

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING
CITY COUNCIL
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2004
1:30 PM

The regular 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 Abrams
Deputy Mayor Bill Hager
Council Member Dave Freudenberg
Council Member Susan Haynie
Council Member Susan Whelchel

Also attending the meeting were:

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

1. BOARD INTERVIEWS:

There were no vacancies to fill.

2. PUBLIC REQUESTS:

John Stetz referred to the recently-passed County Bond Issue regarding the proposed purchase of certain waterfront property for the benefit of the public and suggested the City purchase the former Wildflower property, located on the Intracoastal, in order to provide additional parking for the Silver Palm Park boat ramp and proposed that the existing building could be used for meetings. He then spoke to Vestas Wind Systems as a way to augment power and decrease reliance on foreign oil.

3. REVIEW OF REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

a. Questions relating to the agenda.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.a.1. - Meadows Park Pool Renovations) In response to Council Member Haynie's inquiry regarding the status of her request to view an aquatics master plan, the City Manager advised that there is no master plan, per se; however, renovation/repair of existing facilities was expected. Ms. Haynie clarified that she was seeking an overview of the facilities' use. Additional discussion ensued regarding usage of existing City pools by school aquatic teams. Mr. Ahnell explained that the same situation with demand for ballfields also exists in regard to pools; the schools are not providing the amenities for students. The schools then come to the municipalities to use City facilities when available. However, due to large demand for usage of the City's two community pools, not everyone can be accommodated at all times.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.a.2. - Sanborn Square Renovations) Mayor Abrams referred to a silver sculpture in the middle of the Sanborn Square, which blocks the audience's view of the stage, and suggested it could be moved. He also mentioned that people have asked to have a flagpole installed there. The City Manager is to follow up.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.c.1. – Mobile Intensive Care Vehicles / Replacement) Deputy Mayor Hager questioned how the City of Jacksonville was involved in this transaction for two fire rescue vehicles. Mr. Ahnell explained that Boca Raton was "piggybacking" on Jacksonville's contract with the vendor, which is permitted through State law. Mr. Ahnell then confirmed with Mr. Hager that this was the best bid and provided additional information as requested.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.d.1. – Custom Built Advanced Life Support Pumper) Deputy Mayor Hager questioned why this was listed as a sole source item. Mr. Ahnell explained that Sutphen Corporation is considered the sole source in order to ensure compatibility of parts and equipment and consistent equipment. He added that only a few manufacturers make these types of fire engines and the accompanying equipment. Consequently, the City has used this manufacturer for a long time; details were provided. Mr. Ahnell further explained that the City does monitor pricing of other manufacturers to ensure that pricing remains fair.

- b. Resolution No. 197-2004, Ordinance No. 4827, & Resolution No. 198-2004 (Regular Agenda Item Nos. 9 – 11) regarding the termination of a lease agreement with the New Pines Foundation, Inc. and execution of two agreements with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County, Inc. related to a lease for City-owned property at 300 Newcastle Street and funding assistance for operating costs in connection with the New Pines Neighborhood Center.

Development Services Property Appraiser/Specialist Lynn Bodor gave the PowerPoint presentation. Essentially, Resolution No. 197-2004 would terminate an existing lease agreement between the New Pines Foundation, Inc. and the City for use of the New Pines Neighborhood Center. Due to the merger between the New Pines Foundation, Inc. and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County, Inc., a new long-term lease agreement would be executed by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County, Inc., and the City, for the same neighborhood center; details regarding the lease were provided. Ms. Bodor noted that long-term leases constitute the sale of City-owned property and cited Section 13-72(1) of the Code in support of same; Ordinance No. 4827 would authorize the above actions. Existing activities, such as after-school programs, tutoring, mentoring, recreational activities, and summer camps would continue to be provided. Municipal and Utility Services had no objections to this proposal. The Parks and Recreation Board and the Planning and Zoning Board reviewed and recommended the petitions, as did staff. The suggested lease amount, if approved, would be \$1 per year. Ms. Bodor then gave the floor to Community Improvement Administrator Annette Evans.

Ms. Evans spoke to Resolution No. 198-2004, which would authorize an agreement between the City and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County, Inc. for the purpose of obtaining Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to assist with the operating costs for the New Pines Neighborhood Center. Ms. Evans provided details regarding the proposed merger, mentioned previously, and advised that funding was contingent upon Council approving the new long-term lease; if the lease was not approved, funding would go to New Pines Foundation, Inc, as it had in the past. She then concluded her presentation. Council Members tendered questions regarding, but not limited to, funding for the existing community policing officer and whether additional State or County dollars would be forthcoming as a result of the merger. Mr. Ahnell advised that the City would continue to fund the community policing officer. Ms. Evans responded that no additional funding was expected, due to the merger.

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:

Ms. Frieser distributed a memo related to the occupational license tax, as it applies to residential rental buildings, and explained that she would seek Council's direction tomorrow night as to whether Council chose to reaffirm the policy already in place in regard to collection of the tax. Ms. Frieser then mentioned that this issue was expected to come before a Special Master and her office would like to present this clarification to the Special Master at that time.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTS AND REPORTS:

Council Member Freudenberg advised that he kept hearing from constituents that it was difficult to access the City's website. He questioned whether the web address, "bocaraton.gov," was available to the City and whether the City might be able to link everything to that website address. Mr. Ahnell is to follow up. Mr. Freudenberg then mentioned that Tri-County Humane Society has requested a 30-year lease instead of the current five-year lease so they can get into a capital campaign; he had asked the City Attorney to prepare a new lease for consideration by Council. Deputy Mayor Hager requested that staff provide an analysis of the pros and cons. Last of all, Mr. Freudenberg advised that Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) ordinances had been passed by at least two other cities; he asked the City Attorney to combine those ordinances and present one document for consideration by Council. Deputy Mayor Hager requested that staff provide an analysis on this matter as well. The City Attorney advised that Fire-Rescue would need to review the ordinances and prepare a document for processing.

Council Member Haynie requested the status of the wall at the entrance to the Royal Oak Hills subdivision on Camino Real that was damaged during Hurricane Frances. The City Manager explained that staff was still attempting to obtain a response from the insurance company. Ms. Haynie confirmed with Mr. Ahnell that the Tree Committee's insurance policy should cover the repairs. She then questioned whether oak trees would replace the ficus trees. Mr. Ahnell responded affirmatively, saying that the City would move forward with the plan originally proposed a year ago.

Deputy Mayor Hager reported that Yamato Road construction was finally complete between Congress Avenue and Military Trail after nine months. He also commented on other area road construction and the time it takes to finish such projects.

Mayor Abrams commented on the appearance of Palm Beach Soil and Water District candidates on the November ballot and asked for information related to this agency, e.g. their budget, what this entity had accomplished for the City, how they're financed and so forth. The City Manager is to follow up.

The regular workshop meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida, adjourned at approximately 2:02 p.m. on Monday, November 8, 2004.

Vanessa Hines, Assistant City Clerk