

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING
CITY COUNCIL
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA
MONDAY, JULY 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 Steven L. Abrams at 1:30 p.m.

ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE:

Mayor Steven L. Abrams
Deputy Mayor Susan Whelchel (absent - excused)
Council Member Bill Hager
Council Member Susan Haynie
Council Member Peter R. Baronoff (absent - excused)

Also attending the meeting were:

City Manager Leif J. Ahnell
Assistant City Attorney John McKirchy
City Clerk Sharma Carannante

Mayor Abrams suggested that the Board interviews take place prior to the presentation for the I-95 interchange alternatives; Council had no objections.

1. BOARD INTERVIEWS:

- a. Builders' Board of Adjustment and Appeals – one (1) vacancy (Electrical Contractor), for a term expiring 02/15/05.

There were no applicants.

- b. Citizens' Pedestrian and Bikeway Advisory Board – one (1) vacancy, due to resignation of Scott G. Borchers, whose term expires 01/12/08.

There were no applicants.

- c. Library Advisory Board – two (2) vacancies, due to term expirations of Florence L. Mangus and Kathleen M. Murdoch, whose terms expire 8/10/05

Florence Mangus expressed interest in re-appointment. Mayor Abrams advised that Kathleen Murdoch was interested in re-appointment; however, she was unable to attend the meeting today.

- d. North Federal Highway Steering Committee – one (1) vacancy (Large-scale business owner in the North Federal Highway corridor), due to resignation of Thomas Salzman.

There were no applicants.

- e. Parks and Recreation Board – three (3) vacancies, due to term expirations of Ronald L. Betters, Henry S. Kreh, and Donna M. Virostek, whose terms expire 7/31/05.

Dawn McCormick, Ronald Betters, and Hank Kreh interviewed for the positions. Mayor Abrams advised that Donna Virostek was interested in re-appointment; however, she was unable to attend the meeting today.

PRESENTATION: I-95 Interchange Alternatives – Craig Miller, Consultant
Pat Glass, FDOT Project Manager

Using display boards, Patrick Glass explained that FDOT, in general, proposed to widen I-95 to 10 or 12 lanes in the area south of Glades Road to Yamato Road, create an interchange, and widen Glades Road; the interchange would tie into FAU at the north to take traffic off of Glades and Yamato Roads. Mr. Glass then turned the floor over to Craig Miller.

Mr. Miller clarified that no decisions have been made at this time; he and Mr. Glass were simply here to obtain input from Council. He then gave the presentation, speaking primarily to three I-95 alternatives: 1) a Glades Road interchange, 2) a Yamato Road interchange, or 3) a new Spanish River interchange; additional sub-options to the above alternatives were also reviewed. Extensive details were provided including Standard-T intersections vs. Turbo-T intersections, complications relating to overpass bridges, concern over environmental lands, future stadium traffic, impacts on neighboring homeowners, interchange spacing criteria, and funding. Mr. Miller then concluded his report and answered questions from Council; attention focused on how long it would take to complete this project, how much it would cost, and how it fits into the overall master plan for I-95. It was determined that \$15 million was earmarked for this project via the Growth Management Bill; however, much more funding was needed. The City Manager advised that, realistically, it would take approximately eight to ten years to complete this project from start to finish and provided additional information to Council as requested.

Mr. Miller concluded his comments by advising that the first public workshop, sponsored by FDOT, to discuss the I-95 Interchange Alternatives and obtain public input would be held at Boca Raton High School in August.

2. PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Marti French asked that Council allocate approximately 28 acres of land at Boca Tech Center for a botanical garden and put this item on the next Council agenda, advising that the Botanical Gardens Association had already received pledges for same in the amount of \$550,000; she also asked that City staff devise a Master Plan for the southern half of the Boca Tech property. Mr. Ahnell advised that the City does not have 28 contiguous acres of land to set aside for this proposed project; in addition, this proposal would have a significant impact on the conceptual master plan already prepared for the area in question, which includes projects and ideas proposed by other interested groups. Mayor Abrams explained to Ms. French that procedure must be followed; the Botanical Gardens Association, or its representative, must work with City staff and obtain a staff recommendation before Council could make a policy decision. Mr. Ahnell advised that staff would support the concept of creating linear gardens throughout the area, which had been suggested at a prior Council meeting.

Ann Wood, a member of the Botanical Gardens Association, outlined what the botanical gardens would look like and stated that until land is allocated for this project, the committee cannot move forward to obtain additional pledges. Mayor Abrams and the City Manager again explained the procedure, and the necessity of same, for placing items on the agenda. Ms. Wood advised that Paul Slattery of Slattery and Associates was working with the Association to prepare drawings for the proposed botanical gardens. It was agreed that Mr. Slattery and the City Manager should discuss options for incorporating this idea into the subject area; the City Manager will explain to Mr. Slattery what is needed so the Association may then move forward.

Ray Kluge, President of the Tropical Flower and Tree Society of Palm Beach County, and Jackie Wood, President of the Orchid Society, spoke in support of the proposed 28-acre botanical gardens, as did Barbara Benefield and Clint Oster.

