

**CITY OF BELLE ISLE
WORKSHOP SESSION and
SPECIAL CALLED SESSION
May 27th, 2009
8:30 A.M.**

The Belle Isle City Council met in Workshop Session on Wednesday, May 27th, 2009 at 8:30 A.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
Commissioner Severns	District 2
Charles Scott	District 3
Vice Mayor Ady	District 4
Lydia Pisano	District 6

Not present were Commissioner Petruzzi, District 1, Harvey Readey District 5, and Commissioner Spaulding District 7

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

Mayor Brooks called the Special Session to order.

Mayor Brooks deferred to the City Attorney for his report:

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Bennett said following up on the Mayor's question regarding taxation based on square footage of buildings, the answer is no.

Also, I was asked by somebody on the idea of a user fee for boats and jet skis, there is a statute that says that only the County is allowed to charge such a fee.

Regarding the Lombardi Seafood market, it is zoned C-1, the alternative would be to change the zoning or come up with restrictions, it is not likely to effect the surrounding neighbors.

Mayor Brooks said I wouldn't be opposed to inviting the neighbors for a presentation by Lombardi.

Resolution 09-07 Charter School support was discussed.
Vice Mayor Ady moved to accept with changes

Commissioner Pisano seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Resolution 09-06 Trespass

Vice Mayor Ady moved to approve

Commissioner Pisano seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Resolution 09-08 Adult entertainment, once it is drafted it will be in Tuesday night's agenda.

CHIEF TEGG'S REPORT

Chief Tegg said Sgt. Casper Johnson has been doing a wonderful job, he came in as a volunteer, I want you all to know how much easier this job has been because of Casper, he has been my right hand through this whole thing, he doesn't know it but today he is being promoted to Lieutenant, this will give Casper the opportunity to go out to other agencies and as a Lieutenant he goes exempt.

We have interviewed other candidates to fill the void, and we have chosen a person who has been a supervisor at Disney, ten year police officer in Minnesota.

Commissioner Pisano asked how are they getting in into her neighborhood.

Chief Tegg responded that they could be going in after a car, jumping the wall, we don't know.

Mayor Brooks mentioned to Chief Tegg that Waste Management has an executive who has worked with the FBI, training their drivers and garbage haulers identify strange things in their neighborhoods, they exchange information, it helps the police department.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Brooks gave an update on the Charter school. He said Dwight and Taylor have been doing a lot of work for free, they have exempted themselves from any vendor coming down the road. We have also met with the former school Superintendent Jim Schott, he brought with him Gary Blanchett, CEO of Junior Achievement, they proposed a business magnet.

CITY MANAGERS' REPORT

Mrs. Bateman said we received a letter from Ron Borgon this morning regarding Mr. Chandler's request on the hedges blocking his view. The code states that a hedge is not subject to height requirement. When you purchase a lake front home, there is nothing in the items beyond your property line of the lake.

Commissioner Scott said we have to be careful to not write an ordinance for just one person.

Mayor Brooks asked do we allow it to go all the way down.

Mrs. Bateman said we have not restricted anything with hedges.

Mayor Brooks asked Mrs. Bateman to get back to Mr. Chandler on our findings.

Mrs. Bateman said she will.

CIP Input – Mrs. Bateman said she has not received any input from Council on the Five Year CIP. As soon as we get the revenue projection which we should have at the first part of June, we will be able to put together a more accurate proposed budget.

Vice Mayor Ady said I looked at year 2010 and I am satisfied with that.

Commissioner Scott said I got a couple of items, capital improvement, Perkin Road deteriorating , curb broken, asphalt breaking down, Perkins between Gondola and Lake, gutter and paving, on Lake Drive between north of Swann up to the turn around there is drainage problems there. I would like to see the city hall parking extended for more parking availability.

Mrs. Bateman said there will be room to park six cars across the street.

Mayor Brooks said next to the Mason's Lodge on Marinelle there is a small stretch where the sidewalk terminates until it gets down to Wilks, between Wilks, there is no sidewalk there, there is a lot of student traffic, that is also a drainage ditch but is not impossible to add a sidewalk there and fill the missing link.

Mrs. Bateman said that is all Orange County right-of-way.

Mayor Brooks said we should bring that to their attention that is a stretch where students walk.

Mayor Brooks said we had, a couple of years ago, started on a program on major outfalls, I know we have not done one in two years, it is important to maintain the quality of the lakes. I know the ones we have are functioning well as long as we maintain them. If you look at these ditches after a rainfall this type of device captures that. I would like to get back on track with doing one a year.

