

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING
CITY COUNCIL
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2006
1:30 PM

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

ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE:

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

Also attending the meeting were:

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

PROCLAMATIONS:

Arbor Day – April 28, 2006

The proclamation was accepted by Development Services Environmental Officer, Dawn Sinka, who extended an invitation to those present to join her at Calusa Elementary School on Friday to assist the children in planting trees in celebration of Arbor Day.

National Landscape Architecture Month – April 2006

The proclamation was accepted by the City's Landscape Architect, Jeff Borick, who recognized others in the private sector, who worked in conjunction with City staff to beautify the City of Boca Raton.

Municipal Clerks Week – April 30 through May 6, 2006

The proclamation was accepted by the City Clerk, Sharma Carannante, who recognized her staff for their many accomplishments over the past year.

PRESENTATIONS:

A1A Landscape Task Force Report

Don Taylor, Chairman of the A1A Landscape Task Force, gave a PowerPoint presentation, reviewing in detail the recommendations of the Task Force with regard to, specifically, sea turtles and sea grape trees. Recommendations included: lighting restrictions, "smart stud" street lighting, tree/vegetation pruning restrictions, creation of a resource management plan, permit requirements for pruning, and revision of the permit process. Mr. Taylor then answered questions from Council as to whether the condominiums, located along the beach, were in agreement with these findings and whether the recommendations were in conflict with State regulations. Linda Campbell, Vice Chairman of the Task Force, provided additional information related to negative aspects of sea grape trees, advising that they should be lower and thicker. She then answered questions from Council. Responding to Council, the City Manager indicated that staff would review implementation of the changes recommended by the Task Force and return to Council with their findings, as necessary.

Tree Forum Results

Planning and Zoning Director Carmen Annunziato advised that this report was the result of questions raised by citizens in the aftermath of Hurricane Wilma, regarding the City's standards and procedures related to trees; staff was asked to review the City's tree codes and possibly amend same. A determination was made that the public needs more information as to how to respond to hurricane-damaged trees. A forum was conducted on March 15, 2006; homeowners' associations, professionals, and residents were invited.

Mr. Annunziato outlined the two options currently available in the City Code, regarding management of trees. He noted that these options apply only to common property, not single-family homes; he provided details related to

proper and improper pruning of trees and then answered questions from Council. Essentially, improperly pruned trees result in a hazardous tree, particularly with regard to hurricanes. It was determined that there are currently no regulations for trees located on the property of single-family homes.

Transportation Management Initiative (TMI) Report

Douglas Hess, the City's Traffic Engineer, provided opening comments, advising that South Florida Commuter Services (SFCS) was developed by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to improve traffic conditions in South Florida by targeting the single-occupant vehicle and promoting alternatives to driving alone. Consequently, the City obtained funds to create a Transportation Management Initiative (TMI) in the City. He then introduced Sabrina Kirkpatrick, an employee of SFCS, who serves as the City's TMI administrator.

Ms. Kirkpatrick gave a PowerPoint presentation. She referred to the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) ordinance and explained that she assists downtown properties and employers with ordinance compliance. She also provides support to existing downtown properties and assists new commercial and residential developments with their TDM plan. In terms of employer outreach, Ms. Kirkpatrick advised that she works with employers in the City in development of transportation option programs, such as carpooling and alternative work schedules; details were provided. Additional information was reviewed regarding development of shuttle systems, gas card promotions, promotion of bicycling ("Bikeopolis"), the Alternative Transportation Pilot Program, and a Transportation Forum, proposed in partnership with the Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce, in the fall. Ms. Kirkpatrick concluded her presentation and answered questions from Council.

1. BOARD INTERVIEWS:

There were no positions advertised.

2. PUBLIC REQUESTS:

John Stetz opined on the pruning of sea grapes. He also urged acquisition of the Wildflower restaurant by the City and construction of a bike path on Clint Moore Road. He then commented on the City's water supply, workforce housing, hurricane preparation, and beach preservation.

