

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING
CITY COUNCIL
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2008
1:30 PM

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

ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE:

Mayor Susan Whelchel
Deputy Mayor Peter R. Baronoff
Council Member M. J. Mike Arts
Council Member Bill Hager (Absent-excused)
Council Member Susan Haynie

Also attending the meeting were:

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

1. BOARD INTERVIEWS:

Prior to beginning interviews for the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, Community Improvement Administrator Theresa McClurg gave an overview of the responsibilities and categories of this new Committee. She then answered questions from Council.

a. Affordable Housing Advisory Committee – eleven (11) vacancies.

(Category 1) – Michael Campbell expressed interest in the position.

(Category 2) – Theresa Darvish, who was also a candidate for Category #4, expressed interest in the position, as did Mike Williams.

(Category 3) – No one came forward to interview.

(Category 4) – Elizabeth Alpert, Lupe Julius, and Marjorie O'Sullivan expressed interest in serving.

(Category 5) – Linda Lee Petrakis interviewed for the position.

(Category 6) – Judy Aigen interviewed for the position.

(Category 7) – Patty Prosje, Cristofer Bennardo, and Andriana Riera interviewed for the position; Mr. Bennardo noted that he was also interested in Category #10.

(Category 8) – Keith O'Donnell interviewed for the position.

(Category 9) – No one came forward to interview.

(Category 10) – No one came forward to interview.

(Category 11) – No one came forward to interview.

b. Citizens' Pedestrian and Bikeway Advisory Board – two (2) vacancies.

Jim Sumislaski expressed interest in a position.

- c. Community Relations Board – three (3) vacancies.

Joe Spangenberg and Bryan Meisel expressed interest in reappointment.

- d. Education Advisory Board – two (2) vacancies.

Cynthia Kamen and Robert McCarthy interviewed for the positions.

- e. Elder Affairs Advisory Board – one (1) vacancy.

No one came forward to interview.

- f. Environmental Advisory Board – one (1) vacancy.

Robert McCarthy interviewed for the position.

- g. Historic Preservation Board – four (4) vacancies.

Howard McCall expressed interest in reappointment.

- h. Pearl City Blue Ribbon Committee – two (2) vacancies.

No one came forward to interview.

2. PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Lenore Wachtel referred to the request she made at the last City Council Workshop meeting in regard to bringing the City's bookmobiles to children's summer camps and expressed disappointment in the City's response. She advocated that children from camp programs be transported once a week to the library so they can check out books, advising that volunteers would be happy to help the children with their reading over the summer.

John Stetz referred to a video he sent to Council regarding windfarm generators and again advocated installation of same.

3. REVIEW OF REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Questions relating to the agenda.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.c.1. – Traffic Signal Pre-emption System) Council Member Haynie questioned what intersections this item covered and how many intersections are currently operating under this system. Mr. Ahnell explained that 10 more intersections would be covered; he then outlined same. Responding to an additional query, he indicated that although the City did not intend to cover all the intersections in the City, staff was close to covering 100% of those intersections targeted.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.e. – Resolution No. 77-2008 / Support for continued funding of the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority by Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade Counties) Council Member Arts advised that he planned to pull this item tomorrow night for a separate vote.

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

- a. Florida Green Local Government Designation Standard

Mike Woika, Assistant City Manager, gave the PowerPoint presentation. He reviewed current and future sustainability activities and projects and advised that the City was currently a member of both the U.S. Green Building Coalition, Inc. and the Florida Green Building Coalition, Inc. There followed an explanation of the Florida Green Building Coalition's certification program, application process, and

