

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING
CITY COUNCIL
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA
MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 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 3:28 p.m.

ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE:

Mayor Susan Whelchel
Deputy Mayor Susan Haynie
Council Member Anthony Majhess
Council Member Michael Mullaugh
Council Member Constance Scott

Also attending the meeting were:

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

At this time, a surprise proclamation was presented to retiring City Clerk Sharma Hagerty, acknowledging her 18 years of service to the City.

1. BOARD INTERVIEWS:

- a. Community Appearance Board – three (3) vacancies.

Krsto Stamatovski expressed interest in reappointment.

- b. Community Relations Board – one (1) student vacancy.

No one came forward to speak.

- c. Education Advisory Board – one (1) “ex officio” student vacancy.

No one came forward to speak.

- d. Police and Firefighters’ Pension Board – one (1) vacancy.

No one came forward to speak.

2. PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Krista Maki, representing the Committee to Support the New Downtown Library, referred to three sites currently under consideration – the site adjacent to Sanborn Square, the current library site, and the Library Commons site – and urged Council to remember the criteria her committee set forth; Ms. Maki then reiterated same. She stated that if the current site was used, the City should keep the library open throughout construction, advising that the City of Boynton Beach did so when they added to their existing library. Ms. Mackey reported that her committee visited the Boynton Beach Library and encouraged Council to do so as well.

Betty Cash, representing the Friends of the Library, reported on the results of a survey of library patrons conducted by her group and distributed a copy of same. Ms. Cash advised that she would provide Council with a copy of the survey, in addition to the results, noting that all results would be posted on the Friends of the Library website.

Lenore Wachtel referred to the earlier CRA meeting and provided suggestions related to staff's presentation of an alternate plan for the Spine; she also clarified her comments regarding the downtown post office, which were made at the CRA meeting.

3. REVIEW OF REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

a. Questions relating to the agenda.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.a.1. – NW 12 Avenue Improvements) Deputy Mayor Haynie requested the construction estimate. The City Manager advised that it was \$4.2 million; Ms. Haynie was pleased to note that the award was for \$2.7 million.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.c. – Resolution No. 118-2009 / Requesting assistance of the Governor and the Florida Legislature to provide adequate funding and stronger legislation re: the enormous problem of beach erosion) Deputy Mayor Haynie asked the City Manager to review the costs related to beach renourishment and how much funding the City has lost from the State. Mr. Ahnell referred to Consent Agenda Item Nos. 3.a.4. and 3.a.5., regarding North Beach and South Beach Renourishment, respectively, which totaled approximately \$9.5 million, and advised that there was no competition in price since only three dredging firms in the country are permitted to work in the United States; Federal law prohibits any foreign entity from dredging beaches. He added that Washington, DC does not support beach renourishment and other dredging companies that might be available are currently working on stimulus projects such as bridges and seawalls. Only one company bid on the projects and the cost is approximately \$4.5 million more than what the City had budgeted. Mr. Ahnell noted that, should Council award these projects, the City would be required to use savings from many other construction projects, wherein costs were coming in lower than expected; this one project will wipe out all of those savings.

Mayor Whelchel advocated being more vocal about getting beach renourishment dollars from the Federal government. Council Member Scott advised that Broward County pays for beach renourishment throughout their County and suggested approaching Palm Beach County and reviewing other renourishment projects to determine whether beach renourishment might be more affordable if it was handled on a Countywide basis from the Gold Coast to the Treasure Coast.

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

a. Quarterly Goals Update

Susan Saxton, Assistant to the City Manager, gave the PowerPoint presentation, providing updates on the downtown library, the downtown spine, budget direction, waterways, user fees for non-residents, transparent city government, annexation, rental housing strategy, support for the arts and culture, MMTD (MultiModal Transportation District) (including EAR (Evaluation and Appraisal Report) amendments), and FAU (Florida Atlantic University) strategy and actions; details were provided on all the above. Responding to Council, Deputy City Manager George Brown answered questions related to the EAR-based amendments, explaining that there would not be a complete rewrite of the Comprehensive Plan. He added that there would be opportunities for public review and input from Council prior to the transmittal public hearings.

b. Presentation on Proposed CIP for Fiscal Years 2009/10 through 2014/15

Sharon McGuire, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director, gave the PowerPoint presentation. She explained that the projected expenditure for projects was approximately \$81.7 million; the expenditure for vehicles was approximately \$2.8 million. She added that funding for the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) comes from ad valorem taxes, utility taxes, transportation gas taxes, State, County, and Federal funding, special assessments, bond proceeds, grants, the Beach & Park District, donations, water/sewer revenues, and other fund revenues. Ms. McGuire then reviewed the expenditures and projects proposed for each department including the City Manager's Office, Police Services, Fire/Rescue, Municipal Services, Recreation Services, Utility Services (water/sewer), the golf course, and Information Technology; details were provided on all the above. Ms. McGuire concluded her presentation

by advising that the final budget hearing was scheduled for Wednesday, September 23, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. and then answered questions from Council related to the expenditures for Recreation Services. She clarified that the bulk of the Recreation Services CIP dollars is for the Countess de Hoernle Park and the library; the \$20 million projected for Countess de Hoernle Park is to be funded by the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Parks District. Council Member Haynie noted that the Beach and Parks District was increasing their millage.

5. CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

The 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:

Council Member Scott asked for an update from Recreation Services Director Mickey Gomez on the City's contract with Draffhouse II to provide beverage service at the municipal golf course.

Council Member Majhess extended kudos to City Clerk Sharma Hagerty for her professionalism and congratulated Susan Saxton on being awarded the City Clerk's position. He then referred to a recent Florida League of Cities conference and reported he had a list of 12 resolutions that were voted on, which he would submit to the City Manager.

Council Member Scott thanked the City for the opportunity to attend the Florida League of Cities conference, advising that it was a good experience, and then reminded those present of the second jazz event scheduled for this Thursday, August 27, 2009, at 6:30pm; she stated that Nicole Henry would be performing at Sanborn Square.

Mayor Whelchel advised that a remembrance ceremony was scheduled at Mizner Park Amphitheatre for September 11, 2009, from 9:00 – 10:30, honoring those thousands of people who lost their lives.

The regular workshop meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida, adjourned at approximately 4:09 p.m. on Monday, August 24, 2009.

Vanessa Hines, Assistant City Clerk