

MINUTES OF WORK SESSION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION FOR THE TOWN OF BELLEAIR, FLORIDA HELD AT TOWN HALL ON OCTOBER 6, 2009 AT 5:30 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Gary Katica
Commissioners
Stephen Fowler
Tom Shelly
Karla Rettstatt
Stephanie Oddo

Town Manager Micah Maxwell
Town Attorney David Ottinger

Quorum present on roll call with Mayor Katica presiding; the meeting was called to order at 5:50 pm.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

There were no citizens' comments.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Maxwell stated that the employee of the month for the second time of the year was Marie Figueroa; that she worked in the Finance department and handled the payroll and general ledger reports; stated that she had done a great job for the town; stated that the town had begun its new fiscal year and that staff wanted to provide information to the commission as to where the budget stood during the year on a quarterly basis.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Ottinger stated that he had nothing to report.

MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORT/BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Rettstatt asked for volunteers to help with the Halloween haunted house and trick-or-treating; stated that the date would be on October 24, 2009; stated that the 85th Anniversary event would be held at the Country Club; that they had planned for 500 people at the event; that they had planned to have a historic stroll on the first floor; that after discussing with the staff at the country club and with the Town, it would not be conducive to that large number of people attending; that historic stroll might be something the Historic Preservation board could do in conjunction with the tour of historic homes; that she had spoken with Ed Shaughnessy and he had suggested that they could have the stroll on a Sunday with a champagne brunch; that the stroll could possibly be held sometime in March.

Commissioner Oddo stated that the Historic Preservation Board had planned on developing a map for the "Tour of Homes"; that as part of the historic map that they would have a photographer take pictures of the historic homes.

MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORT REPORTS, continued

Commissioner Shelly stated that on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 there would be a Park and Tree board meeting at 4:00 pm.; stated that the town had now switched to the Largo fire service and no longer with Pinellas County and Largo had taken over the Belleair Bluffs fire station.

Mayor Katica spoke about the Thompson property; stated that Town staff had done an amazing job; that the property was over a half-acre of land; stated that UPARC had asked permission to hold their annual event in April; spoke about the individuals who wanted to place memorial benches; stated that the Snibbe family, the Thompson family and Mrs. Mallory had asked to have memorial benches placed on the property.

Discussion ensued regarding request for placements of items larger than a tree to be placed in a town park; regarding the Park and Tree board approving those placements.

Commissioner Fowler stated that there would be a Code Enforcement board meeting on November 2, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.; stated that there would not be a Planning and Zoning board meeting in October.

Commissioner Oddo stated that the Historic Preservation board had recommended the removal of 1601 Indian Rocks Road from the list of historic structures; stated that it was passed unanimously; stated that the reason for the recommendation from the board was that there had been extensive fire damage to the property and was beyond repair.

Commissioner Oddo provided to the commission a copy of a memo she drafted regarding visioning.

Chief Edwards, provided the commission with the semi-annual report from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement covering January through June 2009; reviewed the report with the commission; spoke about code violations and the drafting of the letters and forms regarding the rental registration and vacant properties in foreclosure; spoke about the FDLE letter which stated that his department was in compliance with their policies and procedures; spoke about recent crimes which had happened in the town.

Discussion ensued regarding safety procedures for law enforcement officers.

Discussion ensued regarding the Iron Man race.

DISCUSSION OF TOWN-WIDE TRAFFIC

Mr. Maxwell stated that there were several issues to be discussed regarding traffic; that one issue was to look at the impact and costs of a study to show where traffic calming devices on Cypress Avenue where traffic would be diverted to streets such as Belleair Forest, Poinsettia Road or remain on Clearwater/Largo Road; stated that the cost for that study was \$5,500 dollars; that the traffic calming devices themselves were about \$15,000 each; that if the Town wanted to place three such

DISCUSSION OF TOWN-WIDE TRAFFIC, continued

devices in the street it would cost about \$45,000; that from the study it would be determined which devices would be effective and what the impact would be throughout the surrounding area.

Commissioner Fowler stated that he would like to hold off on doing anything on Cypress to see how the speed limit change was impacting the street; stated that he heard from someone that lived on Cypress and they were definitely against the speed tables or humps and the “pinching” process.

Mayor Katica stated that he would like to see how the lowering of the speed limit had impacted the community and would like to wait at least 3 months before doing anything else and spending further funds.

