

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL  
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA  
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2005  
1:30 PM

The regular workshop meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida was called to order by Mayor Abrams at 1:30 p.m.

**ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE:**

Mayor Steven Abrams  
Deputy Mayor Susan Whelchel  
Council Member Peter Baronoff  
Council Member Bill Hager  
Council Member Susan Haynie

Also attending the meeting were:

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

**RECOGNITION/AWARD:**

- Safety Council Awards from Safety Council of Palm Beach County, Inc.
- Excellence in Safety Award for Worker Safety – City of Boca Raton
  - Excellence in Safety Award for Work Safety – Municipal Services

Risk Manager Pam Gardner explained that the City received the Excellence in Safety Award for Worker Safety as a result of a continued proactive approach to safety and the continued reduction of Workers' Compensation and auto and general liability claims, and associated costs, while enduring a very active hurricane season. The Municipal Services Department received the Excellence in Safety Award for Work Safety due to the reduction in Workers' Compensation injuries and the lost time associated with those injuries. Mayor Abrams and Safety Officer Lisa Wilson-Davis extended thanks and recognition of staff for a job well done.

**PROCLAMATIONS:**

Drive to Support the Arts Month – May 2005

Mayor Abrams presented the proclamation to Rena Blades with the Palm Beach County Cultural Council in recognition of the "State of the Arts" license plates and those activities dedicated to the promotion of arts, culture, and history in Boca Raton.

Arbor Day – April 28, 2005

Mayor Abrams presented the proclamation to the City's Environmental Officers, Dawn Sinka and Nora Fosman; Ms. Sinka advised that the City had been recognized as a Tree City USA for 25 years in a row.

Drinking Water Week – May 1 through May 7, 2005

Mayor Abrams presented the proclamation to Utility Services Director Chris Helfrich, who also recognized members of his staff and spoke to the importance of water as a natural resource.

Municipal Clerk's Week – May 1 through May 7, 2005

Mayor Abrams presented the proclamation to City Clerk Sharma Carannante, who recognized members of her staff and the contributions they have made to the City throughout the year.

**1. BOARD INTERVIEWS:**

- a. Builders' Board of Adjustment and Appeals – (1) vacancy (electrical contractor), due to resignation for a term that expired on 02/15/05.

There were no applicants.

- b. Citizens' Pedestrian and Bikeway Advisory Board – (1) vacancy, due to a resignation, for a term that will expire on 1/12/07.

There were no applicants.

**2. PUBLIC REQUESTS:**

John Stetz, Bill Fenner, Tony Coulter, and Diane Salinger spoke to the Boca Raton Inlet, opining that the conditions are dangerous to boaters and continue to worsen. Concern was also voiced in regard to the waves that are attracting surfers to the area. They asked for Council's assistance in making the inlet safer.

Mayor Abrams questioned whether there was some way to regulate bathers or surfers in the area. Mr. Ahnell stated that efforts would need to be coordinated with Palm Beach County to keep surfers from coming into the inlet from the south. Municipal Services Director Robert DiChristopher then gave an update on the inlet. He explained that dredging was expected to begin in November 2006 and advised that this was an accelerated schedule, due to the ebb shoal conditions. Details were provided regarding the shoal, which has been increasingly difficult to navigate. Mr. DiChristopher noted that, in the interest of safety, the City advertises the inlet conditions, with the Coast Guard and the local marine patrol, that boaters may be aware of same.

In regard to the ebb shoal, Mr. DiChristopher suggested that the north jetty could be extended/repared to expand the shoal into deeper water. However, turtle season is coming up and sand cannot be pumped at that time. He then advised that it takes 12 to 18 months to obtain permitting through the State; details were provided. Mr. Ahnell and Mr. DiChristopher responded to questions from Council regarding the State's permitting process and whether safety is a factor in speeding up that process. Mr. DiChristopher stated there are many complicated issues contributing to the lengthy permitting process, one of which is where the City would put the sand once it's pumped out. Following more discussion, it was suggested that the City work with State legislators to resolve the problem.

Tony Coulter approached Council again, this time with the suggestion that the membership of the Marine Advisory Board include a commercial boater; no such category currently exists.

