



MINUTES

FORT MYERS BEACH TOWN COUNCIL TOWN HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

2523 ESTERO BOULEVARD
FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA 33931

WORKSESSION

AGENDA

December 3, 2009

9:00 AM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kiker opened the meeting at 9:07 a.m. Present with Mayor Kiker were Council members Babcock, Raymond and List along with Interim Town Manager Green.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of allegiance led by Mayor Kiker.

III. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION FOR JOINT SESSION BETWEEN TOWN COUNCIL AND BOCC

- A. Estero Boulevard & Public Transportation Issues
- B. Partnership on Environmental Issues
- C. Beach Nourishment

Council decided to discuss all the issues and then make decisions on whom would represent each topic.

Councilmember Raymond distributed paperwork depicting his outline and stated he had met with Steve Meyers of LeeTran as well as Johnny Limbaugh from FDOT, both of whom would also be at the County meeting. Councilmember Raymond discussed LeeTran and how to control congestion

on Fort Myers Beach, noting the importance of public transportation and keeping as many cars as possible off the island. The importance of the park and ride trolley lane was noted along with the need to work together with the BOCC. Councilmember Raymond then addressed the need for a dedicated trolley lane with Councilmember Babcock stating the Council had not discussed it nor had there been time for public comment. A discussion on the bridge began between Council members Babcock and Raymond with Councilmember Raymond indicating stimulus money totally \$250,000.00 was to be allocated to take care of the repairs to the bridge, including the engineering and safety rails.

Mayor Kiker reminded Council that presentation was what they needed to be concentrating on to go before the BOCC.

Mayor Kiker and Councilmember Raymond disagreed with the style of presentation, with Mayor Kiker asking for a more specific process. Councilmember List suggested working up the blue sheets for each topic during the meeting. Interim Town Manager Green assisted with language for Councilmember Raymond's topic.

Mayor Kiker went over information on Estero Boulevard noting there was up to \$5 million allocated, with nearly \$800,000.00 spent on the survey and \$500,000.00 on repaving, up to \$1.5 million this year to finish up the repaving, trolley pull offs as well as any storm water management issues.

Vice Mayor Acken joined the meeting at 10 a.m.

Councilmember Babcock questioned the math and felt the Town should be receiving more money. A discussion began regarding CIP and how to make sure to get results.

Mayor Kiker felt it necessary to present a history of Estero Boulevard before the BOCC as well as to be put on the 5 year CIP. Discussion continued on process, content and presentation. Mr. Green read his suggestion for the blue sheet pertaining to Estero Boulevard.

Councilmember List stated she found it interesting that the Town needed to tell the County how to take care of their road.

Council Breaks (no time noted)
Council Reconvenes (no time noted)

Vice Mayor Acken felt Council should present the BOCC with a path forward and say yes we are going to do the project. Vice Mayor reviewed his thoughts on presenting the issue to the BOCC, which included driving the easements up to keep the costs down, allow voluntary dunes and to remove easement rescissions.

Councilmember Babcock felt Council should not say anything until the County makes a decision either to go forward or terminate the project.

Vice Mayor Acken felt it was necessary to hold the County to the agreement to see the project started in 2010.

Councilmember Babcock noted Council did not want to get into an argument with the County, but needed to find out if the County was going to do the project as agreed and if not what they intended to do.

Mayor Kiker said the Town needed to stay with their initial plan, suggesting the Town had a level of understanding that the County said they had the money, that one year was given to acquire easements, that the plan included dunes and vegetation. Differences that surfaced included a percentage change in the number of needed easements to 90%. Mayor Kiker stated if the Town could get the groin completed then the Town accomplished what it really needed to do.

Councilmember Babcock felt necessary information would be obtained at the BOCC M & P meeting the next Monday. After much discussion Mayor Kiker felt it was necessary to go into the meeting with the BOCC with a policy position anticipating that they would a.) do the project no matter what b.) kill the project c.) modify the project. Also how Council was going to manage and report it to get the BOCC used to accountability.

Vice Mayor Acken continued to voice his disapproval of the plan wanting to demand the project proceed as planned. Councilmember Babcock voiced his frustration with doing nothing which he noted had happened for 15 years. During the conversation Mayor Kiker stated what killed the project was the mandatory dunes and vegetation while Councilmember List felt it was the fact that the project had been handed back and forth so many times.

Council continued to disagree with how the topic should be presented to the BOCC with Mayor Kiker making the suggestion to take it off the item list for the presentation since they could not come to a unified decision.

After much discussion it was suggested to let the County present their plan on the interlocal they signed. Council then decided to send Keith Laakkonen to the BOCC's Monday meeting to obtain the decisions made on Beach Renourishment then return and present a summary for Council to discuss before Tuesday's joint meeting. Jack Green felt the Council should explain to the BOCC that the Town was there to work in partnership with the County to move forward on all projects.

Mayor Kiker attempted to get a consensus of the process:

- Call the meeting to order
- Blue sheets with specific information
- Identified Motion makers
- Why are we here, partnership, interlocal boundary agreements
- Public Transportation, Estero Boulevard, Beach Nourishment, Environmental

Councilmember Babcock passed out his version of a blue sheet on environmental issues with Councilmember List asking to add the statement, To make the Town of Fort Myers Beach a desirable place to live, work and visit.

Mayor Kiker asked Mr. Green to add the appropriate titles at the bottom of the blue sheets.

Councilmember Babcock noted he intended to share some of the specific environmental issues to the island such as water quality, red drift algae and red tide, air traffic, storm water, fertilizer issues, development in the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve and its watershed, and offshore drilling, then he wanted to mention some of the challenges that came from a governor's action plan for healthy resilient coasts. Councilmember Babcock wanted to lead off his time with stating how important Fort Myers Beach was to the economy of Southwest Florida, then making sure to take the time to acknowledge the County for what they do well.

Mayor Kiker reviewed what he felt should be covered, acknowledging what the County had done, items the Town wanted the County to take a roll in on the Town's behalf such as offshore drilling and noise pollution followed by a motion to follow those.

Mr. Green read his interpretation of the blue sheet as follows: The Board of County Commissioners pledges its commitment to the Town of Fort Myers Beach Town Council to partner in initiatives that will preserve and protect the environment and quality of life for residents, businesses and visitors to our island community.

Council decided public transportation would be handled by Councilmember Raymond; Councilmember List would handle Beach Renourishment, Mayor Kiker would do the introduction as well as Estero Boulevard and the conclusion.

Councilmember Babcock really wanted to hear what the BOCC had to say, however, the remainder of the Council felt that would leave them with less time to speak. Mr. Green reminded Council that a question was being asked in the form of a motion and that represented the BOCC's yes or no answer.

Meeting Adjourned (no time noted)

Adopted _____ With/Without changes. Motion by _____

Vote: _____

Michelle D. Mayher, Town Clerk

- End of document.