

**COMMISSION CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 1, 2004**

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COMMISSION CONFERENCE

1:34 P.M.

NOVEMBER 1, 2004

Present: Mayor Naugle
Commissioners Hutchinson, Teel, Moore and Vice Mayor Trantalis

Also Present: City Manager – George Gretsas
City Attorney - Harry A. Stewart
City Clerk - Jonda K. Joseph
Sergeant At Arms – Sergeant Mike Martin

I-A – Proposed Rotary Gazebo at Stranahan Park

Mayor Naugle said that Parks and Recreation has approved the plan. The City appreciates the Rotary Club “stepping up to the plate.”

Jerry McLaughlin, Downtown Fort Lauderdale Rotary Club, said this is to be located in the southeast area of Stranahan Park. An artist’s rendering was shown.

Action: Request was approved.

I-B – Community Development Block Grant Spending Plan

Marc LaFerrier, Planning and Zoning Services Director, said that this item involves proposed amendments to the Block Grant Spending Plan. There are some issues regarding the timely spending of some of the monies for the Block Grant projects. The City needs to move forward with spending of about \$500,000 during the upcoming year. They are going to take about \$420,000 from the 19th Street roadway improvements project because it was delayed due to right-of-way acquisition issues. He proceeded to explain that the monies would be put into the Riverland Park improvements, especially for the construction of the wading pool. They will also be transferring monies from the Davie Boulevard Block Grant; about half of it is to be used for the Corridor Master Plan. In the end, the wading pool would be built, and the City would stay on schedule with HUD, and funds removed from 19th Street and Davie Boulevard could be reprogrammed. He said that Margarette Hayes, Peter Partington and Vince Gizzi are present to provide further information.

Margarette Hayes, Planning and Zoning Services, said that the Commission was advised in July that they were not going to be on time regarding the spending of funds. Therefore, they are present today to provide an update on the progress of those funds. They are trying to be on target with meeting expenditure requirements. They have come from a \$1.8 million shortfall on July 29, 2004 to about \$947,000 being spent including the increased spending projections that they accomplished in working with Engineering and other departments. They should be timely by August, 2005. This \$500,000 transfer would allow them to be where they should be in regard to timely spending.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked what the total cost would be for Riverland Park. She also asked how quickly could the \$83,000 be put back into the Davie Boulevard project. Ms. Hayes said that the monies would be reimbursed in October, 2005. The total cost of Riverland Park is \$4.5 million, and they are adding \$549,000 to it.

Commissioner Moore said that there is a major problem with Engineering being unable to complete the NW 19th Street project. He said the City agreed to make such improvements about four years ago, and now such funding would not be available again until October, 2005. He asked how the recruitment for engineers was progressing so that the department could run efficiently.

The City Manager said they are making progress. The first step was to find a Director of Public Works which was done, and that individual should be on-board about November 8, 2004. The recruitment consultants are presently working on finding additional engineers, and resumes are being funneled to staff on a regular basis. The City Manager said they are going to fill the vacancies as quickly as possible, and Human Resources is expediting the process as quickly as possible.

Commissioner Moore clarified that the engineer from the City is now working for the Northwest CRA. The City Manager confirmed that is correct. Commissioner Moore asked what would happen with the NW 19th Street project that she had been working on.

Peter Partington, Acting City Engineer, said that the 19th Street project involves a design issue due to County requirements involving turn-around areas. One of the delays on the project is the inability to acquire land for the turn-around areas.

Mayor Naugle clarified that it is not a staffing problem, but a right-of-way problem. Commissioner Moore disagreed and said it involves both. Mr. Partington agreed that both are a problem; it is more than a staffing issue. Commissioner Moore said that Broward County has caused many delays on this project, along with staffing problems. The City told the County that their standards and methodology would conform to the City's level, not to the County level. Mr. Partington said if it was a City street, they would not have to acquire the additional land. They are addressing three owners regarding the land and offers were made, but the owners have not accepted any offers to date.

Commissioner Moore asked if the property owners accept the offers, is the City only needing to wait on the Community Development Block Grant monies which would not be available until October, 2005, or could they obtain funding from other areas.

Mr. Partington said if the property owners accept the offers, then he would need a project engineer and within 4-6 months, the project would be put out to bid. It would probably be 6-8 months before a contractor would be brought on-board. In the most optimistic scenario, it would be closer to the financial year of 2005 before monies could be spent for this project.

Commissioner Moore asked for the City Manager to find a way to have the property owners accept the offers made so this project could move forward. One owner is willing to sign with no cost for the land because he understood the significance of the project. He did not know the circumstances involved with the other two owners.

Vice Mayor Trantalis asked what tools are going to be provided to the City Manager for his use in regard to this matter. Commissioner Moore hoped that the City Manager would investigate the circumstances involved and report back to the Commission at their next meeting.

Commissioner Hutchinson said that, in regard to staffing, when certain departments were gutted in the last budget, the Commission was informed that there would be the opportunity to take those engineers and do some cost sharing between departments. She did not understand why that was not taking place. There is not enough available resources in the Engineering Division. She said further that they need to cost share the individuals available until the opportunity is available to hire the necessary staff. This was some of the reasoning why they allowed things to take place as they did.

Mayor Naugle said that it was his understanding that the available employees were going to work on the WaterWorks project. He further said this appears to be a good plan. The City would not have to return the monies to the federal government.

