CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION
September 14, 2009

The meeting of the Winter Park City Commission was called to order by Mayor Kenneth Bradley at 2:40 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 Usher Brown  
Deputy City Clerk Nancy McLean

Discussion of Resolution No. 1978-07, Policies governing the City Commission meetings.

Mayor Bradley introduced Larry Brown as our new City Attorney with the Brown, Gargenese, Weiss & D’Agresta law firm.

Mayor Bradley stated that Resolution No. 1978-07 looks at how the Commission meetings are governed. He addressed the comments submitted by City Commissioners regarding the resolution to include having as much citizen input as possible, meetings need to be more efficient, eliminate the number of staff attending Commission meetings, and have at least one work session per month.

Commissioner Dillaha stated that her goals were to allow for increased access to meetings by the public, increase the efficiency of Commission meetings and to have efficient use of staff time. She also suggested moving the Commission meetings to Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. City Manager Knight spoke about the work sessions they used to have on Monday and the Commission meetings on Tuesdays that was not efficient. Mayor Bradley commented that he was concerned with having a late start time followed by a late end time which may go past midnight if it was a lengthy meeting.

Mayor Bradley commented that work sessions are worthy and would support an hour long work session on the day of the Commission meeting. Commissioner Bridges commented that one of the most important aspects of a work session is the opportunity to interact with one another. Commissioner Anderson commented that he prefers the Commission meetings on Mondays and was open to having work sessions the day of the Commission meeting. Attorney Brown answered questions regarding how work sessions operate.

Commissioner Dillaha then suggested having a Thursday work session to review the agenda and to ask staff questions and still have the Commission meeting on Monday. Mayor Bradley commented that he did not want these work sessions to be mandatory.

Commissioner Diebel commented that she liked the manner in which Mayor Bradley has been conducting the agendas. She added that he asks the Commissioners to bring forward topics for discussion under new business for upcoming agendas. She stated that it has been working well for everybody. She commented that the agenda packets are very explanatory and when she has questions she gets satisfactory responses. She stated this was a non-issue for her.
Mayor Bradley encouraged all the Commissioners to have a regular standing meeting time with City Manager Knight to go over questions that they may have.

Commissioner Anderson asked about having a discussion on the electronic meeting participation and that prior to the next meeting the City Attorney finds a best practice on how electronic meetings are conducted in City governments. Attorney Brown commented that he would bring this up at the next meeting and address any Attorney General opinions.

Mayor Bradley added that he was also interested in how our citizens would interact with a live Commission meeting, short of being present such as listening over the internet.

The meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

[Signature]

Cynthia S. Bonham, City Clerk