

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING
CITY COUNCIL
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA
MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2007
1:30 PM

The 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 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

1. BOARD INTERVIEWS:

- a. Boca Raton Housing Authority – one vacancy (must be a resident or engaged in business within the City of Boca Raton).

No one came forward to interview.

- b. Builders' Board of Adjustment & Appeals – one vacancy (at-large).

No one came forward to interview.

- c. Citizens' Pedestrian & Bikeway Advisory Board – one vacancy.

No one came forward to interview.

- d. Community Relations Board – two vacancies.

No one came forward to interview.

- e. Education Advisory Board – four vacancies.

Linda Johnson expressed interest in reappointment.

- f. Elder Affairs Advisory Board – two vacancies.

Carol St. Cyr interviewed for a position on the Board.

- g. Historic Preservation Board – two vacancies (at-large) and one vacancy (must be recommended by the Boca Raton Historical Society).

Al Giachetti expressed interest in reappointment.

- h. Library Advisory Board – three vacancies.

Robert Huckshorn expressed interest in reappointment; Jerry Alfano interviewed for a position on the Board.

- i. Parks and Recreation Board – three vacancies.

Joan DeLuca interviewed for a position on the Board; Dawn McCormick and Ron Betters expressed interest in reappointment.

- j. Pearl City Blue Ribbon Committee – one vacancy (must be a resident of Dixie Manor, Pearl City, or Lincoln Court).

No one came forward to interview.

PROCLAMATION:

Code Compliance Appreciation Week

Development Services Director Jorge Camejo accepted the proclamation on behalf of his staff and introduced the new Code Compliance Supervisor, Douglas Sheedy.

2. PUBLIC REQUESTS:

John Martin distributed a handout to Council, entitled, “Pearl City Community Reunion,” which has been scheduled for July 6 – 8, 2007, and asked for a proclamation recognizing same. He also asked for dedications of the park, named after Alexander Hughes, and the banyan trees where the old Roadman Elementary School was originally located. Details of the reunion were provided and Mayor and Council were invited to join the celebration.

John Stetz again advocated wind farm generators.

John Luca, a firefighter/paramedic and president of the firefighters’ union, reported that Frank Ketcham, a 24-year veteran firefighter, was buried today. He then referred to the successful litigation against Palm Beach County, regarding Countywide fire rescue dispatch, and thanked the City for fighting on behalf of the firefighters.

Frank Leopoldo spoke to the expansion of Advent Lutheran Church on NE 4th Avenue and provided a PowerPoint presentation reviewing same. He noted that the expansion has been ongoing for approximately two years and then alleged problems associated with the current construction, which included traffic, construction equipment and vehicles blocking streets, and, specifically, a permanent dumpster installation at NE 49 Street, just yards from a single family home. Council asked the City Manager to provide a future update on staff’s progress in regard to this project. Mayor Abrams indicated that a plat might be forthcoming to Council and, if so, asked the City Attorney to look into amending same, if possible, with regard to the dumpster.

James Ingalls submitted a folder to Council and stated that he had previously appeared before Council in March 2006 on the same issue, specifically, noise, littering, and illegal parking associated with a commercial area located next to his home; Mr. Ingalls advised that he has called both police and code enforcement numerous times to report various problems.

Michael Moran referred to an item coming before Council tomorrow night, related to First Presbyterian Church. Mayor Abrams advised that this was a quasi-judicial matter; if Mr. Moran wished to speak, Council would listen to his comments but nothing further could take place at this time. Mr. Moran chose to hold his comments for tomorrow night.

3. REVIEW OF REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Questions relating to the agenda.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.j. – Resolution No. Resolution No. 74-2007 / Establishment of the Northwest Subdistrict Working Group) Mayor Abrams asked the City Manager to submit candidates’ names to Council. Mr. Ahnell advised that he would do so and indicated that those people not appointed, and any other members of the public, could still attend meetings and participate.

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:

Countywide Fire Rescue Dispatch System Litigation

The City Attorney distributed a copy of the 26-page Order issued by Judge Stern in favor of the Cities in the case of the City of Boca Raton and City of Delray Beach vs. Palm Beach County (Fire Rescue Dispatch Services Funding). Ms. Frieser stated that the County now has the opportunity to file an appeal; she would keep Council apprised of same. She then thanked all those whose combined efforts and cooperation resulted in this favorable ruling, noting that Delray Beach was extremely helpful and provided financial support for this endeavor. Other cities that did not provide funding but did support the legal issues and impressed upon the judge the importance of this topic to municipalities throughout Palm Beach County included the Town of Ocean Ridge, Town of Manalapan, Town of Palm Beach Shores, Town of Mangonia Park, City of Atlantis, Town of Gulf Stream, Village of North Palm Beach, City of Boynton Beach, Town of South Palm Beach, Village of Palm Springs, and Town of Highland Beach; details were provided.

Responding to Council, Ms. Frieser explained that this Order provides a permanent injunction, prohibiting the County from continuing to include the costs of Countywide Fire Rescue dispatch services in the calculation of ad valorem taxes. She noted that the aggregate paid last year by residents of Boca Raton and Delray Beach was approximately \$1.8 million. Notwithstanding the budgetary concern, Ms. Frieser spoke to another immensely important issue, specifically, if allowed, Palm Beach County could have used this action as a springboard to charge City residents for many other services, which do not provide municipalities with real and substantial benefits, in order to offset County costs. Unfortunately, the Cities cannot collect the tax dollars retroactively; the injunction starts with this budget cycle and future years.

In response to concerns voiced by Council over the Palm Beach County Administrator's public comment that, regardless of this outcome, the County would find a way to extract money from residents of Boca Raton and Delray Beach, the City Attorney advised that staff would continue to be proactive and address issues as they arise. In addition, the City would continue to diligently monitor and review charges to ensure that real and substantial benefits must be made available to City residents via ad valorem taxes. Mayor Abrams added that this was a very significant win, particularly since the Palm Beach County administration was on record as saying that this was the first step in a County takeover of the City's entire Fire Rescue system.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTS AND REPORTS:

Council Member Arts referred to a letter from FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation) related to landscaping of Glades Road between SR 808 and Boca Rio Road and asked Mr. Ahnell to ensure that the City, while maintaining the beauty of its landscaping, uses less water. Mr. Ahnell explained that reclaimed water is used on many medians and that more drought-tolerant plants will be used in the future as well. Deputy Mayor Whelchel advised that she has books written by a local author on water conservation and offered to share same with Council.

Mayor Abrams reported that he attended the space shuttle launch, representing the City as part of the FAU (Florida Atlantic University) delegation, advising that astronaut Steve Swanson received a degree from FAU and will be performing space walks during the mission. He's also carrying an FAU flag into space; upon return, it will be framed and displayed at the university.

The regular workshop meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida, adjourned at approximately 2:23 p.m. on Monday, June 12, 2007.

Vanessa Hines, Assistant City Clerk