ST. PETE BEACH COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES

Tuesday, December 16, 2008 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation
Roll Call

PRESENT:

Mayor Finnerty
Vice Mayor Metz
Commissioner Halpern
Commissioner Chaney
Commissioner Leonard

ALSO PRESENT:

Theresa McMaster, City Clerk
Mike Davis, City Attorney
Mike Bonfield, City Manager
Karl Holley, Community Development Director

Mayor Finnerty thanked Commissioner Leonard, Commissioner Halpern and Vice Mayor Metz for holding a short Meeting last week to allow Commissioner Chaney and himself to attend the Pinellas County School Board Meeting.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

City Attorney Davis requested that item 5d. Legal Fees be moved up to just after the Consent Agenda. He made the same request for item 3b. Ordinance 2008-48.

Commissioner Chaney requested that all of the Discussion Items be moved up on the agenda after the Consent Item.

Commissioner Halpern asked that item 4a. Conditional Use Case #20080015 be moved up. It was agreed that this item would remain as it is placed on the agenda.

Commissioner Chaney requested that item 4a. Conditional Use Request Case #20080015 be continued until the next meeting.

Commissioner Halpern stated that he did not want to continue this item.

There was considerable discussion regarding Ordinance 2008-48 regarding Capital Improvement and Essential Services Assessment.

Commissioner Chaney moved to table Ordinance 2008-48 Final Reading and Public Hearing, Capital Improvement and Essential Services Assessment, until the first Meeting in January 2009. Commissioner Leonard seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by voice roll call vote.

City Attorney Davis advised that there would be no additional advertising required for this Ordinance.

The Commission was in agreement to move all of the Discussion Items up on the Agenda to be considered directly after the Consent Agenda.

1. Audience Comments

The following persons addressed the City Commission.

Shannon O'Brien

Bill Pyle, 6600 Sunset way

Maria Urban, Second Palm Point

Rosemary Manning, 200 First Avenue

Lorraine Huhn 9425 Blind Pass Road

Jane Gottwald, 102 23rd Avenue

Paul Pfister 8090 Gulf Boulevard

Discussion was held regarding lighting on a neighbor's dock shining into Mr. O'Brien's home in Vina del Mar. Mr. Metz pointed out that the dock owner agreed to pay for the light shields or whatever it would take to resolve this issue. Mayor Finnerty volunteered to meet with the residents and try to resolve the issue.

Commissioner Chaney asked if the Commission would like to consider Ms. Urban's request to have the Board of Adjustment appeals heard by the Commission or a third party rather than to Circuit Court.

After discussion and advice of the City Attorney, the Commission was in agreement that this issue would be placed on the agenda as a discussion item for the second meeting in January of 2009.

2. **Consent Agenda**

a. Minutes of the August 5, 2008 City Commission Budget Workshop Meeting.

b. Authorization to hang banners over 75th Avenue at Boca Ciega Drive and the Pinellas Bayway at Granada Avenue announcing the Beach Goes Pops Concert.

c. Authorization for the Mayor to sign an Interlocal Agreement with Pinellas County to secure $50,000 in funding to help offset the cost of needed repairs for three (3) dune drive-over structures.

d. Authorization for the City Manager to enter into a contract with Air Mechanical and Services Corporation for the purchase and installation of a new air-cooled liquid chiller unit for the Police Department in the amount of $47,346.

e. Authorization for the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections to conduct the March 2009 Election.

f. Resolution No. 2008-31 , revising the qualification period for the March 10, 2009 General Election.

Commissioner Chaney moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice Mayor Metz seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

3. Items for Discussion

a. Legal Fees

At this point, Attorney Suzanne Van Wyk joined the meeting via speaker phone and gave an update on the current lawsuits involving the City.

The Commission held considerable discussion regarding its role in the current lawsuits, attorney fees, and SOLV's (Save Our Little Village, PAC) participation in the litigation, along with asking the Court to send the parties to mediation.

There was general discussion about expediting the Kadoura case and the possibility of SOLV's attorney taking the lead in that case in order to reduce the City's costs. Attorney Van Wyk was instructed to inquire if Attorney Lincoln (SOLV's Attorney) would be interested in taking the lead in this case. There was discussion about also trying to expedite Mr. Plye's Administrative Case and to inquire if SOLV could take the lead in that case. It was pointed out that Attorney Weiss is not the attorney for the Administrative Case.

There was a general discussion regarding the Comprehensive Plan and the issuance of building permits.

Mayor Finnerty stated that he would like to see the City seek reimbursement for the City's legal fees from the opposing parties, as he believes that these lawsuits are frivolous.

The Commission directed City Attorney Davis to hold off on expediting any of these cases until after the shade meeting is held. It was pointed out that SOLV may expedite the case before the shade meeting.

Upon the request of City Attorney Davis, the City Commission agreed to hold a Shade Meeting on December 23, 2008 at 5:30 pm, to receive advice regarding these cases and to discuss attorney fees. The Commission agreed to hold this meeting.

