



MINUTES
WORKSHOP CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 20, 2000 AT 7:00 P.M.
CITY HALL, 116 FIRST STREET
NEPTUNE BEACH, FLORIDA

Pursuant to proper notice a Workshop Meeting of the City Council of the City of Neptune Beach was held March 20, 2000 at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 116 First Street, Neptune Beach, Florida.

Attendance:

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor George F. Vaughn, Jr.
Vice Mayor Edward S. Jones
Councilor Ronald Patronik
Councilor Robert D. Shimp
Councilor Thomas A. Tankersley
City Manager Richard A. Linn

City Clerk Lisa Volpe, CMC
Director of Finance John Herbst
Assistant to the City Manager Terry Klein

ABSENT:
City Attorney Christopher A. White

Call to Order/Roll Call

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

City Manager Linn asked that item 4a, additional homestead exemption for limited income senior citizens be moved to the first item on the agenda. Councilman Jerry Holland of the City of Jacksonville and Paul Harrison of the Council of Elder Affairs were present to speak about the subject.

Consensus: **TO MOVE ITEM 4A, PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL EXEMPTION OF \$25,000 FOR LIMITED INCOME RESIDENTS AGED 65 OR OLDER, TO THE FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA.**

Ordinance Tax
Exemption

PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL EXEMPTION OF \$25,000 FOR LIMITED INCOME RESIDENTS AGED 65 OR OLDER: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NEPTUNE BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 21, TAXATION, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NEPTUNE BEACH, BY ADDING ARTICLE VI, ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION FOR PERSONS SIXTY-FIVE (65) AND OLDER AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilman Jerry Holland of the City of Jacksonville affirmed that the City of Jacksonville had passed an ordinance exempting an additional \$25,000 for elderly people with an adjusted gross income of \$20,000 or less. Councilman Holland advised that if the City of Neptune Beach was to pass a similar ordinance only \$2000 per year would be lost in taxes. Councilman Holland further stated that Duval County would take care of the administrative work.

Councilor Shimp agreed to sponsor the tax exemption ordinance.

Consensus: **TO FORWARD THE PURPOSED ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL EXEMPTION OF \$25,000 FOR LIMITED INCOME RESIDENTS AGED 65 OR OLDER TO THE APRIL REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR FIRST READ.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

IBBC **ISH BRANT BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE UPDATE:** City Manager Linn reported that the Ish Brant Beautification Committee was scheduled to meet at 8:00 tonight and their agenda included the landscaping of medians on Third Street.

CITY MANAGERS PUNCH LIST

New Assistant to the City Manager **NEW ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER:** City Manager Linn introduced his new assistant Terry Klein to the Council.

Northeast Florida League of Cities **NORTHEAST FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES:** City Manager Linn announced that the Northeast Florida League of Cities would be coming to Neptune Beach on May 18, 2000.

Kings Road Bridge **KINGS ROAD BRIDGE:** City Manager Linn explained that he had changed the wording on his punch list from repairing to replacing the Kings Road Bridge.

Bike Path **PROPOSED BIKE PATH ON PENMAN ROAD:** City Manager Linn stated that a consultant from the Florida Department of Transportation was present to speak about the proposed bike path on Penman Road.

Naval Air Show **NAVY AIR SHOW:** City Manager Linn advised that a meeting would be held for the Naval Air Show on May 23, 2000 at Mayport.

PROPOSED ORDINANCES

Ordinance Tele-communications tax **PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO MODIFY THE TELE-COMMUNICATIONS TAX STRUCTURE:** AN ORDINANCE LEVYING AND IMPOSING A TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICE PUBLIC SERVICE TAX FOR THE INCORPORATED AREA OF NEPTUNE BEACH, FLORIDA, AS AUTHORIZED BY CHAPTER 166.231 (9)(A)(2), FLORIDA STATUTES: TO REPEAL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND TO CREATE AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Finance Director John Herbst stated that two types of public service taxes were available on telecommunications and the city currently had what was referred to as the 10 percent option. Herbst explained that the 10 percent option provided a 10 percent tax on land lines for local telephone service only and the other option available was a 7 percent tax on all telecommunications including beepers, pagers, cellular phones and any other items in the telecommunications field. Herbst recommended replacing the current 10 percent option with the 7 percent option advising that it would increase revenue by at least 50 percent.

Vice Mayor Jones agreed to sponsor the tele-communications ordinance.

Consensus: **TO FORWARD PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO MODIFY THE TELE-COMMUNICATION TAX STRUCTURE TO THE APRIL REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR FIRST READ.**

CONTRACT/AGREEMENTS

Water and Sewer
Project

APPROVAL FOR BIDS ON UTILITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PHASE 1 WATER AND SEWER PART A: City Manager Linn reported that Post, Buckley, Schuh and Jernigan had introduced the drawings for phase 1a of the water and sewer project. Mr. Linn explained that the project involved a new lift station on the west corner of Third Street and Florida Boulevard and asked the Council for approval to advertise for bids on the project.

