

MINUTES OF WORK SESSION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION FOR THE TOWN OF BELLEAIR, FLORIDA HELD AT TOWN HALL ON SEPTEMBER 3, 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 7:00 pm.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Ed Jameson, 2517 Doe Court, Clearwater, expressed concerns about the Belleview Biltmore Hotel since the closing; expressed concerns about existing gas lines; about hanging electric lines to be shut down; asked about capping water lines; asked about removal of fire sprinklers; spoke about other issues of security at the hotel; asked that worker not be allowed to smoke in the building during the renovations; asked that fire watch and fire cans be used during renovations.

Lil Cromer, 4 Belleview Blvd., asked about the next meeting of the code enforcement board regarding violations at the hotel.

Mr. Maxwell stated that he expected the meeting to be scheduled for November or earlier if possible

Ms. Cromer also read a newspaper article regarding the Winter Park municipal electric system.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Maxwell stated that there was a vacancy of the code enforcement board and should be filled soon due to the upcoming hearing regarding the hotel; suggested that the appointment to fill the vacancy be added to the general agenda for the September 17th regular meeting.

Commissioner Rettstatt stated that a resident of the RPD be appointed to fill that vacancy.

It was the consensus of the commission to add the appointment of board member to the general agenda for the regular meeting on September 17th at 7:30 pm.

Mr. Maxwell stated that the town clerk would like schedule a training session for the commission members as well as all board members for parliamentary procedures and Sunshine Law.

It was the consensus of the commission members to schedule the training sessions.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT (Continued)

Mr. Maxwell announced that the employee of the month was Susan Lee the town's HR technician.

Mr. Maxwell provided an grants update; stated that the town did obtain a 2.5 million dollar grant for the Bayview/Manatee Road project; that the town received a JAG grant for the police department; that the town received a grant for the recreation department for fishing and archery programs; that he was still working on grants for the street lighting upgrade for the town; that he was waiting to hear from the contracted grant writer regarding a waste reduction grant that included a recycling piece related to education for citizens and reducing the amount of generated waste; that the next project was a roadway beautification grant for Indian Rocks Road; that there are two other grants sent in for land and water conservation and the Tiger grant related to transportation and would be useful in the Wildwood traffic issue; that the town was reviewing the idea of widening Belleview Blvd and some reconstruction in the area of the hotel entrance and replacement of the North Pine Circle Bridge.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Ottinger stated that he would stick to his promise to deliver the draft of the declaratory judgement action next week to get things moving on the Marina issue.

MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORT/BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Rettstatt stated that the "Rumble Stumble" has been scheduled for October 30th; the event will benefit the recreation department's teen summer camp; that the will be \$75 per person; that the "Run for the Rec" has been scheduled for March 6, 2010; that the 85th Anniversary celebration has been rescheduled for February 6th to be held at the Belleair Country Club.

Commissioner Shelly stated that the park and tree board has a meeting scheduled for October 13th; that the board members will be reviewing the current tree and landscape ordinances for revision and updating that the town attorney was working on; expressed his satisfaction with the town's contracting with City of Largo to provide fire suppression services.

Mayor Katica commented on the Mayor's Council meeting and the discussions of fire departments and fire districts within the county; stated that Belleair would not be effected by the discussions.

Commissioner Fowler stated that he had attended one of the Mayor's Council meetings a few months ago; commented on the decrease of approximately 10% in property values in Belleair; that other parts of the county are in worse shape than Belleair with larger drops in property values; that he would like to have the planning and zoning board review the fence ordinance and

**MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORT/BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS
(Continued)**

present a recommendation for updating fence ordinance especially secondary fronts and corner lots.

It was the consensus of the commission to have the planning and zoning board review the fence ordinance and make recommendations for updating.

Commissioner Oddo stated that she had attended the meeting of the Clearwater Chamber of Commerce regarding off shore oil drilling; that Belleair could be effected by the project should there ever be an oil spill; that many of the local governments and related organizations have opposed the off shore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico; that she would like the commission to consider passing a resolution in opposition as well.

Discussions ensued regarding the opposition of off shore drilling; it was the consensus of the commission to add a resolution to the general agenda for the September 17th regular meeting.

Commissioner Oddo also stated that the historic preservation board would be meeting to consider the removal of home from the registry.

