

MAYOR/COMMISSION WORK SESSION

July 7, 2008

Commission Chambers – 10:10 a.m.

Present: Mayor Frankel, Commissioners Douglas, Moss, Muoio and Robinson Jr., City Administrator Mitchell, City Attorney McKenna and City Clerk Kauthen.

<p>1. & 4.</p>	<p><u>Proposed Small Business Administration (SBA) Changes and Increasing Small Business Participation</u> – Purchasing and Contracts Manager Laudermilk stated [a] that the Small Business Program has been moved under procurements; [b] that due to the interlocal agreement with Palm Beach County and the School District of Palm Beach County the City will no longer require applicants to fill out the City’s application forms if the businesses have already been certified by the County or the School District; [c] she would like to eliminate the need for financial statements if they have a certified financial statement form from a Certified Public Account; and [d] she would like to have a large database to encourage more businesses to participate in the program. Commissioner Moss stated that businesses should be charged based upon what they are making not what they are billing their customers. Commissioner Robinson [a] suggested the goal be 15% small business participation for construction, goods and professional services; and [b] inquired into who is monitoring the current construction firms who are in the program. It was the consensus of the Commission to have the goals set to 15%. Commissioner Muoio inquired if Purchasing and Contracts Manager Laudermilk could send the procurement reports electronically. The Mayor stated that all reports should be sent electronically if possible.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p><u>BAK Middle School of the Arts Northshore Car and Bus</u> – Planning Director Wu [a] presented the current traffic patterns for the school; [b] presented two alternative traffic patterns; [c] stated that the Echo Lake and Northshore Neighborhood Associations strongly object to an increase in buses on Pinehurst Drive; [d] stated that the School District of Palm Beach County has stated that they will do whatever the neighborhoods agree to; and [e] stated that the neighborhoods</p>

	<p>have been unable to come to a compromise. The Mayor [a] inquired if the school routes could be changed each year; [b] stated that a traffic count should be done in order to gage if there are any safety issues; and [c] stated that she would call Dr. Robinson and Mr. Sanchez to see what their opinion is on the issue. Commissioner Muoio [a] stated that the School District should have a Public Safety Officer on the site; and [b] stated that the issue should be resolved by the School District and not by the City. Ms. Grant, President of Echo Lake Neighborhood Association, [a] explained how the current traffic routes were decided upon; [b] stated that the neighborhood wants the buses off the neighborhood roads; and [c] stated that the neighborhood wishes for the routes to remain as they are. Mr. Dixon, President of Northshore Neighborhood Association, spoke of his concern over the safety issues caused when vehicles are exiting the school. Traffic Engineer Collins [a] stated that additional safety improvements could be implemented to make the current route safer; and [b] suggested some alternative routes. City Attorney McKenna stated that the City [a] has no jurisdiction over the School District buses or routes; and [b] could pass a resolution or write a letter informing the School District of the City's recommendations. Commissioner Douglas stated that the School District should be addressing the issue and not the City. Ms. Dixon stated that there are safety issues which need to be addressed. Commissioner Moss suggested that [a] the City should recommend to the School Board a separation of the parent vehicles and the school buses; and [b] the School Board come up with ways to separate the traffic.</p>
3.	<p><u>Trash Blower Ordinance</u> – Commissioner Douglas [a] stated that a resident had contacted her regarding the issue of commercial and domestic lawn maintenance companies blowing yard waste into the gutters; and [b] suggested posting signs on the gutters informing people not to throw waste into the gutters. Commissioner Moss expressed his concern that the City's maintenance people are blowing waste into the gutters. Director of Public Works Alford stated that [a] there is an ordinance which will be brought to the City Commission on July 14, 2008 addressing this issue; [b] the City has purchased nine machines which will greatly reduce waste going into</p>

	<p>the gutters. The Mayor suggested a Public Information Officer should inform the lawn maintenance people of the consequences of blowing yard waste into the gutters.</p>
5.	<p><u>“A” Frame Signs for Olive Avenue Businesses</u> – Commissioner Moss [a] stated that staff had been asked to look into the possibility of allowing some of the downtown businesses to put up “A” frame signs; [b] stated he received a memo from Planning Director Wu stating that staff does not recommend allowing “A” frame signs; and [c] suggested that staff meet with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) staff to see if there are alternatives that could be used. City Urban Designer Aponte spoke of the current allowed signage. Mr. Clemente, from the DDA stated that the DDA agrees that “A” frame signage should not be allowed. It was the consensus of the commission to have the DDA investigate the issue and look for alternative signage recommendations.</p>
6.	<p><u>Flooding in Pineapple Park</u> – Commissioner Douglas asked for an update on the Pineapple Park flooding issue. Commissioner Moss stated that Assistant City Administrator Balbis had sent a memo providing an update on the issue. Director of Public Works Alford stated that due to hurricane season the drainage system has been tested and is functioning properly. The Mayor directed Deputy City Administrator Miller to email a copy of Assistant City Administrator Balbis memo to the Commissioners.</p>
7.	<p><u>Proposed City African American History Museum</u> – Commissioner Robinson stated that [a] there is a community group who are interested in finding a facility that can be utilized to have a permanent site for an exhibit on the history of the West Palm Beach African American community; and [b] there is a site on Tamarind Avenue which is owned by the City, that could be used as a possible location for the museum. The Mayor suggested having the exhibit in one of the rooms in the new library. Ms. Goldberg stated that there is a site that has been identified as a possible cultural village that could be considered for the museum.</p>

8.	<u>Mayor's Matters</u> – This item was not discussed.
9.	<p><u>Other</u> – Commissioner Moss expressed his concern over the cost of the utility rate study. Finance Director Sherman stated he would look into the issue.</p> <p>Commissioner Douglas [a] expressed her opinion that City's bicycle amenities should be made to be more accessible; [b] expressed her opinion that the lack of scooter parking needs to be addressed; and [c] stated that the City conducted a bicycle study eight years ago which should be reviewed. Mr. Clemente from the DDA [a] stated that the DDA has installed some bicycle parking in the downtown area; and [b] stated that as a resident of West Palm Beach he would be willing to donate his time to look at bicycle improvements. Planning Director Wu stated that staff are looking to address these two issues.</p> <p>Commissioner Douglas inquired if there was an update on the grant applications for the Quantum Foundation. Deputy City Administrator Miller [a] provided an update on the applications the City plans on submitting to the Quantum Foundation; and [b] stated that the applications will be sent by the end of the week. The Mayor stated that Mr. Cartwright [a] expressed an interest in participating in getting a grant; and [b] should contact the Youth Empowerment Center.</p>
10.	<u>Adjournment</u> - 12:17 p.m.