

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING
CITY COUNCIL
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA
MONDAY, JULY 24, 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

Also attending the meeting were:

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

1. BOARD INTERVIEWS:

- a. Citizens' Pedestrian and Bikeway Advisory Board – one (1) vacancy, due to resignation of Anita Pearson whose term expires 01/12/07.

Richard Fauteck expressed interest in the position.

- b. Community Relations Board – one (1) student vacancy, due to resignation of Doug Haskins.

No one came forward to interview.

- c. Education Advisory Board – two (2) student vacancies, (1) due to resignation of Alara Aktan; (1) due to open position.

Kevin McGinnis interviewed for a position on the Board.

- d. Pearl City Blue Ribbon Committee – one (1) vacancy, due to resignation of Molly Rich from the Housing Authority, whose term expires 01/23/07 (Housing Authority representative).

Marjorie O' Sullivan interviewed for the position.

2. PUBLIC REQUESTS:

John Stetz spoke to beach preservation and the use of breakwaters and then advocated providing residents with a list of stores and gas stations that would be open in the aftermath of a hurricane. Mr. Ahnell advised that lists of stores and gas stations are currently being compiled and will be published shortly. Updated lists will be available only after a storm, as there is no way of predicting exactly what facilities will be open and operating at that point.

3. REVIEW OF REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Questions relating to the agenda.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.a.3. – Tree Stump Removal Service) Council Member Baronoff questioned whether this item represented normal maintenance or whether it was a result of the hurricanes. Mr. Ahnell explained that these removals are due to the hurricanes; approximately 1,300 stumps are to be removed.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.a.4. – Bulk Quicklime) Council Member Baronoff asked for more details regarding this item. Mr. Ahnell explained that quicklime is used in the water treatment process to take out impurities and advised that this is a normal annual expenditure.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.a.2. – Emergency Medical Supplies) Council Member Hager questioned whether this was a normal annual expenditure or an emergency expenditure. The City Manager stated that this money would provide medical supplies for use by Fire-Rescue Services throughout the year.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.m. – Resolution No. 105-2006 / Work Order No. 23 with Coastal Planning & Engineering, Inc. regarding the Boca Raton Inlet North Jetty rehabilitation) Council Member Hager asked for more information on this item. Mr. Ahnell explained that the jetty is located near the Boca Raton Resort & Club and was damaged in the last two storms. It has been repaired; however, as part of the regular process, there must be ongoing engineering monitoring, which is what this resolution provides.

(Agenda Item No. 16 – Resolution No. 109-2006 / An appeal relating to the decision of the Community Appearance Board {CAB} to approve main entrance and guardhouse renovations at 5200 St. Andrews Blvd.) Mayor Abrams asked for the status of the appeal. Mr. Ahnell advised that while nothing is official, one of the six parties has not withdrawn the appeal, even though the other parties have done so. That person expressed concerns about a communications committee at the Broken Sound community, not necessarily opposition to the entryway, itself. Mr. Ahnell added that Broken Sound conducted a survey wherein approximately 80% of the residents voted in favor of the new landscaping plan, after it went through the CAB process. In conclusion, he stated that the petition might be withdrawn prior to tomorrow night; however, if it is not, the hearing would need to be held as scheduled, due to time constraints.

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

There were no items for consideration.

5. CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

Mr. Ahnell reminded those present that the budget workshop would be held tonight at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

6. CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS:

The City Attorney had nothing to report at this time.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTS AND REPORTS:

Deputy Mayor Whelchel advised that she had received a number of phone calls regarding the proliferation of iguanas within the City and asked whether there were plans to do anything about it or to create a policy addressing same. Mr. Ahnell noted recent correspondence from the Marine Advisory Board espousing the need for an eradication program and stated that unfortunately, the City does not have a lot of options available. Mayor Abrams added that since iguanas are a non-native species, they cannot be captured and released into their natural habitat nor would killing them be an acceptable option. He advised that Palm Beach County Commissioner Mary McCarty suggested regulating the sale of iguanas by pet shops, and the County is pursuing same. Unfortunately, that does not address the existing problem. Deputy Mayor Whelchel questioned whether contact information for iguana trappers could be included on the City's website; Mr. Ahnell is to follow up.

