

**CITY OF BELLE ISLE
WORKSHOP SESSION
JANUARY 3, 2007**

The Belle Isle City Council met in workshop session on Wednesday, January 3, 2007 in the Belle Isle City Hall Council Chambers, 1600 Nela Avenue, Belle Isle, Florida 32809.

The following members were present:

William G. Brooks	Mayor
Trudy Prince	District 2
Harvey Readey	District 5
Lydia Pisano	District 6
Eric S. Spaulding	District 7

Also present were City Manager Larry Williams, City Attorney John F. Bennett, City Clerk Belinda Bateman, General Services Coordinator Suzanne O'Shea, Lou Musica from Clear Channel Outdoor, and others.

Mayor Brooks called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

Mayor Brooks asked if there were any objections to excusing the absences of Commissioners Petruzzi, Scott, and Ady. There were no objections and the absences were excused.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Brooks wished everyone a Happy New Year and commented on the huge success of the annual Holiday Boat-A-Cade. Mayor Brooks advised there was an increase in fire works displays and the quality of the fireworks indicate they are professional level devices.

Mayor Brooks commended the City Staff on the Tree Lighting and Santa Ride events and stated he had many compliments from residents on the city's planning and execution of the events.

Mayor Brooks advised he had attended the Staff Christmas luncheon which was very enjoyable.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Williams reported the staff prepared 750 goody bags and the "C" shift at Station 70 begged us to make sure we hold next year's event on one of their shift days.

Mr. Williams passed out changes to Clear Channel Agreement.

He reported there are two projects that have been out to bid. The apparent low bidder for the Swann Drainage Basin CDBG project is Slaughter Construction.

The Hoffner Swale Improvements FEMA project low bidder did not meet all the qualifications and the second low bidder is Barracuda Construction, Inc.

City Manager Williams asked Attorney Bennett to comment on the DeFilippo issue.

Attorney Bennett advised that the DeFilippo's have engaged an attorney and filed a Writ of Cert with the court. They must certify they met the criteria. The City will respond to the preliminary Writ. There is no time limit on the matter as it is up to the judge to put it on his calendar.

Further discussion ensued and it was stated the DeFilippo's have exceeded the variance granted for the columns for the porte cochere and are applying for an after-the-fact variance to front setback.

Mr. Bennett stated another issue of concern was the pool screen enclosure. Now the pool has been filled in.

Mr. Williams stated it was built to the codes and within the variance granted and built as to the approved plans.

Mr. Williams advised Orange County Public Schools is looking for committee representatives.

Mayor Brooks responded that the Council of Mayors selected representatives to the committee, which included Gayle Owens to the Legal Committee. Other positions are technical which should be filled by staff; and stakeholders and concurrency which should be filled by citizens.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Mr. Bennett advised that Clear Channel had agreed to most of the requested changes.

Discussion ensued with Clear Channel and the City of Belle Isle coming to a final agreement of terms and conditions of the agreement.

Attorney Bennett is to make the modifications to the agreement.

City Manager Williams advised Council the contracts with the engineering firms are expiring and asked for direction from Council as to whether to continue them or send out RFP's.

Council directed the City Manager to put out RFP's.

City Manager Williams also advised that he would like Council's authorization for a change order to the bridge project to include the necessary electrical service for holiday lighting on the Nela Bridge.

Council agreed to the change order for electrical service for holiday lighting on the Nela Bridge.

City Manager Williams advised the City Hall Clock dedication will be on February 6, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. just prior to the City Council meeting.

There is still some work to be done at the Hoffner clock.

Mayor Brooks asked if the vacant maintenance position has been filled.

Mr. Williams responded that it has not. He added the vacancy will be advertised.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT CONTINUED:

Mr. Bennett reviewed the rental licensing ordinance with Council. It was requested that the ordinance be held over for the next workshop and scheduled for first reading at the next regular session.

City Manager Williams advised the tree protection and trust fund ordinance will be held to the next workshop meeting for additional input from Council.

The residential sign ordinance was presented with modifications and will be on the next City Council Regular Session agenda for first reading.

The Graffiti Ordinance was approved to go to first reading on January 9, 2007/

Parking on prepared surfaces was included in a previous modification to the parking ordinance. Now it is apparent we need to discuss if limits on the amount of prepared parking surface in a front yard are necessary.

Commissioner Prince asked that research be done on the matter and it be discussed at the next workshop.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Commissioner Pisano – Advised a white male driving a white van with white windows and a camper top has been cruising local neighborhoods. He has been spotted also in Crescent Park subdivision.

Mayor Brooks thanked Commissioner Pisano for the e mail regarding the captured burglary suspect.

He also advised a public hearing was held by Orange County in December to change the zoning on a vacant parcel that is east of Daetwyler Drive to multi-family for a townhome development. Orange County Staff recommended approval of the zoning change.

Commissioner Readey – advised there is a wash-out on a drainage easement behind a headwall at a residence on Homewood Drive.

