

**WORKSHOP MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF REDINGTON SHORES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2008 – 7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

Present Upon Roll Call: Commissioner Wojcik, Commissioner Branch, Commissioner Holthaus, Vice Mayor Adams, Mayor Armstrong; Steve Andrews, CBO

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion FY 2008/2009 Tentative Budget and Proposed Millage

Mayor Armstrong discussed the request from Neighborly Care Network soliciting funding for the services it provides to some of the residents in Town. The Commission agreed to contribute \$1,500 to the organization based on the reduced number of residents – 6 – who are currently clients. The line item of LDU on the budget was addressed. Building Official Steve Andrews explained that LDU monies are paid in lieu of land donations for new construction. Mayor Armstrong said that LDU monies are down because new construction is low. Commissioner Wojcik asked about goals for grant money; Mayor Armstrong said that there is less money for grants and more requests, and that she has personally searched for grant monies and found them minimal.

Discussion – Auditor Selection

Mayor Armstrong explained that an Auditor Committee had been created, comprised of Mary Palmer, Tom Pease (current auditor) and herself to review the 5 firms that submitted proposals. The top 2 firms were then interviewed, and the firm of Davidson, Jamieson & Cristini was considered the favorite. Mayor Armstrong said that criteria such as proximity, experience with government and cost. Commissioner Wojcik expressed some concern about the “hidden fees” that may be incurred through emails and phone costs. Mayor Armstrong said that Tom Pease, the Town’s current auditor, has known the firm for a long time and does Mr. Pease’s firm’s audit. Formal selection of the auditing firm will be decided at the August regular meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Park Fees – Non Residents

Mayor Armstrong suggested the Commission look into increasing the rental fees for Constitution Park for non-residents. The park is popular and a good deal; the resident fees would remain the same. An increase for parties under 50 people to \$100 and for over 50 to \$150 was proposed. The rental for veterans groups would be free. The Commission will vote for an increase at the August meeting.

July 4th Fireworks Committee

Mayor Armstrong stated that a committee to solicit funds for the 2009 fireworks should be created. Mayor Armstrong said that Mayor Queen from North Redington Beach would contribute ½ the cost if a barge was used, such as the one Madeira Beach used this year. Mayor Armstrong asked each Commissioner to recruit 2 people from his district to form the committee, and report with the names at the next regular meeting.

Public Beach Access – 176th Avenue West and Lee Avenue

Commissioner Wojcik explained that a task force had been formed to try to find a satisfactory solution to the easement issue at 176th and Lee Ave., while respecting the rights of the property owners nearby. Commissioner Wojcik described his design, showing placement or changes to the easement’s bench, bike rack, shower, etc. and said it proposes the least cost to the project. Lee Holmes, resident, asked if the task force comprised people

from only District 3; Commissioner Wojcik said yes, and including Detective Jason Routzahn of Indian Shores Police. Mayor Armstrong quoted the letter from Attorney Jim Denhardt recommending that the easement be clearly delineated forever. Mayor Armstrong also said that the easement is ~~9'3" wide now~~ 9'3" wide between the columns now (**corrected at the August 13 Commission Meeting**) and will be the only access to the beach for such vehicles as the beach tractor and police vehicles when Misty Isles easement gets developed. Commissioner Wojcik suggested the Commission meeting of 1971 stating the ownership belonged to the Town should be recorded right away. Detective Routzahn said the only beach access the Police can use now is the one in question, as well as one in Indian Shores. When several residents of Gulf Mariner began to speak, Mayor Armstrong said that no more discussion would be permitted on this subject. A bid to pave the entire easement has been turned in for under \$17,000. After further discussion among the Commissioners on the subject it was decided that a decision will be voted on at the August 13 meeting.

Proposed Ordinance – Newspaper Stands

Mayor Armstrong expressed frustration that more newspaper boxes have been placed in right-of-ways lately, causing visual impairment and unsightly appearance. Mayor Armstrong said that such boxes should stay out of the easements and off sidewalks because they cause a line of sight issue, but that placement on private property is the choice of the property owner. Mayor Armstrong asked that Attorney Jim Denhardt prepare an Ordinance prohibiting news boxes on ROW as soon as possible.

Lunch Stop – Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk

Mayor Armstrong said that this very large event has asked to stop in Redington Shores for a lunch break, and had originally asked to use Del Bello Park. It was recommended that Constitution Park would be a better venue, and that use of the park on November 1, 2008 will be free to the participants. A vote on the event's use of the park will be heard at the August 13 meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mayor Armstrong said that the reason the Town is taking the roll back rate in part due to 25% of the budget going towards the loan for the undergrounding project. Even so the Town is 5th lowest in the County. The millage rate for the County is 5.45, which may result in some reduction in taxes. Mayor Armstrong also suggested participating in the "municipal green roadmap" by making changes to some of the Town's practices; for example the Town spends about \$400 per year for delivered bottled water. Installation of a reverse osmosis device on the kitchen faucet would be a step forward to reduce plastic use.

Vice Mayor Adams said there have been quite a few complaints lately about tents and tent poles left on the beach overnight or for days. The Public Works crew is reluctant to remove them for fear of being accused of theft. Vice Mayor Adams recommended that Attorney Denhardt create an Ordinance prohibiting tents to remain on the beach. Also, the PSTA will deliver and install trash cans for all of the bus stops in Town for free to help eliminate the trash problem.

Commissioner Wojcik expressed appreciation to all of the volunteers who helped plant 12,000 sea oats at the dunes on Saturday, July 26.

Mayor Armstrong announced that July 30 is the 24th anniversary of Town Clerk Mary Palmer's employment with the Town, having begun in 1984 with Public Works. Congratulations, Mary!

Respectfully Submitted,

Patti Herr
Deputy Town Clerk