DISCUSSION OF TRAFFIC ON CYPRESS AVENUE

Mr. Maxwell stated that a petition from Victoria McDugal a few weeks ago; that the police did traffic counts on Cypress Avenue; provided a review of the traffic count; that at least 95% of the vehicles going through the counter were traveling at 35 mph and the speed limit is 30 mph; that he did understand the residents' request to reduce the speed limit to 25 mph; that he was hesitant to install speed humps at this time because the vehicle speed did not seem to warrant the installation at this time.

Victoria McDugal, 1715 Cypress Avenue, stated that Cypress Avenue was being used as a cut through street; that there were a number of families with children living on that street; that families did not feel safe having their children playing near the street or riding their bikes on the street; that families with dogs did not feel safe walking their dogs on that street.

Bill Ludsby of the police department stated that State Statues did allow speeds of at least 5 to 7 miles over the posted speed limits.

Ms. McDugal stated that the speed humps would deter traffic; asked for reconsideration of the decision not to install the speed humps; stated that 35 mph was too fast for traffic on Cypress Avenue.

DISCUSSION OF TRAFFIC ON CYPRESS AVENUE (Continued)

Mayor Katica stated that speed humps were installed on Wildwood and Woodlawn because the streets were substandard; that the humps were difficult for some vehicles especially emergency vehicles.

Discussions ensued regarding the cost for speed humps and signs on Wildwood and Woodlawn; regarding the reduction of traffic volume.

Mayor Katica stated that the residents should consider taking one step at a time to deal with the problem.

Ms. McDugal commented on a recent incident that occurred on Cypress Avenue.

Joe Magri, 1704 Cypress Avenue, commented on the plateaus used on Tampa streets; stated that he did not notice any signs for the plateaus but that white stripes were painted on them; that some control was needed for the cut through traffic on Cypress Avenue.

Pete Holcombe, 1714 Cypress Avenue, stated that he had five children and one dog and he was concerned for their safety; that Clearwater-Largo Road had the same speed limit as Cypress Avenue.

Bill Ludsby commented on the intent of the legislature by allowing the overage on speed limits and issuing speeding tickets; that there were 29 homes on Cypress Avenue and he did understand the importance of the issue for those residents.

Ms. McDugal stated that the dynamics of the town had changed and now there are more families with children now living in town and traffic volume has increased.

Suzie Holcombe, 1714 Cypress Avenue, commented on children not being able to ride their bikes on Cypress Avenue.

Valerie Kensey, 1705 Cypress Avenue, stated that she was afraid to walk her dog on the street; that she had not seen an emergency vehicle on Cypress Avenue in some time.

Wayne Sincich, 426 Wildwood Way, commented on the volume of traffic throughout town; stated that the issue on Cypress Avenue should be addressed soon.

Joe Dimarzio, 1708 Cypress Avenue, commented on the amount of traffic on the street; asked that the speed monitor be placed on the street again.

Pat Creel, 560 Palmetto Road, stated that she was opposed to speed bumps on Cypress Avenue;

DISCUSSION OF TRAFFIC ON CYPRESS AVENUE (Continued)

that he son lives in a home on that street; that the speed bumps would devalue the property on Cypress Avenue; that the speed limits should be enforced.

Sam Casella, 310 Overbrook Drive, commented on traffic calming and the elements used for slowing traffic.

Gene Creel, 560 Palmetto Road, stated that he owned property on Cypress Avenue; commented on the effect the speed bumps had on vehicles; stated that the speed limit should be reduced and enforced.

Bruce Mitchell, 1710 Cypress Avenue, stated that he would take the safety of children over the impact on property values and vehicles by placing the speed bumps on Cypress Avenue; that safety should be the major concern.

Dave Delmonte, 1709 Cypress Avenue, expressed his appreciation to the commission for listening to the residents and to Vicki McDugal for taking on the project with the neighbors and getting them involved; stated that there were no sidewalks and no place for children and dogs; asked that the neighborhood be made safe.

Discussions ensued regarding the possibility of placing the speed humps on Cypress Avenue and the number of speed humps needed to slow the traffic; regarding the type of speed device used on Wildwood Way and Woodlawn Avenue; regarding obtaining quotes for speed tables and reducing speed limits; regarding installation of sidewalks; regarding the impact of the speed tables on Wildwood Way; regarding the impact speed tables or humps would have on emergency vehicles; regarding the difference between speed humps and speed tables; regarding scheduling a meeting with Chip Zimmerman to discuss the cost and installation of the speed tables; regarding the reduction of speeds on Cypress Avenue if the speed tables were installed.

