assist the community in preparing and responding to a disaster, however, it was emphasized that residents need to be responsible for themselves and prepare accordingly.

**1. BOARD INTERVIEWS:**

- a. Aviation Advisory Committee of the Boca Raton Airport Authority – one (1) vacancy, due to the term expiration of Frank Feiler, whose term expires 06/01/06. (The appointment will be confirmed by resolution.)

Ben McCaul and Timothy Andrasek expressed interest in the position.

**2. PUBLIC REQUESTS:**

Gordon Gilbert explained that he would not be available to interview for reappointment to the Parks and Recreation Board at the next Council workshop meeting; therefore, he was advising Council today of his interest in retaining his position.

**3. REVIEW OF REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:**

a. Questions relating to the agenda.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.a.2. - Landscape Maintenance Services for South Section) Deputy Mayor Whelchel referred to gas price increases and asked how this cost was affected. Mr. Ahnell explained that this item is actually one of five contracts; the price has increased \$30,000, or 15%, from last fiscal year. He then stated that the price of gas is significantly affecting all current contracts for maintenance. Mayor Abrams questioned how these increases are funded. Mr. Ahnell advised that the City would have to take money out of reserves or raise additional funding sources to pay for the difference.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.h. – Resolution No. 70-2006 / Memorandum of Understanding/Working Agreement with the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office related to registering and monitoring of sexual predators and offenders and the enforcement of sexual offender related crimes) Deputy Mayor Whelchel questioned whether there was a cost associated with this item and whether the City also shared information with other counties, in addition to Palm Beach County. Mr. Ahnell advised that there was no additional cost to this agreement; however, assigning detectives to these cases does have a cost attached to it, in addition to increasing the workload of the detectives as well. He further advised that he would check to find out if information is shared with neighboring Broward County.

**4. FUTURE AGENDA MATTERS/ITEMS OF COUNCIL/PUBLIC CONCERN:**

There were no items for consideration.

**5. CITY MANAGER REPORTS:**

The City Manager had nothing to report at this time.

**6. CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS:**

The City Attorney had nothing to report at this time.

**7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTS AND REPORTS:**

Council Member Baronoff referred to the goal setting sessions and asked when Florida Atlantic University (FAU) President Frank Brogan would be scheduled to make a presentation before Council. Mr. Ahnell also referenced the goal setting session discussions and explained that staff was coordinating presentations with the Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees at both the hospital and FAU, respectively. A date should be forthcoming shortly.

Mr. Baronoff then referenced the Wildflower restaurant and asked for staff’s suggestions for acquiring the property. Mr. Ahnell explained that staff would start with appraisals of the property, determining what could be built there, assigning a value, and then approaching the current owners to find out whether they’re interested in selling. If so, a price may be negotiated that staff could bring back to Council for consideration. If the owners do not wish to sell, the City would have the option of exercising its power of eminent domain; however, acquisition in this manner would impact/restrict how the property could be used. Mr. Ahnell was directed to prepare a motion for consideration at tomorrow night’s meeting, which would authorize him to proceed with analysis of the acquisition, including appraisals of the property.

Deputy Mayor Whelchel asked for an update on the workforce-housing ordinance. The City Manager advised that a staff presentation on the ordinance would be made at the July 25, 2006 meeting. He then outlined the procedure to be followed, explaining that the final documents would come back to Council in November for adoption. Responding to Council, Mr. Ahnell stated that staff has asked petitioners coming forward with projects to voluntarily make contributions to workforce housing in terms of dollars or units; however, staff cannot tell them that approval is contingent on the contribution.

Council Member Hager referred to a major rental building downtown that was acquired with the intention of converting it to condominiums; he questioned whether the ordinance Council passed at the last meeting would impact this building. The City Attorney advised that if it were an existing apartment building, it probably would not be affected.

Mayor Abrams referred to the fire at FAU last week and asked when the investigation would be completed. Mr. Ahnell is to follow up. Mayor Abrams then suggested that the CodeRed system be used to alert people in the adjoining neighborhoods when a fire of that magnitude occurs.

The regular workshop meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida, adjourned at approximately 2:16 p.m. on Monday, May 22, 2006.

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Vanessa Hines, Assistant City Clerk