



MINUTES
WORKSHOP CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 17, 2008, AT 6:05 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 17, 2008 at 6:05 p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 116 First Street, Neptune Beach, Florida.

Attendance:

IN ATTENDANCE:

STAFF:

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

Community Development Director Amanda Askew
Assistant Police Chief Anthony Carrillo
Senior Activities Center Director Leslie Lyne
Director of Finance Steve Ramsey
Director of Public Services Leon Smith
Deputy City Clerk Karla Strait, CMC

ABSENT:

Councilor Fred Lee
City Attorney Chris White

Call to Order/Roll Call Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS / NONE

Audit

PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT GIVEN BY DUFRESNE & ASSOCIATES, CPA, PA: Linda Dufresne, Dufresne & Associates, presented a draft of the Independent Auditors Report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007.

Surf Camp

SURF CAMP – SENIOR ACTIVITIES CENTER DIRECTOR LESLIE LYNE: Senior Activities Center Director Leslie Lyne explained she met with Nicole de Venoge and Julie Geissmann regarding the proposed Surf Camp being part of the City recreation program. The Surf Camp would be a five week program starting June 9th through July 11th beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 12:00 p.m. There would be approximately ten participants for each session between the ages of seven and seventeen. A birth certificate providing proof of age would be required at the time of registration.

Councilor Pardee questioned if the lifeguards would be on duty during that time period. Ms. Lyne replied the lifeguards would be on duty and the camp would be held within their sight.

Councilor Weldon was concerned about the liability to the city. Ms. Lyne responded the Surf Camp would be insured under the city's umbrella policy the same as other special events.

Consensus: **FORWARD TO THE APRIL REGULAR MEETING CONSENT AGENDA.**

CITY MANAGER'S ACTION LIST

Action List

CITY MANAGER ACTION LIST: City Manager Jarboe stated he received a letter addressed to Atlantic Beach Mayor John Meserve, from One Ocean, regarding landscaping the Town Center roundabout. The request was to allow One Ocean to landscape the roundabout until a decision was reached regarding the art sculpture. Councilor Weldon was concerned about the type of landscape they would provide. City Manager Jarboe responded they would have to submit a landscape plan to be approved by the Council.

Mr. Jarboe also reported the warranty repair work on the manholes was almost complete at no cost to city.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Pat Hazouri, 1304 First Street & 207 Florida Boulevard, suggested that the Pedestrian Safety Corridor Plan identify intersections and provide for an additional safety corridor on Third Street between Seagate Avenue and Florida Boulevard.

Kelly Elmore, 1650 Beach Avenue, Atlantic Beach, FL, representative for the Town Center Agency, spoke about the Resolution addressing the Town Center art project. The art project was a continuation of the Town Center upgrades. It would be modeled after the art project in the San Marco area. He felt the project would identify the Town Center area.

Leslie Lyne, 501 Hopkins Street, asked the Council to show due diligence in going through the new 2020 Comprehensive Plan. She favored the concept of artwork in Town Center, but felt it would be better placed in a location other than the roundabout. She also requested the banners be replaced in Town Center.

PROPOSED ORDINANCES / NONE

CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS

911 Agreement

911 INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT: City Manager Jarboe stated the agreement helped fund the dispatch system at the Public Safety Department.

Consensus: **FORWARD TO THE APRIL CONSENT AGENDA.**

ISSUE DEVELOPMENT

Pedestrian Safety

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY CORRIDORS PLAN: City Manager Jarboe stated he drafted a general plan for Pedestrian Safety Corridors, which included a definition of "Pedestrian Safety Corridor." He was having difficulty getting information on the crosswalks from the state but hoped to receive that information soon.

Vice Mayor Pruette stated she wished there was an easier way for pedestrians to cross Third Street / A1A to go to either the beach or Jarboe Park.

Councilor Pardee felt part of the traffic problem on Third Street was due to all the stop signs and blockades on First Street and Second Street. He felt additional traffic signals and pedestrian crosswalks on Third Street would add more traffic to Penman Road. He suggested more traffic could be routed down First Street and Second Street.

Mayor Brown stated he was enthused about the new traffic signaling devices with timers which would advise pedestrians how much time remained before the traffic signal

changed.

Councilor Weldon stated he did not support an additional traffic signal on Third Street but felt every effort should be made to protect pedestrians crossing Third Street/ A1A. He also felt First Street and Second Street should be protected from allowing through traffic at all cost.

Consensus: **REMOVE NUMBER FOUR FROM THE PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN SAFETY CORRIDOR PLAN AND FORWARD TO THE APRIL CONSENT AGENDA.**

Town Center Art

TOWN CENTER ROUNDABOUT ART PROJECT: Mayor Brown stated the City adopted an Ordinance in November regarding procedures for public art.

City Manager Jarboe stated he spoke with City of Atlantic Beach City Manager Jim Hanson. Mr. Hanson indicated the Atlantic Beach City Commission was also concerned about not having the final approval for the type of art project proposed for the Town Center roundabout. He also indicated Mayor Meserve was interested in the possibility of conducting a joint meeting with the Neptune Beach City Council in an effort to coordinate the art project. The Atlantic Beach City Commission was also in the process of adopting a Resolution for the art project, which would reflect their Ordinance Code. Mr. Hanson felt the Atlantic Beach City Commission would support the art project if the Commission had final veto power over the art.

Mayor Brown asked the Council if they would be interested in a joint meeting with Atlantic Beach City Commission.

Councilor Weldon felt there was not enough information on the art project to set up a joint meeting with the Atlantic Beach City Commission. He stated both Neptune Beach and Atlantic Beach elected officials were not comfortable allowing an appointed committee to make a final decision regarding a piece of artwork to be placed on public property without public input and final approval. Both cities were also not sure they wanted an art project placed in the roundabout. He was also concerned traditional sculptures would be excluded from the competition by limiting the submittals to abstracts.

