

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL  
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2007  
1:30 PM

The 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 L. Abrams  
Deputy Mayor Susan Whelchel  
Council Member M. J. Mike Arts  
Council Member Peter R. Baronoff  
Council Member Bill Hager

Also attending the meeting were:

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

**AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS:**

Discover Afterschool! Day Proclamation – October 18, 2007

Larry Woods, Community Resource Advocate for Primetime in Palm Beach County, accepted the proclamation.

**1. BOARD INTERVIEWS:**

There were no positions advertised.

**2. PUBLIC REQUESTS:**

John Stetz voiced opposition to the upcoming January referendum related to property taxes and then advised that he planned to purchase a windfarm generator for his home, as a way to reduce dependency on foreign oil.

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

a. Questions relating to the agenda.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.a. – Air Conditioning Replacement at Library) Deputy Mayor Whelchel cited upcoming construction of the new downtown library and questioned why this money was being spent. Mr. Ahnell explained that the air conditioning system was 20 years old and in need of replacement. In addition, the existing library building would still be in place even after the new library is built.

(Consent Agenda Item Nos. 3.e.1 – 3.e.5. / Sole Source items) Council Member Arts voiced his opposition to sole source bids, stating that the City should work itself out of sole source bidding. He advised that he planned to pull Consent Agenda Item Nos. 3.e.5. and 3.g., related to a procurement from Motorola, tomorrow night for more discussion. The City Manager explained that three of the sole source items are software items; the vendor who sold the software to the City also maintains the software, which is why these items are sole source. Regarding the lift station pump repairs, he noted that the pumps were purchased previously by contract and this company has the needed parts available.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.c.2. – Excess Insurance) Council Member Hager referred to what appeared to be three layers of security and asked the City Manager what the limit is on the excess. Mr. Ahnell clarified the policy and advised that he would review the limits tomorrow night.

(Consent Agenda Item No. 3.g. – Resolution No. 104-2007 / A Reconfiguration Implementation Agreement, Phase I and II, with Motorola for rebanding the City of Boca Raton's radio system) Council Member Hager requested background information on this item. Mr. Ahnell is to follow up tomorrow night.

- b. Resolution No. 102-2007 (*Regular Agenda Item No. 7*), adopting an amended and restated Boca Raton Municipal Facilities and Services User Fee Schedule.

Carol Himes, City Treasurer, gave the PowerPoint presentation. She advised that the proposed user fees would go into effect October 1, 2007 and explained why user fees are needed and who pays them. She then reviewed those fees to be increased and/or added for Development Services and Fire-Rescue Services; details were provided.

At this time, Fire Chief Tom Woods came forward to respond to a question from Council and explained why flow testing is conducted at 5:00 a.m. In response to another query, Ms. Himes stated that the subject fee would increase from \$210 to \$291.

Ms. Himes resumed her presentation, outlining increased and/or new fees for Recreation Services and Utility Services; details were provided. Responding to questions from Council, Ms. Himes explained the fee for IRIS signage.

**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:**

Ms. Frieser referred to what is known as the "sober house" case, stating that the corporate plaintiffs filed an appeal but the individual plaintiffs did not; a memo from her office would be forthcoming.

**7. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTS AND REPORTS:**

Deputy Mayor Whelchel wished Countess de Hoernle a happy 95<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Council Member Hager referred to articles in the newspapers related to the weighty tax burden that snowbirds are experiencing, which is driving people out of the State. He noted that the Legislature has a lot of work to do to stabilize the economy and promote future growth.

Council Member Baronoff promoted the upcoming Canine Carnival, scheduled for Saturday, November 3, 2007, at Mizner Bark Dog Park, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; additional details were provided.

Mayor Abrams referred to the meeting he recently attended, scheduled by Palm Beach County (PBC) Commissioner Mary McCarty, to discuss the January referendum also known as the super-exemption. He stated that Council had previously concluded that their responsibility, if anything, was to ensure that people understand the impacts on their individual homesteaded residences. Consequently, he asked the City Manager to work out the impacts and place something on the City's website so residents can figure out whether the proposed super-exemption would benefit them. Mr. Ahnell advised that a link to the PBC Property Appraiser's website has been included on the City's website.

The regular workshop meeting of the City Council of the City of Boca Raton, Florida, adjourned at approximately 1:55 p.m. on Monday, September 24, 2007.

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Vanessa Hines, Assistant City Clerk