

## **INFORMAL MEETING BETWEEN COMMISSIONERS GREG SEIDEL AND PETE WELDON**

**November 14, 2017**

The informal discussion began at 9:06 a.m. in the Commission Chamber, 401 Park Avenue South, Winter Park, Florida.

Present:

Commissioner Greg Seidel  
Commissioner Pete Weldon  
City Clerk Cindy Bonham  
Assistant City Manager Michelle Neuner

Commissioner Seidel called the meeting to order to discuss random issues. Each Commissioner summarized their background. Items talked about consisted of: Winter Park traffic and transportation concerns, the electric debt obligation schedules and other electric issues, the City's reserve balance, stormwater issues, greenspace in the City, and differing opinions of Commission members.

Commissioner Weldon asked Commissioner Seidel what he would do to fix some of the problems. Commissioner Seidel stated it takes good planning and getting good information to make good decisions and you balance the level of service with the expected cost. He further spoke about drainage design. Commissioner Weldon reminded Commissioner Seidel that it is staff's responsibility to execute what he talks about and if he wants to build a relationship with staff because of his expertise and convince them that they should be looking at other approaches to the issues that is where his expertise can influence the outcome or to influence the outcome by bringing issues forward in the meetings where he has spoken with staff.

Commissioner Seidel spoke about wanting to put things into place to help the City. Commissioner Weldon stated he would probably reach a consensus if he provided specific recommendation with regard to where they should be going that relates to improving the data foundations of how they make judgments. He advised Commissioner Seidel not to be frustrated by it but to make recommendations and get approval and rely on staff to execute it without getting in their way.

Discussion ensued regarding infrastructure, running fiber optic cable, and how are they going to measure the improvement that results from the fiber investment. Commissioner Weldon stated he wanted to work with Commissioner Seidel in getting staff to say this is why we are doing it and this is what the improvements mean.

Commissioner Seidel addressed traffic and transportation and the modeling example he provided where they can improve wait times and capacity through the intersections. Transportation issues were further discussed. Commissioner Weldon stressed it is staff's responsibility to deal with issues such as scheduling installation

of sidewalks and working with residents that may or may not want them. Commissioner Seidel disagreed that it should be an issue for the Commission.

Discussion ensued as to what and when staff should be completely handling projects versus what the Commission should be involved with. Commissioner Weldon spoke about the reserves balance, electric undergrounding and potential ways of how to pay for it. Discussion took place regarding the millage rate and the homestead exemption that will eventually happen that will decrease City funds and what can be cut from the budget to compensate for the loss of revenues from the homestead exemption if it passes.

Commissioner Seidel again brought up the issue of electric undergrounding and accelerating it. Commissioner Weldon commented that he would once again study the analysis and numbers to see if that is something that makes sense.

Commissioner Weldon spoke about CRA funds coming in and what they should be spent on. Discussion continued as to what to use CRA funds for such as whether to use CRA funds for undergrounding in the CRA area. Commissioner Weldon stated he would like to see CRA funds used for the project at Morse and Harper that are extensions and compliments of the park.

Commissioner Seidel addressed wanting to see more greenspace and for the City to have an Architectural Review Board and keeping the feel of open space throughout the City. Commissioner Weldon did not see an issue with open space and that the City is on the right track. He expressed the need to find balance and work together towards consensus on issues and not get hung up on what they might be so passionate about that they cannot understand the other person's point of view and reach a compromise. Commissioner Weldon concluded that he will go back and review the electric debt obligation schedule and encouraged Commissioner Seidel to re-read his comments about the wisdom of transferring the electric power lighting to the general fund and the balancing aspects of where they will be one or two years from now with regard to our overall general fund budget.

The meeting ended at 11:15 a.m.



Cynthia S. Bonham  
Cynthia S. Bonham, City Clerk