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COALITION OF BARRIER ISLAND ELECTED OFFICIALS MEETING

**WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 15, 2017
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

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Dan Murphy at 2:00 p.m.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Bob Johnson - Holmes Beach, Mayor Dan Murphy – Anna Maria, Mayor Bill Shearon - Bradenton Beach, Vice Mayor and Commissioner Phill Younger – Longboat Key, George Spolt - Longboat Key, Commissioner Carol Soustek - Holmes Beach, Commissioner John Chappie – Bradenton Beach.

Public Comment

1. City Mayor Updates:

Bradenton Beach – Mayor Shearon

- Water Taxi

Mayor Shearon spoke on behalf of the water taxi. He stated that Sherman Baldwin is here to talk about the water taxi. Sherman Baldwin is currently in front of the City of Sarasota Commission to have a Ferry Boat service from Sarasota to Bradenton Beach and possibly a stop at Anna Maria. Sherman Baldwin stated that this would be like a uber like service. He would need parking spaces from Holmes Beach, approximately 3 spaces. He would like the support of the cities to get a vote to support the service.

Mayor Johnson asked what who he sees the clients to be? Mr. Baldwin stated that it would be an 8 a.m. service until 10 p.m., 7 days a week and will target locals, commuters, day trippers. He also stated that they want to change the concept of having a better movement around the Sarasota area. Sarasota and Bradenton beach will be their first taxi and to have some additional stops in the Bradenton, Ellenton and Palmetto. The anticipated cost would be \$12.50 for a roundtrip service and employer and employee passes will be an option with a good fare structure.

Commissioner Soustek stated that as for parking in Bradenton Beach Mr. Baldwin also stated that there are many taxi services, Uber lift, and etc. which will lessen the parking spaces needed. It was stated that the next agenda item will be need to be the discussion about the transportation hub. They have also met with officials from Longboat key regarding that.

John Chappie brought up a good point about parking. He stated that the private sector has done so much to increase parking. Parking on the Sarasota end - Section 10-73A they had to address where they plan on placing the parking. They asked for 25 extra spots by O'Leary's and some from Maria Jacks. There is also a large amount of parking in some additional areas near the area.

The City of Anna Maria City Clerk read the letter of support from the Commissioners. Commissioner Chappie stated to strike out the word "Mayors" on the letter. Vice Mayor Younger stated that he doesn't feel comfortable endorsing one competitor. He feels that there should be more bids. He also stated that he didn't touch on the parking enough to make a viable decision.

Mayor Shearon is recommending it as it is the only viable firm that has done paperwork to get approved.

Commissioner Chappie stated that the letter of support from the TDC will be coming but no business was listed in the letter.

Mayor Johnson stated that if we are going on record as a group of people, he would not like to do that. Mayor Murphy stated that he recommends:

1. Reformat your letter leaving out the particular vendor
2. Remove Mayors and use Elected Officials
3. Signed by Mayor Murphy as Chair

Mayor Shearon will re do the letter and submit it again.

Vice Mayor Younger read the changes as we the Elected Officials, remove the second paragraph. The Anna Maria City Clerk will re-type it and recirculate it.

- Transportation Hub Vision

Mayor Shearon has another topic of the transportation hub vision. The ferry will carry 100-150 people so once they get off the boat, where will they go and what will they do. Take public transportation to areas is the key discussion. Monkey bus, shuttle bus, uber driver, bicycle rack and this hub would be close to the trolley. The transportation hub will take them to the other towns and cities. The terminals may have some electronics as to what to see or do on the island. The concept is to have people not to use their cars.

David Ballard and Mary Givens are consultants for this hub aspect. They stated that you need a way to move the people on the island. They want to make the usage more compatible with the current transportation.

Holmes Beach – Mayor Johnson

Correspondence today from the Florida League of Cities representation on the Constitution review committee. He is supporting this lady and would like to encourage people to reassure them.

Longboat Key – Mayor Gans

Vice Mayor Younger stated that the FDOT is looking at the traffic south of Longboat Key, Anna Maria and Cortez. They are looking at 119th Street. He wanted everyone to know that they are starting to get some attention on this.

Beer Can Island which is being breached at this time. They are working on a 5-year constraint on this with Manatee County.

Commissioner Spolt stated that they are considering the bridge opening times. The coast guard is looking at that. They are accepting comments until the 12th of April. Retired Admiral of the Coast Guard is living on the island so this may help us.

Mayor Johnson has taken the lead on this. The public comment stage they are in now he was strongly recommending this to forward it in writing as the fisherman are going to object the reduction in the bridge opening.

Commissioner Chappie asked Vice Mayor Younger how the beach re-nourishment is going. Vice Mayor Younger stated that it has been completed in time constraints and within their budget. He stated that 2019 is when they were going to look at it but with Beer Can Island being breached and they are performing as they were intended. They are adding some additional baffles to help retain the sand a little bit. There will still be issues with nourishment. They are working out a plan that works for all the barrier island. They use terminal growing which is more of a jetty. The reality of Beer Can Island has been there and gone and been there and gone and a lot of people want to keep it.

Anna Maria – Mayor Murphy

- Lobbyist Update

Mayor Murphy the City of Anna Maria hired a Lobbyist in January 2017. The SB188 which was introduced by Senator Stuebe. He stated that the lobbyist is representing us against both bills, the SB188 and the HB425. He met with Mr. Tom Goodson on the Property Rights Committee and he will be discussing HB425 with them. It will then go to Career and Competition Committee and he knows people on that committee. It will then go Regulated Industries Commission and had a discussion with them.

Mayor Murphy stated that on our website we have sample letters, snail mail addresses, and email contacts for the people that you may contact to voice your opposition to the bills. He stressed that these bills will destroy our cities.

On the other side of this there are a few lobbyists working against this bill and about ten lobbyists working for the bill. Four of them are from Air B & B and four of them are from the Vacation Rental Association.

Mayor Murphy stated that he gives our commission an update every couple of weeks and he is willing to share an update from our lobbyist.

Mayor Johnson asked to make sure you put on the website what is new as it changes. This will stimulate more Grass Root voices and reinforcement of that on the website also.

Mayor Shearon would like an update on this so he can report it at their commission meetings.

2. Set Next Meeting Date and Location.

The next meeting will be March 15, 2017 in Bradenton Beach.

Commissioner Soustek stated that we should start reviewing the beach concession funds and start addressing the contract that we have with Manatee County. She would like them to start addressing the funds and to what to use it for. It was discussed to change the resolution and have a list of the projects. She also stated that they need to act on it.

Everyone will receive a copy of the letter regarding the water taxi, review it and send any comments to the Mayor of City of Anna Maria.

Commissioner Soustek suggested having an agenda item to come up with a procedure for a water taxi.

Nancy Gills – Holmes Beach – Replacement bridge between Longboat Key and Anna Maria. It has been attended to for several years. The bridge is still in litigation but the bridge was deemed not to be damaged. Mayor Shearon stated that he was contacted and has an appointment with a firm that is in the final running for the Cortez Bridge design.

Dr. Bob Myers who works for Tampa Bay Ferry commented regarding Ms. Soustek comments about the several parking spots in Sarasota. He would be delighted to work with everyone to move this along. Some type of communication or coordination.

3. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. by Mayor Shearon.