



MINUTES
WORKSHOP CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 22, 2002 AT 7:30 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 January 22, 2002 at 7:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 116 First Street, Neptune Beach, Florida.

Attendance:

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Richard A. Brown
Vice Mayor Robert A. Shimp
Councilor James Gilbert
Councilor Ronald A. Patronik
Councilor Harriet Pruette
City Manager Richard A. Linn

City Clerk Lisa Volpe, CMC
Deputy City Clerk Karla Strait, CMC
Assistant to the City Manager Terry Klein

ABSENT:
City Attorney Christopher White

Call to Order/Roll Call The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Brown explained the meeting had been delayed in order for City Clerk Lisa Volpe, Councilor Pruette, and himself to represent the City of Neptune Beach at the City of Jacksonville Council Meeting in the adoption of a Resolution honoring former Neptune Beach Mayor Ish Brant.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

IBBC ISH BRANT BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE: City Manager Linn reported the Ish Brant Beautification Committee had the irrigation system installed in the Third Street medians and it was functioning well. Palm tress, wildflowers, and shrubbery would be installed in the medians in March. The committee had also received a \$5,000 matching grant from the Jacksonville Mayors Neighborhood Beautification Program and were soliciting plans from landscapers to improve the barricade at Seagate Avenue & First Street

CITY MANAGERS PUNCH LIST

Jarboe Park JARBOE PARK IMPROVEMENTS: City Manager Linn reported the handicap swing and the footbridge were on order and should arrive soon. The project should be complete, inspected and closed out in two months.

Bike Path – Penman Road BIKE PATH – PENMAN ROAD: City Manager Linn stated he attended a utility meeting with the utility companies involved in the right of way. The meeting went well, they would

have to coordinate the activity, and a couple of manholes would have to be adjusted.

- Mechanical Permits MECHANICAL PERMIT FEES: City Manager Linn reported the Ordinance was passed on first read at the January regular council meeting.
- Traffic Light Florida Blvd. TRAFFIC LIGHT- FLORIDA BOULEVARD – NEPTUNE BEACH ELEMENTARY: City Manager Linn reported he was awaiting the arrival of a letter from the City of Jacksonville with the results of their traffic study.
- Mezza Luna / Sliders MEZZA LUNA – SLIDERS: There had been rumors that Mezza Luna Italian Restaurant and Sliders Oyster Bar were going out of business. Councilor Pruette announced she had spoken with the owners and they had no intentions of closing and were in business to stay.

PROPOSED ORDINANCES/NONE

CONTRACT/AGREEMENTS

- Utility Improvement Project UTILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS – PHASE I, B&C, FLORIDA BOULEVARD & BAL HARBOUR: City Manager Linn stated the engineer set the pre-qualifications of the bid specifications to insure a successful contractor would be awarded the contract. The pre-qualifications allowed the contractor to list his successful job experiences and qualifications and have his references checked by the engineer. Without pre-qualifications the bid would be open to anyone and a low bidder that did not have experience could not be eliminated. Mr. Linn reminded the council that the first phase of the project had problems because the contractor was not pre-qualified.

Mayor Brown questioned if the pre-qualifications were too strict. City Manager Linn responded he felt they were fair and there were at least four contractors that could meet the qualifications.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the pre-qualifications.

Jim Miller, PBS&J Engineering, stated he had been directed by the council on three different occasions to avoid the trouble the city experienced in the past with Harcon. The pre-qualifications came directly from Jacksonville Electric Authority and he felt strongly about them. The pre-qualifications provided for bids from contractors that had experience in horizontal directional drilling and owned their own equipment thereby eliminating subcontracting to gas or cable contractors. The contractor would also have to hold an underground contractors license. The pre-qualifications would allow the city the ability to approve the sub-contractors they could hire. If the subcontractor had a bad record the city could reject them. Mr. Miller felt that if the bid pre-qualifications were lowered it would open the bidding to more contractors but that did not mean the bids would be lower. Mr. Miller added Phase I, B&C, was the biggest part of the project and if we are not satisfied with the contractor it would be too late. Therefore, we needed to do all we could from the beginning to assure we are getting the best-qualified contractor.

City Manager Linn added the goal of the project was to get a good job done at a fair price and he felt we had established what the fair estimates would be.

- Public Comment Gordon Gruhn, 500 Ranch Road, stated he was in favor of the pre-qualification requirements. He did not want to lower the standards he wanted to raise the standards to insure the City of Neptune Beach had a qualified contractor to do the installation. Mr. Gruhn felt that successful completion of 200,000 total linear feet of pipe was too strict and would not insure a good contractor because of the 200,000

feet there was no set standard for how much had to be in a residential area. Mr. Gruhn explained that of the 200,000 feet only 5,000 had to be in sandy wet conditions and the entire Neptune Beach job would be in sandy wet conditions. Mr. Gruhn felt because he had completed jobs for J.E.A. putting 15,000 feet of pipe in the ground in 60 days he would be better qualified than the other guy. Mr. Gruhn also felt a contractor should not be excluded if he hired subcontractors for the drilling. What was important was if the contractor had worked with the subcontractor in the past and if he had performed well. Mr. Gruhn concluded that he had provided Mr. Linn and Mr. Miller with an additional paragraph to add to the pre-qualifications.

