



**MINUTES**  
**WORKSHOP CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**JULY 19, 2004, AT 6:00 P.M.**  
**CITY HALL, 116 FIRST STREET**  
**NEPTUNE BEACH, FLORIDA**

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Pursuant to proper notice a Workshop Meeting of the City Council of the City of Neptune Beach was held July 19, 2004 at 6:00 pm., in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 116 First Street, Neptune Beach, Florida.

Attendance:

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Richard A. Brown  
Councilor Harriet Pruette  
Councilor Larry Shealy  
Councilor John Weldon  
City Attorney Christopher White  
City Manager Jim Jarboe  
City Clerk Lisa Volpe, CMC

ABSENT:

Vice Mayor James Gilbert

STAFF:

Public Safety Director William Brandt  
Sergeant Anthony Carrillo  
Community Development Director Jason Cleghorn  
Building Official Tony Perez Guerra  
Director of Finance Steve Ramsey  
Director of Public Services Leon Smith  
Deputy City Clerk Karla Strait, CMC  
Assistant to the Building Official Piper Turner

Call to Order/Roll Call Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**PRESENTATIONS / NONE**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS / NONE**

**CITY MANAGERS ACTION LIST**

Contract Wall Fencing City Manager Jarboe reported the concrete wall fencing of Jarboe Park and the Public Services Facility was underway.

First St. Mr. Jarboe stated the paving of First Street would begin in August after the stormwater drainage repairs were complete.

Building Activity Report	Mr. Jarboe presented a Building Activity Report for the months of October 1, 2003, through June 30, 2004, calling attention to a total of \$153,937.90 in cash receipts.
New Street Signs	Councilor Pruette asked if the new street signs had been received. Director of Public Services Leon Smith replied the signs were received late last week. City Manager Jarboe mentioned he was asked to reposition some of the stop signs on First Street because they were obstructing drivers views.
Street Signs on the Beach	Councilor Weldon described the street signs at the street ends eastward of the crossovers on the ocean as unsightly and asked if they were necessary. Chief Brandt informed that the street signs were necessary for emergency purposes. Councilor Weldon suggested replacing the existing signs with more durable and attractive signs. City Manager Jarboe stated he would examine other options.
Kings Rd. Bridge	Councilor Weldon questioned when the final design of the Kings Road Bridge would be ready for review. Director of Public Services Leon Smith advised the plans should be delivered the third week of August.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS / NONE**

**PROPOSED ORDINANCES / NONE**

**CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS**

Sewer Line Repairs	City Manager Jarboe informed he received a proposal for \$132,000 for the repair of the damaged stormwater sewer lines that were recently televised. He would place the contract on the August regular city council meeting agenda for approval.
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**ISSUE DEVELOPMENT**

2004/2005 Budget	<b><u>FISCAL YEAR 2004-2005 BUDGET:</u></b> Director of Finance Steve Ramsey presented the Fiscal Year 2004-2005 General Fund Proposed Budget.
Revenue	The proposed revenue of \$4,457,007 was based on a 2.9 Milage rate and reflected a 5.08% overall increase from the previous year.

Expenditures	Department	Total Expenditures	Percent Increase / Decrease
	Mayor & City Council	\$ 37,717	- 0.66%
	City Managers Office	\$ 91,269	- 20.79%
	Finance Department	\$ 113,113	4.37%
	Legal Counsel	\$ 63,300	11.44%
	Building Department	\$ 225,395	18.16%
	City Clerks Office	\$ 138,256	12.74%
	Non-Departmental	\$ 662,586	- 4.43%
	Police Department	\$ 2,329,557	7.17%
	Fire Services	\$ 4,100	2.50%
	Animal Control	\$ 114,417	23.34%
	Street Department	\$ 316,595	9.46%
	Parks Department	\$ 123,736	- 5.93%
	Lifeguards / Beach Cleanup	\$ 216,169	4.94%

Total Expenditures	\$4,456,210	5.06%
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Mr. Ramsey specified the expenditures in each department included a 10% increase in employee health insurance.

The major increases in the Building Department included the expense to rewrite the Comprehensive Plan, educational courses, overtime, probationary increases, coverage for time off, and the expense for the operation of two vehicles.

The major increases in the City Clerk's office included imaging and elections.

The major increases in the Non-Departmental included rent on a new copier for City Hall and \$75,000 for Super Bowl expenses.

Discussion ensued regarding the \$75,000 Super Bowl expense.

