

OFFICIAL MINUTES

BELLE GLADE CITY COMMISSION

WORKSHOP MEETING

December 1, 2014

Pursuant to due notice, a workshop meeting of the Belle Glade City Commission was held in City Hall, 110 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., West, Belle Glade, Palm Beach County, Florida, on Monday, December 1, 2014 at 5:15 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Wilson. Upon roll call, the following Commissioners were present: Burroughs, Martin, Underwood, Wilkerson, and Wilson. Members of staff present were City Attorney Torcivia, City Manager Harrelle, Finance Consultant Wood, Assistant Director of Finance Hughes, Director of Human Resources Hunter, Director of Planning & Community Redevelopment Services Parchment, Deputy City Clerk Carter, and City Clerk Buff.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

[Approved as presented]

Commissioner Burroughs MOVED, Vice Mayor Wilkerson SECONDED, and the Motion carried 5-0 to approve the Agenda as presented.

PRIORITIZATION OF PROJECTS:

City Manager said the next Legislative Session would begin soon and the City's lobbyist had suggested it would be prudent to determine the City Commission's priorities for projects for the coming year. Said the lobbyist had indicated that State Legislators would be most supportive of infrastructure projects for the most critical areas of concern.

City Manager said he was recently notified that \$620,000 had been approved for the City of Belle Glade for street improvements for an additional twenty (20) streets, which would be presented for Commission consideration at the next regular Commission meeting. Said he expected to receive notification of additional funding allocations to be forthcoming. City Manager suggested the Commission might also wish to address drainage issues throughout the city, when considering their priorities for future projects. Requested Commissioners to indicate their particular preferences for projects and the order in which they wished to prioritize those projects.

Burroughs: Inquired of City Manager's opinion of the most critical needs for the entire city.

- City Manager said the most pressing needs would be: 1) drainage issues; and 2) sidewalk improvements.

Wilson: Noted that monies had already been allocated for guard rails on Canal Street. Said County Commissioners and State Legislators were fully aware of the City's needs for street improvements. Suggested Commissioners might wish to consider pressing needs for other infrastructure improvements, as Legislators seemed to be more inclined to allocate funding for infrastructure for the coming year.

Burroughs: Inquired if recently annexed properties would require infrastructure improvements to attract and promote economic development on those properties.

- City Manager said the City would not have to be involved at this time. Said property owners of recently annexed land had indicated they would be working in partnership with the County, regarding installation of water and sewer lines on those properties and County rights-of-way.

Underwood: Concurred that drainage improvements should be priority projects.

Burroughs: Concurred that drainage improvements should be priority projects, as many of the city's drainage pipes were extremely old and in need of repair or replacement. Said street improvements would not last if the streets had poor drainage.

Martin: Concurred that drainage improvements should preferably be done before the streets were resurfaced, however, there were very many streets in deplorable condition. Noted the City has some funds available for stormwater improvements. Expressed concern that residents might not appreciate drainage improvements, without visible street improvements, therefore, said he would favor street improvements as a top priority.

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PRIORITIZATION OF PROJECTS Continued:

- City Manager said the City’s improvement projects had included street improvements for 31 streets last year and would include improvements for an additional 21 streets this year, with additional funding to follow for drainage and street improvements on Avenue H and Avenue K.

Martin: Inquired of the most critical areas in need of drainage improvements.

- City Manager said the most critical area was in the center of town, being SW Avenue B and southward, as many businesses had to place sandbags in front of their businesses during times of heavy rainfall. Noted that drainage improvements had been made from SW Avenue A northward to the Hillsborough Canal. Said extensive drainage improvements were needed from SW Avenue B southward to the canal at Avenue G; however, the cost would be massive, and therefore would have to be done in phases over time.

Wilkerson: Said she would be amenable to priority projects for infrastructure and drainage improvements. Inquired if requested funds would be shared by any other cities.

- City Manager said these funding requests would be solely for City of Belle Glade projects.

Wilson: Expressed concern that drainage improvement projects would consume all available funding. Said citizens want to see improvements to streets and sidewalks, therefore, he would wish to make streets and sidewalks a priority. Said the City’s lobbyist could actively seek other funding for drainage improvements, independent of streets and sidewalks.

Burroughs: Suggested it would be prudent to determine projected costs to perform the overall projects to include drainage, streets, and sidewalks; and then determine costs for a middle package project; and then determine costs for a bare-bones package project.

Wilson: Suggested it might be more beneficial to lobby State Legislators for FDOT funding for streets, guard rails, and sidewalks for the three Glades cities, and to task the City’s lobbyist to seek separate funding for drainage improvements for the City of Belle Glade.

Wilson: Encouraged Commissioners to submit any recommendations for project priorities to City Manager, for further discussion in Workshop session in January 2015, in preparation for the Legislative Session in March.

