

WORKSHOP SESSION
MARCH 26, 2007
8:30 A.M.

The Belle Isle City Council met in workshop session on Monday, March 26, 2007 in the Belle Isle City Hall Council Chambers, 1600 Nela Avenue, Belle Isle, Fl. 32809 at 8:30 a.m.

The following members were present:

William G. Brooks	Mayor
Thomas G. Petruzzi	District 1
Trudy Prince	District 2
Larry I. Ady	District 4
Harvey Readey	District 5
Lydia Pisano	District 6
Eric Spaulding	District 7

Absent was City Manager Larry Williams.

Also present were City Attorney John F. Bennett, City Clerk Belinda Bateman, City Auditor Kelly Leary, and others.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Brooks advised the Deltona Ordinance had been distributed for Council's information.

He reported observing unpermitted activities taking place over the weekend throughout the city. He stated there was equipment being used to dig out a canal, a ramp being constructed into the lake, and other violations. He expressed concern that not enough code enforcement time is being scheduled on the weekends and asked if any code enforcement hours have been worked on weekends since the ten hour/four day work schedule has been implemented.

Commissioner Prince suggested the Code Enforcement Officer could maybe work 1/2 day on Saturdays and 1/2 day during the week.

Mayor Brooks stated he would like to know when the Code Enforcement Officer was going to be working on the weekend so he could contact her to report violations he observes.

Mayor Brooks also asked if courtesy notices are being issued for watering on the wrong day.

Mayor Brooks invited Ms. Kelly Leary to present the FY 2005-2006 Annual Audit Report.

Ms. Leary presented the report and called to Council's attention there were no reportable conditions and that the Staff had done an excellent job in following the GASB standards. The City has for the sixth year in a row, received the Award for Outstanding Financial Reporting.

Commissioner Ady stated he had concerns regarding the loss of telecommunication revenues.

Ms. Leary responded that she understood the hardship facing cities in trying to plan their budgets without knowing if they will have drastic reductions in revenue.

Discussion regarding the impact on revenues and the budget continued.

Commissioner Ady asked about the year end unspent balance.

Ms. Leary responded that it was around \$450,00.

Mayor Brooks thanked Ms. Leary and commended Nikki Bryan for doing a great job with our financial reporting.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioner Ady advised that Jerry Edge, a Belle Isle resident has some issues regarding the Swann Drainage project and how it has impacted his property.

Mr. Edge advised three trees in his yard have been compromised by the construction and he believes his home is in jeopardy. The roots of the trees were cut 7' deep and now they are unstable.

Mr. Edge advised that the project engineer, Mahendra Balkaran agreed the trees are a hazard. Mr. Edge advised that Mahendra and Wayne Harris had visited the site. He stated he did not want to lose the mature trees but feels the liability is too great to try to save them.

Mayor Brooks asked the Council to support the city replacing the trees 1:1 with Oaks. Mayor Brooks added the City would remove and replant the trees at no cost to the homeowner.

Mr. Edge advised there are two live oaks and two laurel oaks affected.

Mr. Edge expressed his dissatisfaction with the drain inlet that has been installed on the right-of-way adjacent to his property and believes it will devalue his property.

Mayor Brooks stated this issue should be discussed with the City Manager.

Commissioner Ady reported that several constituents in Commissioner Petruzzi's district have asked him when the Montmart Park project will get underway. He also reported that piles of rip rap have been deposited in Lagoon Park and some of it was placed adjacent to the HOA lot fence.

Mayor Brooks expressed concern with the way the material had been deposited. He asked Attorney Bennett to send a letter to FDOT regarding maintenance of the ditch.

Commissioner Ady wanted to make sure there will be no opening in the Lagoon Park wall to the adjacent properties on McCoy Road.

Commissioner Readey stated the wall is in desperate need of cleaning.

Mayor Brooks advised the wall height is to be extended to 8' in height as a result of the planned development approved by Council that abuts the property.

Mayor Brooks asked for a cost estimate to pipe the ditch which will eliminate the erosion problem.

Commissioner Ady reported that he and Commissioner Readey went to the Legislative Day in D. C. and visited the offices of Congressmen Mica, Keller and Feeney.

Commissioner Pisano reported the white, extended height van, that has been prowling the neighborhoods was seen and the license plate number has been provided to law enforcement. The tag number is Florida Tag # G93 LEH and it was driven by a dark skinned male.

Commissioner Prince asked that we alert the public.

Mayor Brooks advised the Hoffner Bridge needs to be painted underneath to cover the graffiti. Also a sign is affixed under the bridge that needs to be removed.

Commissioner Scott asked about the request for vacation of a portion of the lagoon maintenance easement.

City Clerk Bateman responded that the existing pool deck has always encroached on one small corner of the easement and the maintenance crew has plenty of access to the area with the small portion of the easement being vacated.

Commissioner Readey expressed concerns that the concrete bridge rails need to have expansion joints to prevent structural damage from road vibration.

Mayor Brooks stated that if this issue is not included in the specs it needs to be addressed immediately.

Mayor Brooks asked City Clerk Bateman to contact Miller Legg and Rick Baldolci at Avcon to review the damage and ascertain if it is covered in the scope of work or if a change order is needed.

Commissioner Readey advised that Jim Rainey, a resident at the corner of Citrus Valley and Country Lakes Drive has asked to be allowed to remove one laurel oak from his property. He has eight trees and removing one on the property is justifiable.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Bennett stated he had provided information requested by Council regarding aesthetics. Discussion ensued regarding general conformity of neighborhoods.

It was suggested that the City Commissioners think about what their vision of Belle Isle is for the future.

Mayor Brooks suggested putting out RFP's for professional consulting services for community visioning.

Attorney Bennett reported that he has provided information on alternative methods of code enforcement; he has received a request for vacation of Belle Isle Avenue for which additional information needs to be provided, and advised that upon research of the ordinance it was determined the effective date for the shopping cart restrictions is July 1, 2007.

There being no further reports or discussions the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Belinda L. Bateman, MMC
City Clerk