

MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS
WORK SESSION - SEPTEMBER 26, 2000

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, MET IN WORK SESSION IN THE CITY HALL AUDITORIUM/COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 324 EAST PINE STREET, ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2000, AT 6:30 P.M. WITH THE FOLLOWING PRESENT:

FRANK DiDONATO	MAYOR-COMMISSIONER
DAVID O. ARCHIE	MAYOR PRO TEMPORE
BEVERLEY BILLIRIS	COMMISSIONER
JIM ARCHER	COMMISSIONER
CINDY DOMINO	COMMISSIONER

ALSO PRESENT:

ELLEN S. POSIVACH	CITY MANAGER
JOHN HUBBARD	CITY ATTORNEY
IRENE S. JACOBS	CITY CLERK'S REPRESENTATIVE

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor DiDonato called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk's Representative Jacobs called the roll.

1. YOUTH SPORTS COMMENTS

Mayor DiDonato noted no sports organizations were present this evening.

2. SPECIAL EVENTS APPLICATION/WESTIN-INNISBROOK/SUNSET BEACH ON 10-06-00

Public Services Director Juan Cruz reviewed this application for the "Lucient Technologies Beach Party" to be hosted by the Westin-Innisbrook on Thursday, October 5, 2000 from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at Sunset Beach. Mr. Cruz recommended approval of this application, provided the City is in receipt of a valid Certificate of Insurance, naming the City as co-insured and contingent upon the Special Events Committee's approval.

Mayor DiDonato asked for Board and public comments and there were none.

3. SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION/CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD/CRAIG PARK 10-14-00

Mayor DiDonato explained this item was canceled.

PRESENTATIONS

4. SEAPORT CITIES TOUR

Planning Director Fufidio gave a slide presentation, which reviewed his recent tour of seaport cities, including Fernandina Beach, St. Augustine, West Palm Beach and Mayport. He noted how each city utilized their signage, public areas, residential and commercial properties, pedestrian crossings, public parking, working waterfronts, pedestrian streets, trolley services, sidewalk cafes and streetscapes. Mr. Fufidio described unique points of interest at these locations and highlighted the cities that have incorporated a uniform theme throughout their communities.

5. SISTER CITIES PROGRAM

Cultural and Civic Services Director Kathleen Monahan reviewed the history of the Sister City Program, explaining all the Dodecanese Islands have been invited to associate with the City of Tarpon Springs through this program; however, Kalymnos has been the first to officially welcome Tarpon Springs. Dr. Monahan thanked former Mayor Anita Protos, Mike Stergos and Maria Pantelis for their efforts and input. She read from a draft Proclamation declaring that Tarpon Springs and Kalymnos, as the first of the Dodecanese Islands, have officially associated through the Sister Cities Program.

Mayor DiDonato thanked all those that have persevered with this endeavor. Mike Stergos extended his appreciation to the Greek Consulate and Greek Ambassador in Atlanta and suggested the City issue them of formal thank you letter and this was referred to Dr. Monahan for reply. Commissioner Billiris noted that Campeche, Mexico, has also expressed an interest in a Sister City association with Tarpon Springs, adding a delegation from that City would be visiting in November. She noted the County has requested Tarpon Springs host a lunch or dinner for these visitors.

PRESENTATIONS (CONTINUED)

6. PROCEDURES OF ISSUANCE OF NO OBJECTION-PRIVATE, MULTI-USE AND COMMERCIAL DOCKS

Information Services Officer Judy Staley reported her findings regarding dock permitting procedures as outlined in Exhibit 1 and explained the survey of other Pinellas County municipalities. She explained this survey revealed that most interviewed cities rely on the Pinellas County Water and Navigational Control Authority's regulations as a determination in issuing a letter of no objection for dock permits. Commissioner Billiris thanked Ms. Staley for her report and requested further clarification of how a city such as Clearwater would handle extraordinary circumstances. Commissioner Billiris stressed the need for a guideline when extremely unique circumstances arise, such as the 128-foot multi-use dock application.

Mayor DiDonato asked for public comments and there were none.

7. CARTS FOR RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE SERVICES

Public Services Administrator Paul Smith reviewed the Board's request to research an option of uniform trash carts for residential waste removal. He presented a feasibility study performed by Barbara Hugg, Sanitation Coordinator, which highlighted the various container sizes and frequencies of trash removal. Mr. Smith recommended 90-gallon cans and bi-weekly garbage pick up. He explained that Waste Management of Pinellas County, Inc. is the current solid waste removal contractor and that this type of service modification may be better suited at the expiration of the current contract. Commissioner Billiris thanked Mr. Smith for his research and requested he contact the Mayor of Temple Terrace because that city just started a pilot program using similar carts, adding their recent experiences may answer questions Tarpon Springs has regarding such a conversion. Mayor DiDonato asked for public comments and there were none.

8. SAMPLE ORDINANCES REGARDING REMOVAL OF DOG EXCREMENT

Information Services Officer Staley reviewed sample ordinances pertaining to the removal of dog excrement. The Board discussed the importance of unilateral code enforcement as well as the feasibility of enforcing such an ordinance. City Attorney Hubbard advised that this type of ordinance would be fully enforceable. It was the consensus of the Board that the City Attorney prepare an ordinance pertaining to dog excrement removal by that pet's owner.

Nancy Dively, 215 Pineapple Street, voiced her support of this ordinance and offered various enforcement suggestions.

