



MINUTES
WORKSHOP CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 17, 2006 AT 6:36 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 July 17, 2006 at 6:36 p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 116 First Street, Neptune Beach, Florida.

Attendance:

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

STAFF:

Community Development Director Jason Cleghorn
Building Official Don Ford
Senior Center Activities Director Leslie Lyne
Director of Finance Steve Ramsey
Director of Public Safety David Sembach
Director of Public Services Leon Smith
Deputy City Clerk Karla Strait, CMC

ABSENT:

City Attorney Chris White

Call to Order/Roll Call Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at:6:36 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS / NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS / NONE

CITY MANAGERS ACTION LIST

City Manager Jarboe reported on the following

- Funding for the Kings Road Bridge was secured with the Department of Transportation and waiting for approval from the City of Jacksonville.
- Staff was still working on the conversion and the training process on the new computer system.
- The nitrogen removal demonstration project for the Wastewater plant was ongoing and more information would be available in time for the August council meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carl Peacock, 211 Cherry Street, stated he had received a courtesy notice from the code enforcement officer stating his landscaping located on the city right of way was in violation of the Code. He added he originally planted the landscaping on the right-of-way in order to prevent his neighbors from having their guests park their vehicles on his front lawn. He was concerned if he removed the landscaping they would start parking there once again.

There being no further comments from the public, the public hearing was closed.

Vice Mayor Pruette stated she was aware that more citizens were interested in speaking to the Council regarding the right-of-way issue and asked Mayor Brown if he would reopen the public hearing if anyone else arrived.

Mayor Brown agreed to reopen the public hearing should anyone else arrive.

PROPOSED ORDINANCES

Ord. No. 2006-15

ORDINANCE NO. 2006-15, AMENDING OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE TAXES: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NEPTUNE BEACH, FLORIDA AMENDING SECTION 21, ARTICLE II, OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE TAXES AND ADDING SECTION 21-33 AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Attorney Chris White recommended the following language be added at the end of the ordinance:

Section 21-33 Wherever found in this Code, the term occupational license shall refer to and mean the business tax referenced herein and in Chapter 205, Florida Statutes.

Consensus: **FORWARD TO THE AUGUST REGULAR MEETING FOR SECOND READ AND PUBLIC HEARING.**

Vice Mayor Pruette suggested Council consider, at a later date, increasing the business tax for the larger professional establishments.

Bldg. Restrictions

ORDINANCE CHANGING CHAPTER 8, BUILDINGS AND BUILDING RESTRICTIONS: Building Official Don Ford recommended the changes in Chapter 8 in order to bring the Code up to date and make it consistent with State Law. He also suggested raising some of the permit fees in order to be consistent with Jacksonville Beach and Atlantic Beach.

Consensus: **FORWARD TO THE AUGUST REGULAR MEETING FOR FIRST READ.**

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS NONE

ISSUE DEVELOPMENT

Fair Share

PROPORTIONATE FAIR – SHARE PROGRAM – COUNCILOR LEE: Councilor Lee stated the Proportionate Fair Share Program was a method that would require developers to share the expense of expanding transportation facilities and infrastructure. He added that City Manager Jarboe and City Attorney White would be assisting him in acquiring more information regarding the Fair Share Program for a future discussion.

Councilor Weldon felt for easier reading and for the city to have a more aggressive defense approach, the city should consider hiring an outside land use attorney to draft such an ordinance.

Councilor Pardee felt City Attorney Chris White would be capable of writing such an ordinance that was easy to read and defensible.

Mayor Brown felt it was well worth the Council's time to consider the Fair Share Program in the future.

Right- of- Way

RIGHT-OF-WAY ISSUES: City Manager Jarboe was concerned about property owners landscaping city rights-of-way abutting their property. In an effort to avoid creating public safety issues and to protect the infrastructure he recommended that citizens be required to obtain a right-of-way permit before any such landscaping of rights-of-way was permitted. He added another concern was mulching creating problems of blockage in the stormwater system.

Vice Mayor Pruette suggested the city go out and trim any landscaping or bushes currently blocking stop signs or fire hydrants. She also requested placing a list of acceptable plants on the right-of-way permit application to give citizens suggestions of what types of landscaping were permitted.

City Manager Jarboe replied that could be difficult because some types of landscaping may be acceptable in some areas and not acceptable in others.

Councilor Weldon stated the intention of landscaping rights-of-way was to improve property. He felt the city should support beautification if it was done in the interest of the community. However, if it was designed to convey the impression of private property the city should oppose it, and if necessary remove it. He also felt that a property owner should be consulted before the city trimmed or removed any landscaping.

Mayor Brown asked if carefully prepared guidelines calling attention to the fact that permit applications were available should be made public.

City Manager Jarboe stated he would place the permit application on the website and hand deliver notices to owners of corner lots.

Councilor Lee felt it was a matter of communication and public relations.

Mayor Brown reopened the public hearing for comments.

Ed Carney, 200 Walnut Street, felt the city maintenance of rights-of-way should be more consistent.

Fred Cattar, 110 Walnut Street, felt a maximum length for weeds and grass should be included in the ordinance.

Mayor Brown felt the permitting process would make people more aware.

Holiday Decorations

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS: City Manager Jarboe suggested creating an administrative policy in lieu of an ordinance to govern the installation of holiday decorations on city property. The policy would require all holiday decorations be provided and installed by the city. This was also recommended by the insurance carrier.

Consensus: **TO HAVE THE CITY MANAGER DRAFT A POLICY REGARDING HOLIDAY DECORATIONS.**

Visioning

LONG RANGE VISIONING – COUNCILOR LEE: Councilor Lee stated with the permission of the council he would like to work with the city manager and staff to create a long range visioning plan for the city and reevaluate the city's comprehensive plan.

Drainage Impr.
Florida & 5th

DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS – FLORIDA BOULEVARD AND FIFTH STREET: City Manager Jarboe stated due to erosion the headwall at Florida Boulevard and Fifth Street needed repairs. Only one bid was received and it was \$2,000 over the estimated expense. This item would be placed on the August regular meeting agenda for Council approval.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Richard A. Brown, Mayor

Attest:

Lisa Volpe, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____