

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING
CITY COUNCIL
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA
MONDAY, MAY 8, 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:

Deputy City Manager George Brown
City Attorney Diana Grub Frieser
City Clerk Sharma Carannante

PROCLAMATION:

Drinking Water Week - May 7 through May 13, 2006

Utility Services Director Chris Helfrich accepted the proclamation and recognized his employees for their dedication and service.

Building Safety Week - May 7 through May 13, 2006

Development Services Director Jorge Camejo and Building Code Administrator Michael Berkman accepted the proclamation on behalf of their employees.

1. BOARD INTERVIEWS:

- a. Boca Raton Airport Authority – three (3) vacancies due to term expirations of Joseph Bilotti (East – I-95), Harold G. Ingraham, Jr. (At large), and Ben McCaul (East – I-95), whose terms expire 06/01/06.

Harold Ingraham and Ben McCaul expressed interest in reappointment; Paul Carmen interviewed for a position on the Authority.

- b. Boca Raton Advisory Board for the Physically and Mentally Challenged – one (1) vacancy due to the resignation of Joan C. Daly, whose term expires 04/23/09.

No one came forward to interview.

- c. Builders' Board of Adjustment & Appeals – one (1) vacancy due to the resignation of Andrew Conger (At-large member), whose term expires 02/15/08.

No one came forward to interview.

- d. Citizens' Pedestrian and Bikeway Advisory Board – two (2) vacancies due to resignations of Anita Pearson and Ed Rowan, whose terms expire 01/12/07 and 01/02/09, respectively.

No one came forward to interview.

- e. Telecommunications Advisory Board – one (1) vacancy due to the resignation of Neil D. Eisner, whose term expires 09/09/08.

No one came forward to interview.

2. PUBLIC REQUESTS:

John Stetz provided commentary related to the Wildflower restaurant; he also asked to be notified when the meeting with the gas station owners is scheduled, saying he wished to attend.

John Saffer advised that he was representing residents of the Palmetto Park Terrace area and part of Boca Square and insisted that an effective, well-conceived traffic calming program be provided for the subdivision grid. He then spoke to the lengthy procedure involved in implementing traffic calming, which has been scheduled for his neighborhood, specifically, SW 9th Avenue. Mr. Saffer also reported that trucks are speeding along 9th Avenue, even though they are forbidden to travel that road.

Mayor Abrams explained that an item is included on the agenda for tomorrow night to approve the proposal to fund traffic calming in the Palmetto Park Terrace neighborhood. Responding to Mr. Saffer, Deputy City Manager George Brown explained that staff would advise him as to when the work would begin; construction is anticipated in approximately one month. He added that the item being approved tomorrow night was the authorization to spend the funds. Mr. Saffer then voiced concern that traffic calming might not work and some residents, formerly in support, might now object to it. Mayor Abrams addressed both of Mr. Saffer's issues, stating first that police officers would be advised, via the City Manager, to enforce the speed limit and keep trucks off the street. He then explained that traffic calming programs have been successfully implemented in many neighborhoods; details were provided.

Richard Olesino (phonetic) also voiced concern about traffic and the safety of children.

Carl Jacobs provided additional commentary related to speeding on SW 9th Avenue. He then informed Council that there exists a supervision problem in relation to sanitation services.

Rita Thrasher, Executive Director of Boca Raton's Promise, gave an overview of her non-profit organization's mission and their goals for 2006, which include establishing a youth policy and working on mental health issues; details were provided. She requested Council's continued support and asked that Council designate a representative to serve, with Boca Raton's Promise, as an advisor on the Boca Raton Mental Health Alliance.

Jeff Snow advocated a turn lane/deceleration lane to be constructed on SW 12th Avenue in front of Addison Mizner Elementary School, citing excessive gridlock every morning; details were provided. Mayor Abrams advised that the City Manager would ask the engineering department to research this suggestion for purposes of feasibility. Deputy Mayor Whelchel stated that the School Advisory Council endorsed the concept of a turn lane as well.

David Allcamp (phonetic) also voiced support of a turn lane at Addison Mizner Elementary School. Responding to Council, Mr. Allcamp stated that the roundabout on SW 12th Avenue had definitely helped to slow down traffic. He then referred to J.C. Mitchell School, explaining that the type of turn lane being proposed was already in existence at that school.

3. REVIEW OF REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Questions relating to the agenda.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.a.3. – Exterior Painting of Mausoleum) Council Member Arts asked for an update in terms of the City's involvement with the mausoleum and a financial breakdown. The City Manager's Office is to follow up.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.d. – Portable Radios) Council Member Hager questioned whether the radios being purchased were for emergency communications or otherwise. Deputy City Manager George Brown explained that ten radios are new; five are for emergency situations and five are for the Park Rangers, in order to improve their communications. He added that 24 radios were being replaced. Mr. Hager raised the issue as to whether dual capacities were built into these new radios, should normal

communications be disrupted in an emergency situation. Mr. Brown explained that multiple communication pathways exist; in addition, the radio system provides triple-redundancy.

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

There were no items for consideration.

5. CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

Mr. Brown reported on Adelphia and the transfer to Comcast, explaining that they are moving along in closing the bankruptcy matter. He added that the closing of the transfer transaction is expected at the end of July, pending federal approvals. The Federal Trade Commission has granted approval but the Federal Communications Commission approval is pending. Adelphia has asked that staff and the City file comments and prepare letters, urging approval of the transfer of ownership on a timely basis. Mr. Brown advised that a letter is being prepared for the Mayor's signature and staff's comments are being compiled.

Mr. Brown then advised Council that House Bill 1199 (HB 1199), the statewide franchising bill, was not adopted in the past session and stated that those issues will probably come forward again. However, the City can now move forward to create a franchise that will resolve issues currently facing the City, prior to any foreclosure on the process by the State.

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 the priorities that were set and advocated placing those items on future workshop agendas for discussion. Mr. Baronoff then mentioned that he had received phone calls in regard to naming streets and parks after various individuals in the City. He stated that many people provide volunteer service to the City, and he was opposed to naming something after someone while that person is still alive. He indicated that should someone make a unique financial contribution and wish to have something named after him/her that might be private, as it relates to naming rights, then he had no objection.

The regular workshop meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida, adjourned at approximately 2.20 p.m. on Monday, May 8, 2006.

Vanessa Hines, Assistant City Clerk