**3. REVIEW OF REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:**

- a. Questions relating to the agenda.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.b.1. – Generator Repair and Maintenance Services-Renewal) Council Member Haynie questioned whether all of the City's generators are diesel and whether the generators at the fire-rescue and police stations would be used in the event of a hurricane and massive power outages. Mr. Ahnell stated those generators would be used and others were on order. Ms. Haynie noted that the generators at Utility Services were not listed. Mr. Ahnell advised that Utility Services has different types of generators, including portables and large generators that drive the main system; those generators are already being maintained.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.c.3. – Shade Pavilions at Dog Park) Council Member Haynie asked what material comprised the pavilions. Mr. Ahnell is to follow up.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.e. – Resolution No. 71-2005 / Work Order No. 10 with CH2M Hill, Inc. for a feasibility study evaluating the beneficial reuse of membrane concentrate generated by the Water Treatment Plant) Council Member Haynie asked why this study was being conducted. Mr. Ahnell

explained that, as part of the permit issued to the City, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) required a study on the concentrate to see what would be the best mechanism to dispose of same. Currently, it goes out through the ocean outfall; DEP wanted to see if it could be reused. Ms. Haynie then asked whether the use of deep well injection was also considered. Mr. Ahnell advised that deep well injection might have been considered several years ago; however, the outcome here was to hire a consultant to determine whether the concentrate can be disposed of through the City's normal process or put back into the reuse system, if it meets all the regulations.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.e. – Resolution No. 71-2005 / Work Order No. 10 with CH2M Hill, Inc. for a feasibility study evaluating the beneficial reuse of membrane concentrate generated by the Water Treatment Plant) Deputy Mayor Whelchel asked for an update on the City's reclaimed water process and what the City does to conserve water. Council Member Hager requested a map identifying the IRIS service areas. Mr. Ahnell is to follow up.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.a.3. – Exotic Tree Removal Services) Mayor Abrams questioned whether this item included the Australian Pines behind La Fontana. Mr. Ahnell stated that this would resolve the La Fontana issue.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.j. – Resolution No. 76-2005 / Urging the 2005 Florida Legislature to vote against House Bill 1521 and Senate Bill 2060, which would severely reduce the ability of community redevelopment agencies to accomplish their statutory redevelopment tasks) Mayor Abrams stated that a revised resolution was needed, due to a typographical error. Referring to Page 3, Section 2, he also suggested that this resolution be sent to more legislators.

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

##### **a. K-12 Education Task Force Report**

Gerald Damsky, Chairman of the K-12 Education Task Force, provided copies to Council of the draft recommendations made by the Task Force and then gave a PowerPoint presentation on same. Details were provided with regard to the findings, which were as follows: 1) classes are still too large, 2) inequity exists in academy programs, 3) technology needs greater attention and is inconsistent, and 4) athletic fields need attention.

Fred Schwartz, Vice-Chairman of the Task Force, spoke to additional findings, which included: 1) operational funds to each school are insufficient, 2) lack of community and business partnerships, 3) lack of attention to the upper quartiles, and 4) reduced teacher and staff teaching.

Robin Bresky, a member of the Task Force, provided Council with the Task Force's recommendation that a new education advocate for the City of Boca Raton be hired on a full-time basis. This advocate would: a) serve as a liaison/lobbyist between the City's Education Advisory Board, Palm Beach County, and City schools to take a proactive approach to education issues within the City, b) review school construction and academic needs, c) facilitate partnerships with businesses and organizations within the City, and d) identify and provide grant-writing assistance directly to the schools.

Task Force members spoke extensively in regard to allocation of County funds to City schools, advising that the City is not getting the dollars per student that other cities in Palm Beach County are getting, despite the heavy tax burden that City of Boca Raton taxpayers shoulder. In order that Boca Raton "get its fair share" and have the needs of its schoolchildren met, the Task Force recommended hiring an education advocate, which the City of Delray Beach had already done; a copy of the job description was included in the handout. Council Member Whelchel clarified that this advocate would work on both the County and State levels. Additional discussion focused on statutory restrictions regarding partnerships, charter school districts, and the funding distribution formula used by the County.

#### **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 Haynie asked for an update on the landscaping project at Camino Real, west of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. She also mentioned Camino Villas Park, which was ravaged by the hurricanes, and questioned whether that area would be restored. Mr. Ahnell is to follow up on the park area. Regarding the Camino Real median beautification project, Mr. Ahnell explained that the project was currently out for bid. He then provided some background information, saying the budget for the project was \$175,000; the project came in at \$250,000. Consequently, the project was being re-bid. He then explained that installing irrigation is difficult due to the small, confined medians and the lack of water access; irrigation installation costs also consume most of the budget. The County was approached for additional funding but had already allocated dollars to another Boca Raton project. The City will attempt to irrigate the area now and then provide landscaping later.

Mayor Abrams, on behalf of the Red Hat Society, presented a certificate of appreciation to Council Member Haynie.

Mayor Abrams advised that the singer who entertained at the volunteer luncheon, J.C. Layne, had given him a CD; he presented it to Deputy Mayor Whelchel, who he noted had thoroughly enjoyed Ms. Layne's singing at the luncheon.

The regular workshop meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida, adjourned at approximately 3:07 p.m. on Monday, April 25, 2005.

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Vanessa Hines, Assistant City Clerk