Councilor Pruette suggested drafting a Resolution asking the City of Jacksonville to provide funding for the expenses.

Councilor Weldon agreed the City of Jacksonville would receive more benefits and he felt \$75,000 in expenses far outweighed the benefits Neptune Beach would receive.

Consensus: **TO DRAFT A RESOLUTION FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION AT THE AUGUST REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.**

For the Record Councilor Weldon stated for the record he was opposed to Town Center events during the Super Bowl weekend. He felt the city should try to limit the amount of public events.

Consensus: **TO DRAFT A RESOLUTION OPPOSING ANY SPECIAL EVENTS DURING THE WEEK OF THE SUPER BOWL.**

The increased amount in the Animal Control Department was due to overtime for employees having to work weekends, and for the purchase of a used four-wheel drive.

The Lifeguards were paid ¾ of their salary from an interlocal agreement with the City of Jacksonville. Because lifeguards were seasonal employees they did not get time and a half for overtime.

In Summary:

Total Revenue	\$4,457,007
Total Expenditures	<u>\$4,456,210</u>
Net Income	\$ 797

Councilor Shealy asked Mr. Ramsey to research and find out if insurance benefits were available to Council members. Mr. Ramsey responded insurance was available for Council members at the same rate of the full time employees. He would gather information on how much it would cost the city per council member and a total cost for the entire council.

Mr. Ramsey summarized the budget was based on a milage rate of 2.9 plus reserves. He added as the amount of reserves decreased the milage rate would need to be increased to

balance future budgets.

City Manager Jarboe advised the 2.9 milage rate was lower than in any other northeast Florida city. The general fund surplus was above what the auditors prefer. Mr. Ramsey added the auditors preferred only one month of operating expenses to be held in reserves.

Mr. Ramsey explained 2 years ago the council allowed the city manager to set the Not to Exceed Milage Rate. The city manager would set it at 3.5 so there could be chance of having to increase the Final Milage Rate from the Not to Exceed.

Homestead  
Exemption

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT TO INCREASE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION:  
The Florida Supreme Court ruled the proposed amendment to double the state's \$25,000 homestead exemption would not be on the November ballot. Council action to oppose the amendment was therefore not necessary.

Recess/Reconvene

Mayor Brown called a recess at 7:06 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Beach Access

BEACH ACCESS MORATORIUM / STREET END SURVEYS: Councilor Pruette voiced concern that the moratorium on the development of beach accesses and street ends would expire in November. She felt it was time for Council to consider other options to protect the beach accesses.

City Attorney Chris White mentioned he had sent a letter to former City Manager Richard Linn describing other actions. He added the moratorium could continue past the expiration until it was challenged.

Councilor Weldon asked the City Attorney and the City Manager to investigate directions the Council could take to control what happens to the beach accesses. City Attorney White agreed he would work with City Manager Jarboe.

Consensus: **FOR THE CITY ATTORNEY AND THE CITY MANAGER TO LOOK AT DIRECTIONS THE COUNCIL COULD TAKE TO CONTROL WHAT HAPPENS ON THE BEACH ACCESSSES.**

Height Limitation

35' HEIGHT LIMITATION FOR RESIDENTIAL WEST OF THIRD STREET: Councilor Shealy stated he would like Council to consider raising the height limit on larger size lots.

Community Development Director Jason Cleghorn explained a normal roof pitch was 6/12. Therefore the total height for a 50' wide two-story house with 10' ceilings would be 34' 10". Mr. Cleghorn explained other scenarios relating to roof pitches and height limits.

Councilor Weldon declared the referendum to increase the height limit to 35' did not include overall heights. The purpose of the referendum was to protect the city from over development. He would agree to allow 35' height in the R-1 district with a 10,000 square foot minimum lot size requirement.

Consensus: **FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR JASON CLEGHORN TO STRUCTURE A STARTING POINT AND HAVE STAFF COME UP WITH OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION.**

Storm Drainage

STORM DRAINAGE REPAIR EAST OF THIRD STREET: City Manager Jarboe advised blockages were found in the stormwater sewers east of Third Street during the televising and cleaning. He received a proposal for the repairs in the amount of \$132,000 piggybacking off of

the City of Jacksonville. The contract would be placed on the August regular meeting for approval.

Consensus: **TO FORWARD THE CONTRACT TO THE AUGUST REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING FOR APPROVAL.**

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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Richard A. Brown, Mayor

Attest:

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Lisa Volpe, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_