DISCUSSIONS

9. CITIZEN REQUEST TO DISCUSS DOG PARK

Nancy Dively, 215 Pineapple Street, presented the Board with a packet describing city organized dog parks. She expressed an interest in initiating a similar park in Tarpon Springs and suggested various park sizes and locations suitable within the City, such as Anclote Park, the property adjacent to the Live Oak parking lot, the empty lot on Huey Avenue behind the Publix store, the old Jaycee Hut on Meres Boulevard and the vacant land surrounding the former Anclote Manor property. In response to Commissioner Billiris' inquiry, Mr. Fufidio estimated the property adjacent to the Live Oak parking lot at approximately five acres. Commissioner Billiris also suggested Ms. Dively approach the County regarding Howard Park as another possible location. Commissioner Domino suggested Ms. Dively involve the Tarpon Springs High School's Agri-Science group. Commissioner Archer recommended she contact Ms. Debbie Edwards at the local high school. Mayor DiDonato requested Staff research this issue further and place it on a future agenda.

Mayor DiDonato asked for public comments and there were none.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

10. Ordinance 2000-33 - FIRST READING - AMENDING FUTURE LAND USE PLAN BY DESIGNATING URBAN INFILL AND REDEVELOPMENT AREA

Planning Director Fufidio explained this amendment of the Future Land Use Element of the Tarpon Springs Comprehensive Plan by adopting a map of an Urban Infill and Redevelopment Area. He described this grant program which allows funding to be used for a broad spectrum of community services and developments. He added, unlike most land use amendments, Ordinance 2000-33 does not change the permitted uses of any land, it is simply a designation. Mr. Fufidio clarified the Union Academy Neighborhood was also known as Charlestown and described the actual geographic boundaries of this planning area. Mr. Fufidio noted Bill Compton of the Pinellas County Community Development Department is present this evening for technical questions. He added the Planning and Zoning Board unanimously recommended approval and that if the Board of Commissioners approves this ordinance following its first reading on October 3, 2000, it will be forwarded to the Department of Community Affairs. Mayor DiDonato asked for Board comments and there were none.

Ed Cole inquired whether the Union Academy Oversight Committee was informed of this Ordinance and Mr. Fufidio explained that his department met with that group approximately 30 to 45 days ago. (See additional discussion of this issue on page 6)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Buccaneer Gas Pipeline - Bruce Dikey, 2007 Cove Court, Holiday, voiced his concerns about this proposed gas pipeline installation, which would link Alabama and Florida through an underwater line in the Gulf. Mr. Dickey announced a Federal Hearing on this matter would be held at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 27, 2000 at the Community Center in Land O' Lakes. Commissioner Domino stated she has additional written information on this matter and would provide the same to the Commission. The City Manager confirmed Business Specialist Charles Attardo would attend that meeting. Costa Vatikiotis also voiced his concerns regarding this project and how it would affect the Anclote River Chanel.

Cultural District Project at the Sponge Docks - Costa Vatikiotis requested an update on this project. Mr. Fufidio explained a study has been prepared that is contiguous of the northern boundaries of Historic District extending to the Anclote River. He added that although this area would be labeled the Cultural District, as with the Historic District, it is a land regulatory program. Mr. Fufidio highlighted several challenges which delayed this project. In response to Mr. Vatikiotis' question, the Board stated that the project's time line could be published for the community's information.

STAFF COMMENTS

Brick Use Policy - Public Services Director Juan Cruz reviewed the draft policy regarding the use of bricks from city streets (see Exhibit 2). Upon Commissioner Billiris' inquiry, Mr. Cruz stated the City's supervisory level employee would determine what bricks would be salvaged at each street repair project. She also suggested using partial bricks for future landscape purposes throughout the City. Commissioner Archie suggested useable/unusable criteria be established.

Tree Replacement Policy for Historic District - Public Services Director Cruz noted that Staff is researching a tree replacement policy for the historic district.

King Historic Preservation Board Appeal/Ex-Parte Contact - City Attorney Hubbard advised the Board of Commissioners, who would be acting in an appellate capacity, not to discuss this appeal or accept written material regarding the same outside of the October 17th hearing.

Solid Waste Removal - The City Manager referred to the City's current trash removal contract, which will expire in October 2001. She pointed out that Mr. Cruz will seek Board direction at the October 3rd Commission meeting, allowing the City ample time to seek consultants for analysis of any possible service changes.

BOARD COMMENTS

Roosevelt Boulevard - Commissioner Billiris requested Staff address an expanding pothole at the west end of this road.

Craig Park - Commissioner Billiris relayed a request from several residents to install benches near the playground at Craig Park.

Sunset Hills Elementary Olympics - Commissioner Billiris congratulated all those that participated in this event that she, Commissioner Archer and Commissioner Archie attended.

Union Academy Oversight Committee/Ordinance 2000-33 - Commissioner Archie noted this committee was previously contacted by the Planning and Zoning Board regarding Ordinance 2000-33. He suggested the City involve the Oversight Committee as much as possible. Mayor DiDonato concurred, adding Business Service Specialist Attardo would organize that line of communication. City Manager Posivach agreed and stated the Oversight Committee's continued involvement would be encouraged. (See additional discussion of this issue on page 4)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

L.F. DiDONATO, DC.
MAYOR-COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

KATHY M. ALESAFIS, CMC
CITY CLERK & COLLECTOR

KMA:tca

CITY CLERK'S NOTE:

This meeting has been recorded in its entirety and the recordings are kept on file in the City Clerk's Office for the required retention period.