3. REVIEW OF REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

a. Questions relating to the agenda.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.c.1 – Red Reef Park Boardwalk Repairs) Council Member Hager asked for the status of the cleanup at Red Reef Park. Mr. Ahnell explained that this item related to a portion of the boardwalk repairs. A section at the northern end of the boardwalk was severely eroded after Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne; sand has not yet been replenished, due to environmental conditions, so the stairs to the beach have not yet been replaced. This item takes care of the general areas of the boardwalk to the south of the eroded section.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.i. – Resolution No. 62-2006 / Authorizing the City Manager to write off water and sewer system bad debts for Fiscal Years 1997 through 2003) Council Member Hager questioned whether the City ever sells these Accounts Receivables. The City Manager responded in the negative but advised that the City has used a collection agency to attempt to collect delinquent accounts. The City has also cashed out the deposits against those accounts; consequently, there is no value left. Mr. Ahnell noted that language in the resolution would also increase the amount of the water deposit to cover these shortages in the future. He added that during this seven-year period, water and sewer revenues in excess of \$211 million were collected; staff was asking to write off approximately \$236,000 in bad debts.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.h. – Resolution No. 61-2006 / Lease with Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway, LLC for certain railway right of way areas for turn lane, parking, sidewalk and beautification) In response to a query from Council Member Arts regarding the established value of the right of way, Mr. Ahnell explained that the right of way is controlled by FEC; they establish the value and have a monopoly on that area. He advised that the City carries separate insurance policies on those lands to protect and indemnify itself against that. Mr. Arts then asked why this cost was changing so rapidly. The City Manager stated that in this case, additional land was being added to the leases. He concluded by advising that FEC

establishes the price; the alternative is that the City doesn't use their property. The same problem exists with the Lake Worth Drainage District.

(Consent Agenda Item Nos. 3.e. and 3.f. – Resolution Nos. 58-2006 and 59-2006 / Agreements with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County, Inc. related to operating costs of after-school and summer camp programs and operating costs of the Children Achieving Their Success (CATS) Program, respectively) Deputy Mayor Whelchel clarified that this money is coming from a (federal) block grant and is not independent from the non-profit organizations that the City supports in the budget process.

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

There were no items for consideration.

5. CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

Mr. Ahnell reminded Council that the summer schedule would be reviewed tomorrow night for meeting dates; the City Clerk would distribute schedules of Council meeting dates to those who may not have them readily available.

6. CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS:

The City Attorney had nothing to report at this time.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTS AND REPORTS:

Council Member Baronoff referred to the goal setting sessions and asked that a date be set for Florida Atlantic University (FAU) President Frank Brogan, and FAU Trustees, to attend a workshop meeting to advise Council of FAU's future plans. Mr. Ahnell explained that staff would provide Council with the results of the goal setting meetings with a follow up on the status of all items. Mayor Abrams advised that Council Member Baronoff was honored by the League for Educational Awareness of the Holocaust (LEAH) and offered congratulations.

Council Member Hager referred to the Vistazo property at the entrance to FAU at Spanish River Boulevard and opined that the property looked to be in poor condition, saying that from a landscaping standpoint, it needs attention. The City Manager is to follow up and report back to Council.

Mayor Abrams reported that he watched a portion of the live meeting between representatives of the Scripps Research Institute and Palm Beach County Commissioner Burt Aaronson, who offered the idea of a performance bond that would be purchased by Scripps to provide some sort of collateral for them to fulfill their obligations. Scripps would have to utilize their assets in order to purchase the bond; they advised that they would determine whether their Florida financial supporters would use their funds to purchase the bond, along with the business community and those municipalities in the northern end of the County that were part of the proposal. This will be explored further in the coming week.

The regular workshop meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida, adjourned at approximately 2.57 p.m. on Monday, April 24, 2006.

Vanessa Hines, Assistant City Clerk