

**TOWN COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING
DECEMBER 17, 1997**

The meeting was called to order at 6:18 p.m. by Mayor Venis and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Mayor Venis, Vice-Mayor Santini, Councilmembers Bush, Cox, and Kiar. Also present were Town Administrator Flatley, Town Attorney Webber and Town Clerk Reinfeld recording the meeting.

1. 1997 NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES CONFERENCE

Mayor Venis stated that the purpose of this workshop was to discuss the Town Council's attendance at the League of Cities Conference.

Councilmember Cox discussed a banner advertising program for downtown merchants in order to give them more exposure. She indicated that the program would be of no cost to the Town. She explained that the program was being looked into, but that she did not believe it would require a change to the Code. Councilmember Cox spoke about community attractor programs designed to bring people downtown and discussed different methods other cities were utilizing. She stated that she was working on a bicycle map to bring students downtown and indicated that the map could be funded partially from Open Space and partially from CRA.

Councilmember Cox indicated that she was interested in a software program which Budget and Finance Director Christopher Wallace was looking into.

Vice-Mayor Santini discussed IBM software versus Macintosh software. She stated that the latest software packages with the most features that would allow residents to connect directly to the city were IBM programs.

Vice-Mayor Santini spoke on "innovative substation solutions" and the different things that could be built over the substations.

Vice-Mayor Santini passed around a brochure called the Neighborhood Leadership Course which showed residents how to use a city's home page, or to use the cable system to educate the residents that did not have a computer. She advised that the universities and the Town could be more involved with each other and share information on their home pages. Vice-Mayor Santini stated that the Town's old Macintosh computers could be placed throughout the town, so residents who did not have access at home could have access at a public facility. She suggested Ivanhoe, the fire stations, and the library as possible locations. Vice-Mayor Santini stated that increased Internet access would allow the Town to connect to residents in more remote parts of the Town.

Vice-Mayor Santini stated that Colin Powell, through his alliance with youth programs, had the ability to bring together people of all colors and races and to unify them. She read the mission statement of Mr. Powell's organization and stated that she felt that some of these goals were already being addressed by the Town, through efforts to bring community organizations together to share resources.

Vice-Mayor Santini stated that the Town and the universities should work together to provide services to at-risk children. She added that a brainstorming session between the universities and the Town could be undertaken to formalize a plan. Councilmember Cox stated that she believed that the line of communication between the Town and the universities needed to be improved.

Councilmember Cox briefly discussed the need to teach the new generation about community service. She stated that giving something back to the community allowed people to feel a part of a community.

Vice-Mayor Santini discussed the American City Award. She stated that she would like to apply for the award as she felt the Town was doing well compared to the other cities who had won the award.

Vice-Mayor Santini discussed Philadelphia's downtown redevelopment.

Councilmember Bush stated that he felt the Conference was great for networking and for acquiring new ideas. He advised that at one of the seminars regarding community policing, the model city was Deerfield Beach.

Councilmember Cox stated that she believed the Town was innovative due to its good, strong staff.

Mayor Venis spoke on Philadelphia's innovative business solutions and how they chartered their own bank to solve their financial problem. He also spoke on the importance of the census and getting a correct count so that federal funds were allocated fairly. Mayor Venis stated that the City of Weston was undertaking a special census and he felt the Town should do one also. He spoke about the American with Disabilities Act and indicated that the Town had recently spent \$400,000 to come into compliance. Mayor Venis discussed a seminar regarding the ABC's of budgets and felt that the Town's budget were top notch.

Mayor Venis discussed using a drop box for paying utility bills. He stated that the City of Sunrise was using a

depository system and he felt it was a good idea. Councilmember Cox agreed with this idea and suggested having a box in the Ivanhoe area, the Shenandoah area and the Forest Ridge area. Vice-Mayor Santini suggested the Pine Island Community Center as a possible location. Councilmember Cox stated that the new police/fire/EMS facility might also be a possibility.

Councilmember Cox discussed the census issue and how the community should be educated as to how important it was for everyone to be counted.

Councilmember Cox discussed departmental spending and stated that she would be willing to consider departmental spending requests if the expenditure would save money or make the Town more efficient. She stated that a fund could be set up to loan money to departments if they could prove the expenditure would be beneficial for the Town. Councilmember Cox asked Mr. Wallace if the Enterprise Fund could be used for such a purpose. Mr. Wallace stated that the Enterprise Fund could not be used for that purpose, but an internal service fund possibly could. He stated that there were a number of ways to accomplish this suggestion and stated that the ideal time for considering such a project was in June, when the Capital Programs budget was prepared. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Kiar stated that the drop boxes were a great idea that made paying bills very convenient for residents Mayor Venis stated that the cost of a box was approximately \$2,200.

There being no objections or further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.