John Gumina spoke to a Development Order that requires a traffic circle on 67th Street and NW 2nd Avenue. He voiced opposition to same, saying that residents of San de Vance wanted a traffic light there, especially since a four-lane road may be forthcoming in the future. Mr. Ahnell is to follow up on this matter.

3. REVIEW OF REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

a. Questions relating to the agenda.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.a.3. – Spanish River Boulevard Widening-Phase II) Council Member Haynie noted that one funding source reflected over \$3 million from Boca Tech, which was in escrow; she asked for the status of the funds. Mr. Ahnell answered that all funds should be in place before the awarding of this project tomorrow night; if not, this item would be taken off the agenda. Mayor Abrams questioned how much this project was originally expected to cost. Mr. Ahnell explained that, originally, the total projected cost, excluding the bridgework, was \$6.8 million. Mayor Abrams noted that the high bid for this project was \$11 million; the City chose the lowest responsive bid at \$9.1 million. He asked why the cost went up by approximately \$2 million. The City Manager stated that staff re-engineered the project to bring the cost down by \$1 million even before it went out to bid. Still, the primary cost incurred was due to oil, which has escalated in price. There is also a shortage of construction workers and a large number of road projects and construction projects being built in Florida. Add this to the tremendous demands for building materials in other parts of the world and scarce materials and exorbitant costs are the result. Council Member Haynie questioned whether the School Board was assisting financially with road improvements related to Don Estridge Middle School. Mr. Ahnell advised that the City has an agreement with the School Board wherein they will pay a portion of the costs; the City will seek reimbursement upon completion of the project.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.e. – Resolution No. 122-2005 / Maintenance Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Florida Department of Transportation regarding Glades Road Beautification) Council Member Haynie asked for clarification regarding the area in question. The City Manager advised that the language in the resolution is correct; the cover memo should reflect the area between NW 7th Avenue and NW 4th Avenue.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.h. – Resolution No. 126-2005 / Three Revocable License Agreements with the Boca Raton Airport Authority regarding noise monitoring towers and related equipment) Council Member Haynie mentioned that equipment would be located on NW 5th Avenue; she questioned whether the neighbors had been notified. Mr. Ahnell stated they had been notified; the City was not aware of any objections.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.i. – Resolution No. 127-2005 / Application for a Florida Urban Community Forestry Grant from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for damages to the urban tree canopy resulting from the 2004 hurricanes) Council Member Haynie asked who would benefit from the replacement of these trees throughout the City. Mr. Ahnell explained that this item related to City-owned lands. FEMA does not provide funding for replacement of trees; however, the State put a program in place and made a grant available.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.a.1. – Lincoln Court Infrastructure Improvements) Council Member Hager requested the time frame for completion of the improvements. Mr. Ahnell stated that this project would take approximately nine months to complete. There are four phases planned for the Pearl City areas; this is the second of the four phases.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.f. – Resolution No. 123-2005 / Mutual Aid Agreement with the Sheriff's Office of Broward County) Council Member Hager confirmed with the City Manager that this agreement was reciprocal in terms of aid between the City and Broward County.

(Consent Agenda Item 3.g. – Resolution No. 125-2005 / Amends Resolution No. 168-2004 to authorize the cost of the agreement with Siemens Financial Services, Inc. not to exceed \$612,078.51 for the purpose of leasing telephone switching equipment) Council Member Hager requested assurance that this equipment would meet the City's needs both today and for the future. The City Manager advised that it was expected to meet the needs of the City and bring the current system up to date; it is state-of-the-art phone equipment.

b. Resolution No.116-2005 (*Regular Agenda Item No. 7*), which would approve the proposed Milan at Town Center master plan.

Development Services Planner Daryl Johnson gave the presentation, explaining that the petitioner was seeking master plan approval for an eight-story office building with a parking garage, known as Milan at Town Center and located at 5295 Town Center Road. The proposed building would include 52,500 square feet of office space and 1,200 square feet for a drive-in bank. Vehicle access is proposed via a right in/right out driveway on Town Center

Road and a right in/right out driveway on Military Trail. The City's Traffic Engineer reviewed existing traffic volumes and the project's build-out volumes and, after analysis, concluded that a southbound right-turn lane should be constructed. The petitioner agreed to reconfigure the parking area adjacent to the Military Trail/Town Center Road to accommodate the turn lane. Mr. Johnson reviewed parking space requirements and concluded his presentation, advising that staff recommended approval. He then answered questions from Council. The City's Traffic Engineer, Doug Hess, answered questions related to the right-turn lane and reconfiguration of the parking.

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 Assistant City Attorney had nothing to report at this time.

7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTS AND REPORTS:

Council Member Haynie advised that the City of Deerfield Beach sells ice at their boat ramp; she asked that staff look into possibly doing the same.

Mayor Abrams confirmed with the City Manager that the appearance of numerical addresses on curbs was another measure being taken in preparation for hurricanes, which was information gleaned on the trip that the Mayor and certain City staff took to Punta Gorda following last year's Hurricane Charley. He stated that the while the Geographic Positioning System (GPS) devices will be utilized if street signs and landmarks are destroyed, all City staff will not have these devices, nor will citizens, insurance agents or other recovery personnel.

The regular workshop meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida, adjourned at approximately 3:20 p.m. on Monday, July 25, 2005.

Vanessa Hines, Assistant City Clerk