



MINUTES

Monday, June 2, 2014

**WORK SESSION
FORT MYERS BEACH TOWN COUNCIL
and a
JOINT WORK SESSION
with the
ANCHORAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TOWN HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2523 ESTERO BOULEVARD
FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA 33931**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mandel called to order the June 2, 2014 Joint Meeting of the Fort Myers Beach Town Council and the Anchorage Advisory Committee at 2:02 p.m. Present along with Mayor Cereceda: Vice Mayor Andre, Council Members Hosafros, Mandel, and Stockton; AAC Chair Light and AAC members present were Sam Lurie, and Ted Lawwill. Also Present: Town Manager Stilwell, Finance Director Wicks, Public Works Director Baker, Parks & Recreation Director Norton, and Town Clerk Mayher.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. DISCUSSION WITH THE ANCHORAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Katherine Light, Chair of the Anchorage Advisory Committee, noted she had attended the meeting Council had with all the Town Committee representatives last month where she had briefly reviewed the history, work, and responsibilities of AAC.

AAC Chair Light, AAC Members, and Council discussed the following items:

- Dinghy dock behind Topps and the TDC funds for the dock - Public Works Director Baker reviewed that the Town recently signed a contract to begin the surveys and preliminary studies for the project. She noted that CRAB was also looking at the subject site for a kayak launch. Vice Mayor Andre explained the TDC funding for the dock was a reimbursement. Public Works Director Baker indicated the funding was approximately \$90,000.

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- Pump-out boat – goes to mooring ball (currently no shore-side facility); would like to partner with County to extend outside of mooring field. She reported currently the pump-out charged \$15 a ticket and funding from the County or other source would be appreciated to help reduce the cost or even be able to offer it for free to help water quality issues. Discussion was held concerning how to estimate the pump-out costs; attempt to at least share the pump-out costs with the County; encouraging boaters outside the mooring field to utilize the pump-out service; and a suggestion to approach Commissioner Kiker with the proposal for funding from the County for pump-out services as it related to water quality issues. Mayor Cereceda and Chair Light to work together on formulating a letter to the BOCC to request funds in the upcoming budget beginning October 1st. Discussion was held regarding the difference between enforcement and encouraging boaters to participate.
- Requested the LCSO expenses portion of their budget get resolved during Council's upcoming budgeting sessions - Vice Mayor Andre expressed his view that the LCSO expenses of \$65,000 should not appear in the Mooring Field budget; discussion was held concerning the LCSO budgeted expenses; use of the US Coast Guard for marine enforcement; and staff would investigate if there was an existing Interlocal Agreement between the Town and the LCSO.
- Publicity – possibly seek funding from TDC for publicity of the mooring field outside the area; discussed current promotional efforts (on-line and regional net) and noted the importance of advertising. Public Works Director Baker indicated an upcoming meeting with TDC and he would investigate how to obtain advertising funding. Discussion was held concerning possibly piggy-backing on the existing TDC advertising (i.e. websites and links).
- Sign at the entrance to the mooring field – County to fix the sign; staff working on an Interlocal Agreement with the County regarding the mooring field which would include fixing the sign and assist the Town with some missing buoys in the sea grass area on the south end; and Town staff was working on a maintenance schedule for the mooring field.

AAC Chair Light questioned the status of the Town's Harbor Management Plan which had been worked on by the AAC several years ago. She indicated it had been her understanding that in 2007-2008 the plan was approved by Council and was to be forwarded to the State. She reported that a few years ago she spoke with the former Public Works Director who informed her that the Plan had not come back from Tallahassee.

Public Works Director Baker stated that Public Works staff would investigate the matter and report back to the AAC.

Discussion was held concerning the final copy of the Town's Harbor Management Plan; Town Clerk to provide AAC with a 'final draft' copy she had on file; and Public Works to determine the status of the Plan which was a requirement of the submerged land lease with the State.

Sam Lurie, AAC, reported there was an on-again/off-again lingering lease issue with Ball #1 which was the only grandfathered live-aboard; and explained the need to obtain a signed lease on file.

Discussion ensued regarding the one grandfathered live-aboard and obtaining a lease; the history of live-aboard and grandfathering; obtaining updated contact information from Ball #1; and the difference between eviction and an abandoned vessel.

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Vice Mayor Andre noted the importance of the advertising and noticed in the budget there was \$5,000 for abandoned vessel removal. He discussed how the upland service provider could ask people when they come in how they found out about the mooring field in order to track advertising dollars.

Mayor Cereceda questioned the 'defining difference' between the Anchorage Advisory Committee and the Marine Resources Task Force.

AAC Chair Light explained AAC dealt specifically with anchorage and had a specific narrow task.

Joint Meeting with AAC and Town Council was closed.

Recessed at approximately 2:45 p.m. – Reconvened at approximately 2:50 p.m.

Town Council Work Session was opened.

IV. PRELIMINARY BUDGET DISCUSSION

Finance Director Wicks noted the proposed Budget Calendar in the Agenda packet; and Council reviewed the proposed Budget Calendar of which there were no questions.

Mayor Cereceda announced the following:

- June 16th the Council would adopt the tentative millage rate;
- June 23rd there would be another budget workshop;
- June 30th the Finance Director submits the tentative millage rate;
- August 18th there would be another budget workshop;
- September 2nd would be the first public hearing on the budget; and
- September 15th would be the final public hearing on the budget.

Discussion was held concerning the aforementioned dates and Council Member Mandel reported he would be unavailable for the June 23rd meeting; and consensus was to move the budget discussion from June 23rd to June 16th (eliminated the June 23rd meeting).

