

**CITY OF BELLE ISLE
REGULAR WORKSHOP
REVISED MINUTES
DECEMBER 2, 2008
4:00 P.M.**

The Belle Isle City Council met in Regular Workshop on Tuesday, December 2, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. in the Belle Isle City Hall Council Chambers, 1600 Nela Avenue, Belle Isle, FL 32809.

The following members were present:

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

Also present were City Manager Be Bateman, City Attorney John Bennett, City Clerk Miriam Rodriguez, and others

Mayor Brooks called the meeting to order.

Mrs. Bateman handed out a memo and said this afternoon I would like to introduce Mr. Phil Finley, who is going to present to Council the process for selecting the Police Chief.

Mr. Finley said a notice was posted in the League of Cities website. We received 21 resumes which were reviewed and scored. A letter of recommendation was sent to Mrs. Bateman. Due to his high score on the review sheet, we recommended Mr. John Tegg, be Chief of Police.

Mrs. Bateman said, at this time I would like for Mr. John Tegg to come forward along with Mayor Brooks to welcome him as Chief of Police.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Brooks provided a time line of the law enforcement issue in Belle Isle.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Bennett stated the Council will recall Ordinance 08-29 on Commercial Vehicles. Vice Mayor Ady moved to bring it back to workshop for further discussion.

Commissioner Spaulding seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mrs. Bateman had nothing further to report

CITY COUNCIL'S REPORT

Vice Mayor Ady – No report

Commissioner Prince – said she is very pleased with the decision to move forward with the police department.

Commissioner Petruzzi – thanked the Mayor for his explanation with regard to the process in moving forward with the police department issue.

Commissioner Pisano - said Pizzazz Restaurant closed down, and mentioned a parcel of land between Cove and the Agricultural center available and zoned for residential and multifamily housing. She said she has received many calls from residents about a policy that went into effect in Seminole County regarding a form that residents fill out when they leave on vacation; she asked if this is something we can do.

Mrs. Bateman said we have been doing that. There is a form for a house check that the resident fills out.

Commissioner Spaulding said he has received several calls from residents concerned about the police department issue, how will it affect the tax rate

Mrs. Bateman said we don't know, towards the end of January, we will all have a better idea.

Commissioner Pisano asked what happens if there aren't any grants? And there might not be.

Mrs. Bateman said we just continue; our budget doesn't include grants to offset the budget.

Commissioner Pisano stated would we have to go into our reserve?

Mrs. Bateman responded she didn't think we would have to go into our reserve we would have to wait until January.

Commissioner Pisano said her biggest concern is the unknown. I am sure we all have the same amount of telephone calls and emails about the tax, is it going to go up? We have a lot of retirees living in Belle Isle who may not be able to afford that 6-7- or 800 dollar jump. It is just not knowing the unknown. Assuming we are not getting grant money, I would like to see a cost comparison showing how long is it going to take us to break even and have a full type service with the helicopter, K-9 unit, swat team.

Mrs. Bateman said we will have that with our police department, we will have a mutual aid agreement like everyone else has.

Commissioner Pisano said I just see so many cities trying to consolidate because of cost effectiveness. To start up something in this economy, not knowing what the taxes are going to be, and not know how the tax assessor is going to assess our property values next year.

Mrs. Bateman said we don't have the answers to any of those things. We will be looking at usage increase fees.

Commissioner Pisano, said we don't know how much.

Mrs. Bateman said we will have a better idea with the state knows. As soon as they have the information they will provide it to us

Commissioner Pisano said my concern is just not knowing.

Mrs. Bateman said I share your concern and we don't anticipate recommending an increase in millage beyond a ½ mill and at ½ a mill we will still be at or less than Orange County, the City of Orlando and everybody else.

Commissioner Pisano said but with the additional fees, my biggest concern would be having to cut other things. I love the concept of having our own police department but my concern is again, not knowing the amounts.

Mayor Brooks asked Commissioner to continue with his report.

Commissioner Spaulding said the temporary speed tables were moved and there are holes left in the ground.

Mrs. Bateman said she will have the holes filled.

Commissioner Scott said that we have looked at other alternatives to a police department, anywhere we go, we will spend money. A police department is below the cost of other alternatives.

Commissioner Readey stated he looked at the OCSO website and they are still offering off duty deputies at \$36 per hour. We need to move forward with something else. I like the idea of moving forward with our own police department.

Mayor Brooks said that concludes our workshop. We will adjourn until 5:30 PM

Miriam Rodriguez
City Clerk