

MAYOR/COMMISSION WORK SESSION

September 29, 2008

Commission Chambers – 10:02 a.m.

**Present: Mayor Frankel, Commissioners Douglas, Moss, Muoio and Robinson Jr., City Administrator Mitchell, and City Clerk Kauthen;
Absent: Commissioner Mitchell.**

- 1. Presentation on the Inland Port – Director of Operations for the Port of Palm Beach District Carl Baker [a] gave an overview of the Inland Port project; [b] spoke of the history of cargo shipping in the US; [c] stated that the locks in Panama are to be completed by 2013 and could have a potential impact on the City; [d] stated that the Port of Palm Beach District is looking for 3,500 acres of land to house warehouse distribution and light manufacturing buildings; and [e] spoke of the jobs that could be created by the project. Commissioner Muoio [a] stated that she likes the idea of creating new jobs; [b] expressed her concern over the environmental impact on the area; and [c] stated that the project could be created as a green project. The Mayor of Palm Beach Jack McDonald [a] stated he could not make a decision until the Town of Palm Beach had been given a presentation on the project; and [b] stated that the Town's initial concern is in regard to the port's inlet. The Mayor [a] inquired if this project would require the elevation of Route 710; [b] expressed her concern regarding the loss of green space; and [c] stated she would write letter encouraging the Port of Palm Beach District to be environmentally sensitive as they move forward with the project. Commissioner Douglas suggested that the Mayor write a letter in opposition of the expansion of Route 710.**

4.	<p><u>City Center Pioneer Hall</u> – Ms. Merchant stated that on behalf of herself and numerous Sheriff Departments, she would like the City to consider honoring former Police Chief William Barnes. The Mayor [a] suggested turning the lobby area of the new City Center into a place where multiple people could be honored; [b] suggested that former Police Chief William Barnes should be the first person to be honored; [c] stated that due to the lack of an honoree protocol, she would write a letter and create a DVD to present to the Chief announcing to him that he will be one of our honorees when the new City Hall is built; [d] stated that staff would continue to work on a protocol for selecting the honorees; and [e] requested that Jack Frost look into the protocol issues. Commissioner Robinson [a] stated he was in favor of Chief Barnes’ nomination; and [b] expressed his concern that people may be nominated because they have good public relations people working for them.</p>
2. & 7.	<p><u>Northboro Elementary Fees Waiver and Waiver of Fees for Swim Team Usage of Aquatic Center</u> – Planning Director Wu [a] stated that there are numerous issues with Northboro Elementary School permit applications; [b] stated that the school has requested a waiver of all of the fees; [c] stated that the engineering fees are \$32,000 and the planning and zoning fees are \$8,900; [d] stated that the school board informed him that they have never paid planning and zoning fees and do not wish to set a precedent by starting now; and [e] stated that the school board requires Commission approval and land use rezoning to move forward with the project. Engineering Services Construction Supervisor Moree spoke of the fiscal impact that the school not paying fees would have on the City. Commissioner Moss [a] noted that the City is encouraging the redevelopment of its schools; [b] asked whether the school board pays these fees to other municipalities; and [c] inquired whether the City should absorb some of the costs in order to partner with the school district to rebuild the community. Mr. Moree responded that he could not find an example of</p>

	<p>municipalities waiving fees for school districts. Commissioner Douglas [a] stated that partnering with the school board would be a great asset to the City, but that fines are a different issue since they are created by the contractor; and [b] noted that school traffic calming measures are still in effect even when the schools are not open. City Administrator Mitchell stated that he would look into that issue. Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Rockwell [a] stated that the City is required to pay \$58,685 to the school board for use of schools during the summer months, while the school board uses the Northwood Youth Empowerment Center and Gaines Park for free; [b] stated that the school board wants to host swim practice during hours when the City does not have staff present; and [c] suggested charging the school board \$1,900 for the extra staff time needed to guard the pools while they are in use. Principle of Palm Beach Lakes High School Collins [a] stated that the school board is charged \$900 to use the pool in Gaines Park; [b] noted that the school board allows the Police Athletic League use of its football fields; [c] stated that the fee change was not budgeted for this year; and [d] suggested that the fee be waived until next year to allow the school board to budget for it. Commissioner Robinson suggested an Interlocal Agreement regarding the use of facilities by both the City and the school board. The Mayor [a] stated that the City needs to better inform schools of fee increases; and [b] suggested that the Commission use money from the Discretionary Fund to pay for pool fees this year. It was the consensus of the Commission to use the Discretionary Fund to pay for pool fees.</p>
3.	<p><u>Update on Forest Hill Boulevard</u> – Commissioner Moss [a] stated that Forest Hill Boulevard is in need of reconstruction; [b] noted that the road is a state highway; [c] stated that the State said the City has to either agree to the State’s plans or take the road over; [d] noted that the price to take the road over was too expensive; and [e] stated that he would like the State to maintain the road as a residential connector between</p>

