Amended

TOWN OF DAVIE
WORKSHOP MEETING
OCTOBER 28, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. Present were Mayor Truex, Councilmembers Crowley, Hubert and Paul, Town Administrator Willi, Town Attorney Kiar, and Town Clerk Muniz recorded the meeting.

Mayor Truex advised that Vice Mayor Starkey would not attend due to illness.

Councilmember Paul made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hubert, to excuse Vice Mayor Starkey. In a voice vote, all voted in favor with Vice-Mayor Starkey being absent. (Motion carried 4-0)

1. Legislative Goal Setting

Mr. Willi explained that the purpose of the workshop was to have a proactive approach to Council communicating with the Town's lobbyists' on upcoming legislative session items. He advised that the hand out was a list of legislative issues that the lobbyists in attendance wished to work on.

Mr. Willi introduced Vincent Grande of Grande Consulting and Candace Ericks and David Sigerson of Ericks Consulting.

Councilmember Paul indicated that the water issue with the city of Sunrise and the surcharge was an important issue she wanted Council to look at. She advised that she also wanted the issue of the sound walls along I-75 to be addressed. Councilmember Paul stated that Council needed to stand strong on the wall issue and should continue to look for alternatives to bring relief to the residents who live along the I-75 corridor.

Mayor Truex asked Mr. Sigerson if he had any comments about the issue of the sound wall along I-75. Mr. Sigerson stated that the wall issue was difficult because both the federal and State Departments of Transportation (DOT) said they would not spend money on barriers. However, Representative Davis was keenly interested in the issue. Mr. Sigerson stated that at his next meeting with Representative Davis, he would ask about this issue.

Councilmember Paul stated that any kind of improvement on that road should include a sound wall. Mayor Truex asked Councilmember Paul about the Turnpike resolution. Councilmember Paul stated that at the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meeting, the motion was that unless the Turnpike Authority could assure all residents were protected, there should be no expansion. She stated that at that meeting, she had indicated that she felt the criteria for expansion was flawed. She advised that the Turnpike Authority had called her and was planning to meet with her. Mr. Sigerson stated that if the MPO and Broward County backed up Council, it would provide some leverage with the Turnpike Authority.

Mr. Sigerson advised that in his research on the water surcharge issue, he found that Brevard County had a similar problem which they solved by passing a local bill that limited the surcharge. He stated that he would try to find that local bill and pass it on to Mr. Kiar

Mr. Willi felt that the Town needed to jump in and move the bill forward to address the water surcharge for Davie residents. Councilmember Paul agreed and stated that this was an issue she had spoken about since Broward Days. Mr. Sigerson advised that a sponsor would be needed by Friday.

Councilmember Paul indicated that at the last MPO meeting, the Town lost some Medicaid and other funds directly related to the Area Agency for the Aging and other transportation organizations that assisted the handicapped and elderly. She wondered if the cities would pick up by the funding to help residents. Councilmember Paul also asked how Council could get these funds reinstated. Mr. Sigerson clarified that the transportation services assisted individuals for non-emergency trips and stated that the cuts were a function of the economy and legislative prioritizing. He indicated that he would put the issue down on his list and try to work with other cities and counties to convince the legislature to fund this.

Councilmember Paul discussed legislative issues pertaining to farms, nurseries and equine interests. She stated that at the recent Florida Farm Bureau convention, 200 resolutions were passed and that some impacted farms in the Town. She stated that the most important resolution passed ~~was~~ concerned Section 193.461, which included breeding, pasture, boarding, and training of livestock and advised that "equine" would be included in the definition of livestock. Councilmember Paul stated that if Council did not mind, she wished to meet with Mr. Sigerson the following week to get a list of resolutions from the Farm Bureau that applied to Davie. Mayor Truex agreed with Councilmember Paul and asked to see the list once it was obtained.

Councilmember Crowley voiced his concern about various items on the list of issues to be discussed.

Mayor Truex stated that he had had informal discussions with some of the leadership in the Pine Island Ridge area regarding annexation. He asked whether there would be an upcoming meeting on the topic and was advised that the next meeting would be in late November.

Mayor Truex stated that a sizeable group of residents of Pine Island Ridge wanted to explore the possibility of being annexed into the Town. He reiterated the Town's position that residents should be able to vote and decide their own destiny and should have the option to incorporate or annex into Davie.