City Manager Williams advised the city will back fill around the pipe and head wall but will not restore the beach erosion.

Commissioner Readey stated he would advised the homeowner to apply for a permit to fill the eroded beach.

He reported that an area resident asked if parking could be limited to one side of the street along Homewood to ensure an open lane of traffic is maintained.

It was suggested an article be included in the newsletter to ask residents not to park on the opposite side of Homewood from other parked cars.

Commissioner Readey asked if we could consider ornamental street sign posts.

Commissioner Readey advised he had complaints about 6910 Barby Lane as a nuisance property.

He asked that a traffic study be conducted concerning additional speed humps being installed on Barby and Seminole.

He also asked that a study be done to determine is further enhancements to traffic control are feasible at Nela and Homewood such as a center island.

City Manager Williams advised he was still trying to connect with the new HOA president in the Landings at Lake Conway regarding whether or not there is enough interest among the residents in both subdivisions to warrant a study for speed tables.

Commissioner Readey asked Attorney Bennett is it is fair for a Commissioner, during an appeal hearing, to ask the appellant if they are bringing anything new to the hearing?

Mr. Bennett advised the City's appeals are trial de novo which means any material presented at the appeal is to be considered. New information not previously considered can be submitted to the Council.

Commissioner Readey stated the P&Z Board gets upset when Council overturns their decisions. He suggested the City do something every once in a while to recognize the Board.

The Council asked City Manager Williams to put together a Public Service Thank You reception for the volunteer Board members.

Commissioner Prince – stated she had completed an extensive course in workplace ethics. She advised that the city needs to ensure there is a proper workplace for the employees. She suggested surveying the employees and moving into educational courses this year, such as diversity training, etc. She stated she would like to see this scheduled early in the year and would like to see a proposal as soon as possible.

She reported meeting with Pine Castle folks who are moving forward with a Pine Castle Clean Up plan. They are trying to get Orange County to work with them. The concerned residents have issues to discuss and would like to have a continuous dialog with Orange County. They have photographs and are documenting the problems. The information is being provided to Orange County Code Enforcement but there seems to be a lack of response. The old Nellie Bell's has become a homeless camp.

All the information is being sent to both Orange County Code Enforcement and to Orange County Commissioner Linda Stewart.

Mayor Brooks stated he would be happy to help in any way the Pine Castle group thinks would be helpful.

Mayor Brooks stated that Edgewood also has a vested interest in Pine Castle. There is a lot that needs to be done and this is a good opportunity for Belle Isle, Edgewood and Pine Castle citizens to work together.

Commissioner Spaulding – advised that more incidents of break-ins and auto burglaries have occurred in Windsor Place. Last month a garage was entered between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

He expressed concern that the citizen's have lost their sense of security and it is time to get back what has been lost. He stated Windsor Place is considering cameras at the entrances.

City Manager Williams advised Commissioner Spaulding that Belle Isle deputies made an arrest in Windsor Place. The suspect was apprehended in his vehicle and is suspected of being responsible for a number of thefts and break ins.

Mayor Brooks advised Conway Isles had their streets seal coated and that is something Windsor Place may want to consider to lengthen the life of the roads.

Commissioner Spaulding asked when that could happen.

City Manager Williams responded he would look at the numbers to determine if it could be in the current fiscal year.

Mayor Brooks asked about the status of the fire hydrants.

City Manager Williams responded the County is moving forward with the water system improvements projects.

Mayor Brooks advised he is working with Representative Andy Gardiner on the traffic lights for Conway and Cove and Gondola and McCoy. Representative Gardiner is going to try to get the money identified in the state budget so the project can get rolling.

City Manager Williams advised that an adjacent resident to the Delia Beach project wants to have the entire project re-engineered by his personal engineer.

Mayor Brooks stated the neighbors came forward with a plan and we are moving forward with the project.

Commissioner Prince stated her support for moving forward with the project as it was designed.

Mayor Brooks asked if the Council wanted to look at establishing an architectural review committee. Also to be considered is whether to establish a living space/non-living space ratio.

Commissioner Prince spoke in favor of laptop computers for Council to cut down on the paper produced at city hall.

Commissioner Spaulding stated that an electronic agenda provides the best of both worlds in that the packet could be printed if so desired.

Commissioner Prince stated she would like to see the city move forward with the computerized agendas.

City Manager Williams stated he would have Chris from the Florida League of Cities provide information on such a system.

Mayor Brooks advised a vendor at the National League of Cities Conference demonstrated a paperless agenda program. He asked that this item be put back on an agenda.

Mayor Brooks asked if in the draft ordinance regulating rental property the print out is to be for the rental agent or the property owner.

City Manager Williams advised Council that the minutes of our Council meetings are going to be more of a shortened summary version with less individual discussion.

There being no further business to discuss, the workshop session was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Belinda L. Bateman, MMC
City Clerk