

**CITY OF ANNA MARIA
SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 14, 2005
6:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL: Commissioner Dale Woodland, Commissioner Duke Miller, Commissioner Carol Ann Magill, Commission Chair John Quam

Absent: Deputy Commission Chair Linda Cramer

Also Present: Joanne Mattick, Sandy Oldham (Anna Maria Merchants Association), Mayor SueLynn, Minutes Clerk Sylvie Reichmann

Press: Sun, Islander

Commission Chair John Quam said that this meeting had been called because the grant application is due on the 17th of June and Mayor would be leaving town on Thursday.

1. Transportation Enhancement Grant

Mayor SueLynn apologized for being late in bringing this before the Commission, and said she could not get to work on it until this last Sunday. The Mayor indicated that Joanne Mattick and she had only just noticed that this grant needed the Commission's approval.

Mayor SueLynn said that \$300,000 would be the maximum amount granted by the FDOT if approved, and that the recipients of the grant would be announced at the upcoming July 25th MPO Meeting. She said that the decisions would be made (as to which grants to submit) at the June 19th meeting to review them. The Mayor said that Joanne Mattick had agreed to attend in her place, since she would be absent next week.

The Mayor said the grant would pertain to the area of the city beginning at Palmetto and Gulf, continuing to the intersection of Pine Avenue and Gulf, then eastward to Bay and including one block northward and southward of Pine on Bay Blvd. She said that the grant's purpose is to enhance and beautify the commercial and ROR districts with trees, bedding plants, solar powered lighting, benches, chairs, trash receptacles, bike racks, and directional and informational signs and markers. The Mayor said that a handicapped accessible dune walkover and viewing platform was planned for the west end of Pine. At the Bay end of Pine, she said that the City would be renovating the two pavilions and making them handicapped accessible. Mayor SueLynn said that the application also includes installing six trolley shelters, and making all existing and new ones handicapped accessible by improving them with concrete pads. She said that the

major element in the grant, and possibly the most controversial, would be a bathroom facility and parking associated with it.

Mayor SueLynn said that the preliminary estimate for completing the projects at today's prices is between \$260- to \$265,000 and that the costs are known to increase yearly. She said that the City had therefore been encouraged to ask for \$300,000 max limit, because at time of construction, that is probably what the will cost.

Mayor SueLynn noted that the contract stipulates that the City would be responsible for any costs above the \$300,000 level. She said that she had been speaking with people familiar with these grants at the MPO, and had been told that seldom is a city required to spend more than the grant. The Mayor indicated that she had nonetheless put in \$30,000 for overages. She said that if granted, the money would not be available until 2010 to 2011.

The Mayor said that she was surprised that there had not been a great deal of detail required in the grant application. She said that she has been advised that in the grant agreement with the Department of Transportation, the necessary details will be addressed.

Mayor SueLynn said that reconstruction or replacement of sidewalks would not be funded, but that new bathrooms would be. She expressed the opinion that this was an opportunity to have bathrooms installed for the public, which at minimum could cost \$25,000 to \$30,000 at the City's sole expense.

In response to a question from Commission Chair John Quam, the Mayor said the City could fund the projects now, and in phases, with a guarantee that the City would get the money back in 2010 or 2011. She said she did not know, at this point, if it would be necessary to do all phases of the grant (i.e., all the projects) in order to be reimbursed.

Commissioner Carol Ann Magill asked if the City's rights-of-way were wide enough to put in handicapped access for all trolley shelters. The Mayor acknowledged that it would not be possible to install handicapped access at every trolley stop.

Mayor SueLynn said the City would be putting in as many trees as possible in the rights-of-way in the business district. She said she was surprised at the flexibility in this application, for the amount of money to be disbursed.

Mayor SueLynn confirmed to Commissioner Carol Ann Magill that no up-front money was required to apply. Commissioner Carol Ann Magill said that she felt many businesses would be glad to donate trees.

Commissioner Duke Miller confirmed that the money would not become available until 2010 – 2011, and that the applicants would be informed whether or not they are approved by July 25th of this year.

Commission Chair John Quam said he did not see any reason why not to submit the application. He said that it appeared that not all of the projects needed to be done in the final version of the grant.

Mayor SueLynn stressed the importance of putting in restroom facilities for an ever-increasing public. She said that for approximately \$70,000, very adequate facilities could be provided.

Commissioner Duke Miller noted that to professionally plan the grant projects would require approximately \$30,000 for engineering and design, and recommended that this amount be budgeted for next year.

Commission Chair John Quam suggested checking the additional boxes on “A” in Construction. Mayor SueLynn confirmed that she had checked “design and build”. Commission Chair John Quam said that his suggestion would include the design and building in the grant. Mayor SueLynn said the City was obligated to put in \$30,000 for overages. She said that her interpretation of ‘connection to the intermodal transportation system’ and the FDOT’s had been very different. She indicated that she would be reviewing the language in the application for flexibility and finalizing it with the benefit of the Commissioners’ suggestions noted at this meeting.

The Mayor noted that in conjunction with the City administration, design and maintenance of the projects would be under the oversight of the EEEEC.

Public Comment

Sandy Oldham noted that the Commissioners had all received letters from local merchants supporting the idea.

MOTION: Commissioner Dale Woodland moved to authorize the Mayor to submit the application for the Transportation Enhancement projects grant, seconded by Commissioner Duke Miller.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

(continued)

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Commissioner Duke Miller moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Carol Ann Magill.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Baird
City Clerk

June 24th, 2005
Date