



**MINUTES**  
**WORKSHOP CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**JANUARY 26, 2009, 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 January 26, 2009 at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 116 First Street, Neptune Beach, Florida.

Attendance:

IN ATTENDANCE:

STAFF:

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

Community Development Director Amanda Askew  
Senior Center 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 Christopher White

Call to Order/Roll Call

Mayor Pruette called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**PRESENTATIONS / NONE**

**CITY MANAGER'S ACTION LIST**

City Manager Jarboe reported on the following:

- The Kings Road Bridge repairs were 75% complete as of today. After the bridge is completed the Public Services Department will install two speed humps. The bridge will also be asphalted. He would be applying for the \$100,000 through Jacksonville from the Federal Department of Transportation for the bridge. The City of Jacksonville Beach has agreed to pay \$50,000 towards the bridge once the work is completed.
- Community Development Director Amanda Askew was working on the Inland Navigational District Grant Cycle. The grant has to be turned in by April.
- He has been working with Jacksonville Beach to get the electric metal plates over the street fixed up on the Strand.
- There is a little graffiti on First Street and he was trying to get a hold of the telephone company so they could paint over it.
- There are two major developments being worked on and hopefully there will be good news coming soon.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jim Moore, 401 McCollum Circle, supported the request for a police officer to direct traffic at Neptune Beach Elementary.

Michelle Kogan, 714 Second Street, also supported the request for a police officer to direct traffic Neptune Beach Elementary.

Susie Moore, 401 McCollum Circle, supported having a police officer direct traffic at Neptune Beach Elementary.

**PROPOSED ORDINANCES / NONE**

**CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS NONE**

**ISSUE DEVELOPMENT**

N. B. Elementary

**SCHOOL TRAFFIC – NEPTUNE BEACH ELEMENTARY:** Neptune Beach Elementary School has requested the city assign a police officer to direct traffic at the entrance to the school during morning drop off and afternoon pick up hours. The request states there is significant traffic congestion on Florida Boulevard during those time periods which impedes ingress and egress from the school, and that the traffic situation poses risks to pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

Chief David Sembach stated he could not commit to assigning a patrol officer to direct the traffic on a daily basis due to priority situations. He felt the problem was the school zone itself was not long enough. He did contact the Department of Transportation and they would not commit to extending the school zone at the present time. He further explained he had recently been monitoring the traffic and he did not see more than nine cars backed up in the morning and no more than twelve cars backed up in the afternoon and it took less than two minutes for cars to turn in and out of the school. He added that this particular school zone was no different than any other school zone within Duval County.

Councilor Lee stated the school would be implementing improvements to the traffic pattern during the spring break. He asked Chief Sembach if he would make an effort to assign a patrol officer for the majority of the time until the improvements were made.

Chief Sembach stated he would do his best to have a patrol officer at the school during the morning and afternoon hours. He would also monitor the area during the first few days after new traffic pattern was implemented.

Beaches Trolley

**REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FOR THE BEACH TROLLEY:** Councilor Lee, Member of the 2008-2009 Beaches Trolley Task Force, requested the City contribute \$5,000 toward the operation of the Beaches Trolley. He explained the estimated budget for the 2009 Beaches Trolley was \$145,360. The groups involved in raising the funding included the City of Jacksonville, Mayor Peyton's Office, Jacksonville Transportation Authority, the Tourist Development Council and the three beaches' cities. There would also be sponsorships and riderships.

John Brocato, Owner of Carrabee Key, stated he felt the trolley was well used last year and also helped with public safety. He would be asking the Town Center Merchant group for their support.

Mr. Kelly Elmore, Town Center Agency and Chairman of the Trolley Task Force, stated the Town Center Agency has approved a \$1,000 contribution in support of the Trolley. The committee was working to have another stop added to the route in Town Center and extending the hours to 2:00 a.m. There was also a suggestion to expand the route to the intracoastal waterway on Beach Boulevard and Atlantic Boulevard, however in order to continue the 15 minute cycle, two more trolleys would be necessary and this would add approximately 40% to the cost. They have also requested JTA consider a \$1.00 charge per rider and changing the season to run from April 1<sup>st</sup> to the end of July.

Vice Mayor Weldon suggested extending the 15 minute intervals in order to expand the service to the intracoastal. Mr. Elmore felt people would not be willing to wait 20 to 30 minutes to ride the trolley but they would be willing to wait for 15 minutes. Councilor Lee added the 15 minute intervals were simply a matter of convenience.

