

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING
CITY COUNCIL
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2002
1:00 PM

The regular workshop meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida was called to order by Mayor Abrams at 1:00 p.m.

ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE:

Mayor Steven Abrams
Deputy Mayor Susan Haynie
Council Member Bill Hager
Council Member Freudenberg

Council Member Carol Hanson was absent (excused).

Also attending the meeting were:

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

1. BOARD INTERVIEWS:

- a. Code Enforcement Board – four (4) vacancies, due to term expirations of Ron Peasley, Donald Munksgaard, Jack Wall, and Ben Kennedy, Jr., whose terms expire 09/25/02.

Ron Peasley and Jack Wall expressed interest in re-appointment.

- b. Community Appearance Board – five (5) vacancies, due to term expirations of J. Patrick Lynch, Joe Peterson, A. Grant Thornbrough, Patricia Ternus Anderson, and Larry Cellon, whose terms expire 09/20/02.

A. Grant Thornbrough, Larry Cellon, and Joe Peterson voiced interest in re-appointment. Mayor Abrams mentioned that, while Pat Lynch was unable to interview, he is also interested in being re-appointed.

2. PUBLIC REQUESTS: (Public requests shall be limited to five (5) minutes each. No public comment may be made regarding any land use matter for which the City Council is required by law to conduct a quasi-judicial hearing.)

No one came forward to speak.

3. REVIEW OF REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Questions relating to the agenda.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.b.1. – Fiber Optic Supply and Installation) Deputy Mayor Haynie questioned whether the installation was between the traffic signals. Mr. Ahnell responded affirmatively and stated that some installation would also occur at the Municipal Services Complex. Ms. Haynie confirmed with Mr. Ahnell that these signals would be linked to the central monitoring location in Municipal Services.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.c.1. – Video Detection System) Deputy Mayor Haynie requested clarification regarding the intersection where this system would be located. The City Manager is to follow up. Mayor Abrams then questioned what the video devices would be recording. Mr. Ahnell explained that the devices would allow for a continuous flow of traffic in areas where construction is occurring; they would not be used to identify speeders or anyone committing traffic violations.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.d. – Resolution No. 155-2002 / Traffic Signal Maintenance and Compensation Agreement with FDOT) Deputy Mayor Haynie questioned the substantial increase in subsequent years. The City Manager will provide the information.

- b. Resolution No. 156-2002 (Regular Agenda Item No. 10), which would adopt a conceptual development plan for the Boca Technology site.

Parks and Recreation Director Mickey Gomez provided opening remarks and then introduced Peter Boylan, Parks and Recreation Board Chairman, who gave the PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Boylan explained that, on November 14, 2001, the Board was directed by Council to obtain public input with regard to possible uses for the Boca Tech land. Consequently, three public hearings were held on January 16, 2002, February 19, 2002, and March 14, 2002. In addition, the Board took a walking tour of the southern portion of the property and conducted two special workshops on April 3, 2002 and May 9, 2002. As a result, a conceptual development plan was created, based on citizen input. The recommendations, in priority order, are as follows: 1) Active Athletic/Recreation Field Use, 2) Golf Training Facility, 3) Library, 4) Dog Park, 5) Boundless Playground, 6) Running Paths and Bicycle Trails, 7) Arts & Cultural Area, 8) Community Center, and 9) Maintenance Facilities (for Recreation Services).

The Board also recommended that the City continue the planning process by engaging a consultant; creating partnerships for development of the property; working with students to name the park; obtaining site plan approval from the Parks and Recreation Board prior to permit issuance; and allocating a portion of Land Dedication Funds in order to continue master planning the Boca Tech site. Mr. Boylan concluded his presentation and answered questions from Council.