Commissioner Fowler stated that no matter what measures the town took to slow the traffic the volume of traffic would probably not be reduced because of the logistics of everything in that area; that in the case of Wildwood and Woodlawn the traffic was reduced because of the right turn only function onto Ft. Harrison.

It was the consensus to place continued discussion on the agenda for the September 17th regular meeting at 7:30 pm.

DISCUSSION OF TRAFFIC ISSUES ON WILDWOOD WAY

Mr. Maxwell provided information on the traffic count in Wildwood/Woodlawn area; stated that a traffic count was conducted on August 26th with one counter east of Orange on Wildwood Way and one counter west of Orange Avenue of Wildwood; that on the west counter there was a count

DISCUSSION OF TRAFFIC ISSUES ON WILDWOOD WAY (Continued)

of about 326 vehicles and on the east counter there was a count of about 479 vehicles; that it appears that the major difference was the cut through traffic from Belleview Blvd. onto Orange Avenue; that it was staff's recommendation to move forward was to do a road expansion on Belleview Blvd; that he had commented earlier on the possibility of receiving grant money for the project; that in a effort not to hold the project up he suggested that funds be allocated immediately into the next budget year to move forward with the project; that there was a quote from TBE Group included in the packet for \$35,285 for engineering for the project and related engineering and permitting work; that the estimated cost for the project was about \$200,000; that it was staff's recommendation to proceed with the widening project for Belleview Blvd.

Commissioner Fowler commented that after the last discussion he prepared a sketch of the intersection depicting a rearrangement of Orange Avenue that would eliminate some of the traffic going through the area; that he would like to suggest that the south bound traffic on Orange Ave. have a no left turn sign that might eliminate about 150 cars going down Wildwood Way out onto S. Ft. Harrison.

Commissioner Shelly stated that he thought the better solution would be the widening of Belleview Blvd.

Thayer Haydon, 424 Woodlawn Ave., stated that the problem was not Orange and Wildwood but that the widening of Belleview would be helpful along with extending the timing on the green light at Ft. Harrison and Belleview Blvd.; that at the time Belleview Blvd. expansion would be complete that Wildwood Way should be closed; that it may be time for another survey of residents with regard to closing the street.

Discussions ensued regarding the closing of Wildwood Way and survey results of residents with regard to the closing.

Sam Casella, 310 Overbrook Drive, commented on the long range view of the situation; commented on closing Wildwood Way to traffic; commented on growing traffic issues in Belleair; stated that caution should be given to the widening of Belleview Blvd.; that concern should be given to the quality of the neighborhoods and the town as a whole.

Steve Castner, 403 Roebling Road South, stated that he was in favor of widening Belleview Blvd.; that he was not in favor of closing Wildwood Way; that he also felt that the timing on the green light at Belleview and Ft. Harrison should be extended.

Wayne Sincich, 426 Wildwood Way, commented on the traffic study completed in 1992; commented on the left turn lane on Clearwater-Largo Road at Belleview Blvd; that the traffic speed should be reduced.

DISCUSSION OF TRAFFIC ISSUES ON WILDWOOD WAY (Continued)

Roland Rogers; 425 Belleview Blvd., stated that he was opposed to closing Wildwood Way; that neighbors were also opposed to the closing as it would make it impossible to exit from their driveways.

Rita Jordan, 501 Fairview Road, stated that she was opposed to closing Wildwood Way and though that would cause more traffic problems; that the installation of the speed tables had slowed the traffic.

Becky Racaniello, 500 Fairview Road, stated that she was also opposed to the closing of Wildwood Way; spoke favorably about the lengthening the time for the green light at Belleview Blvd.

Commissioner Fowler asked if the residents would be opposed to placing the ballards to prevent the entrance onto Wildwood Way from Ft. Harrison.

Ms. Racaniello stated that she was also opposed to that idea.

Brent Armstrong, 318 Wildwood Way, commented on the benefit of the speed humps; stated that the number of signs for the humps had degraded the look of the street; that he thought the problem was the accumulation of measures to control the traffic over the years and one downside of the speed humps was the speed limit between the speed humps of 25 mph and then a 15 mph at the hump.

Commissioner Oddo commented on the remarks made by Mr. Armstrong regarding the difference in speed limits on the street with the speed humps.

Marc Jordan, 405 Fairview Road, commented in the impact of traffic in the neighborhood; stated that he was opposed to closing Wildwood Way.

