



MINUTES

**FORT MYERS BEACH TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2523 ESTERO BOULEVARD
FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA 33931**

WORKSESSION

August 2, 2010

2:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kiker called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Present with Mayor Kiker was Vice Mayor Raymond, Council Members Babcock, List and Mandel along with Town Manager Stewart, Town Attorney Miller and Town Clerk Mayher.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Town Manager Stewart provided Council with the reasons why legislative priorities were necessary indicating how it would assist in the effectiveness of dealing with the state lobbyists and the Florida League of Cities.

Vice Mayor Raymond suggested each Council person contact a state legislator followed by Town Manager Stewart's recommendation that the town be in contact with every state legislator and develop a palm card, which was a talking point to be able to remind the legislators what our local issues are.

Discussion continued regarding revenue sharing associated with our economic impact not population; partnering with other communities; funds for advertising especially due to the long range repercussions of the oil spill; pedestrian signs.

Mr. Stewart indicated lobbyists, the Florida League of Cities and partnering with other municipalities were all good ways of getting the message out, however there was a need for a common message, and asked Council to make a decision on the things important to them and allow staff to prepare a document on the issues.

After additional discussion Town Manager Stewart indicated he would put a document together to bring back before Council.

IV. TOWN HALL LEASE

Town Manager Stewart indicated they had negotiated the lease down 10% with a 3 year lease and an option to purchase.

Discussion ensued regarding opinions on the 3 year lease, desire to purchase the property, funds for renovation, lease to purchase and other possible Town Hall locations.

V. APPRAISAL OF 2523 ESTERO BOULEVARD

Discussion of the appraisal, the process for purchase, public comment and the need for an independent financial advisor continued amongst Council.

Town Manager Stewart indicated his desire for the town to sign the lease; however, Attorney Miller had concerns that the lease was 3 years.

Council member Babcock indicated he was in favor of purchasing the building, that he would only support a 1 year lease and that until they had a Charter change to be able to finance longer than 3 years he would want the building paid off in 3 years.

Recess: 3:35 PM Reconvene: 3:50 PM

Town Manager Stewart reminded Council of the need not only for office space, but parking and additional room for equipment and storage.

Council gave direction to move forward in obtaining a financial advisor as well as directing Town Manager Stewart to propose a lease option to the property owner with a 3 year lease with an appraisal after 2 years.

Attorney Miller left the meeting.

VI. MOUND HOUSE

Council voiced their confusion with all the differing figures on what would be needed to complete the Mound House project.

Theresa Schober indicated \$750,000 was the estimate of the unfunded portion for the Mound House Project which included the house, museum exhibit, grounds, underground exhibit and 216 Connecticut. \$525,000 was the estimate for the house and for the museum, with \$39,000 for the shell mound and 216 Connecticut, \$40,000 landscape lighting.

Ms. Schober stated there was \$1.1 million remaining grant money to complete the landscaping and the observation pier.

After extensive discussion Town Manager Stewart asked Council to allow the town to get current bids on completing the house.

VII. ESTERO BOULEVARD SMALL SCALE IMPROVEMENTS

Cathie Lewis, Public Works Director addressed the 3 main items for small scale improvements while the right of way survey was being conducted.

- Design of a sidewalk along the Gulf side of Estero Boulevard between Driftwood Lane and Lenell Road
- Design of a Trolley pull-off near Newton Park
- Design of a sidewalk along the Gulf side between Lani Kai and School Street.

Ms. Lewis indicated she had conversations with FPL for undergrounding near School Street as well as urging the County to consider storm water improvements in these areas. Ms. Lewis also noted that the area between Lani Kai and School Street was a problem area for water line breaks and suggested Council keep that in mind for replacement of the 3 lines there now to the appropriate sized line before the sidewalks were installed. Discussion continued with the sequence of the 3 improvements listed as well as why these were considered high priority.

Councilmember Babcock left the meeting.

VIII. SET DATE FOR FY 2011 BUDGET WORK SESSION

Set for Monday August 16th.

IX. BEACH ACCESS RESTROOMS

Town Manager Stewart asked Council for their views on the spacing of the mobile restrooms while keeping in mind the location of the lateral tap-ins for the sewer. Mayor Kiker indicated he wanted to see them each mile making a consideration for Lynn Hall Park, Bowditch and Newton Parks. Councilmember Mandel asked if staff could bring back information at the next Council meeting as to the locations and total cost.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Adopted _____ With/Without changes. Motion by _____

Vote: _____

Michelle D. Mayher, Town Clerk

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