

**MINUTES
SEMINOLE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2008**

The Regular Meeting of the Seminole City Council was held on Tuesday, April 22, 2008, in the City Hall, City Council Chambers, 9199 113th Street North, Seminole, Florida.

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

ROLL CALL:

Present were: Councilors Patricia Hartstein, Dan Hester, Peter Hofstra and Bob Matthews; Vice Mayor Thomas Barnhorn; Mayor James Johnson; City Attorney John Elias; City Manager Frank Edmunds and Deputy City Clerk Ginger Stilton. Councilor John Counts asked to be excused.

INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS: None.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING APRIL 8, 2008.

Motion by Councilor Hartstein, second by Councilor Hester to approve the minutes of April 8, 2008.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION

3. CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION TO EXPEND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,000.00 FOR STORM WATER DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE ROADWAY ALONG PINEHURST DRIVE, FROM GREENBRIER TO AUGUSTA BLVD.

Motion by Councilor Matthews, second by Councilor Hartstein, to expend Capital Improvement Funds in the amount of \$12,000.00 for storm water drainage improvements on the south side of the roadway along Pinehurst Drive, from Greenbrier to Augusta Blvd.

City Manager Edmunds explained the drainage project was anticipated in the Seminole Lakes Country Club neighborhood area due to occasional flooding during heavy rains along this section of roadway. Due to an apparent delay in receiving results of the Master Drainage Plan currently underway, City Manager Edmunds stated he would rather not wait, and prefers to proceed with the engineering of the project at this time. In response to Councilor Hester's question regarding the delay in the Master Plan, City Manager Edmunds explained the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) recently sent the notice of delay with an amendment to the Agreement. SWFWMD is requesting a project extension by one year. The amendment provides for an extension to June 2009, and is scheduled for City Council authorization at the next business meeting. City Manager Edmunds stated, by all indications, SWFWMD has incurred some baseline survey data issues for the entire region, which not only impacted this project but caused them to put all projects on hold until the issues were resolved.

Asked to expand on the \$12,000 improvements; City Manager Edmunds explained these funds are for the engineering of the design improvements, and there will be no duplication when the Master Drainage Plan comes in. At a later date, Council would be presented with an amount necessary to complete the construction.

In response to a question from Councilor Matthews describing standing water on sidewalks, City Manager Edmunds did not view standing water on sidewalks as an immediate issue, and explained that right now, the main concern is focused on water within the roadway right-of-way in a 25 year storm event. He added there are plans to repair sidewalks in certain areas of the City, but they would not fall under this plan.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION

4. CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION TO EXTEND TRANSPORTATION IMPACT FEE FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,100.00 FOR SIDEWALK AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS ON 70TH AVENUE.

Motion by Vice Mayor Barnhorn, second by Councilor Hartstein, to expend Transportation Impact Fee Funds in the amount of \$10,100 for additional costs for sidewalk and drainage improvements on 70th Avenue.

Councilor Hester inquired as to how the unanticipated expenditure for additional fill came about. City Manager Edmunds responded that this particular project piggy-backed on a Pinellas County item based contract in which the contractor underestimated the quantity originally provided to our Public Works Director. In addition to the fill in the swale area, there was additional concrete work in the vicinity of the McDonalds restaurant at the intersection that was not originally anticipated. City Manager Edmunds stated that in the future, he has encouraged the department to do lump sum contracts, in order to know up front what the maximum amount will be.

Vice Mayor Barnhorn asked the City Manager to further elaborate on the expenditure, which he explained that the authorization is to expend Transportation Impact Fee Funds which are not “tax dollars”, but funds that developers have been assessed within the community for this type of activity; of which the balance is currently in excess of \$400,000. In addition, several improvements in the community are anticipated which will be completed utilizing these funds.

