

MAYOR/COMMISSION WORK SESSION

June 8, 2009

Commission Chambers – 10:06 a.m.

Present: Mayor Frankel, Commissioners Douglas, Mitchell, Moss (arrived at 10:19 a.m.), Muoio, Robinson Jr., City Administrator Mitchell, City Attorney McKenna and City Clerk Kauthen.

- 1. Forest Hill High School/Parker Avenue – Senior Planner Roach [a] presented possible solutions to alleviate the traffic problems surrounding Forest Hill High School; [b] stated that the School Board has drafted an Interlocal Agreement outlining which parties are responsible for each section of the project; [c] stated the City will take the money from the sale of the land at Northboro Elementary School and put it towards the construction of the new road configuration; [d] stated that the total project cost would be approximately \$200,000; and [f] stated that when buses are not being used at the school, a temporary barrier would be erected to stop cars from using the bus lane. Commissioner Moss stated that [a] the east side of the road would be landscaped by the residents that own the lots; and [b] the City would only be responsible for planting and maintaining the medians. Traffic Engineer Collins stated that [a] money for the project would come from gas tax reserves; and [b] if the City was to focus on the turn-around and the center medium, it would alleviate some of the problems. Budget Manager Brown stated that the gas tax is used for the general maintenance of the City's roads. Commissioner Mitchell [a] stated that since the City is renovating the golf course, there could be funds available for landscaping since the golf course's entrance is on Parker Avenue; [b] expressed her opinion that the City should look at other ways to solve the congestion problem without using capital dollars. Commissioners Douglas and Robinson expressed their opinions that the project needs to commence**

	<p>immediately in order to be completed before the school year starts in August 2009. The Mayor stated that [a] the planning of the project should continue; and [b] at the next City Commission Meeting, the Commissioners could look at some of the capital projects and see what they would like to do with the project at that time.</p>
2.	<p><u>Flagler Drive and Waterfront Commons Construction</u> – The Mayor stated that [a] the City has the ability to complete the Water Front Commons Project quicker if the affected parts of Flagler Drive are shut down for a short period of time; [b] she would like to have meetings with the affected residents and businesses in the area to gauge their feelings on the issue; [c] the alternative would be to stretch the project over a longer period of time, which would inconvenience more people. City Commons and Waterfront Project Manager Goldberg stated that the street would be close for a maximum period from the end of June to the end of October 2009 from Flagler Drive north of Evernia to south of Banyan Boulevard. Commissioner Mitchell [a] stated she would like a further discussion on the issue; and [b] expressed her concern that closing down Flagler Drive would impede ambulances going to Good Samaritan Hospital. Commissioner Moss stated that he would be in favor of keeping a lane open if the price of the project was not adversely affected. It was the consensus of the Commission to have City Commons and Waterfront Project Manager Goldberg talk with the residents and businesses of the affected area and the Fire Department.</p>
3.	<p><u>Discuss Cancellation Date for Commission Meetings in July and August</u> – City Administrator Mitchell [a] stated that a Resolution had been prepared to cancel July 13, 2009 Commission Meeting; and [b] presented some dates for the Commission to consider cancelling in August. Commissioner Muoio suggested cancelling the August 24, 2009 Commission Meeting. It was the consensus of the Commission to cancel the</p>

	July 27, 2009 Commission Meeting.
4.	<u>Priorities Commission Requests</u> – The Mayor [a] stated that she has been meeting with all the department directors to discuss what their priorities are and how the City can focus on efficiency; [b] suggested that requests made by the Commissioners that will require a lot of staff time should be brought to Commission Worksession to give it a priority status; and [c] stated that staff needs to let her and the Commission know if a request will take an excessive amount of time. It was the consensus of the Commission to priorities requests.
5.	<u>Neighborhood Improvement Bond (General Obligation)</u> – This item was not discussed.
6.	<u>Library Hours</u> – Commissioner Muoio stated that [a] the City’s library is only open on Fridays and Saturdays until 5:00 p.m.; and [b] she would like the library to explore ways of extending their hours on those days. The Mayor [a] stated if an extension of the hours was to occur, it should only be done over the summer months. Deputy City Administrator Miller stated that [a] a survey has already been done of the library’s hours; [b] additional funds would be required to extend the hours; [c] she would look into the issue and get back to the Commissioners by the following week. Commissioner Moss suggested looking at having sections of the library open for extended times.
7.	<u>Budget Update</u> – Finance Director Sherman [a] stated that the latest figures indicate there will be a 18.7% drop in property revenues; [b] stated that a public workshop would be held in the next few weeks to address the issue; [c] stated that the budget request shows the expenditures will go up by \$4 million; [d] stated that there has been a decrease in the City’s revenue sources; [e] stated there is a \$9.7 million shortfall; and [e] presented different millage rates for the Commission to consider. The Mayor [a] suggested that the Commission look

