



MINUTES
WORKSHOP CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2005, AT 6:00 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 January 10, 2005 at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 116 First Street, Neptune Beach, Florida.

Attendance:

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Richard A. Brown
Vice Mayor Harriet Pruette
Councilor Eric Pardee
Councilor John Weldon
City Manager Jim Jarboe
City Clerk Lisa Volpe, CMC

ABSENT:

Councilor Larry Shealy
City Attorney Christopher White

STAFF:

Community Development Director Jason Cleghorn
Director of Finance Steve Ramsey
Director of Public Services Leon Smith
Deputy City Clerk Karla Strait, CMC

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

City Manager Jarboe reported the paving contractor was back on the job and would continue the paving until the job was completed.

City Manager Jarboe explained plans for the creation of the Atlantic Boulevard Revitalization Committee were on hold due to recent activity.

City Manager Jarboe stated the annual audit was currently underway in the commercial area.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Del Balter, 106 Pine Street, felt streetlights should be as bright as possible for the safety of the community.

Johns Roberts, 109 Pine Street, felt streetlights should be as bright as possible and felt the Council should focus on more important issues.

PROPOSED ORDINANCES

Animal Control

City Manager Jarboe stated although it was not an agenda item, staff was in the process of updating the animal control ordinance.

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS / NONE

ISSUE DEVELOPMENT

First Street

FIRST STREET PROPERTY & SIDEWALK: City Manager Jarboe requested deferring this issue until City Attorney White could be present to answer legal questions.

Consensus: **TO DEFER THE FIRST STREET PROPERTY UNTIL FEBRUARY 7, AT 6:30 P.M . WHEN THE CITY ATTORNEY COULD BE PRESENT TO ANSWER LEGAL QUESTIONS.**

Board Appt's.

CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD REVIEW AND BOARD APPOINTMENT POLICY: Currently there were seven regular members and three alternate members serving on the Code Enforcement Board, the Planning & Development Review Board and the Board of Appeals. Florida State Statutes require seven regular members and two alternate members to serve on the Code Enforcement Board.

City Manager Jarboe made the following suggestions:

1. Keep seven regular members on the PDRB and the BOA but change the number of alternates from three to two.
2. Play a proactive role in recruiting new board members.
3. Each board have an educational session with the City Attorney once a year to review the rules and the role of the Board.

City Clerk Volpe explained it was difficult to get board members because it was not a paid position. She suggested changing the amount of regular members on the PDRB and the BOA from seven to five.

City Clerk Volpe pointed out currently regular members could serve two consecutive 3 year term limits. However alternates were appointed to 1 year terms and could be reappointed with no consecutive term limit.

Councilor Weldon was in favor of reducing the number of board members from seven to five with two alternates.

Vice Mayor Pruette felt the board members should receive a copy of Chapter 27 so they would be knowledgeable of the Code and thereby make better decisions. She suggested moving alternates up to regular members instead of automatically reappointing regular members.

Councilor Pardee suggested placing an advertisement in the local newspaper in an effort to recruit members. He felt some residents may not be aware of the need for board members or perhaps they felt they were not qualified. He favored setting term limits for

alternate members.

City Clerk Volpe advised if the City wanted to train board members it would be costly to send each board member to an annual conference and the expense would need to be budgeted.

City Clerk Volpe stated there was a Civil Service Board, but it has been inactive.

Consensus: **DRAFT AN ORDINANCE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS ON THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD AND THE BOARD OF APPEALS FROM SEVEN TO FIVE AND ALTERNATES FROM THREE TO TWO, PROVIDE ONCE A YEAR TRAINING SESSION FOR EACH BOARD WITH THE CITY ATTORNEY, AND PROVIDE TERM LIMITS FOR ALTERNATE MEMBERS.**

Goal Setting

GOAL SETTING SESSION: Councilor Weldon stated he was in favor of holding a goal setting session but did not want to hire an instructor for \$1,500.00 He felt the City Manager could moderate the session.

City Manager Jarboe stated the Goal Setting Session was important because it gave the Council the opportunity to provide input for future budget needs. He suggested holding the session on a Monday night that was not a regular meeting night. He added he would provide some dates for Council consideration.

