

MAYOR/COMMISSION WORK SESSION

May 29, 2007

Room 519 – 10:00 a.m.

Present: Mayor Frankel, Commissioners Douglas, Moss, and Robinson, Jr., Deputy City Administrator Miller, Deputy City Attorney Urcheck and City Clerk Kauthen; Absent: Commissioners Mitchell and Muoio.

1.	<u>Budget Advisory Committee of Key Business Executives</u> - This item was not discussed.
2.	<u>Alternatives to Property Tax for Public Safety</u> – Commissioner Moss spoke of [a] the Fire Union’s proposition of moving to a MSTU type of fire safety fee; [b] the importance of the continued building of Fire Station 8; [c] the importance of being able to man the stations properly; and [d] the need to rebuild fire stations 4 and 5. The Mayor stated that the best course of action would be to create the MSTU after the property tax role back. Commissioner Moss stated that there are deadlines for the creation of the MSTU. The Mayor proposed to raise the issue with the legislators as to the viability of creating MSTU after the property tax roll backs.
3.	<u>Commission Meeting Decorum</u> - Commissioner Moss iterated the importance of decorum at The City’s public meetings. Commissioner Robinson concurred with Commissioner Moss’s comment and stated [a] that June 4th 2007 would be a preferable time to implement this; and [b] calling staff by first names should be avoided. Commissioner Douglas stated that sidebar conversations should no longer occur in meetings.
4.	<u>Election Run-off Ordinance</u> – Commissioner Douglas spoke of the monetary saving of the elimination of the Run-off Election. The Mayor stated that State and Federal governments do not have Run-off Elections, and that it is something to consider due to the low turnout. Commissioner Robinson expressed his opinion that 51% constitutes the will of the people and that it should continue as present. Commissioner Moss suggested forming a workshop to discuss the issue further. The Mayor

	<p>stated that one of the current committees should have a look at the issue and come back with recommendations.</p>
5.	<p><u>Waterfront Project – Restroom Facilities</u> – Commissioner Robinson iterated his concerns of the lack of restroom facilities in the waterfront project, and asked that the issue be revisited.</p>
6.	<p><u>Hurricane Shutter Ordinance</u> – Commissioner Robinson asked that the issue be revisited, especially with regards to occupied versus unoccupied homes. Commissioner Douglas concurred with Commissioner Robinson’s comment and suggested a workshop be held to discuss the matter further. Commissioner Moss proposed to have staff research the issue and come back with recommendations.</p>
7.	<p><u>Boys and Girls Club Contract</u> – Commissioner Robinson stated that he had recently reviewed the contract with The Boys and Girls Club and wanted to know about the fiscal cost thus far to the City to run the club. Deputy City Administrator Miller stated she would research the issue.</p>
8.	<p><u>Ethics Code</u> – The Mayor asked the Commissioners how they would like the ethics code to be reviewed. Commissioner Moss suggested that a workshop be set up. Commissioner Robinson [a] concurred with Commissioner Moss’s comment; [b] discussed the differences between the City’s and Jacksonville and Tampa’s ethics codes; and [c] spoke of the importance of addressing the nepotism policy in the City’s ethics code. Deputy City Administrator Miller asked for the time frame that the Commissioners were looking for; The Mayor responded July 2007.</p>
14.	<p><u>Other</u> – The Commissioners discussed canceling the July 2nd 2007 meeting, it was the consensus of the Commission to do so.</p>
11.	<p><u>Parking at Village Paws Dog Park on Saratoga Road</u> – Director of Parks and Recreation Thrower made a</p>

	<p>presentation outlining the parking problem outside of the Village Paws Dog Park. The Mayor [a] suggested closing the park down; [b] stated that due to lack of resources there is no way to enforce “no parking” signs; [c] suggested talking to Commissioner Muoio as the park is in her district; and [d] concluded that “no parking” signs should be implemented to test their effectiveness. Commissioner Douglas asked that the “no parking” signs indicate where parking is available.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><u>Presentation of the Gateways & Beautification</u> – Kurt Allney, a consultant from The RMPK Group, presented the conceptual design ideas focusing primarily on the landscaping improvements to the Commissioners. The Mayor stated that [a] a traffic and parking analysis should be conducted before any ideas are implemented; [b] the hotspots should be picked out and done one at a time; [c] fiscally the City could not afford the ideas shown in the presentation; and [d] she has concerns over the impact on traffic patterns. Commissioner Moss stated that he would like to see the project continue. Commissioner Douglas inquired about the cost of completing the master plan; staff responded \$130,000. Commissioner Robinson raised concerns about the fiscal impact. It was decided to set up another meeting with The RMPK Group.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p><u>SR-882/Forest Hill Blvd.</u> – Assistant City Administrator Rearden [a] presented to the commission the Department of Transportation’s option to give the City Forest Hill Boulevard road from I-95 to Dixie Highway; [b] recommended not taking over the road due to its substandard conditions, and stated the potential cost to the City is over 20 million Dollars in maintenance; [c] recommended working closely with the Department of Transportation and neighborhoods; and [d] spoke of a landscaping plan for Forest Hill Boulevard and I-95. The Mayor directed Assistant City Administrator Rearden to speak to the Department of Transportation, telling them that the City will work with them.</p>

12.	<u>Vacant Development Sites</u> – Principle Planner Schneider [a] provided an update to the commissioners; [b] spoke of the amendments that would apply to all demolitions, land clearing, and construction; and [c] spoke of bringing the amendments forward to the July Commission Meeting. The Mayor iterated the importance of requiring strong materials to be used for the screen enclosures, so as to cut down on the need for code compliance to monitor properties.
13.	<u>Mayor's Matters</u> – This item was not discussed.
14.	<u>Other [continued]</u> –May Thomas a resident of the City spoke of liens placed of her commercial property. The Mayor iterated that staff would work with Ms. Thomas. Commissioner Robinson iterated that he would like to see the no parking signs removed from Sunset Park due to the lack of enforcement.
15.	<u>Adjournment</u> – 11:50 a.m.