

**CITY OF BELLE ISLE
WORKSHOP SESSION
AUGUST 29, 2007
8:30 A.M.**

The Belle Isle City Council met in workshop session on Wednesday, August 29, 2007, 8:30 a.m. in the Belle Isle City Hall Council Chambers, 1600 Nela Avenue, Belle Isle, Orange County, Florida 32809.

The following members were in attendance:

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

Absent was Commissioner Ready, District 5.

Also present were City Manager Larry Williams, City Attorney John F. Bennett, City Clerk Belinda L. Bateman and others.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Brooks asked about the maintenance crew opening and Mr. Williams advised the position has been filled.

Mayor Brooks stated the edge of pavement/curbing on some streets has weeds growing and asked to have the maintenance crew spray round-up as needed.

City Manager Williams advised Mayor Brooks and the Council the General Services position has also been filled. The new employee, Stacey Ribeau, will start work on September 10th.

Mayor Brooks reported on a letter received from resident John Evertsen regarding an incident in which Mr. Evertsen's daughter was hit by a car at the new Shenandoah Elem. School entrance.

Commissioner Petruzzi suggested additional coverage at the new school entrance would help.

Mayor Brooks asked if the Deputies could be directed to step up enforcement through the curves on Hoffner and on Hoffner.

Commissioner Spaulding initiated discussion regarding the elimination of the Conway Road entrance to the school and the low speed limit.

Mayor Brooks stated there had been discussion in the past regarding a pedestrian bridge being built over Conway Road and that he did not know if it was still a possibility.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Williams asked for Council's input regarding requests for multiple weekend RV parking in residential zoning.

Mayor Brooks referred to the current ordinance and advised Council had agreed when the ordinance was adopted they would revisit it in about one year to see how it was working.

City Manager Williams stated he brought this request to Council because the latitude he has as City Manager relating to this matter is not clear. He stated as staff, he does not have a problem with the issue, but did not want to go against Council's intent.

It was the consensus of the members present that their appeared to be no problem with the request for multiple weekends and that discussion regarding multiple weekend permits was considered during the adoption of the ordinance.

City Manager Williams presented a proposed budget for discussion by Council. He advised Council the proposed budget does include funding for two officers per shift in law enforcement which reduced the reserve by \$70K.

Commissioner Ady asked if a new city car has been budgeted.

Mr. Williams advised that money is in the current year's budget and we will be trying to make that purchase before October 1, 2007.

City Manager Williams advised that Drainage projects #4 and #5 are under way.

Commissioner Ady asked about Montmart Park.

Mr. Williams responded the park area is temporarily being used as a construction staging site for the Hoffner Drainage project.

Discussion ensued regarding the Nela Bridge project delays and unforeseen issues.

City Manager Williams asked City Clerk Bateman to address the renovation to the Council Chambers.

Ms. Bateman stated the condition of the carpet and dais are deplorable and need to be replaced.

Commissioner Prince agreed stating the Chambers are looking pretty shabby and building maintenance is a necessary expense.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney John F. Bennett reported on the 30 day extension granted by the Judge to Mr. McCrory.

He advised the State has mandated an interlocal agreement regarding schools and in the next few months the Council will have the item on an agenda for approval.

Mr. Bennett stated he will be sending out packets of all the ordinances the Council has indicated an interest in. He asked that each Commissioner review the information and return comments to him.

Mayor Brooks asked about the staff interview process regarding the results.

Mayor Brooks suggested the report should go to Mr. Bennett.

General discussion ensued regarding the review of the report results.

City Manager Williams suggested the Council appoint one Commissioner, Mayor Brooks and Attorney Bennett to receive and review the results.

City Manager Williams stated he feared an employee law suit. The employees were told the information was confidential. When the results become a public record the responses to the confidential questions could be traced back to the individual employees and that could trigger an EEOC claim against the city.

It was determined by Council that Mr. Bennett, Commissioner Scott and Mayor Brooks meet to discuss the results.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Commissioner Ady stated the newly appointed Planning and Zoning Board member asked to come before Council to suggest changes in how variances are considered on appeal to Council.

It was the consensus of Council that they understood the Boardmember's concerns, but legal counsel advises the Council as to the requirements of the process.

Commissioner Ady asked the Council to determine who will review the results of the City Manager's annual review.

Consensus of Council was to have the Mayor collate the results and make a report back to Council.

City Manager Williams asked permission to carry over approximately 75 hours of vacation accrual with the intent of using it prior to January 2008.

Commissioner Ady said the Personnel Manual states it must be used or you will lose it.

City Manager Williams advised that since 2004 it has been difficult to get the hours beyond what he is allowed to carry used up. He stated that many long days and additional hours of work were necessary in the wake of the hurricanes. He asked Council to consider paying for the unused leave.

