

MAYOR/COMMISSION WORK SESSION

March 30, 2009

Commission Chambers – 10:11 a.m.

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

1.	<u>Financial Update</u> – Finance Director Sherman [a] presented the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR); [b] stated that due to further reduction in property values there could be a shortfall in the budget of around twelve million Dollars; [c] stated that City department’s budgets should be ready by the end of April; and [d] stated that currently the City has forty to fifty vacancies which equates to around three million Dollars saved. Commissioner Mitchell [a] suggested that it would be beneficial to plan for further decreases of State funding moneys. City Administrator Mitchell stated that the union contracts will be a good place to look for savings. Commissioner Robinson stated he would like to see the Parks and Recreation Department become more efficient. Commissioner Moss inquired into the effect that the stimulus money will have on the City’s budget over the next few years. The Mayor stated that [a] the stimulus money will be used for capital projects; and [b] the City could apply for stimulus money for the Police Department. It was the consensus of the Commission to create a resolution which would enable the City to qualify for stimulus money for the Police Department.
3.	<u>Stimulus Update</u> – Assistant City Administrator Balbis [a] stated that team leaders are being assigned to review each aspect of the stimulus bill; [b] stated that the team leaders are looking at projects that the City already has ready or other projects that they feel could be funded using stimulus money; [c] stated that seventy-nine projects were identified that could

	<p>be considered for stimulus money; [d] stated that fifteen projects were identified for the energy and environmental section of the stimulus package; [e] stated that proposals are going to be sent to the City's lobbyist to be vetted to see which projects would have the best possibility of being funded; [f] spoke of the possible returns that the City could collect from the proposed programs. The Mayor stated that the issue would be further discussed at the next Agenda Review Meeting.</p>
2.	<p><u>Traffic Study Narcissus Avenue</u> – Raphael Clemente of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) [a] stated that Narcissus Avenue between Clematis Street and Banyan Boulevard is currently a one way southbound road; [b] stated that the DDA has been looking into turning the road into a one way northbound road to allow for better access to the private and public garages; [c] stated that the DDA is concerned that the Waterfront Commons Project being created will divert traffic away from the main parking areas; and [d] suggested that the City look into changing the road into a two way road. Commissioner Mitchell stated that people should be able to head north on Narcissus Avenue. Mr. Heggen, from Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., stated that [a] he has been working with the DDA and City staff to look for a solution to the issue; [b] he has looked at converting Narcissus Avenue into a two way road; [c] keeping the roadways narrow would help control speeding on the road; and [d] the southbound parallel parking space would have to be eliminated in order to turn the road into a two way street. Commissioner Mitchell stated that the businesses along the Narcissus Avenue alley should be contacted with regards to any changes that would be made. Parking Systems Administrator Olley stated that any changes to traffic patterns should be tested before they become permanent.</p>

