

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL  
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA  
MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 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  
Assistant City Clerk Vanessa Hines

**PROCLAMATION:**

Florida Water Professionals Week – August 9 through August 10, 2007

Mayor Abrams presented the proclamation to Utility Services Director Chris Helfrich, who accepted same on behalf of his staff.

**1. BOARD INTERVIEWS:**

a. Advisory Board for the Physically and Mentally Challenged – one vacancy

No one came forward to interview.

b. Citizens' Pedestrian and Bikeway Advisory Board – one vacancy

No one came forward to interview.

c. Community Relations Board – one vacancy (student)

No one came forward to interview.

d. Elder Affairs Advisory Board – one vacancy

No one came forward to interview.

e. Financial Advisory Board – two vacancies

Edward Posner expressed interest in reappointment.

f. Historic Preservation Board – one vacancy

Merle Haber and Rex Nichols interviewed for the position.

g. Pearl City Blue Ribbon Committee – one vacancy (must be a resident of Dixie Manor, Pearl City, or Lincoln Court)

No one came forward to interview.

- h. Telecommunications Advisory Board – one vacancy

No one came forward to interview.

## 2. PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Richard Kroos asked for an update on the proposed road improvements to NW 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and NW 8<sup>th</sup> Street and whether that project was being funded through gas tax money. Mr. Ahnell explained that a portion of the project was funded through the gas tax but the majority of money comes from the taxpayers and then advised that the contract for design of the intersection improvements had been awarded. He indicated he has also proposed in the Capital Improvements Program budget for next year, the widening of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, north of Palmetto Park Road, to four lanes with no median, thereby leaving the rights-of-way intact; in addition, 8<sup>th</sup> Street would be aligned accordingly.

Dennis Riley referred to the recommended budget cuts and spoke in support of retaining funding for PAL (Police Athletic League). Responding to Mr. Riley's comments, Mayor Abrams explained the budget process and stated that two public hearings were scheduled in September wherein citizens could come forward to be heard; at the conclusion of the second public hearing, Council can make amendments and then adopt a final budget. Mr. Ahnell advised that the dates for these public hearings were September 10, 2007 (tentative budget hearing) and September 17, 2007 (final budget hearing). Mayor Abrams added that citizens were welcome to comment at the Budget Workshop scheduled this evening and also noted that Council retains the ability to modify the recommended budget.

Nancy Sneider, President of the Board for PAL, confirmed with Council that her letter was received. Responding to additional queries from Ms. Sneider, Mayor Abrams explained what would transpire at the Budget Workshop.

## 3. REVIEW OF REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Questions relating to the agenda.

In regard to Regular Agenda Item Nos. 5 – 7 / Ordinance Nos. 4987, 4989, and 4991, relating to the project known as Ocean Breeze, Mayor Abrams advised that correspondence was received from the developer of the Ocean Breeze project, requesting a continuance. Mr. Ahnell acknowledged same, advising that the continuance was requested for the regular Council meeting of September 11, 2007. The City Manager explained that these items were scheduled for public hearing tomorrow night for transmittal to the State; final consideration by Council would take place in the fall. He recommended that, in addition to continuing the Ocean Breeze items, the workforce housing ordinance also be continued to the September 11, 2007 meeting, since the City is only allowed two transmittals per year to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Consequently, the proposed final adoption hearings for these ordinances would be December 11, 2007.

- b. Ordinance Nos. 4987, 4989, and 4991 (*Regular Agenda Item Nos. 5 – 7*), amending the Future Land Use Map by redesignating 29.580 acres and 3.094 acres at 5800 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, and amending the Transportation Element to implement interim concurrency measures for constrained roadways, respectively, for a project known as Ocean Breeze.
- c. Ordinance No. 4992 (*Regular Agenda Item No. 8*), amending the Housing Element and the Future Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan to support a workforce housing program.

Based on the recommendation made by the City Manager, no presentations were given; the public hearings on the above items would be opened tomorrow night and continued to the regular Council meeting of September 11, 2007.

## 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 take place at 6:00 p.m. this evening 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:**

Mayor Abrams requested an update on the Spanish River Boulevard construction project. Mr. Ahnell stated that the project was on schedule; he is to provide a date for completion.

Mayor Abrams referred to the recent property tax legislation and the resulting, long-term budget cuts that are expected, advising that the City would probably need to change the way it operates. He then reported on his visit to Sandy Springs, Georgia, a suburb of Atlanta, stating that this city may be a model for the future since they have a total of five employees in addition to police and fire personnel. CH2M Hill, which has 400 employees, runs the City; details were provided. Council Member Hager asked for more information, specifically, the ratio of employees to population, the type of employees utilized, and a budget comparison.

The regular workshop meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida, adjourned at approximately 1:54 p.m. on Monday, August 13, 2007.

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Vanessa Hines, Assistant City Clerk