

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING
CITY COUNCIL
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA
MONDAY, MAY 21, 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:

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

PROCLAMATION: Emergency Medical Services Week – May 20 through May 26, 2007

Mayor Abrams gave the proclamation to Fire Chief Tom Woods, who accepted same on behalf of his staff and other EMS providers working in Police Services and Recreation Services, as well as members of CERT.

1. BOARD INTERVIEWS:

There were no positions advertised.

2. PUBLIC REQUESTS:

John Stetz again advocated conversion of the reverse osmosis plant to a desalinization plant, to be used in combination with windfarm generators. He also advocated installation of breakwaters as opposed to beach renourishment.

Carol Worthman advocated changing zoning restrictions for fences located on corner lots, citing problems she encountered in trying to replace a fence destroyed by Hurricane Wilma. Responding to Council, Mr. Brown advised that staff was considering an amendment to the City Code, providing that a sight hazard would not be created for vehicles.

3. REVIEW OF REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

a. Questions relating to the agenda.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.b. – Resolution No. 63-2007 / Easement Deed from Old Town Tavern, Inc. over certain lands located at 10 Boca Raton Road) Deputy Mayor Whelchel asked for an update on this item. Mr. Brown explained that the City would be accepting an easement deed for a sidewalk on the Boca Raton Road side of the project. He added that it appeared the property owner was getting ready to seek a Certificate of Occupancy, although he was unsure as to a precise opening date. Ms. Whelchel then questioned whether the parking issue had been solved. Mr. Brown advised that the Development Order for Old Town Tavern requires that they have concurrence with the Boca Raton Historical Society in regard to parking. Old Town Tavern and the Historical Society are negotiating a parking agreement, which will have to come before Council for approval before the restaurant can open.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 4 – Ordinance No. 4985 / Code Amendment to revise the procedure for vacation and abandonment of rights-of-way) Council Member Hager requested additional information. Mr. Brown stated that this ordinance would bring the City Code into compliance with Florida law. Essentially, this is a housekeeping item; details were provided. Council Member Arts questioned the

amount of staff time expended on processing right-of-way abandonment petitions. Mr. Brown explained that most right-of-way abandonment petitions are for areas that were previously developed or almost completely developed; therefore, they are more complicated to process and include, for instance, title research, preparation, and verification. Responding to Mayor Abrams, Mr. Brown advised that staff time was calculated based on a review of prior work product; he is to check with staff to determine whether specific documentation is available. Mr. Brown also noted that in the prior fee, approximately 40 hours of the approximate 105 hours of staff time expended was not figured into the cost.

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

a. Presentation on "Green Buildings"

Brian Lomel with TLC Engineering gave a PowerPoint presentation related to green design issues. He provided a brief outline, advising that he would discuss vocabulary, sample projects and costs, impacts of Green Design, actions other cities are taking, and how Green Design could benefit the City of Boca Raton. Mr. Lomel then explained the difference between a sustainable building, which does not impact the environment, and a green building, which has less impact on the environment than a traditional building. Aspects of the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) System, created by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) were reviewed, including point distribution, ratings, and certification levels. Examples of LEED registered/certified buildings in Florida were also provided, as was a cost analysis of environmentally-friendly building material versus conventional building material, and information on reconstructed operating statements. It was determined that the cost to construct a green building was comparable to that for construction of a traditional building.

Mr. Lomel delineated what other cities in South Florida are doing to encourage construction of green buildings; it was noted that incentives are a primary tool. He then spoke to site energy conservation in terms of reducing water related energy costs, recycling, transportation, street lighting, and density; details were provided. Mr. Lomel concluded his presentation and answered questions from Council. Topics included, but were not limited to, cost, why more green buildings were not in evidence, LEED certification, encouraging people to become more familiar with green products, credits/incentives, and the resale value of LEED buildings.

Mayor Abrams asked for the status of staff's review as to the green issue. Mr. Brown explained that the green building issue would be reviewed along with other environmental issues that Council asked staff to review at the goal setting session. Staff is to evaluate the issue of green buildings for the community, greening buildings for the City on a go-forward basis, and would ultimately provide a comprehensive report on same, possibly in the fall of this year.

5. CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

The Deputy City Manager had nothing to report at this time.

6. CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS:

The City Attorney had nothing to report at this time.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTS AND REPORTS:

Neither the Mayor nor Council had anything to report at this time.

The regular workshop meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida, adjourned at approximately 2:13 p.m. on Monday, May 21, 2007.

Vanessa Hines, Assistant City Clerk