Mrs. Bateman said I will have HDR tell me where the most serious locations are.

Vice Mayor Ady said regarding the CIP, it's been 25 years since Via Flora, Trentwood has been resurfaced, there is grass growing through the cracks.

Mrs. Bateman said we have proposed projects. We don't know what our funds will be for next year; Roger Ross said the ad valorem amounts are delayed. We are still looking at a reduced revenue budget, because we have the bonds to pay, the fire service to pay, I worry about the collection of the revenues. We are about 49% expenditures, we are in line, just don't know where we will end up next year. An increase on the ½ mill would bring in about \$500,000.

Mayor Brooks said on the topic of revenue, we will not be able to do the lake fee; I would encourage you to look at a franchise fee with Progress Energy.

Mrs. Bateman said on the garbage rate, what I had suggested was \$150 per year but everybody else is paying \$160 - \$162 - \$165

Mayor Brooks asked Council if there was anything else on the CIP.

Mrs. Bateman said if anybody thinks about something, call me.

Commissioner Severns asked what is the time table.

Mrs. Bateman said right now we have everything we can handle.

Mayor Brooks said in July, Commissioner Prince is coming back; we would like to do something for her when she comes back.

Mayor Brooks said in the May 5th minutes; please attach the state of the city read by Mrs. Bateman.

Mayor Brooks said in the May 5th minutes, page two of two, third paragraph regarding Ordinance 09-05 it states Mayor closed the public hearing, please correct the minutes to state that the public hearing was continued to the next regular council meeting.

CITY COUNCILS' REPORTS

Commissioner Severns said the only thing I have is the flooding on the sidewalks on Hoffner in front of the Bitterman's property.

I was approached by Mr. Bradford, his wall has been hit many times and wanted to know if he could get a guard rail.

Mayor Brooks said we went through a traffic study and the desire of the HOA was can we please take the guard rail out. If he wants one, we can entertain the idea. The guard rail warrants a traffic study, if that is the Council's desire that is something that needs to get in the budget.

Vice Mayor Ady said I know it's been raining, but the grass is quite high on Trimble Park. We had a person out there fixing the fountain and the aerators, the aerators are not working.

Mrs. Bateman said they have to be replaced.

Vice Mayor Ady also said, also, the bidding process, am not happy with, the way it was handled. In the future, we need to have the Council get a chance to look at all the bids.

Mayor Brooks said in terms of awarding a bid, the criteria was not Belle Isle resident.

Vice Mayor Ady said we need to see all the bids come in.

Commissioner Scott said all parties had the bid documents.

Mayor Brooks said I think the Council has made the right decision.

Mrs. Bateman said in the past, the Council has received only bids and staff recommendations, I don't mind giving you time to review bids, it is still staff's function to process it and make sure that they have met the criteria of the bid that is public record. In the past we have not debated bid documentation at the meetings.

Vice Mayor Ady said my concern was that it was done at the last moment.

Mrs. Bateman said the guidelines are to make sure everybody is on an equal footing. It looks at the different elements of the bid. I will for the record state I believe we should not give anyone special consideration because of where they live.

Attorney Bennett said if you are going to give preference to people it should be included in the bid request.

Commissioner Pisano asked if the City was using Maintenance Foreman, Larry Allen for any of this stuff.

Mrs. Bateman said in an effort to move things along we chose not to use Larry, our guys did a lot of the demo inside, and our guys are spread thin.

Mayor Brooks suggested bringing Progress Energy in now and getting credit before the walls get covered up.

Commissioner Scott said on Judge Road the speed limit states 15 MPH but there is another sign there that confuses people. Yellow signs are warning signs and white signs you obey.

Mrs. Bateman said we will check it out and make it consistent.

Commissioner Pisano said City of Edgewood had a great seminar on gang signs and their meanings. Also sprinklers on Nela there are about 10 to 12 houses with sprinklers on.

Commissioner Pisano asked if the City was planning a retreat.

Mrs. Bateman said if we need one we will have one. If you have some topics, we will schedule one.

Commissioner Pisano spoke on a mini grant application for non mandatory HOA for lighting, landscaping, wall, bricks.

Vice Mayor Ady asked if she could include that on a newsletter.

Commissioner Pisano stated, I don't know if it's something we will have time to put on a newsletter as it is due June 15th.

Mayor Brooks suggested doing an email blast.

There being no further items to come before the Council, meeting was adjourned.

Miriam Rodriguez
City Clerk