

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING
CITY COUNCIL
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA
TUESDAY, MAY 27, 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

PROCLAMATION: Broward Attractions & Museums Month – June 2008

There was no one present to accept the proclamation.

1. BOARD INTERVIEWS:

There were no positions advertised.

2. PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Lenore Wachtel noted that many elementary school children she works with, as a volunteer, cannot do math or read. Consequently, she advocated having a City-sponsored bookmobile from the library come to various camps, which are also sponsored by the City, so children can check out books. She also suggested placing flyers promoting these bookmobile programs with local schools where volunteers can be made aware of same, should they wish to participate. Mayor Whelchel advised that the City Manager would follow up.

3. REVIEW OF REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

a. Questions relating to the agenda.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.a.1. – Advance Traffic Mgmt System Implementation: Video Detection System Expansion) Council Member Hager requested clarification of this item. Mr. Ahnell explained that approval of this item would provide for installation of cameras at 14 more intersections. Responding to additional queries from Mr. Hager, the City Manager stated that cameras monitor the intersections 24 hours a day; he then provided additional details in regard to traffic monitoring.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.g. – Resolution No. 73-2008 / Agreement with Ultimate Catering, LLC for concession services at the Spanish River Library and Community Center) Council Member Hager asked what criteria was used in regard to this vendor. The City Attorney advised that there was a termination provision, with or without cause, in the contract; in addition, there is language associated with scope of services, which can be modified as necessary. Responding to Mr. Hager, Mr. Ahnell explained that the length of the contract is one year with the option of renewal for a five-year period. He added that these are the same types of agreements the City has for the golf courses and some of the park facilities.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.h. – Resolution No. 74-2008 / Grant application to the Florida Dept. of Transportation regarding the Public Transit Service Development Program) Council Member Haynie asked for an overview of this grant and the City's chances for obtaining same. Mr. Ahnell was unsure as to the City's chances, stating that it depends on who's applying and how much money is available. He advised that this item was connected with three routes in the northwest section of the APOC (Arvida Park

of Commerce) area of the City; should the City be awarded funding, the balance of the money would come from the MMTD (MultiModal Transportation District) program. Ms. Haynie confirmed with Mr. Ahnell that the MMTD contemplated user fees and/or contributions from developers, which are currently voluntary; Mr. Ahnell advised that staff is studying options for making it mandatory.

- b. Resolution No. 67-2008 (Regular Agenda Item No. 4), considering a request to amend and restate the existing Conditional Use Approval for Pine Crest School on a parcel of land located at 2700 St. Andrews Boulevard.

Development Services Senior Planner Susan Lesser gave the PowerPoint presentation, advising that this petition included demolition and construction of new buildings, additions to existing buildings and ancillary development; a new lower school building; and a new main administration building with covered loggia. It was noted that enrollment would remain at 1,000 students. Location, surrounding properties, acreage, zoning information, and land use designation were identified.

The new lower school building would be located at the center of the campus; details were provided. Six existing tennis courts would be relocated east of their current location, adjacent to the Timbercreek residential subdivision, with lighting proposed for evening games. Following completion of the lower school building, the new main administration building would be constructed. An existing maintenance building and athletic building would be expanded and relocated to the northeast corner and eastern property line, respectively. Athletic program improvements are proposed for the southeast corner, north of the L-45 Canal, and include a training track, field bleachers, a concessions building, and a new scoreboard.

A traffic study by Carter Burgess revealed that no increase in trips was anticipated and concurrency standard requirements were met. Regarding parking, 250 spaces are required and 252 spaces are provided. This petition was reviewed by the Planning & Zoning Board in April 2008; members unanimously recommended approval with conditions. Those conditions are as follows: 1) Removal of the proposed six-foot high wall along the north and east property lines, 2) no additional outdoor amplified sound systems, 3) campus construction permitted pursuant to Section 10-64 of the City Code, 4) lighting restrictions for the tennis courts and pool, 5) additional landscaping, 6) use of pool and tennis courts limited to Pine Crest students, 7) 50-foot setback on the north and east property lines to be used for landscaping and limited to the running track only, and 8) visual screening of the new scoreboard; details were provided on all the above.

Ms. Lesser indicated that staff met with representatives of the Timbercreek Homeowners Association (THOA) and Pine Crest School on May 22, 2008, to discuss existing conditions and, possibly, resolve outstanding issues. As a result of the meeting, Condition Nos. 11 and 12, were amended. Specifically, Condition No. 11 states that no outdoor construction work is to occur on Sundays or Federal holidays; language in Condition No. 12 was struck through and now relates to lighting for the tennis courts and pool. She then focused on those issues that the THOA indicated were still outstanding at this time. They are as follows: 1) campus to be limited to pre-kindergarten through eighth grade {as provided for previously in Resolution No. 66-2003, Condition No. 3}, 2) lighting for tennis courts to be limited to no later than 8:00 p.m. {Resolution No. 66-2003, Condition No. 8 provides for 9:30 p.m.}, 3) relocation of the maintenance building, 4) revise the existing 50-foot setback to reflect 70 feet on the north and east property lines {see Resolution No. 66-2003, Condition No. 12}, and 5) use of pool and tennis courts limited to school events and programs for Boca Raton Pine Crest students only; details were provided on all the above.

