

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING
CITY COUNCIL
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA
MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2009
1:30 PM

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

ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE:

Mayor Susan Whelchel
Council Member M. J. Mike Arts
Council Member Bill Hager
Council Member Susan Haynie
Council Member Michael Mullaugh

Also attending the meeting were:

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

1. BOARD INTERVIEWS:

- a. Builders' Board of Adjustment & Appeals – four (4) vacancies; one electrical contractor, one mechanical contractor, and two at-large members.

Roy Christie, Angelo Gasparri, and George Horton expressed interest in reappointment; Wes Smith also interviewed for a position on the Board.

2. PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Lenore Wachtel spoke to development of the Sanborn Square area. She stated that the CRA was empowered to develop the downtown and issued special assessment bonds in order to do so, resulting is approximately \$2 million dollars, which was to be used for improvements such as streets and landscaping. Ms. Wachtel advised that there was still approximately \$3 million to be used for improvements and urged Council to do so. She voiced opposition to the Letter of Intent brought forward by Crocker Partners and cited specific points as not being beneficial to the City. Noting that the pedestrian pathway cannot cross Palmetto Park Road, because it would not be approved by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Ms. Wachtel suggested Council review plans discussed by the now-defunct Visions Committee, which would take the pathway down NE 1st Avenue, to the east and then across; she urged Council to reject Crocker's plans and float the bonds, stating that people have paid their assessments for almost 20 years and have gotten nothing.

Brock Rosayn, President of Metro Taxi; Marguerite Sibley, owner of Avanti Limousine; Jerry Goldman of Personal Limousine Service; Rick Versace, owner of A1A Airport and Limousine Service; Tony Patanella, Senior Vice-President of Yellow Cab Services; and Sheri McKee, representing Boca Raton Transportation, all voiced opposition to Ordinance No. 5081, which is to come before Council tomorrow night; Ms. McKee read a letter from the owner of Boca Raton Transportation, P. Rodney Cunningham. Generally, those in opposition cited public safety, quality of service, and an anticipated glut of transportation services from all three counties, should the ordinance be approved. Jim Barr, representing several of the companies, also voiced opposition to the ordinance and indicated that the City's standards are more rigorous than those of the County. He then answered questions from Council.

3. REVIEW OF REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

a. Questions relating to the agenda.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.a.1. – Advanced Traffic Management System Implementation) Council Member Hager asked for the status and when implementation would be completed. The City Manager explained that due to constantly evolving technologies, the system would undergo continual upgrades. He advised that the City has an almost fully automated traffic signal system and is putting in camera systems as well. This item represented redundant fiber loops and other upgrades, which is paid for through FDOT grants.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.e. – Resolution No. 15-2009 / Adopting the identity theft prevention program) Council Member Hager requested additional information. Mr. Ahnell stated that, should the City take in sensitive information such as Social Security numbers, Federal law requires that a policy be adopted for maintaining the security of same. Responding to another query from Mr. Hager, Mr. Ahnell advised that, as of this time, the City had not had a breach of its security systems; details were provided.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.a.1. – Advanced Traffic Management System Implementation) Council Member Haynie questioned whether this plan contemplated replacing the temporary ATMS sign at Sugar Sand Park with a permanent installation. The City Manager indicated that the County put up that message board with permission from the Beach and Park District; Mr. Ahnell advised he would confirm that the trailer is not part of the City's system and review the possibility of installing more permanent signage.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.a.2. – Reclaimed Water Storage and Pumping Facility) Council Member Haynie asked for an overview of this item. The City Manager explained that this tank would be used to store reclaimed water for serving the western part of the community and be located at Countess de Hoernle Park; details were provided.

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

There were no items for consideration.

5. CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

There were no items for consideration.

6. CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS:

Ms. Frieser reminded those present that an Executive Session was scheduled for tomorrow at 4:30pm in the Third Floor Conference Room.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTS AND REPORTS:

Council Member Haynie requested an update of the Palm Beach Farms cell tower. Mr. Ahnell explained that in early January 2009, FPL (Florida Power and Light) asked the CAB (Community Appearance Board) for authorization to add an additional 10 feet to extend an existing 70-foot utility pole to 80 feet, in order to provide cellular service. At the bottom of the structure, an extension of a 20-foot X 20-foot area from the existing fence was also requested to support a cabinet to house the generator and electronics for the cell-phone provider. Consequently, this was not a new tower. Mr. Ahnell advised that FPL followed the process currently in place; however, a meeting was scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Thursday in the Community Center with the Palm Beach Farm neighbors to answer any questions. The City Manager then responded to questions from Council and provided information on pole heights and the difference between new construction and modifications to existing structures in terms of the approval/permitting process; details were provided.

Council acknowledged that a large amount of utilities infrastructure exists within the City and voiced concern that it was much easier to add a few feet to an existing structure, via CAB approval, as opposed to building something new, which would require a public hearing before Council. Noting that no one knew about this particular cell tower, Council advocated looking into the current procedure to ensure that neighborhoods are informed and protected. Mr. Ahnell advised that staff would review the ordinance and provide recommendations related to noticing and protection for residential districts.

Mayor Whelchel reported that she would not be in attendance at the CRA meeting this afternoon, due to a family medical issue.

The regular workshop meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida, adjourned at approximately 2:34 p.m. on Monday, January 26, 2009.

Vanessa Hines, Assistant City Clerk