

CITY OF WEST PALM BEACH
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP
MAY 5, 2008

The City Commission of the City of West Palm Beach met in workshop session on Monday, May 5, 2008 at 1:36 p.m. at City Hall with the following persons present:

Mayor Lois J. Frankel, President of the Commission Geraldine Muoio, Commissioner Molly Douglas, Commissioner William Moss, Commissioner Isaac Robinson, Jr., City Administrator Edward Mitchell, Deputy City Attorney Nancy Urcheck, City Clerk Blane Kauthen.

AGENDA:

Presentation by Government Services Group regarding the Fire Assessment Fee Study – Camille Tharpe, Senior Vice President of Government Services Group, Inc. [a] made a presentation on a fire assessment fee program; [b] spoke of the differences between an assessment fees and taxes; [c] spoke of the legal requirements needed in order to implement the assessment fee; [d] spoke about what the assessment fees could be used for; [e] spoke of the incidents and historical demand for fire services; [f] presented a preliminary assessment fee rate; [g] spoke of the estimated impact exemptions would have on the assessment fees; [h] presented a possible implementation schedule; and [i] responded to Commission questions. Fire Chief Robert Ridgeway [a] stated that the Commission would have to decide whether to charge non-profit organizations; [b] suggested collecting from governmental properties with in-kind services; and [c] responded to Commission questions. The Mayor [a] requested to see examples of rate fees for different types of non-residential properties; [b] requested a ten year capital improvement plan from the Fire department; and [c] requested that Finance Director Randy Sherman look at the comparison between

funding the Fire Departments capital improvement plans using the assessment fees on a pay as you go basis or using a thirty year bond. Commissioner Molly Douglas expressed her opinion that nursing homes should be required to pay the same assessment fees as industrial properties. Commissioner Isaac Robinson, Jr. expressed his opinion that profit and not for profit institutions should be assessed. Public comments: Tom Sheppard.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 2:39 p.m.