Councilor Pardee was concerned the trolley did not service the entire city. He felt it was inconvenient to those citizens living west of Third Street.

Councilor Lee responded some people were willing to drive their vehicles or bicycles to the trolley stop and ride the trolley.

Mayor Pruette stated she rode the trolley every weekend last year and saw people parking near trolley stops at Jarboe Park and Bay Street.

Councilor Tucker agreed that in the future the committee should consider the trolley service for the entire city.

Vice Mayor Weldon stated he would not be able to support the trolley because the money was not in the budget. He explained the city was not able to contribute to Dial-a-Ride or the Beaches Resource Center which he felt were more worthy causes.

Mayor Pruette agreed the budget was tight and the city could not afford the \$5,000 contribution but at the same time we could not afford not to give something. She agreed with Councilor Lee that not giving anything sent out the wrong message. She stated as Mayor of Neptune Beach she would make a personal donation of \$500.00 to show that Neptune Beach appreciated the trolley service to support businesses.

Vice Mayor Weldon replied he respected the commitment of Mayor Pruette to contribute \$500.00 personally. He requested in the future that individual contributions be given quietly. He felt it placed other council members under pressure to support community projects individually.

Councilor Tucker agreed it would be more important for the city to support Dial-a-Ride and the Beaches Resource Center before contributing to the trolley service which is a fun service.

Councilor Lee explained City of Jacksonville Councilman Art Graham initially brought the trolley service to the beaches. He added that Councilman Graham has been very good to our city and without his help the city would have spent a lot of other money. He felt these "quality of life" issues should be looked into during the preparation of the 2009-2010 budget.

Vice Mayor Weldon added the intentions of the trolley were great and he was not comfortable being in opposition. He asked Director of Finance Ramsey if he would try to find a way to use the resources from the Tourism Development Fund for a contribution to the trolley.

City Manager Jarboe stated staff would continue to look for a resource to contribute to the trolley service.

Mayor Pruette stated it would be helpful for the City Manager to provide a list of previous causes to which the city has contributed.

Consensus: **THE CITY DOES NOT HAVE THE MONEY AT THE PRESENT TIME BUT WILL CONSIDER THE REQUEST AT A LATER DATE.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2009-XX: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NEPTUNE BEACH, FLORIDA RECOGNIZING THE "BUILDING CITIZENSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY; BACK**

TO BASICS" INITIATIVE OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC., AND PLEDGING SUPPORT FOR THIS STATEWIDE EFFORT.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-XX: A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING FEES TO BE CHARGED FOR COPY OF PUBLIC RECORDS, CERTIFIED COPY OF PUBLIC RECORD, VARIOUS APPLICATIONS, BAR CARDS, CITY CODE BOOK, LIEN LETTERS, BUSINESS TAX LIST, ZONING MAP, AND SERVICE CHARGE FOR EXTENSIVE USE OF CITY PERSONNEL TO COMPLY WITH PUBLIC RECORD REQUESTS.

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

EAR

EAR – 2008 EVALUATION AND APPRAISAL REPORT OF THE 2010 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: City Manager Jarboe stated the city was required by State law to evaluate the Comprehensive Plan. This report will aid in the revaluating the comprehensive plan

Community Development Director Amanda Askew explained the Planning and Development Review Board has been working on the EAR since April 2008. They reviewed each chapter of the comprehensive plan and did a status statement on goals, objectives and policies. The state will review the EAR and respond if additional modifications, goals, or policies are needed. This information will be used to update the comprehensive plan.

Councilor Pardee would like for the bicycle and pedestrian path to remain in the comprehensive plan.

Councilor Lee wanted the bicycle and pedestrian path to remain in the comprehensive plan. He also would like to discuss Planned Unit Developments (PUD's) in the comprehensive plan.

City Manager Jarboe advised using staff resources to prepare the EAR has saved the city over \$30,000.

Comments

Mayor Pruette asked if there were any other comments from the Council before adjourning.

Councilor Lee encouraged other Council members to attend a community information meeting on February 11, 2009 at Fletcher High School auditorium regarding the Duval County School Board. The Florida PTA was also conducting a legislative rally in Tallahassee on March 18, 2009.

Councilor Pardee asked for an interpretation regarding citizens letting other citizens use their 5 minutes when addressing the Council.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

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Harriet Pruette, Mayor

Attest:

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Lisa Volpe, CMC, City Clerk

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