	<p>into raising the millage and raise the fire fee to keep the revenues the same; and [b] stated that the City is in the process of creating a City employee co-op on services. Commissioner Mitchell inquired as to when an executive session could be scheduled to discuss employees' contracts. Commissioner Moss suggested looking at the repayment schedule of the CRA. It was the consensus of the Commission to hold an executive session to look at labor contracts.</p>
8.	<p><u>Mayor's Matters</u> – The Mayor stated that [a] the bid team is putting together a NSP2 Grant to buy more foreclosed properties; [b] the City will be sharing the County's grant writer; [c] she would like to use the Energy Grant to light up some of the areas in the City that are in need of additional lighting; [d] she would like the Police Department to look at where additional energy efficient lighting would help with the reduction of crime; and [e] stated that the City is working on building a green house.</p> <p>Commissioner Muoio stated that [a] she would like to get some additional lighting on Jog Road; and [b] the Energy Grant Committee stated that replacing the lighting fixtures in the parking garages would have a large energy conservation impact.</p>
9.	<p><u>Other</u> – Commissioner Muoio asked for an update on Mr. Vasalo's request to change the address on his property. City Attorney McKenna stated that the issue will be coming to the Commission in the near future.</p> <p>Commissioner Robinson thanked the City for hosting the League of Cities' meetings.</p> <p>Planning and Zoning Administrator Jones-Vann stated that [a] the Planning Department had received a request from Mr. Smith to rebuild his billboard, which was destroyed in a storm;</p>

	<p>[b] the billboard was built before the land was annexed into the City; [c] currently the code does not allow Mr. Smith to rebuild his billboard; and [d] stated that if the code was rewritten it would not only apply to Mr. Smith, but to all billboards in the City. Planning Director Wu stated that in order to allow Mr. Smith's billboard to be erected, there would have to be a change in the code. Mr. Smith stated that [a] the billboard used to generate \$10,000 in revenue; [b] the billboard was erected when the property was located in Palm Beach County, before the property was annexed into West Palm Beach; and [c] he would like to be given a special exception. Commissioner Muoio stated she would not be in favor of changing the code. Commissioner Douglas [a] stated that she would support finding a way to get Mr. Smith's billboard up; and [b] suggested that the City look into allowing billboards in industrial areas. Commissioner Mitchell stated she would like the Mayor to decide when the issue should be revisited. The Mayor [a] suggested Mr. Smith come back with a proposal to address this issue; [b] suggested Mr. Smith look at the value of the billboard; and [c] stated she would put the topic in a queue to be considered. Commissioner Moss stated he likes the idea of having the billboard in industrial areas next to major highways.</p>
8.	<p><u>Mayor's Matters [Continued]</u> – The Mayor [a] explained the issue of Redevelopment Manager Briesemeister obtaining another job outside the City; [b] expressed her opinion that Redevelopment Manager Briesemeister has done an excellent job with the CRA District; and [c] suggested seeing how the situation works out before any decisions are made. City Attorney McKenna [a] stated that all City employees are allowed to have outside employment as long as it is approved by their supervisor; [b] stated that Redevelopment Manager Briesemeister's outside employment approval form can be revoked at any time should the arrangement not work out; and [c] outlined the terms of Redevelopment Manager</p>

	<p>Briesemeister's new arrangement. Commissioners Muoio and Mitchell expressed their concerns regarding Redevelopment Manager Briesemeister's salary only being reduced by \$11,000 a year. Commissioner Douglas expressed her opinion that the north end of the City has been revitalized thanks to Redevelopment Manager Briesemeister. Commissioner Moss [a] expressed his concern that if Redevelopment Manager Briesemeister is not in the office, then other staff members would be required to take on more tasks; and [b] suggested promoting a staff member into the director's position. Commissioner Robinson stated he would like the CRA area expanded to the greater northwest area of the City. Commissioner Mitchell [a] stated she was not comfortable with a part time Redevelopment Manager working for a city that is in direct competition with our City; and [b] suggested looking into hiring another CRA Redevelopment Manager. Redevelopment Manager Briesemeister [a] spoke of the work she has done for the City; [b] spoke about expanding the CRA to include the greater northwest area of the City; [c] stated that she would work whatever hours would be necessary to complete the commitments that she has made to the CRA; and [d] stated that she did not foresee any conflicts of interest with her proposed contract.</p>
10.	<u>Adjournment</u> – 12:28 p.m.