Ms. Hayes stated staff would return to the Commission with the actual program and the amendment would be placed on the regular meeting agenda.

Action: Staff to proceed with the acquisition of the 3 parcels needed for the turnarounds for this project. Follow-up required regarding cost sharing of employees between departments so that the Engineering Division could get the resources they need.

III-B – Advisory Board and Committee Vacancies

Code Advisory Committee

Mayor Naugle stated that he wanted to reappoint Caldwell Cooper to the Code Advisory Committee. And, he wanted to appoint David Benjamin, architect, to the Code Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Teel stated that she wanted to reappoint Bunney Brenneman to the Code Advisory Committee. She also wanted to appoint Richard Mancuso to the Code Advisory Committee.

Vice Mayor Trantalis stated that he wanted to reappoint Jeffrey DeMontmorency.

Commissioner Hutchinson stated that she wanted to reappoint Ginnee Hancock and Genia Ellis. She stated that she is not going to add another member. She added they had done a great job, recommendations were made, and approved by the Commission. The recommendations were sent to the City Attorney's office, and they were "dead in the water."

Action: Formal Action to be taken at the Regular Meeting.

Code Enforcement Board

Commissioner Hutchinson stated that Howard Elfman is a consensus appointment and currently serving as an alternate on the Code Enforcement Board. She suggested that he be allowed to continue as such.

Action: Formal Action to be taken at the Regular Meeting.

Community Appearance Board

Action: No formal action taken.

Community Services Board

Commissioner Hutchinson reappointed Marie Conroy to the Community Services Board.

Action: Formal Action to be taken at Regular Meeting.

Education Advisory Board

Action: No formal action taken.

Insurance Advisory Board

Action: No formal action taken.

Nuisance Abatement Advisory Board

Commissioner Hutchinson suggested that Patricia Mayers be the consensus appointment for the Nuisance Abatement Advisory Board.

Action: Formal Action to be taken at the Regular Meeting.

Parks, Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board

Action: No formal action taken.

Unsafe Structures and Housing Appeals Board

Commissioner Hutchinson suggested that John Carroll and Charles Minor be appointed to the Unsafe Structures and Housing Appeals Board.

Action: Formal Action to be taken at the Regular Meeting.

Utility Advisory Committee

Action: No formal action taken.

IV – City Commission Reports

Code Advisory Committee

Commissioner Teel saw in the back-up materials that the Code Advisory Committee is not going to meet more than once a month. She asked why they are not going to meet additional times.

Mayor Naugle said it is the policy of the Commission that boards meet once a month due to staffing problems. He said the Commission could change the policy or make an exception for this Board.

The City Manager said that everyone needs to be flexible with respect to the meeting schedule. There is some frustration. He said they are attempting to get everyone together and get some items accomplished. He felt they would be able to deliver a product that everyone would be happy with.

Commissioner Teel said that having the ordinance wording be more flexible regarding meeting times would solve the matter. The City Manager said there is nothing to stop the group from meeting additional times if everyone is available.

Commissioner Moore said this is an ad hoc committee that is supposed to be short-term. The Committee has been on-focus, but the ordinance issues have not been addressed. He felt the Committee should continue to meet as necessary since they have worked so hard.

The City Manager said that there are twenty concepts on the table that should be addressed before other recommendations are made, and the Committee would not then feel rushed to get other ideas off the table.

Mayor Naugle said the policy regarding this ad hoc committee would be that they would meet on an as needed basis.

South Florida Design Institute for Public Officials

Commissioner Hutchinson said that she was asked to participate in the next South Florida Design Institute for Public Officials scheduled for December 2 and 3, 2004. She said that she and the City Manager met with the group, and they are looking for a project in the City. She would like to find a site in the City, and would report back to the Commission.

Vice Mayor Trantalis asked what was the scope of the site. Commissioner Hutchinson said it should be a neighborhood area or they could start in the Uptown area, or an area without a master plan.

Mayor Naugle said that he had participated in the past and received many benefits. He thanked Commissioner Hutchinson for her participation.

Commissioner Teel said that FDOT is doing improvement projects on Commercial and Oakland Park Boulevards. She said the Uptown area is interesting because it involves other municipalities.

Vice Mayor Trantalis said it would be great if they could revitalize the above-mentioned corridors.

Air & Sea Show Update

Commissioner Moore asked if an update regarding the Air & Sea Show could be provided on the Commission's November 16, 2004 agenda. He reminded everyone that the Commission discussed the pin program.

Commissioner Teel cautioned the Commission that they would be entering into negotiations for a new contract, and she felt that should be done early on.

Commissioner Moore said he was told that there are other individuals utilizing this show to market merchandise without such sales being authorized. He suggested that discussions be held with the Police Department regarding such matters, and see how such sales could be addressed for the future.

Police Department – Imperial Point

Commissioner Teel thanked the Police Department and the City Manager for the support offered to the individuals living in Imperial Point during the recent tragic incident.

Unincorporated Areas - Annexation

Commissioner Moore said that residents in the unincorporated areas are under the impression that the City does not want to annex their areas. The Commission has indicated they would annex any communities east of 441 that are revenue neutral. Several communities are on tomorrow's ballot, and he felt the residents need to be informed of the City's interest.

V – City Manager Reports

None given.

EXECUTIVE CLOSED DOOR SESSION AT 2:06 P.M.

MEETING RECONVENED AT 3:26 P.M.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.