

M I N U T E S

ADMINISTRATIVE WORKSHOP
SOUTH PASADENA, FLORIDA

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2012
COMMISSION CHAMBERS - 9:07 A.M.

Mayor Peters called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. immediately following the Agenda Meeting and dispensed with opening formalities.

ROLL CALL: VICE MAYOR BRUCE HOWRY, COMMISSIONERS MAX ELSON, LARRY CROWLEY AND MAYOR KATHLEEN PETERS. ABSENT: COMMISSIONER ARTHUR PENNY. ALSO PRESENT: CITY CLERK MARY BRAISTED, CITY ATTORNEY LINDA HALLAS, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR GARY ANDERSON, FINANCE DIRECTOR JAMES GRAHAM, AND PUBLIC SAFETY CHIEF DAYTON SALTSMAN.

The topics scheduled for discussion were John Morroni's dinner for Emergency Personnel and People's Forum, Agenda Comment.

The first topic of discussion was John Morroni's dinner for Emergency Personnel.

Mayor Peters stated that Pinellas County Commissioner John Morroni's dinner for emergency personnel, scheduled for January 27, 2012 at the Hilton St. Petersburg Carillon Park, is on the agenda for Commission approval. She further stated that in the past, Commissioners have attended the dinner. She stated that she cannot attend, but encouraged other Commissioners to attend.

Commissioner Crowley, Commissioner Elson and Vice Mayor Howry stated they would attend the dinner.

Public Safety Director Saltsman stated that he and Deputy Chief Maddalena will be attending the dinner.

All those attending will bring guests to the dinner.

The next topic of discussion was People's Forum, Agenda Comment.

Mayor Peters stated that some cities have public comments first and other cities wait until the end of the meeting.

In response to Commissioner Elson, Mayor Peters stated that the reason for this discussion is that two residents have spoken several times at meetings to have the length of residents' comments be extended.

City Attorney Hallas stated that three minutes are allotted for Agenda Comment. She further stated that the residents feel they should be allowed to make comments per agenda item.

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Commissioner Crowley stated that residents have not been cut off when they speak at the Regular Commission meetings.

Mayor Peters stated that the city of Clearwater allows people to speak on each agenda item.

Vice Mayor Howry and Commissioner Elson stated they feel the public comment at the People's Forum and Agenda Comment should remain as is.

Mayor Peters suggested that public comment be given flexibility when there will be discussion on the redevelopment plan.

Commissioner elect Gail Neidinger, stated that as long as people are afforded the opportunity to speak, she is okay with it.

The consensus of the Commission was that the amount of time allotted for public comment at the People's Forum and Agenda Comment portions of the Regular Commission Meeting remain as is.

Mayor Peters stated she met with Pinellas County Administrator Robert LaSala regarding half of our fire district seceding to the city of Gulfport. She further stated Pinellas County did not take any action by the deadline for them to secede this year (2012). She stated there is sympathy from the Pinellas County Commission for the unincorporated area (fire district) to secede. She questioned whether the Commission wanted to work with the group to change their minds or offer them some concessions. Mayor Peters stated she is not in favor of putting a cap on the millage.

In response to Mayor Peters, City Attorney Hallas stated the State compares the taxable value of the unincorporated area to the taxable value of the entire district, which includes the city and determines the percentage of our fire budget (usually between 18%-22%) that would be assessed to the unincorporated area.

Mayor Peters suggested that the city assume 5% of the State's value versus placing a cap on the millage.

Commissioner Crowley suggested having a rebate program based on the amount of calls. He stated the higher value homes are paying a disproportionate share of the tax.

City Attorney Hallas stated that if the city placed a cap on the millage, she feels the County Commission would find a way to make it happen in order to afford relief to Mr. & Mrs. Israel

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(unincorporated area residents).

Public Safety Director Saltsman stated he feels the Israel's would not be happy with a cap on the millage or a rebate program, but would be satisfied with a millage that is lower than the city's.

Vice Mayor Howry stated he is concerned that city residents would be taxed more if the unincorporated area residents' tax was lowered. He suggested that Pinellas County work with the Israels.

Discussion ensued regarding the fire district, staffing and millage rates.

City Attorney Hallas stated the County wants us to run three men on a shift instead of six. She further stated that currently, the County is paying us for two men and our residents and the unincorporated area residents are paying for four men. She stated that the County is forcing us to have five men on a shift because we have two apparatus.

Mayor Peters stated that we have six men on a shift due to the overtime concerns.

Chief Saltsman stated that the rescue is capable of transporting and that he favors fire transport. He stated that when staff is sent out to do more things, it makes them less available, which could result in increased response times.

Finance Director Graham stated the Commission has to decide how much they want to collect from the fire district and the amount given up would fall to the taxpayers. He further stated that if the Commission wanted to reduce the fire district revenue, then the costs that are submitted to the County would have to be reduced.

Mayor Peters directed staff to draft options regarding the fire district funding for the Commission to consider.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Kathleen Peters, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Mary Braisted, City Clerk
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