Commissioner Prince stated she could not support the request. As the City Manager, it is Mr. Williams' responsibility to see that all employees, including himself are using vacation time annually. She stated it was her belief the four the-hour work days are creating a work backlog.

City Manager Williams stated he would prefer to use it if Council would allow it to be carried past October 1st.

Commissioner Prince asked the City Manager to prepare a Benefits Policy Sheet for distribution to Council. She also stated she would like to look at implementing Personal Time Off in place of separate vacation and sick leave accruals.

Commissioner Scott asked if Mr. Williams had given any thought to returning to the 8 hour/five day schedule.

Mr. Williams responded that the current four day week is working well and the employees are very happy with the current schedule.

Mayor Brook asked how the ten hour days work relating to the hours of business.

City Manager Williams responded the office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Residents who need to come in earlier or later are seen by appointment.

City Manager Williams asked Council if they were willing to wait until the October workshop to discuss the proposed ordinances with Mr. Bennett. The Council was in agreement.

Mayor Brooks asked about the flooding at Trentwood and Lagoon Park.

City Manager Williams responded the city installed several berms to alleviate erosion. Some "V" cuts have been made to allow more flow over the berms and the new engineering firm will be asked to look at the issue.

Commissioner Petruzzi stated he would not be able to attend meetings on the 28th or 29th of September due to a conflict.

Commissioner Petruzzi reported the "Your Speed Is" sign on Hoffner is not working properly and trees block the sign in the westbound lane.

Commissioner Petruzzi provided the City Manager with information on temporary speed humps that can be moved or permanently affixed to the pavement.

Commissioner Petruzzi spoke about Home Town Democracy and stated we need to educate our residents on the issues.

Mayor Brooks responded that the Florida League of Cities TCLCommittee is preparing white papers/position papers that will be made available to cities.

Commissioner Prince advised she had received an e mail from The Highlands regarding 2 car burglaries.

Mayor Brooks asked if we could program an auto-response directing people to reach the Mayor they may contact Miriam at City Hall. He also stated he would like to have incoming e mails to him come to his cobl e-mail address and then Miriam can forward them to him instead of his work e mail address being on the website.

Commissioner Prince said she learned the City of Clermont charges a \$50 deposit for political signs and the signs must be turned in after the election to get the deposit back.

Commissioner Prince asked about the Clear Channel Sign.

City Manager Williams responded the sign is in place and we have had no complaints.

Ms. Prince asked about the status of the DeFilippo porte cochere and house construction.

Mr. Williams stated he would look into the matter as he did not know if the columns have been moved yet.

COMMISSIONER SCOTT - advised that he got the information on installing a street light on Horizon Court. He was told by Progress Energy that the decorative light actually costs less than the standard street light. He asked Council to allow a decorative light to be installed at no charge to the residents of Horizon Court.

Council was in agreement there is no need to charge for the light since the cost is less than the city would normally pay for a standard light.

Commissioner Scott asked if the City Manager has any latitude in enforcement of the tree ordinance.

City Manager Williams stated he did not feel there is any latitude with the language that was adopted in the ordinance.

Commissioner Scott asked the City Manager to make sure the pedestrian crosswalks at the ends of the Bridge are painted.

Mr. Williams responded that is included in the scope of work and will be done.

Commissioner Pisano asked about the water system retro-fit in Lake Conway East.

Mr. Williams advised it is in the County Utilities budget for 2007-08.

Commissioner Spaulding reported two cars in Windsor Place were burglarized at the same address. Stolen credit cards had been used for \$7K worth of purchases prior to the owners realizing the wallet was stolen.

He also reported two "No Soliciting" signs have been stolen from the subdivision entrances at Windsor Place.

Commissioner Ady announced that Mayor Brooks has been appointed to the Florida League of Cities Board of Directors and offered his congratulations.

Commissioner Ady stated he, Mr. Ady, serves as Chairman of the Fiscal Stewardship Legislative Council for the Florida League of Cities.

Mayor Brooks advised he had received a call from Jackie Blake in County Commissioner Stewart's office asking if Belle Isle would like to take over jurisdiction of Gondola Drive.

Mayor Brooks said he responded by saying the City would consider it if the County agreed to pay the installation and annual maintenance costs for a traffic signal at McCoy and Gondola and would abandon the Pine Castle Preservation District.

City Manager Williams was asked if there is currently any pursuit of annexation from property owners in south of McCoy Road.

He responded that there is still an interest among property owners in the area but no one is actively pursuing it at this time.

Mr. Williams advised Council that September 14, 2007 is the deadline for submissions to the next newsletter.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

ATTEST:

Belinda L. Bateman, MMC
City Clerk