

**WORKSHOP MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF REDINGTON SHORES
TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2006 – 7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

Present upon roll call: Commissioner Adams; Commissioner Branch; Commissioner Wojcik; Vice Mayor Holmes; Mayor Armstrong; Attorneys Denhardt and Hammonds; Steve Andrews, Building Official

OLD BUSINESS

Appointment to Boards: Mayor Armstrong indicated that there are still 2 vacancies on the Parks & Recreation Committee, and 2 on the Financial Advisory Committee that need to be filled. Mayor Armstrong urged the Commission to encourage any interested residents to send in a letter of intent to the Town Hall in time for an appointment to these Committees by the June Commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Firefighter Pension Funding Shift – Chief Graves: Chief Graves of the Seminole Fire Department spoke to the Commission with regard to recent legislation that allows collection of premium tax dollars from cities that the fire department serves. Chief Graves indicated that this is money already paid by homeowners, but is currently directed elsewhere other than to the Firefighters' Pension Fund. Attorney Jim Denhardt confirmed that this is not a new tax, just redirected dollars. Chief Graves also said that the Town's fire rating has gone from a "5" after the loss of the Redington Station to a "2", which is excellent – a "1" being the best rating. The Commission agreed to vote on the proposed Ordinance at the June meeting.

Presentation – Attorney Denhardt: Attorney Jim Denhardt presented an overview of the State's public records and Sunshine laws. In attendance was Attorney Chris Hammonds, Mr. Denhardt's associate. Mr. Denhardt reviewed policies involving more than one Commissioner at the same function, when attendance restricts discussion about possible voting issues. Mr. Denhardt also reminded the Commission that all memo's or correspondence from or to them is public record. Commissioner Adams asked about the weekly undergrounding meetings and more than one Commissioner in attendance. Mr. Denhardt said that is allowed so long as nothing is discussed regarding possible votes by the Commission. Further explanations were given regarding acceptance of gifts (not allowed – ask Attorney); conflicts of interest; variances and planning & zoning decisions. Mr. Denhardt commented that most variances should be applied to unusual lots, and granting variances should be few and based on the 6 criteria. Mr. Denhardt urged the Commission to make use of planning services to revise any codes that could avoid problems such as complaints or appeals from residents.

FDOT Funding for Date Palm Trees: Vice Mayor Holmes stated that the FDOT has set aside 1 ½ % of the budget to landscape area districts. The FDOT has offered \$150,000 to place date palms on Gulf Blvd., but the commitment for the money needs to be done soon. Vice Mayor Holmes said a letter of intent has already gone out, and a resolution must be done next. Sam Ireson, resident and landscape expert, said that the palms are drought resistant, and would do well on the medians. Mr. Ireson offered to help make a beautification plan that would comply with the Florida Communities Trust Grant; a resolution will be prepared for the June meeting.

Newlin Property Sale Status: Commissioner Branch explained that Larry Newlin's property adjacent to Spitzer Park has had 3 different surveys, but there is still a question about which survey is accurate, and whether the lot

split produced buildable lots. Discussion ensued regarding the lot split being recorded and a reasonable cost for the property. It was agreed that Commissioner Branch and Attorney Denhardt will meet again with Mr. Newlin to come to some kind of agreement on the issue.

Governor's Hurricane Conference Debriefing: Mayor Armstrong gave a synopsis of the workshops she attended at the recent hurricane conference. Mayor Armstrong cited re-entry after a disaster and a National Incident Management System (NIMS) as 2 focal points of the conference. The Mayor will ask Casey Wojcik, Emergency Management Commissioner, to review the information, and would like all of the Town's employees to take the course for NIMS.

Commissioner Adams, who also attended the conference, gave an overview of his workshops, especially the area of meteorology, storm tracking and storm surge.

Commissioner Branch attended and participated in workshops on debris removal, insurance fraud and environmental concerns including boat safety, and the purchase of authentically "hurricane proof" equipment.

Employee Evaluation: Commissioner Adams said that Steve Jordan's evaluation, scheduled for 1 ½ months ago, had just been completed. Commissioner Adams recommended a 2.5% raise, from \$16.62 per hour to \$17.04 per hour, effective immediately. Upon further discussion Commissioner Adams moved to approve the 2.5% raise effective retroactively to April 24, 2006; Commissioner Branch seconded. Roll Call: all yes. Attorney Denhardt advised that the vote needs to be ratified at the regular June 13 meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

Vice Mayor Holmes asked about the status of the La Vistana easement. Attorney Denhardt said that it is basically stagnant at this point; the owners are negotiating the easement, but also do not have a certificate of occupancy. It was suggested that if there is no progress in 30 days that permitting should be held up.

Vice Mayor Holmes then asked about the status of the requests to vacate right of ways on 2 properties. Building Official Steve Andrews said that after discussions with both parties at the Wall Circle location there are still some areas of contention; Mr. Denhardt advised that the area should not be vacated if it violates the settlement issue between the 2 parties. Mr. Denhardt said that the Resolutions are ready to be heard at the next regular meeting, but legal descriptions need to be provided to the Town by both parties requesting vacates. Mayor Armstrong indicated that the Lee Avenue property is ready to be paved, and asked if it should be postponed until the vacate of ROW is complete. It was agreed to set a meeting between Mayor Armstrong and J. J. Beyrouti, owner of the Lee Avenue property.

Bob Holthaus, Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Board, asked whether the decision by the Board to grant the lot split for Larry Newlin's property would be affected by the current variations in the surveys, and whether the lots are actually "buildable." Attorney Denhardt explained that it is the owner's responsibility to come forward with accurate information.

Attorney Denhardt referred to the Big C meeting scheduled for May 31, 2006, and asked that the Mayor mention that the Pinellas Charter Revision Committee meeting is Monday, June 5, 2006. The Town opposed several Resolutions from the County recently, and Mr. Denhardt feels that more officials need to express their opposition to the proposed Resolutions, in order to have a strong impact.

Meeting Adjourned
Respectfully Submitted,

Patti Herr
Administrative Secretary