Michael Dunlap, Town Center Agency, explained they were willing to eliminate the abstract art requirement and go through the Planning & Development Review Board process. However, the agency felt Neptune Beach and Atlantic Beach should share the maintenance of the sculpture.

Councilor Weldon questioned the issue of the final approval. Mr. Dunlap stated the Resolution should provide that both the City of Neptune Beach and the City of Atlantic Beach would have final approval of the artwork.

Councilor Weldon suggested that the jury select several art pieces from the submissions. Mr. Elwood explained the process of the jury was to select three pieces of artwork initially, and make a final selection from those three.

Mr. Elwood stated most city elected officials did not make decisions on public art work. They usually established a committee knowledgeable in the field and versed in the subject to make the best decision.

Councilor Pardee felt a joint meeting with the Atlantic Beach Commission would not be successful because Neptune Beach needed to abide by the Art Work Ordinance that was adopted in November.

Councilor Weldon agreed the procedures in the Art Work Ordinance needed to be followed. However, he felt the problem was who or what body would be responsible for the final decision on which piece of art would be selected.

Councilor Pardee asked Vice Mayor Pruette, because she was a member of the Town Center Agency Board, if she would be voting as a Neptune Beach Council Member on the project. Vice Mayor Pruette stated City Attorney White had advised her that it was not a conflict of interest and that she must vote.

Vice Mayor Pruette added that she would rather the art work be placed in an alternate location other than the roundabout and clarified the artwork would be of no cost to taxpayers.

Mr. Dunlap stated they would agree to rewrite the requests for proposals to exclude the non-representational language and give both cities veto power.

Vice Mayor Pruette added going through the Planning & Development Review Board would allow the cities public input and feedback.

City Manager Jarboe suggested the committee submit three options for review by the Planning & Development Review Board to consider for recommendation to the council. The jury could give a presentation to the Board recommending strengths and weaknesses for each object.

City Manager Jarboe stated the maintenance of the artwork was a major issue and could be a major financial undertaking. He was concerned about the decreasing tax revenue and the issue of having to cut employees and services than having to deal with the maintenance of the Town Center Art Work.

Mr. Dunlap stated that the Town Center Agency did not want to be responsible for the maintenance of the artwork.

Councilor Weldon replied if the art was crafted with future maintenance in mind he did not see an issue with the city maintaining it. Mr. Elwood responded that good public artwork was designed from high quality materials like granite, stainless steel, copper, bronze, etc. with the salt and wind environment in mind and should be a low maintenance project.

Councilor Pardee was concerned about the location in the roundabout and questioned why the art could not be placed on Town Center property instead of on city property. Mr. Elwood responded the roundabout was the logical place for the art to be placed because it could be seen.

Councilor Weldon recommended changing number five of the Resolution to read "Receive final design approval from the Neptune Beach City Council" and postponing the maintenance question.

Therefore, the five conditions of the Resolution would be to 1) receive approval from Atlantic Beach City Commission, 2) following requirements of the City Ordinance Chapter 27 Section 576 and 596, 3) have a firm commitment for funding, 4) not limit the art to abstract, and 5) receive final design approval from the Neptune Beach City Council.

Mr. Dunlap stated on behalf of the Town Center Agency he would agree to those terms.

Mayor Brown stated he was still concerned about the maintenance issue.

Councilor Weldon stated the Neptune Beach City Council would have final design approval which would include maintenance of the design materials.

Vice Mayor Pruette suggested Town Center take the responsibility to repair or replace the art if it were hit by a vehicle.

City Manager Jarboe suggested that it be clarified in the Resolution that the city would not be responsible for the future maintenance of the artwork.

Councilor Weldon stated not including the issue of maintenance in the Resolution would allow Town Center to move forward with the project. This did not mean the city would be responsible for the maintenance. He also asked that the committee be asked to consider that the design should enhance not diminish the view of the ocean.

Consensus: **POSTPONE THE MAINTENANCE ISSUE AND FORWARD RESOLUTION TO THE APRIL REGULAR MEETING.**

Playground Equip.

APPROVAL OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT GRANT: City Manager Jarboe explained initially grant money was available to improve the landscaping on Florida Boulevard. Now that the money was no longer available for landscaping, he was requesting the money be used for new playground equipment for Jarboe Park and Futch Park.

Consensus: **TO FORWARD TO THE APRIL REGULAR MEETING CONSENT AGENDA.**

Record Management Software

APPROVAL OF POLICE DEPARTMENT RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM SOFTWARE GRANT: City Manager Jarboe explained the Police Department was able to receive a grant to upgrade their records management system. He recommended approval of the proposal from Detective Information Services.

Councilor Pardee asked to include a date of completion for the software conversion to be completed and charge a penalty if it is not completed by the date.

Consensus: **FORWARD TO THE APRIL REGULAR MEETING CONSENT AGENDA.**

Forfeiture Funds

EXPENDITURE OF POLICE FORFEITURE FUNDS: City Manager Jarboe explained the forfeiture funds would be used for police training equipment, tasers, and emergency lights for unmarked police vehicles.

Consensus: **FORWARD TO THE APRIL REGULAR MEETING CONSENT AGENDA.**

Goal Setting

DISCUSSION OF GOAL SETTING SESSION: City Manager Jarboe stated he would like to hold a goal setting session to discuss the property rate cutbacks and the upcoming budget.

Consensus: **CITY MANAGER JARBOE CALL COUNCIL MEMBERS AND TRY TO SET A DATE THAT WAS CONVIENENT FOR EVERYONE.**

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Richard A. Brown, Mayor

Attest:

Lisa Volpe, CMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____