Finance Director Wicks pointed she updated the budget amounts using the new valuation; she explained that there were items the Town received on revenue which were significant to the budget that were calculated by the State (i.e. sales tax, communication tax, etc.) and that the Town had not received those numbers yet and the numbers were likely to change. She pointed out the budget included a 2% cost of living raise for the employees; the Community Development Director position was not included at this time; and she indicated her anticipation of changes in Public Works and Parks and Recreation which would be included when staff came back to Council with the budget in August. She explained how the budget was a 'living' document that would change. She asked if Council had any special projects for them to please forward the information to herself or the Town Manager so staff could 'cost them out'.

Mayor Cereceda reviewed her 'wish list' for the upcoming budget:

- Money from park impact fees or a similar funding source for a plan for 216 Connecticut Street (i.e. a community park that had some parking).
- Instead of a Public Information Officer for the Town to contract with a person who could generate a Town of Fort Myers Beach newsletter to all property owners, on a quarterly basis.

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- Estero Boulevard – determine if the Town could work in conjunction with the County’s Estero Boulevard Improvement Project to underground utilities and contemplate improved lighting and landscaping. She explained her desire that the improvements to the south end of Estero Boulevard should be as positive an experience as the north end was for the residents and visitors.

Finance Director Wicks questioned if road impact fees could be utilized.

Discussion was held regarding a local option tax and use of the tax.

Council Member Hosafros reported the Public Safety Committee has discussed lighting and they believed it to be a very important safety issue; and the Committee had also discussed undergrounding utilities. She noted her research on underground utilities revealed astronomical costs and it may not be beneficial for a flood-prone community. She explained she leaned towards landscaping and lighting improvements.

Discussion was held regarding underground utilities and associated costs; lighting and lamp pole replacement; and potential funding available from the federal government for lighting as it related to safety.

Council Member Hosafros discussed her ‘wish list’ items for the upcoming budget:

- Aircraft noise – anticipated consultant fees.
- Relocation of trash containers from the Town Hall parking lot – potential cost for relocation.

Council Member Stockton discussed her ‘wish list’ items for the upcoming budget:

- Set aside funds to purchase Town Hall (develop a sinking fund).
- CRAB was working on finding a site for a community garden; set aside funds for a community garden.
- Fireworks – decrease the amount the Town spends on fireworks; possibly set-up a matching fund to use if an organization volunteered to raise funds for fireworks; and place a cap on the amount to match (i.e. \$20,000). Finance Director Wicks suggested leaving in the current budgeted amount and wait to learn what donations/sponsorship staff may solicit.

Parks & Recreation Director Norton reported for the past six months he had been searching for a sponsor for the fireworks and noted there were not too many takers at the higher sponsorship levels, but there was interest in the lower sponsorship levels. He concurred with the suggestion from Finance Director Wicks.

Discussion ensued as to how other local communities handled funding the expense of fireworks for special events.

Consensus was to leave the funds as budgeted at this time.

Council Member Mandel discussed his ‘wish list’ items for the upcoming budget:

- Potable water project has the right fee structure.
- Stormwater management costs and fee structure.
- Town Manager to estimate how much money would be needed for remodeling if the Town acquired a long-term lease for the Town Hall.
- Sinking fund for CIP.
- Beach nourishment fund – determine if funds needed to be added.

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Mayor Cereceda noted that her 'most important issue' for the coming year would be Town Hall.

Vice Mayor Andre reviewed the proposed budget in a 'line item' fashion as follows:

- Revenues – the Town subsidized part of the trash collection in the downtown; and it was noted the subsidy was because the Town blocked the street. He was investigating a potential solution to the subsidy.
- LCSO expense –the expense should not appear in the AAC budget.
- Bay Oaks – revenues (discussion of revenues last year versus current year).

Public Comment opened.

Keri Weeg, resident, stated she liked the idea of a quarterly Town newsletter and stated she might be able to help with that idea. She suggested the newsletter be mailed to the renters, as well as the property owners.

Public Comment closed.

V. COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS

Council Member Mandel – noted the conversation earlier in the day regarding Seafarer's; and explained there was nothing illegal with not having the name of potential developers.

Discussion was held concerning potential development of the subject site; and an ad hoc committee regarding the Seafarer's property.

Council Member Mandel – questioned when the Council would review stormwater management. Town Manager Stilwell noted staff was awaiting direction from Council and his previous recommendation to utilize the Audit Committee to look at possible alternative funding.

Council Member Mandel – pointed out that Council had contracted with a firm to conduct a study on the subject matter and Council was awaiting the results from the study.

Finance Director Wicks announced the Audit Committee had the results of the study on their agenda for this coming Friday.

Discussion ensued regarding the center lane of the Estero Boulevard Improvement Project as stormwater mitigation; the stormwater management of the Town's other streets; and how the subject study was measuring every lot in the Town for imperviousness to determine the fee structure.

Vice Mayor Andre – no items.

Council Member Hosafros – discussed her concerns regarding the issued permits related to the on-going litigation.

Discussion was held concerning the issued permits related to the on-going litigation.

Council Member Stockton – discussed her belief that Council should not act on anything where they have not been given complete and accurate information which was given to them in a timely fashion, unless there was an

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emergency. She suggested Council consider contracting out the Building Department services. She requested a list of each Town job position listing whether it was full or part time, salary, and what the staffer believed was their responsibility and what it was in theory. She also requested a list of current vacant positions; and whether the Town planned to fill the positions or not.

Council Member Hosafros reported at this time she was not in favor of contracting out the Building Department services to Lee County.

Discussion ensued regarding contracting the Building Department services to Lee County or a private provider.

Mayor Cereceda echoed Council Member Stockton's frustrations.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Adopted _____ With/Without changes. Motion by _____

Vote: _____

Michelle D. Mayher, Town Clerk

- End of document.