

MAYOR/COMMISSION WORK SESSION

May 11, 2009

Commission Chambers – 10:10 a.m.

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

- 1. Discussion on Proposed Projects for Energy and Conservation Block Grant – Recreation Campus Manager Redford stated that [a] in order for the City to receive money for the Energy and Conservation Grant, the City would have to pass a resolution; [b] the formula grant would bring in around a million dollars; and [c] the City will also be applying for competitive grants from the State. Commissioner Mitchell suggested creating a grant to put capacitors on residential dwellings to reduce energy loss. Mr. Vazquez, Chair of the City's Green Task Force; [a] presented the task force's top five priority projects: (1) Green Mobile Homes Project, (2) the City Center Solar Project, (3) the Green Pavilion at the Water Front Commons Project, (4) LED Lights in the City's Parking Garages Project, (5) the Solar Litter Compressor Project; and [b] stated that the task force would be willing to look at Commissioner Mitchell's capacitor idea. Commissioner Moss [a] stated he would like the Task Force to look at ways that the City could aide homeowners with green conservation programs; [b] stated he would like staff to see if there are grants available to provide residents with rain barrels; and [c] suggested looking to see if FPL would be willing to do energy surveys of people's homes to make them more energy efficient. Commissioner Muoio [a] stated that Commissioner Mitchell's idea could be a good idea to implement in the green home program; and [b] thanked the committee for doing a good job. Commissioner Douglas stated she would like to see a trial of the solar trash compactor program on the waterfront. The Mayor**

	<p>[a] stated that on June 25th the City needs to submit a plan of action for the first round of expenditures for the energy block grant money.</p>
2.	<p><u>Water System Update</u> – Assistant City Administrator Balbis [a] gave an update on the City’s water supply; [b] stated that allowing consecutive watering days when the city is on water restrictions makes it hard to refill the City’s water reserve tanks; [c] stated they are talking with the Water District to look at changing the water demand days when the City is on water restrictions; [d] stated that it has been observed that people water their lawns for longer periods of time when water restrictions are in place; [e] stated that the City is on schedule for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Health Department consent order; [f] stated that the initial tests for the Renaissance Project have been successful; [g] stated that the C-51 canal will be tested for an additional two months; and [h] stated that the City has received a draft interlocal agreement which would allow the City to take three million gallons of water a day from the County. Commissioner Muoio [a] inquired if the City should enforce more stringent water restrictions; [b] expressed her opinion that the City needs to find alternatives to surface water; and [c] stated that the City needs to look for conservation programs to offer to the public. Commissioner Mitchell suggested looking at two water systems that could be offered, one for irrigation and the other for drinking water. Commissioner Robinson [a] stated that the company who is hauling the City’s sludge piles are driving through the residential area of 7th Street; and [b] inquired if a penalty fine could be given to those drivers using 7th Street. Director of Public Utilities Hanks [a] stated that the Public Utilities Department has been working on the water pressure issues, especially in the western communities; [b] stated that the water plant’s automation system is being updated; [c] stated that the City’s sludge pile is being reduced; [d] stated that the City will be changing its chlorine conversion from gas to liquid;</p>

	<p>[e] stated that he would look into the 7th street truck driver issue; [f] stated that the City is on schedule to resolve all of the Health Department's concerns; [g] gave an update on the maintenance of the water systems pump system; and [h] stated that the City of Lake Worth has asked the City to sell some water to them.</p>
3.	<p><u>Other</u> – Commissioner Douglas [a] stated there are some multifamily units that are having their water turned off due to lack of payment for non-water usage fees on other properties owned by the same owner; [b] expressed her opinion that a complete analysis and review needs to be done of City's collection and billing policies; [c] expressed her opinion that the City needs to be proactive with payment plans; and [d] stated that an online payment procedure would be a good idea for the City to adopt. Assistant City Administrator Balbis stated that [a] the City's billing policies are in line with the City's surrounding municipalities; [b] the City is willing to set up a payment plan for those customers who are unable to pay their utility bill; [c] the City's rate study states that the City has to recover its cost; and [d] he has not seen any gross errors which would require a more detailed review of the billing system. Commissioner Mitchell expressed her opinion that there needs to be [a] a greater length of time from the date that the customer receives their bill to when the bill is due; and [b] clearer information to indicate when the bill is past due.</p>
3.	<p><u>ECR Solids Discussion</u> – This item was not discussed.</p>
4.	<p><u>Audit</u> – This item was not discussed.</p>
5.	<p><u>Discussion of Application for Certification for Small Businesses</u> – Commissioner Moss [a] expressed his opinion that the registration process for small businesses needs to be simplified; [b] stated he would like a committee to be appointed to look at streamlining the small business application form; and [c] stated</p>

	<p>he would like to receive a response in sixty days. The Mayor stated that the City would have to work with the County on this issue. City Attorney McKenna stated that she and Finance Director Sherman would look at the issue and find a solution.</p>
6.	<p><u>Western Roads Projects Workshop</u> – Commissioner Muoio stated she would like to have a meeting addressing all of the proposed roads for the western communities with the County, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the local municipalities. Commissioner Robinson stated he would like to know the County’s plans for Australian Avenue. The Mayor stated that the City should explore with County, MPO and Florida Department of Transportation’s staff to see what format they would like the meeting to have. Commissioner Mitchell suggested talking with the Army Core of Engineers.</p>
7.	<p><u>Temporary Parking Lots</u> – Commissioner Moss stated that it has been brought to his attention that should the City allow CityPlace, LLC to use one of their vacant lots for temporary parking, that other owners would be eligible to convert their empty lots into temporary parking lots. It was the consensus of the Commission to have the Law Department look at the issue. City Attorney McKenna stated she would prefer that the policy be on a year to year basis. Mr. Hallihan, General Manager of CityPlace, LLC, stated a year to year basis would not be favorable due to the significant investment required to create the temporary parking lot. Ms. Harris, Attorney for CityPlace, LLC stated she would prefer a two year contract, but would consider an eighteen month contract if necessary.</p>
8.	<p><u>Mayor’s Matters</u> – This item was not discussed.</p>
11.	<p><u>Other</u> – Commissioner Mitchell stated she would like an update of the budget on how the City is dealing with the ten million dollar shortfall.</p>

	<p>Commissioner Robinson stated that he would like an ethics evaluation done on the City's Youth Violence Prevention Projects for the next City Commission Meeting.</p> <p>The Mayor stated that [a] the next Mayor/Commission Worksession should be held in the Flagler Gallery; and [b] budget and youth empowerment issues should be the first topics discussed at the next Mayor/Commission Worksession.</p>
13.	<u>Adjournment</u> – 12:25 p.m.