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COALITION OF BARRIER ISLAND
ELECTED OFFICIALS MEETING
WEDNESDAY – JUNE 15, 2016 - 2:00 PM
ANNA MARIA CITY HALL ~ COMMISSION ROOM
10005 GULF DRIVE, ANNA MARIA, FLORIDA

MINUTES

Pledge of Conduct: We may disagree, but we will be respectful of one another. We will direct all comments to the issues. We will avoid personal attacks.

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Murphy called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL:

Mayors: Anna Maria Mayor Dan Murphy, Bradenton Beach Mayor Bill Shearon, Holmes Beach Mayor Bob Johnson, and Longboat Key Mayor Jack Duncan.

Commissioners: Anna Maria Commissioners Carol Carter, Doug Copeland, Chuck Webb, and Dale Woodland; Bradenton Beach Commissioner Jan Vosburgh; and Holmes Beach Commissioners Jean Peelen and Carol Soustek.

Also present: Anna Maria Finance Director Maggie Martinez and Anna Maria Deputy Clerk II/Finance Debbie Haynes.

Press: Sun News Reporter Pat Copeland and Islander Reporter Tal Reeve.

Public Comment – None.

1. City Mayor Updates:

Longboat Key – Mayor Duncan

- **1 Cent Sales Tax** – Mayor Duncan informed Manatee County wants to begin implementing a sales tax with the idea of bringing in more tourist tax dollars to pay for services in the County. With this in mind, the Island Mayor's, recognizing Anna Maria Island is the tourist destination for the County, began realizing a high percentage of the tourist dollars are coming from the Islands. As a result, there was discussion as to whether the Islands would be receiving their fair share of the money for the purpose of infrastructure.

Mayor Duncan informed Longboat Key, population 6,800, experiences an additional tourist population of 17,000 during the tourist season. Anna Maria brings in approximately 13,000 tourists, along with a high number of tourists in both Bradenton Beach and Holmes Beach during season. The Islands have a responsibility to provide amenities for the tourists because they come to go to the beaches. As a result, there's a need for relief.

Though not yet agreed upon by the County, the Mayors have discussed the concept that 10% of the tax would be set aside for the Barrier Islands. Negotiations and legal discussions will continue with Manatee County until they vote on the item scheduled on June 21, 2016. Significant dollars will be seen if the concept is accepted by the County. Further clarification followed by *Mayor Johnson*.

Mayor Shearon noted due to timing, the Mayor's had not yet had an opportunity to present the proposal to their various Commissions. Approval will be needed from each of the City's/Town Commissions.

Mayor Shearon publically thanked Longboat Key City Manager Bullock and his staff who has served as the lead on this project.

Commissioner Peelen thanked the Mayor's for their coordination and addressing the County with the joint concept.

Public/Press Comment – *Mayor Murphy* responded that both he and Mayor Johnson met with some of the County Commissioners earlier that day. Mayor Duncan and Mayor Shearon have also met with some of the County Commissioners. Explanation followed.

Mayor Murphy clarified the 1Cent sales tax was originally was to be combined with the school – ½ Cent for County and ½ Cent for the School. That is no longer the case. The County is now seeking their own ½ Cent Sales Tax, and the School will be seeking a separate ½ Cent Tax.

Commissioner Soustek spoke in favor of the proposed concept.

- FDOT / County Response to Island Mayor
"Quick Fix" Suggestions

Mayor Duncan reported FDOT will be adding the ideas presented to them for relating to relief of the traffic concerns on the Islands to one of their studies. He felt the Mayor's should discuss a strategy for readdressing FDOT and taking the issue back to the table. He suggested FDOT be asked how to move the concerns through their system without having to go through a study, and then waiting for years to finally be funded.

Mayor Johnson informed a short list of items needing addressed had been sent to other related municipalities and jurisdictions – with zero response.

After discussion, Mayor Murphy agreed to take the lead and readdress the issue with FDOT.

Commissioner Soustek felt it was confusing how the Coast Guard does not communicate relating to the bridge opening requests. She felt it shows a failure on the part of the Coast Guard.

Public Comment

Jill Morris, 307 Spring, Anna Maria, acknowledged and supported the importance of the four Cities working together. She thanked each Mayor for all their contributions.

- Stationary License Plate Recognition Cameras

Longboat Key Police Chief Pete Cumming implemented the Stationary License Plate cameras in Longboat Key approximately three years ago. The cameras function 24/7 and capture images of license plates. Via the cameras, the Police Department's in-house dispatch is alerted of any associated charges or crime attached to the registered owner of the vehicle. This amounts to around 80 alerts per 10-hour shift.

