

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL  
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2005  
1:30 PM

The regular workshop meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida was called to order by Mayor Steven L. Abrams at 1:30 p.m.

**ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE:**

Mayor Steven L. Abrams  
Deputy Mayor Susan Whelchel  
Council Member Bill Hager  
Council Member Susan Haynie  
Council Member Peter R. Baronoff

Also attending the meeting were:

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

**PRESENTATION:** Donation to Jay Marcus, Treasurer for the Tri-County Humane Society

Mayor Abrams presented a \$500 check to Mr. Marcus on behalf of the City of Boca Raton in appreciation of the Humane Society's work here and their rescue efforts in New Orleans, Louisiana, saving dogs and cats left homeless in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

**1. BOARD INTERVIEWS:**

- a. Builders' Board of Adjustment and Appeals – one (1) vacancy, due to term expiration of Robert L. Welch (Electrical Contractor), whose term expired 02/15/05.

No one came forward to interview.

- b. Citizens' Pedestrian and Bikeway Advisory Board – one (1) vacancy, due to resignation of Scott G. Borchers, whose term expires 01/12/08.

No one came forward to interview.

- c. Community Relations Board – two (2) vacancies, one (1) vacancy due to resignation of Joan Upshaw, whose term expires 07/25/07, and one (1) vacancy with a term expiration date of 07/25/08.

Tracy Tilson expressed interest in serving on the Board.

**2. PUBLIC REQUESTS:**

John Stetz provided commentary on several topics including costs associated with sewer installation for the Spanish Village subdivision, the lack of parking for bicycles at City Hall, left-turn green arrows, dredging at Hillsboro Beach that he alleges is causing massive environmental damage, and construction of above-water breakwaters as a way to prevent beach erosion. He concluded his comments by voicing opposition to privatizing the City's sanitation service.

David Johnson, representing the Board of Directors for Camino Lakes Homeowners Association, advised that the Board was pleased with the revised master plan for the Hillsboro/El Rio Park and thanked the Recreation Services Department and the Parks & Recreation Board for listening to residents' comments and incorporating same into a good plan.

### 3. REVIEW OF REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

#### a. Questions relating to the agenda.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.f.2. – Gasoline and Diesel Fuel) Council Member Haynie noted that the cost listed was for one year and questioned whether the City was locked in at today's prices and whether the City had any protection against rising fuel costs. Mr. Ahnell explained that the City was not locked in and not protected from rising fuel costs. He added there was another contract coming forward for several hundred thousand dollars more. Due to the escalating cost of fuel, Mr. Ahnell expressed concern that dollars proposed in next year's budget for fuel will not be adequate. Mayor Abrams asked whether this contract guaranteed fuel availability for the City. Mr. Ahnell stated that it did not and advised that staff had taken actions to ensure that the City had an adequate supply on hand; details were provided. He then mentioned that fuel prices are affecting other costs; for example, FPL recently advised the City that, as one of the largest users of power in the County due to street lighting and the water plant, the City's bills would be approximately 30% higher than they are today. This increase was not calculated into the budget. Responding to Council, Mr. Ahnell confirmed that FPL rate increases must be approved; however, some increases have already been approved, and FPL is seeking additional increases.

Council Member Hager questioned the unusually large number of procurement items on the agenda. Mr. Ahnell explained that this was the last meeting before the new fiscal year, which is why there were so many items on this agenda; all listed purchases, with the exception of one, are related to the next fiscal year.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.k. – Resolution No. 168-2005 / Updating the pay grade schedule for employees in the non-bargaining unit for Fiscal Year 2005 – 2006) In response to queries from Mr. Hager and Mr. Abrams, Mr. Ahnell explained that these are adjustments to the pay ranges in the pay grade schedule; they apply to non-union and executive employees only, and they are typically at 3 percent. He added that union employees have contracts that are already set with regard to pay raises. He also stated that new levels have been added due to market pressures.

(Consent Agenda Item Nos. 3.n., 3.o., 3.p., and 3.q. – Resolution Nos. 173-2005, 174-2005, 175-2005, and 176-2005 regarding contracts for legal services provided by various law firms) Council Member Hager questioned whether these contracts were either competitively bid or awarded. Ms. Frieser advised that the contracts were not competitively bid; they were awarded based on professional experience and expertise in the field. Details were provided.

#### b. Resolution No. 163-2005 (*Regular Agenda Item 5*), regarding Conditional Use Approval for the Korean Church of Boca Raton.