Jim Miller, PBS&J, stated his company of sixty offices did a lot of work throughout the United States and the consensus of their top engineers was these were good specifications. They were proposed J.E.A. specifications. Mr. Miller stood behind the specifications and was reluctant to make any changes because he was not sure what the overall impact would be.

Consensus: **TO LEAVE THE PRE-QUALIFICATIONS AS THEY STOOD AND FORWARD TO THE FEBRUARY CONSENT AGENDA.**

ISSUE DEVELOPMENT

Flooding
First Street

FLOODING – FIRST STREET – COUNCILOR PRUETTE: Mayor Brown explained that Councilor Pruette had asked to forward the issue of flooding on First Street to the February regular council meeting.

Parking Hours
First Street

NO PARKING HOURS – FIRST STREET – VICE MAYOR SHIMP: Vice Mayor Shimp stated he was asked by a citizen to bring up the discussion of increasing the parking hours on First Street until 10:00 p.m. Vice Mayor Shimp added that it was the council's job to bring up controversial issues and one council member should not be criticized for their effort because it takes a majority vote of the council to make changes. Vice Mayor Shimp added further that if there was no support for increasing the hours he would not move forward with it.

Mayor Brown clarified no formal action would be taken on increasing the parking hours on First Street.

Public Comments

Wendie Ruibal, 303 First Street, stated that it would change her quality of life completely if the parking hours on First Street were increased. Ms. Ruibal also felt that the current parking hours between 7:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. should be strictly enforced.

Kelly Greenburg, 801 First Street, opposed increasing the parking hours on First Street. Ms. Greenburg felt First Street was more of a pedestrian avenue and there were problems with speeding.

Heath Weldon, 628 Midway, thanked the Council for listening to the constituents and making the right decision by shelving the issue of changing the parking hours on First Street.

Tim Slater, 573 Magnolia Street, thanked the council for not changing the parking hours on First Street. Mr. Slater wanted to know if the Bal Harbour portion of the Water Improvement Project could be a priority.

Ed Jones, 430 Ocean Front, opposed extending the parking hours on First Street. He felt the pedestrians should have the right of way on First Street.

Larry Shealy, 1501 First Street, also thanked the council for listening to the people and stated it was nice to know the system worked.

Vice Mayor
Position

VICE MAYOR POSITION – VICE MAYOR SHIMP: Vice Mayor Shimp explained when he was elected Vice Mayor on December 5, 2000; he felt it was such an honor and a privilege he suggested that at the end of each year a fellow council member be given the same opportunity. At that time there were no objections from the council. A year had passed and he was honoring his commitment to resign and elect a new Vice Mayor.

City Manager Linn stated the City Attorney's opinion was that the term of office of Vice Mayor was not spelled out in the Charter therefore City Council was free to do as they wished. A referendum was not necessary. It could be done by adopting an Ordinance that would have a Vice Mayor elected annually.

Mayor Brown suggested drafting an Ordinance and asked Vice Mayor Shimp to delay his resignation until the Ordinance was adopted.

Councilor Pruette stated that the Vice Mayor had the responsibility to act as Mayor in the Mayor's absence and felt that Councilor Patronik's job would prevent him from being available. Councilor Pruette added that Vice Mayor Shimp made a promise to the citizens of Neptune Beach to eliminate needless spending and she thought spending \$300 to change the Vice Mayor for nine months was needless. Councilor Pruette felt Vice Mayor Shimp was doing a good job and should remain as Vice Mayor until the upcoming election.

Councilor Patronik stated that in most cities the title of Vice Mayor was passed around from each council member. Councilor Patronik added that Councilor Pruette had a tremendous dislike and a personal vendetta against him and it was not just a matter of spending \$300.

Mayor Brown suggested if the Council were interested in making a change to rotate the Vice Mayor each year the appropriate time to introduce an Ordinance would be this fall to make it effective with the new term. Mayor Brown added that if Vice Mayor Shimp resigned as Vice Mayor with a letter and an effective date the Council could elect a replacement at that time.

Public Comments

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Robin Thigpen, 1445 West Church Street, felt he was qualified for the Water Project and should have the opportunity to bid; however the pre-qualifications were too strict. Mr. Thigpen stated his company had installed 25,000 lineal feet of this type of pipe in Duval County. Mr. Thigpen presented the Council with a marketing videotape of his company.

Mayor Brown recognized that City of Jacksonville Beach Councilman Art Graham was in the audience.

Marvin Shealy, 840 Penman Road, asked how the Water Project would be bid, if it were by low bid, request for proposals, or negotiated bid. City Manager Linn responded it was by pre-qualified contractors and low bid. Mr. Shealy asked why negotiated bid was not considered. City Manager Linn responded that the city had always taken the low bid by the City Attorney's opinion and a City Ordinance. Mr. Shealy asked council to consider negotiated bids in the future for projects of this size because you could review the bid packages and choose the best value not the lowest bid.

Laura Patronik, 1520 Leeward Lane, thanked Vice Mayor Shimp for his efforts

concerning First Street. Ms. Patronik referred to a newspaper article and stated she was disheartened that a visitor and possible future resident held our community in such low regard. She doubted that residents would come and park on First Street and commit sexual acts in their cars. Ms. Patronik referred to letter addressed to the council and she hoped that personal attacks on council members would cease.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Richard A. Brown, Mayor

Attest:

Lisa Volpe, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____