Ms. Whelchel reported that BRET (Boca Raton Education Television) has received complaints that they are not airing all School Board meetings, noting that lack of notification from the School District regarding dates of special meetings is the problem. She questioned whether, as a government channel, the City could air the School Board meetings. Mr. Ahnell advised that the City could definitely carry the meetings but the same problem would still exist since, historically, communications from the School District are either lacking or incorrect. Ms. Whelchel asked that the City Manager compose a letter to the School District, requesting timely notification. It was noted that a letter had already been sent to the School District in this regard. Mr. Ahnell stated that another letter would be sent and asked that BRET provide the City with documentation of meetings that were not aired because notification was not received.

Office Depot

Mayor Abrams reported that it appeared Office Depot would be relocating to the City and asked for the status on expediting roadwork connected with same. Mr. Ahnell explained that Office Depot has already obtained development approval from the Planning and Zoning Board. They're also eligible for State funding grants wherein the applicant must be the local government; the City will apply for those grants. Office Depot also has grants available to it associated solely with the County.

Torrey Pines Institute

Regarding Torrey Pines Institute, Mayor Abrams advised that the County was \$10 million short on Torrey Pines' request, due primarily to concern over whether Torrey Pines could guarantee spinoff jobs. Responding to questions, he explained that the total request was approximately \$80 million; \$40 million would be from the State and \$40 million would be from local government. Of the local portion, the County would provide \$20 million; the City discussed providing \$10 million, which is the value of the parcel of land north of Spanish River Boulevard. However, that left \$10 million to be provided by another source. Mayor Abrams indicated that the City was hesitant to make an additional commitment above and beyond the land since the jobs would not be guaranteed to be located in the City; they could be located in County.

Project Checkmate

In regard to Project Checkmate, a joint venture between IBM and Scripps that has been created to fight pandemic diseases, Mayor Abrams advised that the program could be extended and, if extended in Palm Beach County, an infusion of \$500 million, mostly Federal dollars, would be forthcoming to our area. He added that it would be a match between the State and Palm Beach County; it was unclear whether the City would be asked for anything. Mayor Abrams advised he might prepare a motion for tomorrow evening wherein the City would explore in-kind services as part of a contribution in terms of police, fire, and public safety, should the program be extended.

Liberties Bookstore

Mayor Abrams reported that the lease had been signed by Mr. Svekis in order to bring the "Liberties" bookstore to Mizner Park. He then provided details related to a meeting he attended with General Growth Properties (GGP) marketing personnel.

PGA Golf Tournament

In regard to the PGA Golf Tournament, Mayor Abrams advised that he and Deputy Mayor Whelchel attended the press conference; it was announced that the tournament is scheduled for February. Mayor Abrams stated that this was a feather in Broken Sound's cap; the receiving charity of this event will be Boca Raton Community Hospital. Since this is an ongoing event, it should be a nice source of additional revenue for the hospital and healthcare needs in our community.

Botanical Gardens

Mr. Ahnell and Mayor Abrams met with representatives of the Botanical Gardens Association in regard to a proposal they submitted to the City for the use of land located at Countess de Hoernle Park; he indicated that discussion centered on how much land would be needed and how best to proceed. Suggestions included creating different fundraising milestones over certain periods of time wherein the City could consider their status at each point. He asked the City Manager to review the proposal, advising that a lot of assumptions were made about the City's budget. Mr. Ahnell was asked to bring back a recommendation to Council.

Spring Training

Mayor Abrams explained that Spring Training is in the discussion stage between Florida Atlantic University (FAU) and the Beach & Park District. He advised that some problems have cropped up, including the requirement of four major league fields morphing into a requirement for six fields. Also, funding was expected to be an additional 1-cent from the bed tax but that has already been programmed for the convention center in West Palm Beach. Mayor Abrams asked that the City Manager bring back the memo he created, which provided a breakdown as to exactly where the bed tax goes; he was also asked to research how the convention center is financed and whether the City is liable for any of the indebtedness.

NW 12 Avenue Road Widening

Mayor Abrams asked the City Manager to provide the status of this project tomorrow night, suggesting that copies of diagrams may be helpful to show precisely what would be constructed. Concern appears to center on the

issue of the median and whether it's necessary or whether the 20 feet could be used on the rights-of-way along the sides of the road.

Train Horns

Mayor Abrams advised that progress was being made; the City is close to implementation of quiet zones. One possible issue remains regarding the railroad crossing at Camino Real. The Federal Railroad Administration will be available later this month to assist in resolving the issue. Once approved, notification would be sent out and the quiet zone would be implemented approximately 21 days later.

The regular workshop meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida, adjourned at approximately 2:01 p.m. on Monday, July 24, 2006.

Vanessa Hines, Assistant City Clerk