

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL  
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA  
MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2007  
1:30 PM

The Workshop Meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida was called to order by Mayor 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

Mayor Abrams welcomed students from Advent Lutheran, who were in attendance in compliance with school course work on local government.

**1. BOARD INTERVIEWS:**

- a. General Employees' Pension Board – two (2) vacancies due to term expirations.

Linda Davidson expressed interest in reappointment.

- b. Planning and Zoning Board – two (2) vacancies due to term expirations.

Jessica Dornblaser interviewed for a position.

- c. Police and Firefighters' Pension Board – two (2) vacancies due to term expirations.

Peter McAllister expressed interest in reappointment; Steven Tubbs interviewed for a position.

- d. Zoning Board of Adjustment – three (3) vacancies due to term expirations.

Jessica Dornblaser interviewed for a position; John Capeller, Scot McLaren, and Alfred Gladstone expressed interest in reappointment.

**2. PUBLIC REQUESTS:**

No one came forward to speak.

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

- a. Questions relating to the agenda.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.a.1. / Property Insurance (Renewal) - Council Member Hager requested confirmation that this item constituted the best, most competitive bid. Mr. Ahnell advised that he would provide that information tomorrow night.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.c. – Resolution No. 33-2007 / Revocable License Agreement with Royal Palm Improvement Association, Inc. for speed humps) Deputy Mayor Whelchel questioned whether there was any reason why speed humps could not be installed on Royal Palm Way instead of Thatch Palm Drive and Maya Palm Drive. The City Manager advised that Royal Palm Way is designated as an

emergency vehicle access route. Consequently, no speed humps can be constructed there; additional details were provided.

**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 advised that she would ask Council to amend the agenda tomorrow evening to add introduction of an ordinance related to reasonable accommodation.

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

Deputy Mayor Whelchel questioned whether the City provided any type of incentives for construction of "green" buildings (energy efficient buildings). The City Manager stated that industry standards exist, which define the term, "green building." He is to follow up.

Council Member Baronoff advised that, tomorrow night, he planned to ask the City Manager about police patrols in the area of Jog Road.

Council Member Arts referred to young City residents wishing to expand their homes in Boca Raton and the costs associated with same. He cited a particular case wherein the City's fees were in excess of \$8,000 to add on approximately 640 square feet to a home – no bedrooms – and noted that just the City's park and recreation fees were \$2,810. He opined that the fees were inequitable since the homeowner was not adding bedrooms for additional family members and asked Council Members for their thoughts.

Council Members generally agreed with Mr. Arts in this instance, while at the same time acknowledging that staff provided a thorough presentation regarding these user fees, noting that the pros and cons were weighed. However, they also voiced caution in regard to making easy changes, conceding that user fees are an important alternative revenue source that may be capped in the near future; in addition, these fees closely reflect the actual amount of staff time and cost incurred in the processing of plans and proposals. At one point, it was suggested that the City Manager provide a spreadsheet analysis of the fees in question for Council's review. Upon further discussion, it was decided that, in terms of the parks and recreation impact fee, a distinction should be made as to whether bedrooms were being added, which would have an impact on the City's parks under the presumption that more people would be taking up residence, as opposed to kitchens or bathrooms. The City Manager is to follow up.

Mayor Abrams referred to a letter from the Boca Raton Airport Authority, which expressed concern over a bill being considered by the Legislature that could abolish the Authority. Responding to Mayor Abrams, Mr. Ahnell stated that the City's lobbyists are aware of this legislation and would monitor same; details were provided.

The regular workshop meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida, adjourned at approximately 2:09 p.m. on Monday, March 26, 2007.

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Vanessa Hines, Assistant City Clerk