



City of Anna Maria

P.O. Box 779
10005 Gulf Drive
Anna Maria, FL 34216-0779
(941) 708-6130 Fax (941) 708-6134
SUNCOM: 516-6740

MINUTES CITY COMMISSION BUDGET WORKSESSION THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2011 – 6:00 P.M.

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

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL: Mayor Selby, Vice-Chair Mattick, Commissioner Woodland, Chair Webb, and Commissioner Quam.

Absent: Commissioner Aubry.

Staff Present: City Clerk Alice Baird, Finance Director/Deputy City Clerk Diane Percycoe, Finance/Deputy Clerk II Maggie Martinez, Superintendent of Public Works George McKay, Building Clerk/Code Enforcement II Diane Sacca, and Minutes Clerk Stacey Johnston.

Press: Islander.

- *City Attorney Dye* requested a Shade Meeting for him and Attorney Hootman to meet with the Commission relating to the Walker and Friday litigation and also the Nally Litigation.

ACTION: It was agreed that a Shade Meeting would be held at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 11, 2011 prior to the Commission Work Session

1. **Dan Burden, founder of Walkable Communities – Comments about Pine Avenue, City Pier Boardwalk, and the Six Lots at Pine Ave. and N. Bay Blvd.**

Dan Burden addressed the Commission and provided a Power Point presentation. He shared observations he had made relating to the improvements on Pine Ave. and suggestions for the next step to make the area more walkable and livable. Observations and suggestions included:

- Is very clear that incredible progress has been made – including the Pier Boardwalk, potential purchase of the six lots to be transformed into a park, etc.
- People now want to retire, live, and visit where they can socialize naturally and walking comes easy. To accomplish that goal, it is important to re-craft the vision by honoring the materials and to match the character of the community.
- Need for shade with use of trees in clusters and placed in the proper location to honor and protect the street.
- To avoid hot asphalt for those who are walking, new materials and edges should be utilized.
- Need to establish a 100% location for gathering - such as a pocket park.
- Every corner of Anna Maria could be much greener and developed over time.
- Important to continue establishing an urban format versus suburban that will honor the street and places the sidewalk in front of the parking.
- Establish a continuing walking system.

- Discussion relating to the establishment of a biking system separate from the walking system.
- Principles that regulates and slows traffic down:
 - Establish the lane widths no wider than 10-ft (currently 12.5-ft)
 - Crosswalks
 - Put in sheroes – approved markings that gives a strong message to motorists that they are sharing the road with bicyclists. Official bike lanes cannot be put into place unless there is a 4-ft minimum amount of room for the lane and when speeds are up to at least 30 mph.
 - Removing stop signs and installing flat dome mini-circles in the intersections in order to stay in motion. Raised mini-circles could be installed at a later date.
 - Establish a vertical wall of trees.
 - Placement of transit shelters.
 - Add street furniture, trash receptacles, etc. that fit the City.

Public Comment and Questions

Jim Conoly, N. Shore Dr. questioned where delivery trucks, trash trucks, etc. would park.

Mr. Burden informed that the deliveries, trash pickup, etc. would be handled the same as it is currently being handled.

Micheal Coleman, Pine Ave. questioned if the speed limit should be changed.

Mr. Burden explained that the new target speed should be changed through the methods he had described. Once the target speed has been established by the motorists, then the speed limit signs are changed.

Commissioner Mattick said she was in favor of establishing an area for the bikes and giving the appearance that the bikes have the priority.

Margaret Jenkins, Chilson Dr, voiced concern about children being on the streets with the traffic.

2. Continued Discussion – 2011/2012 Budget

Finance Director Percycoe explained the various changes that had been made on the budget since the last budget work session. Discussion included:

Revenues

- Line # 13 – Local Commun Serv Tax – Reduced from current budget amount of \$102,729 to proposed amount of \$94,532.
- Line # 17 – ½ Cent Sales Tax – lowered from \$107,935 down to \$94,729.
- Line # 53, # 59, & # 60 - decrease in budget as a result of the loan payment. A budget amendment will be required prior to the end of the year.

Summary Expense Report

- *Finance Director Percycoe* explained the changes in the 'Personal Expenses' versus the "Operating Expenses'. A portion of the Stormwater utility fees are being utilized for Public Works employees. It was noted that the hours for the current part-time employee will increase to 30-hrs with certain benefits. Explanation followed.
Ref: Line # 3 – Regular Salaries and Wages; Line # 5 – Other Salaries and Wages, and Line # 6 – FICA Taxes.

Commissioner Woodland provided the percentage of salary change for certain employees from 2004 through current. He estimated the percentage at over 25%. Commissioner Woodland noted that a 4% increase had been added for the employees during the 2011/2012 budget and felt it was difficult to justify that much of an increase due to the present economy.

Chair Webb informed that the cost of living increase was up approximately 6%.

Finance Director Percycoe pointed out that the employees are now required to pay 3% into the State Retirement Fund and that each employee has a lot more responsibilities than they did in 2004.

- Line # 7 – Retirement Contributions – adjusted as a result of the new rates originally used.
- Line # 8 – Changes to Employee Insurance – new rates beginning January 1 for the employee health insurance and Finance Director Percycoe to be going on Medicare - which will affect the rates.

Commissioner Woodland voiced his concerns relating to the high employee retirement and insurance costs provided by the City. He felt it was important to get the costs under control for the future. Commissioner Woodland referred to the expenses as 'recurrent expenses'. He stated that with the increasing portion of the 'recurring' budget, it will eventually cause the infrastructure to suffer. He suggested that in the future there should be more employee participation in the insurance, retirement, etc.

Mayor Selby responded feeling the employees of the City were actually part of the infrastructure since they make the City work.

Discussion followed. Commissioner's Quam and Mattick and Chair Webb were in agreement with a 4% increase. Chair Webb suggested that Commissioner Woodland's concerns are addressed after review of the budget.

Review, clarification, and discussion of the proposed budget continued. The following line items in the Summary Expense Budget were also reviewed:

- Line # 34 – Donations – Community Center donation.

- Line # 51 – Contingency Funds – Explanation of what the Contingency Fund was for and how it and the Reserve Fund will adjust based on the millage rate.
- Line # 52 – Pier Reserve Contingency
- Line # 53 – Replenish Reserve fund
- Discussion relating to the Building Dept and costs for the Building Official contract. Additional information will be provided to the Commission.
- Project/Maintenance – Line # 13 – Trees/Plantings/Maintenance and that now is a good time to purchase trees at a reduced cost.

ACTION: After complete review, it was agreed that the next Budget Work Session would be held on Thursday, August 18, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

3. **General Public Comment** – None.
4. **Press Comments** – None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Webb.



Alice Baird, CMC, City Clerk