

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING
CITY COUNCIL
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 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 Bill Hager
Council Members Dave Freudenberg
Council Member Susan Haynie
Council Member Susan Whelchel

Also attending the meeting were:

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

PRESENTATION: American Red Cross Check For Tsunami Relief Fund

Mayor Abrams presented a check for \$10,000, on behalf of the City of Boca Raton, to Terry Donahue and Phil Renaud, the Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively, of the Advisory Committee for the American Red Cross to assist in the tsunami relief effort.

PROCLAMATION: Love Your Library Month – February 2005

Mayor Abrams presented the proclamation to Catherine O'Connell, Library Services Manager.

1. BOARD INTERVIEWS:

- a. Builders' Board of Adjustment and Appeals – (4) four vacancies, due to term expirations of Robert L. Welch (Electrical Contractor), Pedro S. Riera (Mechanical A/C), Albert H. Hyman (at large), and Roy Christie (at large), whose terms expire 02/15/05.

Roy Christie expressed interest in retaining his position on the Board.

- b. Citizens' Pedestrian and Bikeway Advisory Board – (1) one vacancy, due to the resignation of Barbara Safranek, whose term expires 01/12/07.

No one came forward to interview.

- c. Community Relations Board – (2) two student vacancies, due to the graduations of Danielle Landeck and Elizabeth Barron.

No one came forward to interview.

- d. Parks and Recreation Board – (1) one vacancy, due to the resignation of Earl Starkoff, whose term expires 07/31/05.

Hank Kreh interviewed for the position.

- 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.)

John Stetz commented on traffic, traffic signalization, and the City's cable provider, Adelphia.

Linda Campbell, Panny Yatrakis, and Gary Gabso spoke to, what they termed as the deterioration of beachfront property; particular emphasis was given to encroachment by invasive species, such as seagrapes and brazilian pepper. Ms. Campbell, Chairman of the A1A Beachfront Restoration Committee, submitted photographs and copies of a petition asking that Council commission a committee of experts for the purpose of reviewing coastal maintenance and environmental protection, and suggested that citizens also be part of the committee. The City Manager was asked to provide a recommendation, based on the discussion today, as to how the City could effectively and cooperatively work with affected neighbors to address this issue. Mayor Abrams advised that staff would be in contact with Ms. Campbell, who has been spearheading the effort.

3. REVIEW OF REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Questions relating to the agenda.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.g – Resolution No. 20-2005 / Mutual Aid Agreement with Palm Beach County local governments and law enforcement agencies regarding combined operational assistance and voluntary cooperation) Council Member Haynie questioned whether the City currently has a similar agreement with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO), Deerfield Beach and Broward County. In response, Mr. Ahnell advised that this agreement includes the PBSO and all municipalities in the County, and that the City does have an agreement with the Broward County Sheriff's Office, which provides law enforcement services for Deerfield Beach.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.d.1. – Automobiles and Light Trucks) Deputy Mayor Hager questioned whether the City was required to purchase these vehicles through dealerships, as opposed to going directly to the manufacturer in the interest of obtaining the best possible price. Mr. Ahnell explained that the vehicles were being purchased via a State of Florida contract. This means that the State, as a large buyer of vehicles, negotiated price with the vendors; that price was also passed onto the City. Mr. Ahnell advised that cost comparisons have been made with other states with the result that the prices have been the same or lower.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.h. – Resolution No. 25-2005 / Memorandum of Understanding with Palm Beach County law enforcement agencies to address violent crimes, utilizing a team problem-solving approach) Deputy Mayor Hager questioned what assurances citizens have that the City would use facilities, wherever they might be, to solve crime. Mr. Ahnell explained that task forces in various municipalities and counties work together across boundaries to solve crime on a larger scale. Drug rings and auto theft rings were mentioned. Council Member Whelchel questioned whether the City was obligated to make a monetary commitment to this task force. Mr. Ahnell said no and advised that, typically, the City would dedicate an officer to the task force.

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

There were no items for consideration.

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 advised that the Department of Transportation (DOT) had a meeting on February 3, 2005 in regard to quiet zones and asked the City Manager to have staff provide an update for tomorrow night. Mr. Ahnell stated that a memo had been prepared; he is to follow up. Ms. Haynie also asked for an update on the traffic signal installation at SW 13th Street and NW 9th Court. She then mentioned that the meeting scheduled for tonight at the Caldwell Theatre regarding the North Federal Highway project had been cancelled and will be rescheduled for a date in March.

Council Member Freudenberg referred to the intersection at Glades Road and Jog Road, stating that the County had reinstalled the traffic lights there this morning. Mr. Freudenberg also commented on the new parking spaces recently designated for the Mayor and Council, and suggested that the remaining unmarked spaces be designated for the City Manager, the Deputy City Manager, the Assistant City Manager, and the City Attorney. He felt this was appropriate and would free up spaces in the main lot for employees and the public. Mr. Ahnell, in response to comments from Council Member Freudenberg regarding the replacement of trees along a stretch of Yamato Road by Woodfield Country Club, advised that a significant number of Royal Palms would be planted shortly. Last of all, Mr. Freudenberg referenced an article from Sunday's issue of the Palm Beach Post, regarding red light cameras in Pembroke Pines, and asked what type of legal standing Pembroke Pines found for initiating same; the City Manager is to follow up.

Mayor Abrams referred to the Florida Department of Transportation's plans to construct additional interchanges in Boca Raton and asked that staff perform an analysis as to the impact that would have on the City. He stated that it might help relieve congestion on Glades Road or it might create additional burdens elsewhere in the City. Once the analysis is complete, Council could effectively take a position. Council Member Haynie advised that she and Mr. Freudenberg, as MPO members, had met with The Florida Turnpike Enterprise and they would be doing a full presentation on the plans at the MPO meeting next week. Council Member Whelchel and Council Member Haynie advised that Palmetto Park Road, Yamato Road, and Clint Moore Road were all named as areas where interchanges and/or slip lanes would be needed.

The regular workshop meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida, adjourned at approximately 2:20 p.m. on Monday, February 7, 2005.

Vanessa Hines, Assistant City Clerk