Councilmember Paul indicated that from her understanding, the numbers who wanted to incorporate had vacillated over the year. She advised that some of the leadership of Pine Island Ridge came to the conclusion that it would not be economically feasible to annex into the Town and felt the Town would not be able to provide all municipal services at a rate that would benefit the residents. Mayor Truex stated that for fire services, the residents were paying the County considerably more than Davie. He pointed out that they would save money in this area.

Councilmember Paul stated that if there was a small turnout at the meeting, she hoped they could take a straw ballot in order to move forward on this issue.

Mayor Truex asked what the process would be on annexation for this year. Mr. Sigerson stated that Representative Gottlieb was trying to use the 171 referendum as much as possible. Mayor Truex asked if the 171 was one which the Town would approve. Councilmember Paul indicated in the affirmative. Mayor Truex stated he was not in favor of using a 171 Referendum to annex this area until a meeting was held with the residents of Pine Island Ridge. Councilmember Crowley indicated that he would like to meet with Pine Island Ridge first.

Councilmember Crowley asked what the legislative deadline for annexation was. Mr. Grande indicated 2005 was the goal, but not a deadline. He added that the Pine Island Ridge leadership could get the County Commission to do an official straw poll in conjunction with them.

Councilmembers agreed not to move forward with this until a meeting was set with Pine Island Ridge.

Mr. Sigerson further indicated that using 171 would not give Council enough time to address this issue during this legislative session, because everything would have to be in place by December 31st.

Regarding Broadview Park, Councilmember Paul indicated that the newspapers misrepresented her statements on the subject. She stated that she merely wanted to examine what was feasible and asked if Council had done anything to start that process. Mr. Willi indicated that the Town had just received information from the County on the impact of Pine Island Ridge and advised that if ~~Council~~ staff wished to do a study of the Broadview Park area, he would collect the information. Council agreed that research should be done to examine the feasibility of annexing this area.

Councilmember Paul stated that the County had previously indicated that some of those areas' infrastructure needs would be brought up to standard in conjunction with any annexation agreement. Mr. Sigerson stated that it was well known that the wastewater infrastructure of the area was aging. He stated that the problem with discussions with the City of Plantation was that they could not pin down the County on specific actions it would take.

Councilmember Hubert pointed out that the area along 441 was all commercial and that this would increase the Town's tax base. She stated she would like to see them come into Davie.

Councilmember Crowley asked Mr. Willi about the possibility of expanding the CRA into this area. Mr. Willi indicated in the affirmative. Councilmember Paul also felt that having Housing and Community Development in this area would help.

Mr. Grande spoke about an upcoming bill on the United Ranches area and indicated that the pending litigation was holding up any potential 171 hearings. He indicated that the residents would be filing a local bill asking that they be given the opportunity to vote and to decide which municipality they would be able to annex into.

Mr. Sigerson stated that a suggestion was made that both the Town and Cooper City could coordinate and both file 171 actions so the residents would have two questions to vote on. He advised that he did not believe this was a viable option.

Regarding the CRA, Mr. Sigerson stated that it was widely anticipated that the County was attempting to find sponsors for legislation that would either curtail a city's right to expand or modify its plans which would have some impact on the monies appropriated to CRAs.

Mayor Truex stated that he had not heard about any legislation that would benefit the CRA. He felt that the Town should help ensure that the work of the Town's CRA would not be undone. Mr. Sigerson indicated that the Counties would continue to chip away and limit the amount of funds for housing assistance.

Mayor Truex stated that he hoped Mr. Sigerson would keep a close eye on this issue as he felt it was important.

Mayor Truex asked about the trust fund protection issue. Mr. Sigerson stated that the trust fund for affordable housing came under attack and there were attempts to eliminate the different trust funds.

Mayor Truex asked how monies in those funds were used. Housing and Community Development Director Shirley Taylor-Prakelt advised that the Town received SHIP funds which were the revenue the State derived from the documentary surtax. She stated that the funding allowed her Department to work on different infrastructure projects.

Mayor Truex questioned how the Town would be affected by the previous ruling. Ms. Taylor-Prakelt stated that her Department was affected as the funds were important on a local level in order to undertake future housing projects.

Mayor Truex asked to be kept advised on this issue.

Mayor Truex asked about growth management and environmental and natural resources protection issues. Mr. Sigerson mentioned that he added this as a general area of discussion since historically it had been an issue. He added that issues pertaining to building codes, permits, inspections and nuisance abatement were coming up for review.

Mayor Truex questioned the loss of revenue issues and how it would affect the Town. Ms. Ericks indicated that this issue was being closely monitored and added that the State would probably shift things back to the local level but that the process was in the trial and error stage.