REVIEW DECEMBER 1, 2014 REGULAR MEETING AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF (REGULAR) AGENDA:

City Clerk would request Commission consideration to Amend the Agenda as follows:

- Add; 9. B. Approval to Waive Impact Fees for Amount Not to Exceed \$2,000 per Lot for Revolving Loan Fund Projects at 257 NW 5th Street and 432 W Canal Street South

PRESENTATION:

City Clerk said Commissioners would entertain the following Presentation:

CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT PRESENTED TO STUDENTS SCORING LEVEL FIVE ON 2014 FCAT: GOVE ELEMENTARY

- No comments.

APPROVAL OF FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

City Clerk said Commissioners would consider the following Consent Agenda items:

- Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting, November 24, 2014
Regular Meeting, November 17, 2014
Workshop Meeting, November 17, 2014

- No comments.

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APPROVAL OF FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS Continued:

Approval to Piggy-Back Palm Beach County’s Annual Pathway and Minor Construction Annual Contract, Project No. 2013051, for Construction and Installation of Guardrails Along Canal of Marina Drive and Torry Island Road Adjacent to Slim’s Fish Camp; Approval to Enter Into Associated Agreement with Wynn & Sons Environmental Construction Co. Inc. for an Amount Not to Exceed \$10,480 with Authorization for Mayor to Execute the Same; and Authorization to Pay the Amount of \$10,480

- No comments.

Approval to Award Accumulated Unused Sick Leave to Artie Neal, Former Sanitation Employee, for 12.5 Years of Service

- No comments.

Approval to Solicit Proposal for Residential Refuse Containers and Approval of Associated Budget Transfer No. 15-T-004 in the Amount of \$35,000

- Commissioner Martin requested staff to explore feasibility to phase in green refuse containers to replace the current blue refuse containers, as green was a more compatible color.

CITY CLERK REPORTS:

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

City Clerk would read the following Resolutions by title:

Relating to Palm Beach County 2015 Revised Local Mitigation Strategy Plan

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BELLE GLADE, FLORIDA, GRANTING APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE 2015 REVISED PALM BEACH COUNTY LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING A CONFLICTS CLAUSE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

- No comments.

Relating to Employee Bereavement Policy

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BELLE GLADE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CITY OF BELLE GLADE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK AND CIVIL SERVICE RULES, BY AMENDING SECTION ENTITLED BEREAVEMENT POLICY TO INCLUDE LEAVE REQUESTS AND APPROVAL PROCEDURES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

- Director of Human Resources said the City’s current policy does not provide for justification for employee leave requests. Said auditors and Inspector General review City records to ensure that documentation for justification is place. Said wording of the first line of the last paragraph would be revised so as to alleviate ambiguity as follows:

“The Department Director and/or Human Resources ~~may~~ shall request additional information or documentation as deemed necessary to determine the eligibility of the employee for bereavement leave.”

Relating to Condolences to Ike Robinson

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BELLE GLADE, FLORIDA, EXTENDING HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO WEST PALM BEACH CITY COMMISSIONER IKE ROBINSON AND FAMILY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

- No comments.

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CITY CLERK REPORTS Continued:

OTHER BUSINESS

Announcements

City Clerk would make the following announcements:

December 15, 2014 Commission Workshop Meeting at 6:00 p.m., Followed by Regular Commission Meeting at 6:30 p.m., City Hall Commission Chambers

December 25, 2014 City Hall will be Closed in Observance of Christmas Holiday

APPROVAL TO WAIVE IMPACT FEES FOR AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000 PER LOT FOR REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROJECTS AT 257 NW 5TH STREET AND 432 W CANAL STREET SOUTH

- No comments.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS: None.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORTS: None.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS:

STATUS REPORT RELATING TO SOUTH BAY LITIGATION

City Attorney said he anticipated a Hearing date to be scheduled for January or February to consider the City of Belle Glade’s Motion for Summary Judgment. Said Legal was attempting to schedule a settlement negotiation session or possible mediation with City of South Bay sometime in December or January, to include himself, City Manager, and one City Commissioner.

- Mayor Wilson suggested Commissioner Martin would be the appropriate City Commissioner to represent the City Commission in a settlement negotiation session, should said session take place, and inform Commissioners accordingly.

Commissioners indicated consensus to direct City Attorney to move forward to schedule a settlement negotiation session.

PBSO (PALM BEACH SHERIFF’S OFFICE) COMMENTS: Not present.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None.

COMMISSION REPORTS/COMMENTS:

WILSON (Mayor):

Thanksgiving Food Program – Expressed appreciation to Planning & Community Redevelopment Services Director and staff for their assistance with the Thanksgiving Food Distribution Program at the Loading Ramp.

Toys Give-Away Program – Christmas Toys Give-Away Program scheduled for December 17, 2014. at the Lake Shore Civic Center/Mary Evans - Lois Lewis Resource Center from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Encouraged Commissioners to arrive at 5:30 p.m. for a group photo.

P.E.A.C.E. Committee – Requested City Clerk to provide Commissioners with a copy of Dr. Rease and P.E.A.C.E. Committee’s proposed recommendations for local preference Ordinance for submittal to the Palm Beach County Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Commission, Mayor Wilson adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Steve B. Wilson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra R. Buff, MMC, City Clerk