

CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
August 7, 2009

The meeting of the Winter Park City Commission was called to order by Mayor Kenneth Bradley at 8:04 a.m. in the Commission Chambers, 401 Park Avenue South, Winter Park, Florida.

Members present:

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

Also present:

City Manager Randy Knight
Deputy City Clerk Nancy McLean

Absent:

Commissioner Karen Diebel

Budget discussion

City Manager Knight provided a new pro forma and stated that there are revised pages of the Capital Improvement Plan (based on their discussion at the last budget work session) regarding Fleet Peoples Park as to donations versus General Fund Revenue. Mayor Bradley believed that it was important to manage the reserve percentage and to project that as they look at their bonding capacity. Mr. Knight answered questions.

Commissioner Bridges commented that she had concerns about ongoing maintenance of our buildings. She addressed painting, replacing roof tiles, power washing, grouting etc. and expressed that this should be an ongoing part of the budget. Mayor Bradley agreed that it is critical to maintain the buildings. He stated that they will defer this to the City Manager to ensure that all their buildings are kept up to date.

Commissioner Dillaha believed that capital projects are being pushed further out when we have budget constraints. She was concerned about putting projects off, especially those that seem to be priorities of the community. She commented that the pro forma should be more conservative in the next 3-4 years with forecasting. She wanted to cut more from the budget and reallocate funds toward some of the Capital Improvement projects. She suggested possible costs that could be cut to include: the lobbyists; trim \$25,000 in consulting fees from the Planning Department; United Arts; car allowances (perhaps only include department heads), the longevity bonus, the deferred 457 comprehensive plan match; and maybe reduce the 401(a) Money Purchase Plan to 7%.

She summarized the improvements she wanted more funding for: \$295,000 more for streets; maybe the Quest contractor can go back into the budget; \$75,000-\$100,000 for parks; \$250,000 for the pro shop; \$30,000 for the Tennis Center's restrooms/locker rooms; upgrade the Civic Center bathrooms; and \$1,000 per year for newly elected Commission training.

Commissioner Anderson agreed with cutting the lobbyists and wanted to have a discussion on how they set guidelines to control the growth rate for fringe benefit items.

He also wanted to see reduced pension benefits for new hires, both in the General Fund and the police and fire pension program.

Mayor Bradley commented that he would like us to be prepared to address what we would do if there were a 10% or 20% reduction in revenue. He added that he wants capital projects to be prioritized and that pay and benefits and the FTE are to be one of the last places to cut costs. He also voiced concerns with contingencies, Public Safety and road paving.

Commissioner Anderson did not believe that we could sustain a 10% increase in police and fire pensions and would have to be limited to a 6% long term growth rate. City Manager Knight explained that he would be on the August 13 agenda for the police and fire pension boards to talk about reducing the cost of those pension plans by 10–15%. He stated that any type of pension benefit change proposed will take time and it has to go through the bargaining process.

Commissioner Anderson commented that car allowances are part of the current compensation package and believed that if it is taken away it will have to be given back. He stated that United Arts was a priority for the community and it is a tradition that should be done. City Manager Knight gave the Commission additional information on the 401(a) and spoke about the City's contribution to the 457 program for salaried employees. Mr. Knight answered questions.

Mayor Bradley wanted to use the newly adopted comprehensive plan to go out to the building community and to let them know we are "open for business" on certain streets in town. He commented that he was not ready to offer incentives but wants to encourage redevelopment.

Commissioner Bridges wanted to explore the idea of the library having a designated millage. Mayor Bradley asked Mr. Knight to prepare a memo or a PowerPoint presentation on the pros and cons of a separate library millage. Mr. Knight agreed.

City Manager Knight commented that there will be an action item on the August 24 agenda regarding an RFP for Tennis Management Services at Azalea Lane. Commissioner Anderson wanted to know if we can run the tennis center on our own without involving a contract operator. He voiced concerns about losing control of the available hours for open play for residents and the fees that they will be charged.

Commissioner Dillaha wanted a master list of events, the costs, and the departmental budgets that include the costs.

Mayor Bradley commented that when they have the budget discussion in their Commission meeting he would like these line items to have an up or down vote by the Commission. He also wanted to understand the benefits that come from our lobbyist and then decide what they would like to do.

Commissioner Anderson commented that he was less concerned about the 2010 budget as he wants to set the stage for the growth pattern for the next 10 years.

Commissioner Dillaha asked the City Manager to give some recommendations to see where they can reallocate \$600,000-\$700,000.

Commissioner Bridges addressed that residential in the future reflects smaller housing sizes/footprints and commercial changes as well. She suggested that Building Director George Wiggins or Planning Director Jeff Briggs give the Commission some projections on how these trends in new development will be impacting our future budget. She commented that this might be helpful to know what these trends are and what the impacts may be. Mayor Bradley stated that they should also do a comprehensive assessment of their current comprehensive plan and if this happens in the next 5-10 years see what that financial impact will be on our budget either positively or negatively.

The meeting adjourned at 9:39 a.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Cynthia S. Bonham".

Cynthia S. Bonham, City Clerk