

TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP

MINUTES - MAY 1, 2012

TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP meeting convened at 2:00 P.M. Those present were Mayor Lawrence, Vice Mayor Herndon, Councilor Smith, Councilor Sutch and Councilor Irelan.

Also Present: Chief Williams, Town Administrator; Marcia Grantham, Town Clerk; Mary Karayianes, Director of Finance.

1.0 Consideration of approving Council Workshop Agenda for May 1, 2012.

MOTION by Councilor Irelan-- seconded by Councilor Sutch -- to approve Workshop Agenda for May 1, 2012, as published. Motion carried 5-0.

2.0 Discussion of Town's position regarding rental of the Municipal Center facility for social events.

Mayor Lawrence stated there are two issues to discuss today relating to policy on how to best use the room we are now in.

Mayor Lawrence further stated the City of Belleair Beach has done a lot of homework and created several documents which were in the packet for review and the Town invited City Manager Nancy Gonzalez and Deputy Clerk Patti Gentry here today to speak to this subject from their City's perspective.

Nancy Gonzalez reported that a lot of people come to see the facility, and a good deal of the Clerk's time is taken up showing people the facility and discussing matters, noting you have to have someone who will take the time to show the facility. She further reported that initially the City's rates were high and they had to reduce them to attract interested parties to rent the facility.

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Nancy Gonzalez also reported the revenue budgeted was \$20,000.00, and they charge \$200.00 an hour, but do not charge condos to hold their annual meetings. She also advised the City collects a \$500.00 damage deposit for non-residents, and that parties renting can go through the Florida League of Cities' Tulip program and obtain general liability and liquor insurance.

Mayor Lawrence questioned how many hours of a 40 hour week the Clerk devoted to rental of the facility, and Clerk Patti Gentry stated at least 25% of her time.

Nancy Gonzalez advised there is more work load on the public services staff and they also have a janitorial service which comes in and cleans up and puts away tables, noting the room can accommodate 140 people.

Nancy Gonzalez addressed the City's recreation program advising they conduct an FDLE check on instructors and the instructor's are required to carry their own insurance, showing the City as an additional insured. She further advised they do not charge rent, but instructors pay 25% of revenue, plus sales tax.

The City Manager and City Clerk responded to questions from Council members, and general comments were made by some audience members.

3.0 Discussion of status of Town's present Recreation Programs.

Mayor Lawrence reported when the Town initially started events in the old Town Hall building the intent was to provide recreation programs for residents and visitors that were exercise oriented, and at this point in time many other different types of classes have come on board.

A brief discussion followed on the different recreation activities now in the building covering senior exercise, zumba, yoga, Tai Chi, jazzercise, Bridge Club, dance lessons, Bridge lessons, Poker classes, painting classes and cartooning.

Mayor Lawrence questioned audience members that if the Town would begin charging instructors, would people still participate, and the general consensus was that they would pay more to attend the classes.

Jim Maloney, Bridge Club Instructor, stated he has been with the Bridge Club since 1992 and they pay \$1.00 per table, plus tax, and they are here from 10:30 A.M. until 4:00 P.M., and it is very cold.

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Chief Williams reviewed how the Town Center's air conditioning system works, which is much different than in the old building, and cannot be re-adjusted for every individual class.

Chief Williams encouraged Council in their discussion as to whether the Town should charge the instructors and for rental of the facility to maintain consistency with City of Belleair Beach, and does not see a problem with 25%. Chief Williams stated it is true the Bridge Club pays a nominal fee of \$1.00 a table, pointing out they are here 4 hours with duration versus intensity that might make a difference.

Mary Karayianes, Director of Finance, reported sales tax of 7% has to be charged on any percentage paid.

Mayor Lawrence asked Council members if they had any heart burn about letting functions like the proposed stress management and writing classes into the program, as they are not exercise related. The consensus among the Council members was that they would be no different if the Town is going to charge a fee.

Mayor Lawrence encouraged the Council members to think about and digest the information presented today from all parties, and to talk with people involved and the matter would soon be re-visited for a determination relative to establishing some policy for the Town's recreation programs.

4.0 Discussion of contracting Building Department inspection services with the Town of Redington Shores.

Chief Williams requested Council members table this item, as the price on 15 inspections a month is not correct, as there are approximately 48, and he needs to discuss with the Building Official and obtain more information.

TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING adjourned at 3:10 P.M.

MARCIA GRANTHAM, CMC
Town Clerk