

**TOWN COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
JUNE 5, 2002**

Mayor Venis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those present were Mayor Venis, Vice-Mayor Clark, and Councilmembers Paul, Starkey, and Truex. Also present were Town Administrator Willi, Town Attorney Kiar and Town Clerk Muniz recording the meeting.

Mayor Venis advised that the purpose of the workshop meeting was to review the capital budget.

Assistant Town Administrator Ken Cohen explained the funding that could be rolled back from 2001 to 2003, which would reduce the current expenditures. He added that this would also reduce the impact on the millage rate.

Mayor Venis asked if the refinancing of utility bonds would have an impact on the millage rate. Mr. Cohen assured him there would be no impact. The result was that a great amount could be refinanced and more projects would be funded with the same expenditures.

Councilmember Starkey stated that Council was waiting for the Budget Advisory Committee's review and a workshop explaining the line items. The overall, long-term impact of the items was not known and she felt she needed justification for some of the items. Mr. Cohen stated that this information was presented to the Committee five weeks ago when they were given to Council.

Councilmember Paul did not feel a need to justify the need for fire stations as this had been discussed for years. She felt the major expenditures would be up to the public. Councilmember Starkey was concerned that this was an accountability issue and she wanted justification for the new Town Hall and the fire station to be presented to the public.

Mayor Venis stated that Council had taken action on the capital budget and indicated that a five-year plan had previously been approved. He stated that an analysis would still be conducted. Mr. Cohen asked Council to take into consideration the considerable cost of a needs assessment and if Council was interested in going forward with a project, the assessment was not necessary.

Councilmember Truex pointed out that Council had collectively agreed on public safety and felt that the fire stations were a necessity and he was in favor of the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) funding the east station. He wanted to make sure the Town was not asking voters unnecessarily to fund a project. Mr. Cohen stated that other sources of funding would continue to be investigated.

Councilmember Truex suggested pushing back the Town Hall to fiscal year 2005 and look at what other options there were for offices. He felt the fire stations should take precedence over the Town Hall project. Mayor Venis stated that the \$8.5 million price tag for the Town Hall project was just an estimate and pointed out that repairs to the current facility could equal \$1 million. Mr. Cohen clarified that he meant there were \$1 million in other projects.

Councilmember Paul asked about the CRA possibly assisting with the financing of the Town Hall. Mr. Cohen felt that the CRA would be able to help, if not now, in three years.

Vice-Mayor Clark asked why the Town Hall and fire stations were being voted on in the same year. Mr. Cohen advised that the Town was trying to stay at or under \$10 million for

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
JUNE 5, 2002

bonds and it would be to the Town's benefit to separate these votes. He indicated that funding for Town Hall would not be needed for three years.

Councilmember Starkey agreed that fire stations were important. She spoke of Orlando's CRA and their decision to build a facility in the downtown area, which proved to be a boom to businesses.

Councilmember Paul suggested eliminating \$400,000 from Public Works for realigning SW 36 Court and SW 130 Avenue. She did not know of any accidents that have taken place there and felt that people slowed down on the curve. Councilmember Paul asked to put these funds in the open space land acquisition and recreation accounts. Mr. Cohen advised that these funds could be moved and earmarked for recreation; however, it could not be moved directly into open space.

Mayor Venis recommended spreading the \$400,000 out over four years for traffic calming devices. Discussion followed about areas that needed traffic calming and areas of future development.

Councilmember Starkey felt that open space achievements were important.

Council agreed to split the money in \$100,000 increments per year for traffic calming.

Vice-Mayor Paul spoke about irrigation for Robbins Lodge and did not agree with the plan. She suggested taking this \$25,000 out and putting it into open space, which Council agreed with. Councilmember Paul wanted to move the paved trail to 2006 giving time for some questions to be resolved. She asked about the landscaping on Pine Island and University medians and if that included irrigation. Mr. Cohen assured that it did. Councilmember Paul suggested plants that are more drought resistant. Mr. Cohen stated that changing at this point would result in different types of median structures and indicated that continuity was the goal.

Councilmember Starkey asked if brick pavers could be installed along State Road 84 to 18th Street. Mr. Cohen stated that the Town was acting as contractors for the County on this project and their design needed to be upheld.

Councilmember Truex asked to add the old Viele House relocation to the budget in the amount of \$157,380. He indicated that the plans to move Viele House to behind Old Davie School may not happen, but this building needed to be secured and moved or would be lost. Councilmember Truex recommended trying to get grant money for this project and felt it should be a priority. Council agreed.

Mr. Cohen referred to the Old Davie School hurricane protection, stating that the lowest bid for shutters would require an increase of \$24,000 for this item over what was already approved.

Mayor Venis advised of the need to add money to the budget for guardrails. Mr. Cohen stated that this could be added to the list and prioritized along with the other needs.

There being no further business to discuss and no objections, Mayor Venis adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

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Mayor/Councilmember

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
JUNE 5, 2002

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Town Clerk