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

- a. 20th Street and Federal Highway Intersection Report

Using a PowerPoint presentation, the City's Traffic Signal Engineer, L.K. Nandam, provided background information as to why a study was needed, explaining that the purpose of the study was to improve traffic flow along Federal Highway from Glades Road to NE 24 Street; eliminate the bottleneck point; improve safety; and reduce traffic delays. He then introduced James Sumislaski of Kimley-Horn and Associates, who outlined the goals to be achieved by creating construction alternatives, which include improving the level of service, avoiding impact to private property, impeding cut-through traffic in local neighborhoods, and minimizing secondary impact to the area. Eight construction alternatives were developed and evaluated. Of those, four were determined to be the most viable. The options listed were:

- Alternate #3 – Widen Federal Highway to six lanes from Glades Road to NE 24 Street
- Alternate #4 – Widen Federal Highway to six lanes from NE 15 Terrace to NE 24 Street
- Alternate #7 – Realign 5th Avenue through Alan Haircutters and the vacant lot
- Alternate #8 – Restrict 5th Avenue to southbound traffic only

Staff recommended Alternates 3 and 7. It was explained that, once a consensus on the alternatives is reached, public meetings should be initiated; funding with FDOT and Palm Beach County MPO should be coordinated; and modifications to the Comprehensive Plan might be needed. Upon conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Nandam and Mr. Sumislaski answered questions from Council.

- b. Annexation Study Update

Assistant City Manager George Brown introduced Phil Gonot of PMG Associates, Inc., who provided an extensive PowerPoint presentation on the annexation study of the Town Center area. Mr. Gonot explained the results of the study first, stating that the City of Boca Raton would net a \$1.5 million surplus by annexing the proposed area. In addition, residents in the study area could expect a 20% savings; businesses in the study area could expect a 6% savings, with improved service for all portions of the study area. Area statistics and taxable values were reviewed. Comparisons were then made between the City of Boca Raton and Palm Beach County in regard to: codes and ordinances, Fire-Rescue response times, Fire-Rescue ISO ratings, levels of service (Police Services), and taxes and fees. Total

cost comparisons for both homeowners and average businesses reflected savings in each case, should annexation take place. Approximately \$2.5 million would be generated for the General Fund; however, the Utility Fund would experience a loss of approximately \$217, 000. The impacts of annexation on City departments were then detailed, and expenses and capital costs to the General Fund were reviewed. Mr. Gonot outlined the methods of annexation and explained the steps required to initiate annexation. He then answered questions from Council.

The City Manager was directed to continue to work with the consultant to develop strategic alternatives with regard to the annexation area, including the Fox Landing area and the area of Santa Barbara that is not already in the City.

5. CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

Tri-Rail

The City Manager explained that he and Deputy Mayor Haynie had met with Tri-Rail authorities last week, regarding the siting of a proposed Boca Raton station. Based on that meeting, Mr. Ahnell suggested that a letter be sent to Tri-Rail, detailing Council's position as to where a station should be located. If Council were in agreement, the Boca Tech site would be listed as the preferred location and the one most beneficial for the City, since it would service FAU and many other businesses as well as alleviating traffic on Glades Road. It was noted that Tri-Rail would like to build a station at Congress Avenue; staff has expressed concern over this choice, since that site is not viewed as a central location for the City. Discussion followed regarding interchange flyovers, funding, FAU, FDOT, and overall transportation needs of the City. The City Manager was directed to draft a letter stating Council's preference for the Boca Tech site; the letter would be brought forward for Council's approval tomorrow night.

6. CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS:

The City Attorney had nothing to report at this time.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTS AND REPORTS:

Council Member Freudenberg requested an update on the median on Jog Road, north and south of Yamato Road. He specifically referenced the irrigation system. The City Manager is to follow up.

Council Member Freudenberg mentioned the palm tree by the library, which Florida Power and Light cut down, and asked what restitution is being made. Mr. Ahnell explained that he sent a letter to FPL regarding same. In addition, Assistant City Manager George Brown has met with them on this issue. The City is awaiting a response.

Deputy Mayor Haynie referenced the construction taking place at the Camino Real Community Church and questioned whether the large palm trees, which have been lying on the construction site for the last month, would be relocated. She suggested that if they are not earmarked for relocation by the Church, perhaps the Church would consider donating them to the City for relocation. Mr. Ahnell is to follow up with the church.

Deputy Mayor Haynie reported that a North Federal Highway focus group has been tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 18, 2002, at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall; area businesses and affected neighbors will be invited to begin discussions to identify problems and look for solutions.

Council Member Hager commented on a document circulated by the City Attorney from the Attorney General relating to Council Members circulating their views on various issues by memorandum. He confirmed with Ms. Frieser that it was appropriate for a Council Member to provide a viewpoint on paper, subject to the limitations outlined in the document.

The regular workshop meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida, adjourned at approximately 2:50 p.m. on Monday, September 9, 2002.