

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING
CITY COUNCIL
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA
MONDAY, MAY 12, 2008
1:30 PM

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

ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE:

Mayor Susan Whelchel
Deputy Mayor Peter R. Baronoff
Council Member M. J. Mike Arts
Council Member Bill Hager
Council Member Susan Haynie

Also attending the meeting were:

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

PRESENTATION: Citizen Recognition of Police Officers Lora Beck, Yvette Ortiz, and Matt McGarry

Police Chief Dan Alexander gave an overview of the March event wherein Police Officers Beck, Ortiz, and McGarry saved the life of Joseph Romagnolo at Gold's Gym and then tendered Police Services' Lifesaving Awards to each officer. Mr. Romagnolo came forward and clarified that it was a customer of Gold's Gym and the police officers who saved his life, not personnel from Gold's Gym. As a member of the Kiwanis Club (New York District), he then provided plaques to the officers in recognition of their efforts. Mayor Whelchel provided additional commentary, referring to the Police Memorial that took place earlier in the day, and complimenting the Police Services Department.

AWARDS: 2008 Excellence in Procurement Award
- Financial Services Department, Purchasing Division

Mayor Whelchel and Financial Services Director Merv Timberlake congratulated Lynn Kunkel, Purchasing Manager, and the purchasing team for winning this award again for the sixth year in a row. Mr. Timberlake also noted that this was Ms. Kunkel's first year as Purchasing Manager.

PROCLAMATIONS:

NeuroEndocrineImmune Disorders Awareness Day – May 12, 2008
Megan Flynn accepted the proclamation on behalf of P.A.N.D.O.R.A., Inc.

National Safe Boating Week – May 17 to May 23, 2008
Commander Antonio Quesada accepted the proclamation on behalf of the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Boca Raton Beautification Committee's 25th Anniversary
Ann Wood accepted the proclamation on behalf of the Beautification Committee.

National Volunteer Week – April 27 through May 3, 2008
Catherine VandenBroeck accepted the proclamation on behalf of the City's volunteers. She then presented the Mayor with a facsimile of a check that represented the volunteers' value to the City.

1. BOARD INTERVIEWS:

- a. Airport Authority – three (3) vacancies.

Harold Ingraham, Paul Carman, and Frank Feiler indicated interest in reappointment.

- b. Airport Authority Aviation Advisory Committee – one (1) vacancy.

No one came forward to interview.

2. PUBLIC REQUESTS:

John Stetz advocated installation of a new windfarm system and conversion of the City's water treatment plant to desalinization.

Paula Felicio and Lillian Kuzmenko spoke to Resolution No. 50-2008 and advocated support of same, indicating that SW 12th Avenue must be widened to alleviate traffic congestion.

Tom Thayer referred to the proposed replacement of a monument sign, originally located in the large median on South Federal Highway at the entry into the City limits, advising that issues had arisen in connection with obtaining logos from the various civic groups, of which there are approximately 20 (those groups who originally had their logo on the sign). To date only seven of the 20 have paid the \$150 required by the sign company, SignSations, and SignSations has advised they will not proceed until all 20 have prepaid. Mr. Thayer then provided a list of the civic organizations to the City Clerk and asked for assistance in getting the sign completed.