City Manager Edmunds responded to a comment by Councilor Hester regarding developers; stating that in reality, we have had two large developments at the east end of 70th Avenue which certainly adds to the pedestrian traffic, and it is appropriate that they pay it, rather than the balance of the community pay for it.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION

5. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS:

- Vice Mayor Barnhorn reported he attended the Tribute for Frances Stavros for her dedication to the youth in the community, and for the scholarships which she has given to PTEC South. He also assisted in the Relay for Life opening ceremonies at Osceola High School, and read a

Proclamation. In addition he assisted in the first annual Help a Child Blue Ribbon Walk and 5K Race held at Walsingham Park.

- Mayor Johnson expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation to everyone for their thoughts, and prayers and for the many cards he has received since his recent transplant. Mayor Johnson reported he is doing well in his recovery, however, he is back to work on a limited basis.

6. CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

- City Manager Edmunds reminded Council about the upcoming Annual Retreat Workshop, May 6, 2008. Refreshments will be available at 5:00 p.m. with the Workshop scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m.
- City Council was directed to a request from Councilor Hofstra, for a workshop to revisit employee compensation. City Manager Edmunds stated he awaits the City Council's pleasure on this request, at which time Mayor Johnson opened the floor for Council discussion.

Councilor Matthews asked the Council to reserve this request until next year's budget session to allow staff time to compile related information for Council's review. In response to Councilor Hartstein's request for clarification of what budget year he was referring to; Councilor Matthews stated he would like to wait until later, when they begin to look at FY 2010 to revisit the employee compensation issue.

At the request of Vice Mayor Barnhorn, City Manager Edmunds outlined the budget schedule for Council; stating he is required to submit the budget by July 1st, however he anticipates submitting the budget in advance of that date, then in July and August the Council discusses the budget in workshops and it is scheduled for two Public Hearings in September and for adoption effective October 1st. In response to a question asked if it would it be appropriate to discuss this issue prior to the upcoming budget workshops, City Manager Edmunds offered that there will be an opportunity at the Annual Retreat Workshop to conceptualize the FY 09 Budget and should Council wish to discuss the issue, that would be a good time to do it. Also adding, it could be a stand alone workshop, a discussion during the Retreat, or wait until the budget workshops in July and August.

Councilor Hester recognized that at a previous workshop, the majority of Council felt there was nothing wrong with what was in place, but he asked Council if there would be any objections to having the City Manager research, and provide to Council some viable plans identifying a different structure than we have today, to allow them to see the impact on both sides; the employee and their family, and the City of Seminole. Councilor Hartstein added that because this is such a significant discussion, it needs to be a stand alone workshop where Council can give their full attention to the issue and feels it should be held prior to the budget workshops in July and August. The City Manager stated he would be prepared to present the requested information to Council on May 27, 2008, in a workshop after the regular business meeting.

- City Manager Edmunds stated that Councilor Hartstein provided him with the name of a facilitator whom the Suncoast League of Cities had worked with, and as a result he has obtained a cost proposal, should the Council decide to have a facilitator work with them on revisions to the current Mission Statement. The cost is \$200 per hour or \$500 per three hours to revisit the Mission Statement as requested by Councilor Hartstein. The City Manager suggested that should Council decide to use the services of a facilitator for the purposes of revising the Mission Statement, that it would be more appropriate to schedule this as a separate workshop and not part of the May 6th Annual Retreat.

Mayor Johnson agreed with Councilor Hartstein’s desire to revisit the Mission Statement, however he stated the current Mission Statement is a very good one, and is pretty conducive to what they want. Discussion followed regarding the pros and cons of such expenditure during this particularly difficult budget year. The consensus of Council discussion was that the current Mission Statement was very good. Councilor Hartstein expressed her views on why she felt revisiting the Mission Statement was important, but agreed that if the consensus of Council was happy with the current Statement, then it would stand.

7. OLD BUSINESS: None

8. NEW BUSINESS: None

9. CONSIDER A MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

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

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION

Date Approved: _____

Ginger Stilton, CMC
Deputy City Clerk

James Johnson
Mayor