Consensus: **CITY MANAGER JARBOE TO PROVIDE DATES FOR GOAL SETTING SESSION FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION.**

Lift Station Fence

LIFT STATION FENCING / THIRD STREET & FLORIDA BOULEVARD: City Manager Jarboe stated it would cost three times more to construct a concrete fence instead of wooden fence around the lift station. He suggested erecting a wooden fence surrounded by landscaping for beautification. He added Director of Public Services Leon Smith could move the fence back 3 to 4 feet from the sidewalk to allow for a larger area of landscape.

Councilor Weldon stated Third Street and Florida Boulevard was a key intersection in the city and Jarboe Park was a key feature of Neptune Beach. He suggested because the park was a key feature, instead of going for the least expensive option for fencing that the city develop a theme for the park and stay consistent. He favored a concrete fence because it would provide more longevity than a wooden fence.

Vice Mayor Pruette was concerned a concrete fence would not leave enough area for landscaping. She was also concerned about graffiti being painted on a concrete fence.

Mayor Brown felt a wooden fence was reasonable and would look nice surrounded by landscaping.

Councilor Pardee voiced concern that the irrigation system may cause damage to a wooden fence over a period of time.

Consensus: **TO HAVE THE CITY MANAGER PROJECT COSTS OF BOTH A CONCRETE FENCE AND A WOODEN FENCE AND REPORT TO COUNCIL AT THE NEXT MEETING.**

Retirement Fund

VESTMENT CHANGE FROM SEVEN TO FIVE YEARS AND CONTRIBUTION LEVEL FOR ICMA RETIREMENT FUND: City Manager Jarboe explained the city currently had two separate pension plans, one for the Police Officers and one for general employees.

The Police Officers Retirement Fund was a defined benefit plan which they controlled. He was not suggesting any changes to that plan.

The General Employee Plan required all employees, after a six month probation period, to contribute 6% of their salary into a 401A retirement plan in which the city contributed 7% of that employee's salary.

Mr. Jarboe suggested Council consider enhancing the general employee benefit plan by eliminating the 6% required employee contribution, reducing the vestment period from seven years to five years, matching employee contributions up to 9%, and allow employees contribution to be put into a 457 Plan in order to eliminate the 10% IRS penalty upon withdrawal. He would also like Council to consider a defined benefit plan for general employees at the Goal Setting Session.

Councilor Weldon stated he would be in favor of reducing the vestment period from seven years to five years. He would consider increasing the city contribution depending on the employee's years of service. He felt changing to a defined benefit plan should be approached carefully because of the unfunded liability to the city.

Director of Finance Steve Ramsey stated the required 6% employee contribution could be harsh on new employees. He favored reducing that required amount and allow the employee the option of increasing the amount once they were established.

Councilor Pardee favored reducing the amount of employee contributions and reducing the vestment period from seven to five years. He also favored a defined benefit plan for the general employees.

City Manager Jarboe stated he would review the cost of a defined benefit plan for general employees for discussion at the Goal Setting Session.

Consensus: **TO REDUCE THE VESTMENT PERIOD FROM SEVEN YEARS TO FIVE YEARS.**

Consensus: **TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTION AND ALLOW EMPLOYEES TO CONTRIBUTE 3% TO A 457 PLAN AND THE CITY CONTRIBUTE 7% TO A 401A.**

Consensus: **TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS TO 8% OR 9% FOR EMPLOYEES WITH 10 YEARS OF SERVICE.**

Recess/Reconvene

Mayor Brown called a recess at 7:45 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Streetlights

STREETLIGHTS: Councilor Weldon stated streetlights were intended to provide safe lighting for vehicular and pedestrian traffic, not to provide home security. He explained the streetlight fixtures installed throughout city were the least expensive type and the cost to operate them was greater. He suggested changing to a cobra lamp fixture with a 70 watt bulb without a globe.

The meeting relocated at 8:00 p.m. to the 100 block of Oak Street for a demonstration of streetlight fixtures.

Consensus: **PLACE ON THE REGULAR AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION**

Councilor Weldon demonstrated the two streetlights.

John Roberts, 109 Pine Street, favored leaving the streetlights as they were.

William & Sarah Gibbs, 1501 First Street, favored changing over to the newer streetlights.

Jarboe commented that Beaches Energy Services, formerly Jacksonville Beach Electric would replace the old fixtures with new fixtures as needed. Councilor Weldon stated he would like to consider replacing the disputed fixtures as soon as possible and replace the remaining streetlights as needed.”

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Richard A. Brown, Mayor

Attest:

Lisa Volpe, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____