3. REVIEW OF REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Questions relating to the agenda.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.b.1. – Bio-Diesel Fuel) Council Member Haynie referred to the backup material and requested clarification of "diesel-powered items." Mr. Ahnell explained that the items included vehicles and equipment, such as heavy-duty lawn mowers, tractors, and four-wheel drive vehicles for the beach. Responding to Ms. Haynie, he stated that no conversion was required in order to use this fuel.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.h. – Resolution No. 62-2008 / Application for three grants from the South Florida Water Management District's Alternative Water Supply Grant Program related to expansion of the reclaimed water system) Council Member Haynie referred to the three alternative water supply grant projects included in this resolution and questioned whether any other properties would be served as well. Mr. Ahnell explained that, ultimately, Countess de Hoernle Park, Spanish River Library, Patch Reef Park, both golf courses at Broken Sound, and Woodfield Country Club, would all benefit.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.a.1. – Turf Equipment {Replacement}) Council Member Hager referred to a number of articles regarding preliminary studies on the toxicity of artificial turf. Noting that the City was starting to use artificial turf, he asked for information on where the turf is installed and whether any issues have come forward in connection with same. Mr. Ahnell clarified that the City had not yet begun to install artificial turf; initial installation is proposed for the park at Yamato Road and Dixie Highway. He advised that an article he checked related to New Jersey and stated that those fields were different from what the City proposed to install; there were no issues associated with the City's proposed fields.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.h. – Resolution No. 62-2008 / Application for three grants from the South Florida Water Management District's Alternative Water Supply Grant Program related to expansion of the reclaimed water system) Council Member Hager indicated that the City previously cut back on grantwriting resources and questioned what kind of impact the City has experienced in terms of grant money flowing in. Specifically, he asked for a spreadsheet that compares current vs. prior years' grant flow. The City Manager advised that a full time grantwriter is currently on staff and the information would be provided. Mr. Ahnell also advised that if the City is not receiving as much grant money as in prior

years, it could be due to various authorities having less grant money to distribute as a result of budget cuts.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.h. – Resolution No. 62-2008 / Application for three grants from the South Florida Water Management District's Alternative Water Supply Grant Program related to expansion of the reclaimed water system) Council Member Arts questioned how close the City is in using 100% of its wastewater. Mr. Ahnell explained that with the extension of reuse water to the Broken Sound Golf Course, the City would be at approximately 80% use. He added that reclaimed water lines could then be extended to the Boca West golf course, which is already on the City's water system. Once all the golf courses are served, 100% of the City's wastewater would be used; it is anticipated that 100% reuse would occur in five years. Responding to Mr. Arts, Mr. Ahnell explained that revenues charged in consumption of the water would help offset the costs.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.i. – Resolution No. 63-2008 / Reaffirming the position of the City relating to the potential development of the Boca Raton Tri-Rail site) Council Member Arts stated that he planned to pull this item for discussion tomorrow night.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.d. – Resolution No. 58-2008 / Agreement with Terry Cohen, M.D. to provide professional services as Medical Director for emergency and non-emergency medical services provided by the Fire Rescue Services Department) Deputy Mayor Baronoff questioned whether Dr. Cohen was providing training. Mr. Ahnell advised that this item provides for comprehensive oversight of the City's paramedics program, which includes training and field operations. Mr. Baronoff confirmed with the City Manager that Dr. Cohen's certifications were in place and added that he is one of the head Emergency Room doctors at Boca Raton Community Hospital.

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

- a. Lagoon Keepers Program – Marine Advisory Board Chairman Gene Folden

Mr. Folden gave a PowerPoint presentation and explained the Lagoon Keepers Program. Using volunteers, he advised that the Lagoon Keepers utilize a cleanup vessel to clean waterways and help remove derelict equipment and boats. He acknowledged former Marine Advisory Board member Jack Johnson's contributions to the cleanup program and expressed thanks to the volunteers who have participated, including students from FAU and local schools and Vice Chairman Baronoff. He also recognized Greg Reynolds from Lagoon Keepers, Susan Elliott from Gumbo Limbo and Marine Advisory Board Members Tom Thayer and Art Grossman. Mr. Folden then answered questions from Council.

5. CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

- a. 2008 Revenue Projections

It was noted that this was the first of three presentations staff would make in connection with the City's proposed budget, prior to the regular budget hearings. Using a PowerPoint presentation, Financial Services Director Merv Timberlake then updated Council on major revenue sources in the City's General Fund, answering questions from Council throughout. He reviewed charts reflecting revenues from franchise fees levied on electric, natural gas and cable and then segued to utility services taxes, which included electric, telecommunications, water, natural gas and liquid petroleum. Focus was then given to State revenue sharing, the half-cent sales tax, building permits, and property taxes. Essentially, Mr. Timberlake indicated that revenues are decreasing in all categories, some more than others. Property taxes decreased by approximately 7% last year; another 7% drop was expected next year. There followed two charts providing information on a 5-year revenue history and combined major General Fund revenues, respectively. Mr. Timberlake reported that combined major General Fund revenues were approximately \$95 million, which represents an approximate 9.6% decrease in revenue since last year, and concluded his presentation. Council indicated that the good news for taxpayers is they will be sending in \$10 million less than before; the challenge for the City is that there will be \$10 million less in revenue. Mr. Ahnell added that Council is seeing a cumulative effect now; these decreases are on top of what the State Legislature voted on last year in regard to unfunded mandates.

6. CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS:

The City Attorney had nothing to report at this time.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTS AND REPORTS:

Deputy Mayor Baronoff reported that a meeting was planned for May 20, 2008, at the Embassy Suites regarding proposed exits for the Florida turnpike. Many neighborhoods involved are beginning to organize; the first neighborhood meeting is scheduled for tomorrow night at Woodfield at 7:30 p.m. in the homeowners' association office. Mr. Baronoff advised that he planned to be in attendance; in addition, he understood that the City's Traffic Engineer Doug Hess would be there as well. Council Member Hager questioned what staff's participation would be in terms of the May 20, 2008 meeting. Mr. Ahnell advised that the turnpike is kicking off these informational meetings; staff would be in attendance to monitor the meetings, review revised plans, and hear what people are being told.

Council Member Haynie reported that she attended a North Federal Highway Steering Committee meeting and members there questioned when that area would see a new, green, "Welcome to Boca Raton" sign. The City Manager advised that he would follow up. Ms. Haynie then reported that she attended a USGBC (U.S. Green Building Council) meeting in West Palm Beach with Judi Ahern, Municipal Services Operations Manager. Noting that the City had made application to be registered/certified as a green government and acknowledging that there are steps involved to achieve same, Ms. Haynie requested that staff provide a presentation at a future date as to the green initiatives the City is engaged in, which would also help to keep the community informed. Mr. Ahnell advised that the City had also signed up with the national association.

Mayor Whelchel indicated that she asked the City Manager to meet with the leading expert in Boca Raton, who works with and for Office Depot, about simple things the City could do to go green. She then referenced phone calls received lately regarding the lack of recycling opportunities at the City's parks and requested information on same from Mr. Ahnell. The City Manager indicated that information would be forthcoming at a later date. Council Member Haynie added that, at the USGBC meeting she attended, she learned some municipalities are initiating recycled construction waste ordinances. Essentially, the ordinance requires two receptacles at construction sites – one for waste and one for recyclables. Mr. Ahnell also noted that the City recently mailed out an environmental newsletter to residents.

Mayor Whelchel advised that she had received a number of calls requesting a no smoking ordinance in connection with the beach and asked the City Manager for direction. Mr. Ahnell explained that he was preparing a memo to send to Council, which would recommend designating the pavilion at Palmetto Park Road and A1A as non-smoking; he indicated that staff could expand on that at Council's direction.

Deputy Mayor Baronoff mentioned that a citizen had requested information as to where he might purchase bio-diesel fuel. Mr. Ahnell responded that there was only one distributor in South Florida – at the Port (Everglades); also, he did not believe that this fuel was available for individual consumption. He indicated that it might be more widely available in another year. Currently, the City buys the fuel directly, transports it directly, and puts it in City-owned tanks; the City does not sell its fuel to the public.

Deputy Mayor Baronoff referred to the reports coming in from the City's representatives in the State Legislature concerning their activities during this session and asked that State Representative Hasner and State Senator Deutsch be invited to speak with Council.

Mayor Whelchel asked the City Manager for the latest financial update as to what has transpired for the municipalities in terms of the newest legislation. Mr. Ahnell advised that he would send a summary to Council and when the representatives come in, they can speak more directly to the issues.

On the "no smoking" topic, Council Member Haynie asked the City Attorney whether the City had jurisdiction eastward of the mean high water line for enforcement purposes. Ms. Frieser stated that the non-smoking issue is a very popular subject now, as it was several years ago. She advised that she would look at this issue and return with the requested information.

The regular workshop meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida, adjourned at approximately 2:57 p.m. on Monday, May 12, 2008.

Vanessa Hines, Assistant City Clerk