

**MINUTES  
SEMINOLE CITY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2008**

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The Regular Meeting of the Seminole City Council was held on Tuesday, June 24, 2008, in the City Hall, City Council Chambers, 9199 113<sup>th</sup> Street North, Seminole, Florida.

James Johnson, Mayor, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The invocation was given by Councilor Patricia Hartstein followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present were: Councilors John Counts, Peter Hofstra, Dan Hester, Patricia Hartstein and Bob Matthews; Vice Mayor Thomas Barnhorn; Mayor James Johnson; City Attorney John Elias; City Manager Frank Edmunds and City Clerk Lesley DeMuth.

**INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

Mayor Johnson presented a proclamation to the Kiwanis Club of Seminole in appreciation for their donation of solar blankets for the swimming pool at the Family Aquatic Center.

Ms. Jackie Shotwell, American Cancer Society, presented Mayor Johnson with a plaque in appreciation of the City's co-sponsorship of the Relay for Life.

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Dr. Jim Olliver, St. Petersburg College, told Council how much the college appreciates its continued partnership with the City, and was pleased to tell Council the College banners have been ordered and will arrive about July 9. Dr. Olliver advised Council the Habitat Park is moving forward, the College is starting a credit course in sustainability, and he invited Council to the College's 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Wednesday, September 3, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

Tom Christy, 11224 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North, congratulated the groups present tonight. He advised Council he had a chance to look at next year's budget, and expressed his concern for public safety. He advised Council he had some specifics that he will take up with them at the public meetings.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING JUNE 10, 2008.**

Motion by Councilor Hofstra, second by Councilor Hester to approve the minutes of June 10, 2008.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION

**3. CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AN ENGAGEMENT CONTRACT WITH FANTASIA PRODUCTIONS FOR SOUND & LIGHTING SERVICES DURING THE 2008 MUSIC IN THE PARK SERIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,400.**

Motion by Councilor Hartstein, second by Councilor Matthews to authorize the City Manager to execute the engagement contract with Fantasia Productions for the sound and lighting services at the 2008 Music in the Park series in the amount of \$2,400.

In response to questions by Councilor Counts, City Manager Edmunds stated based on the fee for service there is not a requirement for this item to go out for public bid, and he felt the price is competitive. City Manager Edmunds advised Council this company has provided these services for the past eight years, and has provided a high level of service.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION

**4. CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE ENGAGEMENT CONTRACTS WITH THE 2008 MUSIC IN THE PARK MUSICAL GROUPS.**

Motion by Vice Mayor Barnhorn, second by Councilor Counts to authorize the City Manager to execute contracts with the 2008 Music in the Park musical groups as recommended.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION

**5. CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION TO EXPEND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDS NOT TO EXCEED \$3,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO SOLAR BLANKET REELS.**

Motion by Councilor Hartstein, second by Vice Mayor Barnhorn to approve the expenditure not to exceed \$3,000 from the Capital Improvement Program Fund for the purchase of two solar blanket reels to be used for storage of solar pool blankets at the Family Aquatic Center.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION

**6. CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION TO EXPEND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDS NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE SAND FILTER FOR THE SWIMMING POOL.**

Motion by Councilor Counts, second by Councilor Matthews to authorize the expenditure not to exceed \$2,000 from Capital Improvement Program Funds for the purchase of one sand filter for the swimming pool.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION

**7. CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE VEHICLE USE AGREEMENT WITH THE SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY.**

Motion by Councilor Counts, second by Councilor Hartstein to authorize the City Manager to execute the amended 2008-2009 Pinellas County School Board Bus Agreement.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION

**8. CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH WACHOVIA BANK FOR A LINE OF CREDIT IN THE EVENT OF A DECLARED EMERGENCY AND TO EXPEND CONTINGENCY FUNDS FOR LEGAL FEES ASSOCIATED WITH ACQUIRING THE LINE OF CREDIT.**

Motion by Vice Mayor Barnhorn, second by Councilor Matthews to authorize the City Manager to execute an Agreement with Wachovia Bank for a \$10,000,000 Line of Credit, in the event of a Declared Emergency and to expend approximately \$5,000 in Contingency Funds for related legal fees associated with acquiring the Line of Credit.

Councilor Hester asked if this is a full fledged commitment, and not a contingent commitment. City Manager Edmunds stated it is. The authorization being granted this evening is for the City Manager to proceed in the event the City needs the funds in a declared emergency. City Manager Edmunds stated there is no expense associated with this authorization until such time as the City Manager calls for the line of credit.

In response to a question by Vice Mayor Barnhorn on the expense for the line of credit, Administrative Services Director Kyne stated there will be no expense until the City actually signs the documents to draw the money down.

Councilor Counts asked if there is a disaster and the City is not collecting taxes are we sure they will extend the line of credit. City Manager Edmunds stated he would not understand any reason why they would not. He reminded Council the City already has a reserve of \$3.5 million that we would be well into before the request for these funds is initiated.

In response to a question by Council Counts regarding fees, Administrative Services Director Kyne stated there will be legal fees that they anticipate will be less than \$3,500, and then the City will begin to pay the normal principal and interest payments. The City has \$3.5 million in emergency funds, but has a cash flow of about \$8 million. Administrative Services Director Kyne stated the expectation is that the City will begin to get FEMA money within a few months of our first draw, but having this extra draw to cover the City until that time is a nice protection. The City will pay the debt first before paying ourselves back. This will limit the amount of exposure as far as interest.

