

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL  
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA  
MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2008  
1:30 PM

The City Manager advised that neither Mayor Whelchel nor Deputy Mayor Baronoff was in attendance today; therefore, a motion was needed to determine who would chair meeting.

*Motion was made by Council Member Haynie, seconded by Council Member Hager, to appoint Council Member Arts to chair the Workshop meeting. Motion carried 3-0 on a voice vote; Council Members Arts, Hager, and Haynie voting yes.*

The Workshop Meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida was called to order by Council Member Mike Arts at 1:31 p.m.

ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE:

Mayor Susan Whelchel	(absent – excused)
Deputy Mayor Peter R. Baronoff	(absent – excused)
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:**

Florida Water Professionals Week

Council Member Arts presented the proclamation to Utility Services Director Chris Helfrich, who accepted same on behalf of his staff.

**1. BOARD INTERVIEWS:**

There were no positions advertised.

**2. PUBLIC REQUESTS:**

Michael Kokol advised that he would be out of town in September when his term on the Code Enforcement Board would expire, and he wished to express his interest in reappointment at this time. Mr. Kokol then answered questions from Council.

Tom Campbell, with Coastal Planning and Engineering, referred to a contract awarded by the City (Resolution No. 100-2008) and asked that his company's contract be left open for use on an as-needed basis and/or as a second consultant.

Rick Spadoni, also with Coastal Planning and Engineering, advised that his company had many years experience working with the City of Boca Raton and advocated continuing the relationship in some manner.

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

a. Questions relating to the agenda.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.c.1. – Building Renovations for Various Parks) Council Member Haynie questioned why the cost had increased. Mr. Ahnell explained that this item related to renovations to restrooms. He explained that the decision was made to install three additional restrooms since the City received such a good, competitive price and the money was already budgeted for same. Consequently, there was not a price increase but an increase in quantity.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.b.1. – Emergency Mobile Intensive Care Vehicles {Replacement}) Council Member Hager questioned whether this was a “piggyback” contract. The City Manager responded affirmatively, advising that the City was piggybacking on the Florida Sheriff’s Association contract, which they had bid out. Mr. Ahnell explained that, prior, the City had bid out three rescue units and then the company chosen went bankrupt. Since this cost, through the Sheriff’s contract, is actually lower than the price the City had originally received, the situation has worked out for the best. Council Member Arts questioned whether this was a single source provider. Mr. Ahnell answered negatively, explaining that medic units are bid out; however, the City typically uses one vendor when it comes to fire engines.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.d. – Resolution No. 95-2008 / Memorandum of Understanding with the Center for Law Enforcement Technology, Training, & Research (LETTR) to participate in the Florida Information Network for Data Exchange and Retrieval (FINDER) program) Council Member Hager questioned whether data exchange was being stopped at the border of Florida or moving beyond Florida. Police Services Chief Dan Alexander explained that different levels of data sharing currently exist; it is expected that, within approximately a year, there will be more regional participation. Data sharing may then be extended throughout the State and, ultimately, across the borders.

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

##### **a. Quarterly Goals Update**

Susan Saxton, Assistant to the City Manager, gave the PowerPoint presentation. She began by reviewing top priorities previously established at the goal setting sessions in May. They were as follows: 1) operate with a balanced budget; 2) maintain essential services; 3) downtown vision and plan; 4) FAU strategy/hospital project/I-95 interchange; and 5) retirement/pension cost containment. Details were provided in each category as to the actions taken by staff to meet these challenges. There followed a review of high priorities, specifically, 1) Multimodal Transportation District (MMTD) and mobility; 2) North Federal Highway development project and beautification; and 3) establish partnerships for economic development. Last of all, Ms. Saxton focused on goals: 1) employee recruitment, retention and career planning; 2) comprehensive environmental initiative; 3) annexation; 4) integrated technology strategy; 5) branding; and 6) Wildflower property; details were provided on all the above with, again, emphasis placed on staff’s actions and the current status of each item.