Commissioner Soustek said she had been very impressed with how the cameras are utilized in Longboat Key. As a result, Holmes Beach Chief Tokajer had been asked to conduct a study on the cameras. Results of Chief Tokajer's study was presented. Chief Tokajer is continuing to research what he feels would be best for the Island, then will bring the information back to the BIEO at a future meeting.

Commissioner Soustek suggested the Manatee County Beach concession funds be utilized for purchasing the cameras that will cost \$70,000 to \$100,000 to initiate the system. She suggested there be cameras at Cortez, Manatee, and Coquina. Additional details followed with Commissioner Soustek feeling the cameras should be pursued.

Chief Cumming provided further details relating to the administration of the cameras within his department. He explained the cameras provide information relating to open crimes.

Commissioner Peelen voiced her opposition stating the Island does not have a high crime - and felt implementing the system would be an intrusion into private affairs.

Mayor Shearon will ask Bradenton Beach Chief Speciale to contact the county relating to the cameras. He asked Chief Cumming to share any information he has with Chief Speciale.

Public Comment

Donna Harris, 4909 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach, expressed her opposition to installing the cameras. feeling it does not fit with the Old Florida feel. Ms. Harris noted the public was not made aware when Holmes Beach dropped the speed limit from 35 M.P.H. to 25 M.P.H.

Mayor Murphy felt the cameras, in the wrong hands, could become a detriment. He mentioned there are other locations where the cameras as used for political motivation, over-aggressiveness, etc.

Chief Cumming explained the system is monitored and if found to be abused, the officers are then disciplined.

Mayor Johnson has no objection to understanding the benefits of the camera system. However, he felt it was important to recognize the type of environment - and if implementing the system would be a positive or negative move. While there is advantages from an investigative support, he as far as proactive policing, is still unconvinced - and in no hurry to implement the camera system.

According to *Mayor Duncan* and *Chief Cumming*, Longboat Key residents were in favor of the camera system. Further discussion followed.

Holmes Beach- Mayor Johnson

CDBG Interlocal Agreement with Manatee County - Holmes Beach Commissioners approved engaging with the County with regard to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for the next three years. He encouraged the other Cities to do the same.

Bradenton Beach- Mayor Shearon

CDBG Interlocal Agreement with Manatee County - Bradenton Beach Commissioners will be reviewing amendments to the CDBG Interlocal Agreement. He anticipates they will approve it for an additional three years.

Tropical Storm Colin - Bradenton Beach's day dock will be closed for approximately three weeks due to being compromised by Tropical Storm Colin. At their next meeting, the Commission will discuss how to proceed with getting it back open. The storm also caused damage to the Pier, and a report has been submitted to the County for FEMA assistance.

Bridge Street Project - The project is near completion.

The Commission is looking into a submerged land lease as a result of the boats that broke loose that caused the damage.

Anna Maria - Mayor Murphy

Ordinance relating to False Advertising – The Anna Maria Commission just passed an Ordinance relating to false advertising as it relates to Vacation Rentals. Details followed.

Mayor Duncan asked if any software was available that would flag vacation rentals in conflict with required regulations. He suggested the four Island communities look into such a program. He further questioned if Longboat Key had the in-house resources to create such a program.

Additional Business

Legislative - Vacation Rental - *Commissioner Peelen* asked to report on the Florida League of Cities and the ManaSota League of Cities at the next BIEO meeting. She provided a brief report relating to the City's power involving regulation of Vacation Rentals.

Commissioner Peelen was acknowledged for her participation with the ManaSota League relating to the Vacation Rental legislation.

Beach Mats - *Commissioner Peelen* read a letter she had written to the County Commission requesting the installation of beach mats for six months each year at both the Manatee County Beach and Coquina Beach. Charlie Hunsicker, Manatee County, has indicated his only concern relates to turtles. Turtle Watch Representative Suzi Fox sees no concern.

Commissioner Peelen requested the letter be placed on letterhead and supported by all Island City Mayors. She reminded all three Cities must agree to the use of the concession fund money.

Discussion followed relating to types of maintenance, cost, etc. It was agreed that the letter be written with the exclusion of how the mats would be paid for.

Home Sweet Home – *Commissioner Carter* announced the Home Sweet Home organization was in the process of incorporating in order to pursue application for a 501 (c) (3) status.

2. Set Next Meeting Date and Location.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 20, 2016, 2:00 p.m. at the City of Bradenton Beach.

3. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Murphy at 3:29 p.m.



Diana L. Percycoc, CMC, City Clerk