4.	<p><u>Presentation of School District's Forest Hill High School's Entranceway Plan</u> – Planning Director Wu [a] stated that the school district of Palm Beach County would like to offer the City \$32,000 to \$50,000 for the easement along Northboro Elementary School; [b] stated that Forest Hill High School owes the City \$5,400 in permit application fees; [c] stated that the school district would like the City to waive the fees for Forest Hill High School; and [d] presented a summary of all the fees that the School District charges the City for the use of its facilities. Commissioner Moss [a] stated that if the City waives the permit fee for Forest Hill High School they would use those dollars to improve the entranceway to the school; [b] stated he would like the School District to waive the fees for the use of their facilities; and [c] suggested meeting with the school district to discuss the fee issue further. Mr. Moore, Chief Operating Officer for the School District of Palm Beach County, [a] stated the school district would support having the permit fees waived and support using the money for the redevelopment of the entrance way to Forest Hill High School; [b] stated that construction has stopped for Northboro Elementary School due to permit issues; and [c] suggested creating an interlocal agreement to address the user fees issue. The Mayor [a] stated that the School District should pay the City for the land at Northboro Elementary School so that construction of the school can continue; [b] stated that the City would use the money from the sale towards the redevelopment of the entranceway to Forest Hill High School; [c] stated that the contract should be ready for the next Mayor/Commission Meeting; and [d] stated that Parks and Recreation Director Thrower would talk to the School District over the user fees. Commissioner Mitchell stated [a] that a discussion should be had with the School District over the user fees; [b] that she does not support charging the School District for the right of way land for Northboro Elementary School; and [c] that she would like to see the final plans for the Forest Hill High School drop off area. Traffic Engineer Collins stated that the estimated cost</p>
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	<p>for the beautification of the entrance to Forest Hill High School would be around \$50,000 to \$70,000.</p>
6.	<p><u>Addressing the Problem with Condominium Assessments and High Foreclosure Rates</u> - Commissioner Mitchell [a] stated that due to banks only paying assessment fees on foreclosed condominiums for six months, existing condominium owners are being passed on fees by their associations; and [b] inquired if Director of Housing and Community Development Johnson could see if moneys from the Foreclosure Program could be used to alleviate the situation. The Mayor directed staff would look into the issue.</p>
5.	<p><u>Island Grill</u> – Commissioner Douglas asked for an update on the relocation of the mobile food vendor Island Grill. Senior Urban Designer Flis stated that [a] the City and the DDA met with Island Grill and identified five possible locations for them to relocate to; [b] the DDA is working with them to set up a meeting with a real estate broker; [c] the DDA has provided them with information regarding their grant programs and other funding opportunities that may be available to them; and [d] it is now up to Island Grill to decide if they wish to pursue a lease with any of those locations.</p>
7.	<p><u>Proposed Bill Limiting the State’s Ability to Protect Wetlands</u> – Commissioner Muoio [a] stated that there is a proposed bill which would limit the State’s ability to protect wetlands from development; and [b] suggested sending a letter to the State stating that the City is against the bill. The Mayor stated that the City’s lobbyist should be contacted to see how the City should proceed with the issue.</p>
10.	<p><u>Grand Opening Event</u> – The Mayor [a] spoke of the events occurring surrounding the opening of City Center; and [b] suggested the Commissioners get together and decide amongst themselves who should make the dedication speech.</p>

	<p>Commissioner Douglas stated that [a] Mrs. Osborne had been promised that she could sing at the dedication; and [b] she would like school children to have the opportunity to visit the new library. Commissioner Muoio suggested having buses going out to the western communities to allow people living in the west to come to the dedication.</p>
8.	<p><u>Event Parking</u> – Commissioner Douglas [a] inquired into the City’s plan for the old City Hall’s parking pit; and [b] stated she thought it could be used as a fundraising opportunity for not-for-profit organizations. Parking Administrator Olley stated that [a] Catalfumo Construction and Development, Inc., has requested to lease the pit from the City; [b] Evening Valley Parking on Clematis Street have requested to use the pit during the evenings; [c] staff are looking at setting a rate for the pit; [d] she would bring any proposal for the pit to the Commissioners; [e] there could be opportunities for fundraising for not-for-profits at other parking locations.</p>
9.	<p><u>Ordinance Against Tethering Dogs</u> – Commissioner Douglas stated [a] that the County has an ordinance addressing this issue but it is not enforced due to the City not having an ordinance; and [b] she would like the City to create an ordinance.</p>
11.	<p><u>Other</u> – The Mayor [a] stated that the school buses are having problems with the 39th Street traffic calming area; and [b] directed Traffic Engineer Collins to investigate the issue. Commissioner Robinson stated that the Traffic Calming Committee approved the traffic calming on 39th Street.</p> <p>Commissioner Robinson [a] stated that there is a new bill dealing with fire keys to be used in all buildings that are six stories or more; and [b] asked that Administration look into the issue before the Agenda Review meeting on April 13, 2009.</p>

	<p>Commissioner Douglas [a] stated that the Code Enforcement staff have brought up some safety issues over their move to the Public Works Department; [b] inquired if the Human Resources Department could look into the issue; and [c] stated that the Code Enforcement Department would be a good candidate for the efficiency study.</p> <p>Commissioner Muoio [a] updated the Commissioners on the MPO meeting; and [b] stated that the City had not qualified for any of the stimulus money. The Mayor stated that the City is trying to get the appropriation from Tallahassee regarding the issue.</p> <p>Commissioner Moss stated that an organization is looking to build a spay, neuter and adoption center for pets, and had been promised land by the City so that they could build it. Planning Director Wu stated he would look into the issue.</p> <p>Commissioner Moss [a] inquired if the County would be paying for the maintenance of the South Cove Project; and [b] stated that before the City allows the project to go ahead the maintenance issue needs to be resolved. City Administrator Mitchell stated he would look into the issue.</p>
13.	<u>Adjournment</u> – 12:06 p.m.