	<p>Dixie Highway and Interstate 95. Traffic Engineer Collins [a] stated that the project can be broken down into two pieces: from Parker Avenue west and from Parker Avenue to Dixie Highway, which poses the biggest problem for the City; [b] noted that the Department of Transportation (DOT) would like to build a five lane roadway built to their standards; [c] stated that the City will present a plan to the DOT on Friday, October 03, 2008 to keep the road from Parker Avenue to Dixie Highway as four lanes and create a medium; and [d] noted that the City may be asked to come up with additional funding for the landscaping. The Mayor iterated that the plan needs to be brought to the community before the Commission allows the project to move forward.</p>
5.	<p><u>Amendment II</u> – Commissioner Muoio [a] announced that the November 4, 2008 ballot contains an amendment that states that partners in civil unions would not be allowed to share health benefits; [b] would like the Commission to send a letter in opposition of the amendment; [c] noted that several counties and municipalities have stated they are against the amendment; and [d] suggested that the Law Department draft the letter.</p>
6.	<p><u>Construction Services</u> – Commissioner Douglas [a] asked for an update regarding the Construction Services Department and whether the Construction Services Task Force recommendations will be implemented. Deputy City Administrator Miller [a] announced that a spreadsheet with an action plan will be distributed to employees for their input; [b] stated that the City is looking for a team leader for certain sections to help with the implementation plan; and [c] announced that customer surveys will be conducted in the next few weeks.</p>

<p>8.</p>	<p><u>School Use in Office/Commercial Zoning District</u> – Attorney Kino, on behalf of Dr. Allen, Executive Director of Children of Purpose, operated by Full Gospel Ministries, [a] spoke of the Full Gospel Ministries’ work in the community; [b] stated that they have interest in building a kindergarten through twelfth grade school on a site in the Office/Commercial Zoning District that does not allow schools; and [c] asked for a text amendment to allow schools in Office/Commercial Zoning Districts. The Mayor [a] stated that the City received a request from the Business Development Board not to take commercial property off the tax roll; and [b] suggested that the views of the Business Development Board on this particular issue be reviewed as well. Planning Director Wu [a] stated there are not a lot of Office/Commercial Zoning Districts in the City; [b] stated that the Board would like the City to initiate the zoning change; and [c] asked for a text amendment to the Zoning Code to allow to change Office/Commercial Use Districts to Class B Special Use Districts. The Mayor expressed her opinion that she does not want the City to initiate the amendment. Commissioner Moss expressed his opinion that an Office/Commercial Zoning District is not an appropriate location for a school, due to the impact a school would cause on the Office/Commercial Zoning area.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><u>Billboards</u> – Commissioner Moss [a] noted that the Ordinance that permits billboards to be moved within the City in exchange for allowing one to be put up in the industrial areas has expired; [b] asked that the City reinstate the Ordinance or make it permanent because there are still several billboards in the City that he would like to have moved to industrial areas; and [c] stated that the revenue generated by billboards is good for the City. Planning Director Wu [a] noted that billboards generate \$45,000 a year plus 3% annual increase in revenue, or 15% of the annual advertising revenue; [b] stated that a business policy decision must be made regarding this matter; [c] asked whether electronic billboards would be allowed; and</p>

	<p>[d] noted that Planning Staff opposes electronic billboards. It was the consensus of the Commission to allow digital billboards. Commissioner Mouio suggested that standards be implemented for digital billboards. It was the consensus of the Commission to allow the relocation program to continue to allow two billboards to be moved in exchange for allowing one to be put up in an industrial area.</p>
10.	<p><u>Vegetation Pickup</u> – Commissioner Moss stated that [a] vegetation pick up is currently subjective; [b] refuse collectors will not pick up vegetation piles that have been split between neighbors; and [c] the very large vegetation pile ups caused by the hurricane season in August and September will not be picked up, but an amnesty period exists in April and May to allow people to prepare for the upcoming season. Director of Public Works Alfred responded that [a] the trucks pick up ten cubic yards and all the surrounding areas have the same requirements; and [b] landscaping companies have been known to drop vegetation from other areas for the City to pick up. The Mayor [a] iterated that the City does not have the manpower to take up the commercial slack from the landscapers; [b] stated that picking up vegetation that people put out right before a storm encourages the dangerous behavior of cutting vegetation right before a storm hits; and [c] stated that this matter will be looked into and discussed in the following month.</p>
12.	<p><u>Other</u> – Commissioner Douglas [a] thanked staff for interacting with the construction industry; and [b] noted that staff is reaching out to the industry for help in finding a new Director of Construction Services.</p>
11.	<p><u>Mayor's Matters</u> – This item was not discussed.</p>
13.	<p><u>Adjournment</u> - 11:48 a.m.</p>