

WORK SESSION OF THE CITY COMMISSION
July 13, 2009

The meeting of the Winter Park City Commission was called to order by Mayor Kenneth Bradley at 2:30 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, 401 Park Avenue South, Winter Park, Florida.

Members present:

Mayor Kenneth Bradley
Commissioner Phil Anderson
Commissioner Beth Dillaha
Commissioner Karen Diebel
Commissioner Margie Bridges

Also present:

City Manager Randy Knight
City Attorney Trippe Cheek
Deputy City Clerk Nancy McLean

90 day priorities:

Mayor Bradley commented that the 90 day priorities focus on the most important things that the Commission needs to identify and accomplish. He stated that at their prior 90 day work session they made good progress on their financial discipline which needs to continue. He commended the Commission for taking the appropriate and swift action regarding their utilities. He stated that they will schedule another work session for the next quarter.

The Mayor and each Commissioner listed their priorities as follows:

Mayor Bradley:

- 1) 2010 budget. He commented that this is a high priority that he wants the Commission to focus and spend quality time on.
- 2) Park Avenue Task Force. He believed that aspects of the Economic Plan would come forward and commented that the Park Avenue Task Force has met for the past few months and decisions are close to being made. He stated that this is important, but it should not take a great deal of time for the Commission as the task force brings forward recommendations which they can hopefully support.
- 3) Charter review. He explained that the Commission has discussed interest in doing this but was not certain if they were ready to have a specific review Commission. He asked City Manager Knight to advise him of a precedent or if the Charter discusses how this might be done in a formal way. He expressed that this is not one of his priorities however; if the Commission wishes to elevate this, he will support their desire to do so.

Commissioner Bridges:

- 1) Financial issues. She asked the Commission to consider more of an in-depth discussion about the way they budget and to have an independent and impartial management audit.
- 2) Planning the Possibilities. To see if fellow citizens continue to share the financial support for the concept of the HOPE project to expand the park. She explained that part of this is due to the deadline with the post office property and she expressed frustration because this process has languished. She wanted the Commission to take some decisive action and move ideas forward.

3) Boards and Board interaction with the Commission. She spoke about the board subcommittee recommendations which the Commission agreed to prior to Mayor Bradley's arrival. This included the development of governing policies for the boards that are consistent; to have interaction between the Commission and the boards; and the boards have defined missions and strategic goals that match the Commission's. She wanted the Commission to take some affirmative action on the matter.

Commissioner Anderson:

- 1) Budget. Fully supportive of an in-depth discussion regarding the budget.
- 2) Post office property. He wanted to bring this to closure and believed that it deserves a hearing on how it might conclude if the HOPE project were involved.
- 3) Residential building code (Comprehensive Plan). Would like this to be completed.
- 4) Business development plans. Fully supportive of the business initiatives. He commented that they need to look at their business development plans and what they might entail. He stated that it will be multi faceted with the historic designation and other merchant support efforts.

Commissioner Dillaha:

- 1) Charter review. This was initially discussed so they could bring forward something in March 2010. She expressed that she was in favor of this and believed that having a work session would be a good way to start. City Manager Knight explained that they need to have the ballot language concluded by the end of December in order to get it on the March ballot.
- 2) Strategic initiatives. She addressed the reforestation initiative and suggested involving the Tree Preservation Board. She commented that they have money in the tree fund and they could use some of that for education. She also spoke about the lakes initiative and improving the quality of City lakes. She asked Public Works Director Troy Attaway if the City is currently photo documenting all the shorelines. He responded that they are in the process of doing that in conjunction with the State. She asked that they elaborate on the Plan of Action to see what the shoreline condition is today and how things have changed over the last 10 years in order to know what they might need to do going forward.
- 3) Expand Central Park. Move forward with the plan to expand the park. She commented that this project is a facilitation of the Central Park master plan. She stated that this master plan was to increase the amount of green space downtown and to provide additional activities and other events. She believed it would be beneficial to expand the park and within the next five months see if they can raise the money through donations, at no City expense. She also wanted to have an informal discussion as to whether or not this is the time to expand the park.

Commissioner Diebel:

- 1) Capital Plan. Have a lengthy discussion on the Capital Plan that is put forth in the budget. She believed this would lead to the strength of their bond issue which they are trying to solve and it should be their number one priority. She stated that this either supports or does not support the Capital Plan and the Community Center initiative.

- 2) Form based code. Have a determination on completing the form base code initiative to compliment the comprehensive plan.
- 3) Board Appointments. Completing the board appointments that are vacant.

Mayor Bradley:

- 1) Land Development Code. They discussed this in April and asked if they would be taking action on this. City Manager Knight explained that there would be a Land Development Code ordinance that will come before the Commission in September. Mr. Knight answered further questions.

Mayor Bradley commented that Mr. Knight suggested scheduling a budget presentation next week and that setting the tentative millage rate will be on the July 27 agenda. Mr. Knight expressed that it is up to the Commission regarding the level of detail they want with the budget, but he would be presenting it briefly at the Commission meeting today and they were provided budget books. He explained that he can meet with the Commissioners individually or as a group in work session format to go into the details. Mayor Bradley suggested Mr. Knight keep a list of the key issues that they need to agree on. He stated that the Capital Plan is a priority.

Mayor Bradley suggested having a work session on the budget from 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. and the post office from 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. followed by the regular scheduled Commission meeting at 5:00 p.m. on July 27. There was consensus among the Commission.

He commented that he wants to schedule a work session on the form based code and the residential building code in September. He also wanted to speak about the Economic Plan sometime during a Commission meeting and look at some of the key issues.

In conclusion, Mayor Bradley summarized the key priorities: the 2010 budget and the Capital Plan; the economic initiatives which will ultimately drive our revenue enhancement; complete the residential building code and form based code; have direction or make a decision on planning and funding the Planning the Possibilities as soon as possible; have the management audit during their budget discussions; schedule a meeting to have the board interaction with the Commission and address the Charter review at a work session on August 10.

The meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.



Nancy McLean, Deputy City Clerk