Planning and Zoning Director Carmen Annunziato gave the PowerPoint presentation. He explained that this petition was a request to grant retroactive conditional use approval and to construct a tennis/basketball court at the Korean Church of Boca Raton, located at 901 W. Palmetto Park Road. Surrounding roads and properties were identified; acreage, zoning, and land use designation were provided. Mr. Annunziato advised that the church was built in the 1960s and never received conditional use approval, which is why it was now a part of this process. He then reviewed the site plan. The tennis court would be located in the southwest corner of site; all other aspects of the site would remain the same. This application was reviewed by Planning and Zoning Board and, in response to comments received at the public hearing, Board members recommended the following conditions, which were included in the resolution: 1) limit the hours of use of the tennis court, 2) limit use of the facility to church members and guests, and 3) relocate the site north and east, adjacent to the single-family home on the church site property. Mr. Annunziato concluded his comments by stating that staff recommended approval with the conditions listed in the resolution.

Responding to Council, Mr. Annunziato advised that the petitioner planned to expand the church at a later date and, consequently, did not wish to relocate the tennis court since that would interfere with the future expansion. However, the petitioner had no problems with the other conditions suggested by the Planning and Zoning Board. He then provided additional information, as requested, related to hours of operation,

lighting, sound buffering, and setbacks. Mayor Abrams referenced a letter from the Church, distributed today, that stated, in part, that relocation of the proposed site for the tennis court would affect future development plans.

**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:**

The City Attorney had nothing to report at this time.

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

Council Member Hager asked the City Manager to provide an update on installation of a curb cut at the intersection of Potomac Road and St. Andrews Blvd, saying that work had been ongoing for approximately a month. Mr. Ahnell advised that the City was installing turn lanes, which was expected to take approximately 90 days to complete. Mayor Abrams then referred to utility work scheduled for City Hall, across from the library, and questioned when that project would be completed. Mr. Ahnell explained that FPL would actually do the utility work on Second Street, between Boca Raton Blvd and the railroad tracks. Since they will be installing a new underground line, the road will have to be dug up; it will be closed for about 30 days. However, access to the library and businesses will be maintained.

Council Member Haynie referred to a constituent's concern about an apparent lack of IRIS water pressure in Royal Palm Yacht and Country Club; the City Manager is to follow up. Ms. Haynie also advised that she had provided Council Member Baronoff with an article from the National League of Cities regarding branding. Last of all, Ms. Haynie reported on her attendance at a talk at the Boca Raton Public Library given by a local author, who wrote, "Small Town, Big Secrets," about the Boca Raton Air Force Base; she said it was a fascinating book and reflected the rich history of Boca Raton. The author will speak again at the Boca Raton Historical Society.

Council Member Baronoff opined that the City should find alternatives to providing revenue for non-profit organizations in order to reduce their reliance on City funding. He suggested utilizing the City of Boca Raton logo, the Police Services logo, and the Fire-Rescue Services logo by putting them on clothing and other merchandise and selling same to the public; the revenue would benefit the non-profit organizations. He also stated that the Boca Raton News has expressed interest in partnering with the City in this endeavor. Mr. Baronoff asked the City Manager to review this proposal; he also asked for input from Council. Mayor Abrams advised that a cost/benefit analysis would need to be conducted; the City Manager indicated that a licensing agreement with a third party would be typical for this type of venture, wherein the City would receive a percentage of the generated funds. Council Member Whelchel advised that West Boca High School, as part of educational instruction, has the equipment necessary to imprint images on merchandise and suggested that they could be utilized for this venture.

Deputy Mayor Whelchel stated that she received correspondence from a resident regarding Palmetto Dune Park, who believes that it's underutilized because it's a passive park; Ms. Whelchel concurred and suggested that, if expense was involved, the neighbors may wish to seek out funding for a project. Mayor Abrams advised that Recreation Services responded to the letter. Ms. Whelchel then referred to an unkempt piece of property located at Spanish River Road and Camino Real; she asked the City Manager to follow up. Last of all, Ms. Whelchel advised that a recent convention at the Boca Raton Resort & Club resulted in three days of parking on Camino Real; residents were inconvenienced and the grass, and possibly the sprinkler system, in the medians were damaged. She asked Mr. Ahnell to contact the Resort & Club regarding restitution for repair of the medians.

The regular workshop meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida, adjourned at approximately 2:20 p.m. on Monday, September 26, 2005.

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Vanessa Hines, Assistant City Clerk