Mayor Johnson asked what the interest rate is, and Administrative Services Director Kyne stated it is Libor plus 11.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION

**9. CONSIDER APPOINTING A VOTING DELEGATE FOR THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AUGUST 14-16, 2008.**

Motion by Councilor Counts, second by Councilor Hartstein to appoint Vice Mayor Barnhorn as the City's voting delegate during the Florida League of Cities Annual Business Meeting.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION

**10. PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2009 OPERATING BUDGET.**

City Manager Edmunds presented the 2009 Fiscal Year Operating Budget, which is in compliance with Amendment One requiring a significant reduction in ad valorem tax revenues for all cities in the State of Florida. The proposed budget of \$16,688,647 is a reduction of \$1,213,914, or 6.8 percent less than the current operating budget. City Manager Edmunds stated the City does experience some operating cost increases in law enforcement, library services and public works services which he will explain in detail at a future workshop, but he thought most importantly the proposed budget will allow the Council to establish the current millage rate of 2.4793 mills for the upcoming fiscal year. City Manager Edmunds stated he was proud to have met the challenge faced by the results of Amendment One, and he looked forward to the opportunity to discuss in detail the proposed budget with Council at a workshop which he is suggesting be scheduled on July 16, at 6:00 pm.

In response to questions from Councilor Hester on the City's revenue base in 2010 and 2011, City Manager Edmunds stated he felt it will be slightly more in 2010, with the same upwards trend in 2011. City Manager Edmunds stated the City has a couple of projects that they know of that are not all residentially based, and based upon this information they feel fairly good that the prospect of these projects is going to continue. He stated he would be glad to speak to this in greater detail during the workshop, and he has already looked at 2010. City Manager Edmunds stated he felt comfortable that the City can meet the service needs of the community going into 2010 and thought the City's past practices of being conservative in our budgeting is in the best interest of the City, as well as the City staff.

**11. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS.**

Vice Mayor Barnhorn reported he attended the Miss Seminole Send-Off to the Miss Florida Pageant, and the Suncoast League of Cities Meeting. At the Suncoast Meeting a request was made for members to bring back to their Council's a request to have the City Managers discuss if it would be a benefit for cities to consider co-opting with one another on some employee benefits to save money. There was no objection from Council.

Councilor Hartstein reported she attended the Suncoast League of Cities Meeting, and encouraged Council to read their Quality Cities magazine which lists how the State Legislators voted on home rule issues.

Mayor Johnson reported he attended the public meeting on the widening of Starkey Road.

**12. CITY MANAGER REPORTS.**

City Manager Edmunds reported:

- The Annual Tri-if-You Dare Kids Triathlon is Sunday, June 29.
- A workshop has been scheduled prior to the July 8, business meeting at 6:00 pm for a presentation of an electronic agenda format, and following the business meeting a workshop is

scheduled for the annual evaluation of his performance; documents have been submitted to Council for their review.

- Staff met with Pinellas County Utilities regarding concerns raised on an offending odor coming from the Pinellas Trail. There was a problem, and Pinellas County has taken the steps necessary to mitigate the issue, and they feel they have resolved that condition.

Councilor Hester asked City Manager Edmunds if he can explain how the speed limit change came about on Park Boulevard, heading east, and if the City is ticketing people there.

City Manager Edmunds stated the City is doing some traffic enforcement westbound. Previously there was 45 mph signage just west of Starkey. Now as you travel west by the county park, the City has put in significant signage to alert drivers that there is a reduction in speed to 35 mph coming into the Home Depot intersection and the Seminole Boulevard intersection; keeping in mind Seminole Boulevard and Park Boulevard is one of the highest accident locations in the county. When the City requested the signage to reduce to 35 mph westbound from Starkey, the general feeling was that it had to have a corresponding 35 mph eastbound and this is where it has caused some confusion. There was a 45 mph sign just east of the Home Depot that has been replaced with two 35 mph signs. City Manager Edmunds stated he had a meeting with the County's Department of Transportation, and it seems this is an appropriate action, but it has caused some emails and telephone calls.

City Manager Edmunds stated he would submit that the City may want to have Tampa Bay Engineering look at the speed for eastbound traffic, but he would still strongly support 35 mph westbound coming into the intersections. The City Code requires 35 mph throughout the City where it is not posted 25 mph, with the exception of Seminole Boulevard which is under the jurisdiction of the State Department of Transportation.

**13. OLD BUSINESS.** None.

**14. NEW BUSINESS.**

In response to a question by Vice Mayor Barnhorn on the new Pedestrian Safety Law, City Manager Edmunds stated the City is not required to provide additional signage, but he alerted the driving public that there is new legislation regarding a motorist's responsibility to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.

Mayor Johnson stated he noticed the property next to Fire Station 29 is up for sale, and he asked what is the acreage of the property.

City Manager Edmunds stated the property is 1.5 acres. Earlier this year he had individual conversations with members of Council regarding the acquisition of the property, and he did not sense a consensus from his individual conversations that there was an interest to purchase. City Manager Edmunds stated if there is an interest, he would be glad to pursue it. The property could potentially, in the long term, have some value to the City, but right now other than acquiring it and preserving it he did not see an immediate need for it. City Manager Edmunds stated he has had conversations with the property owner who is willing to sell the property for the appraised value, which is \$550,000.

Motion by Vice Mayor Barnhorn, second by Councilor Counts to request the City Manager to pursue the acquisition of the property for the City.

MOTION FAILED.

**15. CONSIDER A MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.**

Motion by Councilor Hester, second by Councilor Hofstra to adjourn.

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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Lesley DeMuth, City Clerk

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James Johnson, Mayor