Ms. Lesser concluded her presentation, advising that staff recommended approval with the conditions listed in the resolution.

Responding to Council, the City Attorney clarified that staff had recommended the condition for a six-foot wall; the Planning & Zoning Board deleted that condition. Consequently, there was not an existing condition and no existing wall. Ms. Lesser then answered questions related to the relocation of the dumpster to the northwest corner of the property in the reconfigured parking lot, the setback for the dance studio, lighting for the tennis courts, and "removal" of the nonexistent six-foot wall.

Mayor Whelchel referred to the removal of the nonexistent six-foot wall and confirmed with Ms. Lesser that Timbercreek did not want the wall. Ms. Lesser explained that the wall was initially proposed at a meeting between staff and representatives of Pine Crest and Timbercreek. At that time, the Timbercreek representatives agreed with installation of the wall; however, when they returned to the residents with the proposal, it met with opposition; residents wanted a landscape buffer only, which was subsequently written into the condition related to additional landscaping. The City Attorney added that, at the Planning & Zoning Board meeting the Timbercreek representative requested that no wall be installed and there be no condition for a wall.

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

There were no items for consideration.

5. CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

a. 2008 Expenditure Projections

The City Manager introduced Financial Services Director Merv Timberlake, who would give the presentation today, and advised that the next budget presentation at the June workshop meeting would center on alternative sources of revenue.

Mr. Timberlake gave the PowerPoint presentation, which focused on the City's General Fund and explained that total expenditures for the current year would be approximately \$118 million, up from last year's total of \$114 million. Next year, preliminary numbers show an increase of \$5.5 million in expenditures for a total of approximately \$123 million to provide routine operations, excluding new programs. There followed review of a series of charts, reflecting annual financial comparisons from 2005 through 2008 with forecasts provided for 2009. These charts reflected total expenditures, as well as expenditures broken out for Police Services, Fire Rescue, Sanitation, Recreation Services, and Municipal Services, respectively; details were provided. Mr. Timberlake and Mr. Ahnell answered questions and provided additional information throughout the presentation.

The next chart revealed the number of full-time equivalent employees as 1,650, down from 1,765, due primarily to the layoffs that occurred last year. Attention then turned to additional charts, again reflecting financial comparisons from, generally, 2005 through 2008 with predicted forecasts for 2009. Salaries and benefits, health insurance claims, pension contributions, pension costs, fuel costs, electric expenses, property insurance expenses, and dollars transferred from the City to the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), were reviewed; details were provided. It was noted that there were significant cost increases in each category with the exception of property insurance and the CRA transfer, both of which were expected to decrease next year, due to an anticipated drop in assessed property value.

Responding to Council, Mr. Timberlake and Mr. Ahnell clarified that Recreation Services operations represented by the chart are funded by property tax dollars; facilities/items that are also funded by the Beach & Park District were not included. Consequently, expenditures for Recreation Services are actually much higher; details were provided. They also clarified that the chart showing Municipal Services expenditures did not include fuel costs. Mr. Timberlake concluded his presentation by advising that in approximately two weeks staff would present alternative revenue sources to Council that could be implemented to produce significant revenues for the City.

6. CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS:

The City Attorney had nothing to report at this time.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTS AND REPORTS:

Council Member Haynie advised that a six-inch water main broke in her front yard on Saturday night. She called the emergency number for Utility Services and they came out within an hour. She stated that they did a great job and thanked the crew, reporting that the only thing left to do now was to remove the barricades and put in sod.

Council Member Arts reported on the success of the Memorial Day event and commended those in attendance and those staff members who coordinated the activities.

Council Member Baronoff congratulated staff and the volunteers who participated in the Memorial Day activities and suggested that the NJ ROTC from Boca Raton High School, who were in attendance at the event and gave a wonderful presentation on the American flag, provide the same presentation at a future Council meeting. He then reported that Mike Jarvis, a national figure, has been appointed as the new coach of the men's basketball team at FAU (Florida Atlantic University); details were provided. He wished Mr. Jarvis and his family much luck.

Mayor Whelchel extended thanks to the City Manager for keeping Council informed on the finances of other cities and what's happening elsewhere. She stated that people know the City has done a great job, and continues to do a great job, with its finances. Mayor Whelchel noted that Boca Raton is not in same situation as other cities today, as Boca Raton took necessary steps last year to address ongoing budget concerns.

Council Member Arts reported that a California city recently filed for bankruptcy. Mr. Ahnell added that it was the City of Vallejo, California, population 125,000. Mr. Arts advised that Vallejo had been in contract negotiations with police and firefighters for some time; when those negotiations broke down, the city filed bankruptcy.

The regular workshop meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida, adjourned at approximately 2:29 p.m. on Tuesday, May 27, 2008.

Vanessa Hines, Assistant City Clerk