Mr. Willi advised that the court system structure would be amended through Article V – which would diminish revenues. Assistant Town Administrator Ken Cohen indicated that the Town received over $500,000 in court fees and was concerned that if the State took over the courts, this revenue amount might be diminished. Ms. Ericks indicated that the State would be meeting again on this issue soon.

Councilmember Paul asked what the ripple effect would be on communities that relied on this revenue to fund law enforcement activities such as writing traffic citations.

Mayor Truex asked about Homeland Security funding issues. Mr. Sigerson indicated that he had spoken to the public safety chiefs and alerted them that the legislature was examining ways in which Homeland Security committees were developing strategies. He advised that there had been problems with the distribution of funds.

Police Chief John George advised that the Police Department had received $100,000 and a grant for overtime training. He stated that monies from the federal level had not been delivered at the local level as promised.

Fire Chief Don DiPetrillo advised that emergency management grants were another area of concern. He pointed out that in 2002, some funding opportunities were taken away from their department. Mayor Truex asked if this was all a federal issue. Chief DiPetrillo pointed out that it was a state, federal and local county level and added that Homeland Security grants had been scarce.

Mr. Sigerson spoke about FRDAP grants and advised that they had been cut from $20 million to $6 million for all cities. He advised that State senators said no to taking FRDAP from the Department of Environmental Protection and keeping it, even if at a reduced funding level.

Mayor Truex asked about the Windstorm Insurance Rate Reform. Mr. Sigerson stated that he asked for this issue to be addressed as it was historically important. He advised that the situation was being monitored right now and he did not expect any major legislation at the moment.

Mayor Truex asked about the Broward County Land Use Control issue. Mr. Willi pointed out that at the previous legislative session, a bill was introduced that would have given land use control back to the municipalities. He stated that Broward and Pinellas Counties were the only counties in the State with this control.

Councilmember Paul felt that for land use issues she appreciated the extra level of control. Development Services Director Mark Kutney felt that there was a philosophical issue about whether the municipalities wanted more control over land use. He stated that the County had control over other cities. Mr. Willi felt that the extra layers of government would increase the costs to build housing. He questioned why it was necessary to allow the County to manage land control rules to the Town if unincorporated areas were mandated to be annexed.

Mr. Willi reiterated that the County takes away the ability for Council to define its own future and the look of its own municipality. Councilmember Crowley asked Mr. Willi if Council would have a chance to review these issues. Mr. Willi advised that the issue would be monitored closely and that he would provide Council with the John Thomas Weekly Report on all activity in the legislative session.

Councilmember Hubert asked if the County could step in and say no to projects such as Sheridan House. Mr. Willi indicated in the affirmative.

Mr. Willi felt a bill to change the elections to November, instead of March should be considered. Mayor Truex was not in favor of the idea and asked to be kept informed if the issue came up before the County.

Mayor Truex called for a recess at 7:02 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

2. Economic Development (Regional Activity Center, Nova Southeastern University, Griffin Road Corridor, State Road 7/US 441)

Mr. Kutney explained the key points of a PowerPoint presentation entitled *Emerging Trends in Davie's Economic Renaissance,* that outlined key economic concepts and how they related to the Town.

Mr. Kutney summarized the presentation by presenting Council with an action plan which covered 1) authorizing a study of the Regional Activity Center (RAC); 2) continued participation in the State Road 7 Collaborative; and 3) economic decision making consistent with land use policies and land development regulations. He asked for Council's support.

Mayor Truex advised that he was not in favor of the Twin Towers concept proposed by Nova Southeastern University Councilmember Paul felt that one way to generate more economic development and preserve the rural character of the Town was to allow higher buildings.

Councilmember Crowley asked when the amendment would have to be filed with the County. Mr. Kutney indicated March, 2004.

Councilmember Crowley asked what height provision Nova was proposing. Mr. Kutney indicated 100 feet and compared that to the 85 foot height of the library.

Councilmember Paul felt that Council should be able to call the shots on development issues as there was very little developable land left in the county.

Mayor Truex summarized the comments of Council by stating that Council agreed to the three points of the action plan but wanted to be kept informed as the issue evolved.

Councilmember Hubert expressed the need for more affordable housing in Davie. Mayor Truex disagreed and felt that some of the existing housing areas such as mobile homes, will be built at higher density than the one unit per acre, and therefore may be more affordable.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Approved _____

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Mayor/Councilmember

_____
Town Clerk