Mr. Maxwell read letters received from residents; David & Audrey Schechter, 417 Belleview Blvd., opposed to the closing of Wildwood Way; Robert Ress of Ress Marine of Fairview Road, was opposed to closing of Wildwood Way.

Discussions ensued regarding placing continued discussion of the Belleview Blvd. project on the next agenda for discussion; regarding asking City of Clearwater to change the light system at the intersection of Belleview Blvd. and Ft. Harrison.

Mr. Maxwell stated that his suggestion would be to make the project part of the budget discussions.

DISCUSSION OF STREET LIGHT BIDS

Mr. Maxwell stated that the street light bids were received; that there was a total of five bids submitted; that the low bid for the Cyclone fixture was from Aneco Company with an installation cost of \$352,000 and a maintenance cost of \$600 per month which was \$2 per fixture; that there were alternate bids submitted as the bid specifications allowed for bidding of alternate fixtures; that Paul Nadeau of Himes Electric was present to discuss their bids.

Discussions ensued regarding the fixture selected by the commission prior to the bid packets being sent out; regarding the time spent by the commission evaluating the different fixtures; that it was the consensus of the commission not to hear the presentation.

Michael Imparado, President and Founder of Beacon Products commented on federal grant funds may not available for lighting products made outside the country; that the Cyclone product was made outside the US and Beacon was made about 40 miles from Belleair.

John Hail, 16 North Pine Circle, stated that he did not agree with comments made by Mr. Imparado.

DISCUSSION OF CHAPTER 74, DIVISION 6 - LANDSCAPING

Mr. Maxwell stated that at the last meeting the commission had requested a review of the landscape ordinance and a possible updating of that section of the code.

Commissioner Fowler stated that he was of the understanding the Mr. Maxwell was to contact Mark Parry of TBE to discuss that section of the code.

Mr. Maxwell stated that it was the consensus of the commission to not bring in the consultant at this time.

Mr. Fowler stated that he would bring the matter before the planning and zoning board for their review and comments.

DISCUSSION OF FIRE SUPPRESSION AGREEMENT

Commissioner Shelly commented on the fire suppression agreement with City of Largo; stated that better services would be provided at a lower cost than the town was previously paying; that the residents of Belleair Bluffs had also voted to disband the fire department and contract with City of Largo; that quarterly presentations would be made to the commission by the Largo fire staff; commented on the termination clause included as well.

Commissioner Fowler stated that he would like for Largo to receive a copy of the comments made by Ed Jameson regarding the Belleview Biltmore Hotel.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 17, 2009 AT 7:30 PM

Mayor Katica announced the following items scheduled for public hearing at the September 17, 2009 regular meeting at 7:30 pm:

1. Fiscal year 2009-2010 Budget:
 - a. Resolution No. 2009-31 - Adoption of millage rate for fiscal year 2009-2010
 - b. Resolution No. 2009-32 - Adoption of budget for fiscal year 2009-2010
 - c. Approval of non-exempt and exempt employee pay scale dated October 1, 2009.
2. Mowing Resolution.
3. Request for variance - 1722 Laurie Lane - Morgan and Cristi Schmid.

On motion duly made and seconded the following agenda was established, as amended, for the September 17, 2009 regular meeting.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of Minutes - Special Meeting - August 4, 2009
Work Session - August 4, 2009
Regular Meeting 0 August 18, 2009

GENERAL AGENDA

Consideration of:

1. Award of bid - Professional Engineering/Planning Services.
2. Award of bid - Provide and Maintain Street Lights
3. Approval of service providers for fiscal year 2009-2010
 - a. Tree Trimming - Boen's Tree Service
 - b. Street Sweeping - USA Services
 - c. Sidewalk Repair - Maas Brothers Construction, Inc.
 - d. Annual Flower Beds - Practical Gardening Services, Inc.
4. Resolution No. 2009-33 - Approval of certain members to the Board of Trustees for Belleair Police Officer's Retirement Plan.
5. Approval of Fire Suppression Services - City of Largo.
6. Police Chief's report.
7. Resolution No. 2009-34 - Regarding replat of Thomas property.
8. Resolution No. 2009-35 - Opposing Offshore oil drilling.
9. Continued discussion of Cypress Avenue traffic calming.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the commission the meeting was adjourned in due form at 9:00 pm.

Town Clerk _____

APPROVED:

Mayor