certification process; details were provided. Mr. Woika indicated that the City could achieve the "Silver" certification fairly easily; however, additional certification levels would take significant staff time and program and policy implementation to obtain, in addition to a \$3,000 application fee. He then concluded his presentation and answered questions from Council, as did Mr. Ahnell. Responding to a query from Council, Mr. Woika indicated that staff had conducted a very preliminary review of sample ordinances created to encourage green buildings and sustainability, advising that they might have some merit; however, staff had not yet evaluated the ordinances to a significant level. Mr. Ahnell added that the point system did not appear to be entirely equitable. For instance, the City embarked on a very comprehensive reclaimed water project, costing millions of dollars, for which the certification allows one point; if a housing committee is created, which is very simple, two points are awarded; Mr. Woika also noted that two points are awarded simply for joining the organization. In conclusion, Mr. Ahnell advised that this particular certification program may not yet be "fully flushed out" and suggested that the City could look at national programs; Mr. Woika stated there is a process by which the City could ask them to change their process to award more points.

5. CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

a. New and Alternative Revenue Sources

Financial Services Director Merv Timberlake gave the PowerPoint presentation. He explained that proposed new revenues included a sanitation fee of \$14 or \$15 per month, which would be added to the water/wastewater utility bill; estimated revenues would be approximately \$6.5 million per year. In addition, an administrative cost was proposed to the Beach & Parks District of \$300,000 annually for indirect costs incurred by Human Resources, Accounts Payable, and Purchasing; the City currently receives no reimbursement for these costs. It was noted that the \$300,000 annual assessment would be in addition to the Recreation Administration reimbursement. Another new proposed charge related to parking systems, which would be instituted in the Downtown, specifically, on-street parking, and other select locations within the City, including beaches. Expected revenues could bring in approximately \$637,000 annually.

Annual assessments for beachfront and waterfront property owners were also proposed in order to fund beach renourishment and inlet dredging; annual assessments for traffic calming and other neighborhood projects were also suggested. Impact fees, in the form of one-time charges for new development, were proposed for public buildings, police protection, fire-rescue protection, and library services. Responding to Council, the City Attorney explained that there would be no "double-dipping" because although the County may also collect impact fees on the above, none of that money is given to the City.

Mr. Timberlake then reviewed proposed revisions to existing fees. Specifically, fees would be increased for plan review and permitting; the fire assessment fee would also be increased, as would beach permit stickers, summer camp fees, and recreation fees, as they relate to tennis, pools, and other sports fees. Mr. Timberlake and the City Manager answered questions throughout the presentation; details were provided on all the above. Mr. Ahnell asked Council for direction at this time.

Generally, Council appeared to agree with the proposed Beach & Parks assessment, parking systems fees, and increasing/instituting fees for non-resident users of City facilities. It was suggested that the sanitation fee could be lowered; assessments for beachfront and waterfront property owners and the proposed one-time impact fees did not appear to be favored by Council.

6. CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS:

The City Attorney had nothing to report at this time.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTS AND REPORTS:

Council Member Arts thanked the City Manager for bringing forward financial information, related to the City's 2008 revenues and expenditures, over the last several workshop meetings.

Council Member Haynie requested the status of the bike path for SW 18 Street. Mr. Ahnell explained that the residents were surveyed; some like the idea and some opposed it. Therefore, staff was designing a couple of options, one being for bike lanes and the other being for sidewalks; ultimately, staff would bring any plans before Council. Responding to Ms. Haynie, he indicated that he was unsure as to whether the City had received a grant for the project but noted that, in the past, when the City has come forward with plans, much more public input is forthcoming.

Council Member Haynie then referred to the current proposal received by the City for the Eden Condominiums, advising that it is for luxury rentals with no age restrictions; she asked for the disposition of the occupied building and the unoccupied building, questioning whether they would become rentals or stay as condominiums. The City Manager indicated that if the owners choose to stay as condominiums – not sell out to the developer – their units would remain as condominiums. The units of those who choose to sell would become luxury rentals. Therefore, the building could become part condo and part luxury rental, which is not uncommon. Responding to Ms. Haynie, Mr. Ahnell advised that parking and other requirements are the same, per the City Code, for rentals and condos.

The regular workshop meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida, adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m. on Monday, June 9, 2008.

Vanessa Hines, Assistant City Clerk