Vicky McDougal, 1715 Cypress Ave., stated that that \$15,000 each did seem like a lot of money and would like to see a breakdown of the pricing; stated that 84% of the residents that signed the petition stated that they wanted speed humps or some type of traffic calming system; spoke about the reduction of the speed limit; stated that she and others felt that the reduction of the speed limit would not accomplish what was needed; was not opposed to giving the 20 mph speed limit some time; that three months was too long.

Discussion ensued regarding waiting 90 days before looking into other traffic calming items.

Mr. Maxwell read a letter from TBE in relation to the Town-wide study; stated that based on sections 316.187 and 316.189 of Florida Statutes stating that all alterations to speed limits must be based on an engineering traffic investigation; they asked for more time to estimate the cost to do the study for the whole Town of Belleair; that they recommended to ask the commission of how extensive a study they would like to have performed; spoke about the parameters in performing the survey; ask for specific areas of the Town which would help keep the cost down.

Commissioner Fowler stated that he did not like the idea about having a state-wide standard applied to the Town; stated that Belleair was a unique town; that the commission was there to help maintain the quality of life that the residents have in Belleair; that a state statute that was uniform for everyone would not be good for the Town.

Commissioner Rettstatt concurred with Commissioner Fowler; spoke about the traffic issues on Ft. Harrison; spoke about speed limits and people cutting through the side roads; stated that the speed limit should be lowered to 25 mph to get people to go 30 mph.

Commissioner Shelly agreed; stated that he would like to look at having all the speed limits at 25 MPH; that he would like to take a look at having a traffic study.

Mr. Maxwell stated that he would not do a traffic study as yet; stated that he would talk with TBE to see what the cost would be first; that he did not know the cost as yet; that hopefully by the November

DISCUSSION OF TOWN-WIDE TRAFFIC, continued

meeting he would have more information.

Discussion ensued regarding traffic speeding issues in the Town and the cutting through of streets; regarding the traffic studies that were performed in the past; regarding getting more input from the traffic consultant; regarding speeding on Indian Rocks Road.

Commissioner Oddo stated that she would like the traffic consultant with TBE to come and speak with the commission regarding costs and the traffic study at the next meeting and then continue the item if necessary.

Commissioner Rettstatt stated that there was no need for a traffic study for every small street and neighborhood; stated that it could be done for the main collector streets such as Indian Rocks Road, Cypress Ave. and Eagles Nest.

It was the consensus of the commission to have TBE provide a cost of the traffic study for the Town at the next commission meeting and to continue if necessary.

DISCUSSION OF COUNTY-WIDE CONSISTENCY RULES REGARDING PLANNING

Mr. Maxwell stated that the PPC had contacted him and expressed a desire to have the Town become more consistent with the County-wide rules; stated that the memo listed some of the changes needed; that the Town's planner nor he had any issues with the changes; that those changes were just terminology changes; that it was the commission's decision as to whether or not to go forward with the changes.

Commissioner Fowler stated that he would like to delay a decision until everyone had a chance to review the changes

Mayor Katica stated that the issues should be remanded to the Planning and Zoning board first before the commission made a decision.

It was the consensus of the commission to remand the discussion of County-wide consistency rules regarding planning to the Planning and Zoning board before approving.

Mr. Ottinger stated that there had been a list that staff and the planner had developed over the years; that it would be a good idea to have a review to the entire land development code to clean it up; that he would review the land development code for any changes that it might need.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 20, 2009 AT 7:30 PM

Mayor Katica announced the following items scheduled for public hearing at the October 20, 2009 regular meeting at 7:30 pm:

1. Mowing resolution.
2. Request for removal from list of historic structures – 1601 Indian Rocks Road.

On motion duly made and seconded the following agenda was established, as amended, for the October 20, 2009 regular meeting.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of Minutes - Special Meeting – September 3, 2009
Work Session – September 3, 2009
Regular Meeting – September 17, 2009

GENERAL AGENDA

Consideration of:

1. Results of solid waste survey.
2. Award of bid – Professional engineering/Planning services.
3. Resolution 2009 - Appointment of auditor for FY 2009-2010.
4. Discussion of Town-wide traffic.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Maxwell spoke about the H1N1 shots; stated that shots would be available at no cost to the commissioners in November.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the commission the meeting was adjourned in due form at 6:30 pm.

Town Clerk

APPROVED:

Mayor