

**CITY OF BELLE ISLE
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
AND
PLANNING SESSION
THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2007**

The Belle Isle City Council met in a workshop and planning session on Thursday, April 26, 2007, in the Regal Marine Industries, Inc. Board Room, 2500 Jetport Drive, Orlando, Florida 32809. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. and the following members were present:

William G. Brooks	Mayor
Thomas G. Petruzzi	Commissioner, District 1
Trudy Prince	Commissioner, District 2
Charles R. Scott	Commissioner, District 3
Larry I. Ady	Commissioner, District 4
Harvey Readey	Commissioner, District 5
Lydia Pisano	Commissioner, District 6
Eric S. Spaulding	Commissioner, District 7

Also attending were: City Manager Larry Williams, City Attorney John Bennett and City Clerk Belinda Bateman.

This public meeting was posted five business days in advance of the open meeting with contact information for any interested parties that may wish to attend. There were no members of the public in attendance.

City Manager Larry Williams conducted the meeting which began with an open forum of the Mayor and Council. The Mayor and Commissioners discussed local issues and issues of impact outside the city boundaries.

Mayor Brooks led the discussion with Council on what role the City of Belle Isle should have in encouraging improved development of the Orange Avenue Corridor. Ideas from a recent joint meeting of City of Edgewood, City of Belle Isle, Pine Castle representatives and Commissioner Stewart from Orange County were discussed.

The Commissioners indicated an interest in working towards a joint planning agreement and participation in the redevelopment of the Orange Avenue corridor to preserve and improve the Pine Castle community and discussion of zoning issues that need to be addressed along the corridor.

Discussion also included the impact a commuter rail stop would have on the area adjacent to the stop and what measures should be considered to encourage a retail activity center around the stop to ensure proper development of the area.

Other topics discussed included areas of impact to the south and east of the city boundaries including concerns about the Lee Vista area, adjacent to our boundary to the east, being over-developed with low/mod income housing, rather than mixed uses to support the housing already in the area and development of appropriate professional office/retail space which would serve the community rather than add additional traffic and population impact on the local roads and schools.

School capacity issues were discussed as was long range planning for the City of Belle Isle. Determining the "character" of Belle Isle now and in the future was discussed. Redevelopment within established neighborhoods was also considered.

Capital projects and budgetary concerns were discussed with the focus being directed to the uncertainty of property tax reform being considered in the Florida Legislature.

Significant budgetary restraints were considered and some capital projects were pushed to future years until the property tax issue is resolved and the city will know what impact it will have on our revenues and ability to deliver services to the residents.

Other topics of discussion included revisiting the Sexual Predator ordinance, current projects underway and the street resurfacing of Nela Isle Island area streets.

City Manager Williams advised the Council would receive his proposed Five Year Capital Improvements Program at the May 1, 2007 City Council meeting.

In conclusion the City Council agreed that pursuit of a joint planning agreement and participation in the Orange Avenue Corridor re-development and Conway Road corridor are of significant importance and the City should seek to actively participate in regional planning for those areas involving the County, City of Orlando and City of Edgewood. It was also agreed in principal that the entrance into Belle Isle from Orange Avenue should be an area of special concern to the City as it is, in effect, our entrance into the South half of our city.

Traffic issues continue to be a major impact and the Council asked the City to be pro-active in seeking solutions to minimize the ever increasing impact on our neighborhoods.

The Council was also asked to seriously review the elements of the Comprehensive Plan as the elements are presented to them for review. Since the plan was originally developed in 1990, even with subsequent updates, it is time for a major overhaul of the plan. The Council was asked to think about the future of Belle Isle as they review the elements.

Goals and objectives need to be updated to address the issues and concerns facing our city now and in future years.

Hiring a professional planner was discussed to help the city develop its long range plan for development, maintenance of desirable neighborhoods and for minimizing outside impacts on the quality of life issues for our residents.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Belinda L. Bateman, MMC
City Clerk