##### **b. Presentation on Proposed CIP for Fiscal Years 2008/09 through 2013/14**

Sharon McGuire, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director, gave the PowerPoint presentation. She explained that the projected total expenditure for projects was approximately \$102 million; the expenditure for vehicles was approximately \$4.5 million. She added that funding for the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) comes from ad valorem taxes, utility taxes, transportation gas taxes, State, County, and Federal funding, special assessments, bond proceeds, grants, the Beach & Park District, donations, and water/sewer revenues. Ms. McGuire then reviewed the expenditures and projects proposed for each department including the City Manager’s Office, Police Services, Fire/Rescue, Municipal Services, Recreation Services, Utility Services (water/sewer), the cemetery, the golf course, and Information Technology; details were provided. Ms. McGuire concluded her presentation by advising that the final budget hearing was scheduled for Wednesday, September 24, 2008, at 6:00 p.m.

Responding to Council, the City Manager explained the funding for the CIP, advising that some sources have caps and some do not. In addition, the City controls some sources, such as bond proceeds, and has no control over others, such as State and County funding. Mr. Ahnell provided further information in response to additional questions from Council. Essentially, it was clarified that funding sources for the CIP typically carry limitations in one form or another.

Referring to the budget books provided by OMB, attention then focused on Countess de Hoernle Park, which is also funded by the Beach & Park District. It was noted that although the District had not eliminated funding, the project appeared to be on hold at this time. The item was left in the budget in the event the District decided to move forward with a portion of the project; details were provided.

Discussion then turned to the downtown library. Mr. Ahnell explained that there was still \$9.8 million left on the bond proceeds from 2002, which would be allocated for construction of the downtown library; however, staff did not believe that the \$9.8 million was sufficient to build a 30,000 square foot building, and an additional \$2.8 million would be needed for completion of construction, equipment and operations. Mr. Ahnell recommended that the project be placed on hold until the economy improves. However, since he had not yet received direction from Council, Mr. Ahnell apportioned money toward this project simply as a placeholder. He added that, should Council wish to move forward with the downtown library, another \$850,000 per year would be needed for debt service payments and \$350,000 annually for operating costs; more than likely, taxes would need to be raised and/or existing services would need to be cut; Mr. Ahnell provided additional information to Council as requested. He cautioned Council not to assume that anything beyond '08/'09 would be funded, explaining that the material before them represented the best-case scenario. Since property values were expected to drop again next year, more projects would probably be placed on hold until the economy turns around. Mr. Ahnell clarified that when Council considers the budget at the final budget hearing in September, members will only vote on approving funding for Fiscal Year '08/'09; the other projects are simply a forecast for the future.

Mr. Ahnell answered questions from Council related to the possibility of increased costs due to delaying of projects and whether 15% funding (from ad valorem taxes) is typical for the CIP. At Council's request, he then commented on the property tax bills that recently went out, explaining why many people are seeing tax increases. Specifically, for taxing purposes, the nonhomesteaded properties are benefiting from the decline in property values – their taxes are going down; now, the long-term homesteaded properties are seeing their taxes increase, and this may continue for the next three or four years. Details were provided.

The City Manager then reviewed additional information regarding funding and the Wildflower property, and whether water/sewer revenues (an enterprise fund controlled by Utility Services) could finance their own CIP projects. Mr. Ahnell advised that, as an enterprise fund, the money would be available for those projects.

**5. CITY MANAGER REPORTS:**

The City Manager had nothing to report at this time.

**6. CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS:**

The City Attorney introduced the City's new Deputy City Attorney, Linda MacLaren, to Council.

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

Council Member Arts advised that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor might be in attendance at tonight's Budget Workshop.

The regular workshop meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida, adjourned at approximately 2:21 p.m. on Monday, August 25, 2008.

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Vanessa Hines, Assistant City Clerk