Jim Miller with Post, Buckley, Schuh & Jernigan answered a few questions from the Council.

Consensus: **TO FORWARD APPROVAL FOR BIDS ON UTILITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PHASE 1 WATER AND SEWER PART A TO THE APRIL REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING.**

ISSUE DEVELOPMENT

Bike Path

FLORIDA BOULEVARD AND PENMAN ROAD BIKE PATH AND RESOLUTION 2000-03 SUPPORTING THE INSTALLATION OF A CULVERT PIPE ALONG FLORIDA BOULEVARD: City Manager Linn explained to the community how the project came about and introduced Joe Montalto, the design consultant with Lochrane Engineers.

Joe Montalto explained the design process stating that first he would locate all existing features in the pathway of the proposed bike path along the north side of Florida Boulevard beginning at First Street and running to Atlantic Boulevard. Then he would prepare a preliminary layout for the bike path involving a minimal amount of object removal by placing the bike path within the existing features. After the preliminary design was complete he would then present it to the public to obtain comments and opinions and incorporate the public comments and opinions into the final design. Then he would prepare the final plans for construction.

Joe Montalto answered questions from the council and a lengthy discussion ensued.

Councilor Tankersley agreed to sponsor Resolution 2000-03

Consensus: **TO FORWARD RESOLUTION 2000-03 SUPPORTING THE INSTALLATION OF A CULVERT PIPE ALONG FLORIDA BOULEVARD TO THE APRIL REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING.**

Media One Broadband

INSTALLATION OF CABLE BOXES BY MEDIA ONE: City Manager Linn stated that he had received comments from concerned residents regarding the placement of the Media One cable boxes and he had invited Anne Murphy to the meeting to address the concerns.

Broadband Construction Manager Greg McAnany explained that it was not always possible to place the cable boxes in a common area or in a median strip because they were required to place them within a certain distance of the electrical transformers. Mr. McAnany further explained that he would take whatever steps necessary to help make the boxes aesthetically pleasing.

Mr. McAnany and Anne Murphy answered questions from the council and a lengthy discussion ensued.

Consensus: **DIRECT THE CITY MANAGER TO INSPECT THE WORK DONE BY MEDIA ONE.**

Consensus: **FORWARD CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH MEDIA ONE TO THE APRIL CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING.**

USS Roosevelt

COMMISSIONING OF THE USS ROOSEVELT A NEW GUIDED MISSILE DESTROYER AT MAYPORT NAVAL AIR STATION: Mayor Vaughn stated that a letter had been received from the Chairman of the Invocation Committee for the commissioning of the USS Roosevelt on October 14, 2000 at the Mayport Naval Air Station. Mayor Vaughn added that the Mayport Chapter of the Navy League of the United States was asking the beach communities to participate in the commissioning and provide a donation of \$1,000.00. Mayor Vaughn recommended moving forward with participation and donation.

Consensus: **TO HAVE CITY MANAGER LINN GET MORE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE COMMISSIONING OF THE USS ROOSEVELT AND REPORT THE INFORMATION RECEIVED ON HIS PUNCHLIST.**

Public Comments

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Harriet Clark Sasser, 1020 Florida Boulevard, presented a petition to the Council signed by 318 people in opposition of the proposed bike path east of Penman Road.

Sam Lloyd, 223 Florida Boulevard, felt there was no reasoning for a bike path and that it would destroy the neighborhood.

Chris Rasche, 232 Florida Boulevard, felt that the proposed bike path would not be an improvement for the city.

William McCants, 1126 Hagler Drive, felt that government was not listening to the public on the proposed bike path issue and expressed concerned about the cable boxes.

Jim Myers, 1001 Florida Boulevard, felt that no one used sidewalks for riding bikes.

Shirley Myers, 1001 Florida Boulevard, was upset that the design consultant did not mention the fourteen driveways that people would be backing out of on the bike path between First Street and Third Street. Ms. Myers suggested a bike lane instead of a bike path.

Dan Disch, 224 Florida Boulevard, felt that the constituents had made it clear that they were against the proposed bike path.

Lynda Padrta, 1113 First Street, hoped that council would listen to the people opposing the bike path and thought Media One was not interested in compromising with Neptune Beach.

Harriet Pruette, 2171/2 Magnolia Street, opposed the proposed bike path and felt that council should vote no on it. Ms. Pruette also expressed concern about Media Ones contract and thought the city should renegotiate.

Elaine Kenny, 1301 Neptune Grove Drive West, stated that she had a hard time getting out of her driveway on Florida Boulevard without the addition of a bike path.

John Kowkabany, 110 Palm Place, felt that the overwhelming response from the citizens at the last council meeting should have been enough to put an end to the proposed bike path project and thought that Media One was making a fool of the city.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:37p.m.

Attest:

George F. Vaughn, Jr., Mayor

Lisa Volpe, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____