Commissioner Chaney stated that she would like to see the City Commission more involved with the legal filings and decisions in the future. The Commission agreed that they wanted to be more involved with the decisions regarding litigation.

Commissioner Chaney pointed out a few charges on the Attorney's invoices that she felt should be included in the $5,000 monthly retainer. Attorney Davis urged the Commission to point out any concerns they may have with the invoices so that he can address them.

Commissioner Chaney raised the issue of reimbursement for certain items on the invoices such as long-distance telephone calls, copy charges and travel expenses. Attorney Davis stated that he would review the invoices. She suggested limits be placed on the amounts to be reimbursed for items such as hotel rooms, airfare, and rental cars. She was concerned that the residents are already being denied services because of budget cuts and she wanted to save money wherever she can.

Mr. Davis stated that his firm would probably not agree to any limits on their travel expense reimbursements, but they would not bill anything that is unreasonable.

b. City-Wide Survey -- Commissioner Leonard

Commissioner Leonard agreed to move this item to the end of the meeting.

c. City Commission Retreat -- Commissioner Leonard

Commissioner Leonard agreed to move this item to the end of the meeting.

4. Ordinances

a. **Ordinance 2008-43, Final Reading and Public Hearing, Amending Division 1 of Article Ill, Chapter 82, Section 82-137 of the Code of Ordinances: as it relates to stopping, standing, and parking of vehicles.**

Mr. Bonfield briefly described the Ordinance.

Commissioner Chaney moved to approve Ordinance 2008-43, Final Reading and Public Hearing, An Ordinance of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida, providing for amendment of Subsections (n)(o), and (s) of Section 82-137, of Division 1 of Article Ill, Chapter 82, of the Code of Ordinances, pertaining to stopping, standing and parking of vehicles; providing for parking restrictions on specific streets and parking lots; providing for amendment of the City Parking Maps; providing for severability; providing for the repeal of all ordinances in conflict herewith, to the extent of such conflict; and providing for an effective date. Commissioner Leonard Seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

b. **Ordinance 2008-48, Final Reading and Public Hearing, Capital Improvement and Essential Services Assessment.**

Earlier in the meeting, Commissioner Chaney moved to table Ordinance 200848, Final Reading and Public Hearing, Capital Improvement and Essential Services Assessment, until the first Meeting in January 2009. Commissioner Leonard seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

This item was continued until the next City Commission Meeting.

c. **Ordinance 2008-45, First Reading and Public Hearing, providing for amendment to the St. Pete Beach Land Development Code to rezone property located at 1301 Gulf Way from Residential Low Medium (RLM-2) to Traditional Hotel District (THI))**

City Attorney Davis advised that this is a quasi-judicial hearing and that any witnesses would need to be sworn in before testimony begins.

Mayor Finnerty asked if there was anyone in the audience who needs to be sworn in. City Attorney Davis swore in those who wished to testify in this case.

Karl Holley, Community Director, explained the provisions of the Ordinance and answered questions for the City Commission. Upon request of Vice Mayor Metz, Mr. Holley displayed a rendering of what could possibly be built on this property. Mr. Holley stated that the maximum number of units that would be allowed, under the zoning, would be 1 1 units.

Vice Mayor Metz made a motion to approve Ordinance 200845, First Reading and Public Hearing, An Ordinance of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida providing for amendment of the Land Development Regulations of the City by amending the Official Zoning Map incorporated therein; providing for amendment of the zoning designation of property generally located at 1301 Gulf Way and more specifically described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein; providing for a change in the designation of said parcel from Residential Low Medium 2 to Traditional Hotel District on the City's Official Zoning Map; providing for the repeal of ordinances, or parts of ordinances, in conflict herewith, to the extent of such conflict; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date. Commissioner Halpern seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

d. **Ordinance 2008-46, First Reading and Public Hearing providing for amendment of the St. Pete Beach Land Development Code to rezone property located at 1307 Gulf Way from Residential Low Medium 2 (RLM-2) to Traditional Hotel District (THD).**

Mayor Finnerty asked if there was anyone in the audience who needs to be sworn in. City Attorney Davis swore in those who wished to testify in this case.

Community Development Director Karl Holley explained the provisions of the Ordinance and answered questions for the City Commission. Mr. Holley pointed out that under the new zoning, the property could have a maximum of 19 units and currently it has 14 units.

City Attorney Davis advised that the Commission can impose conditions for this property as long as the conditions are specifically outlined in the adopted ordinance. Mr. Davis also pointed out that any conditions will run with the land.

Vice Mayor Metz, referencing a drawing was concerned about a proposed restaurant and the parking requirements for a restaurant in a residential neighborhood.

Mr. Bonfield advised that whatever was planned for the property would have to comply with the City's Codes.

Applicant's Attorney Tom Reynolds, 535 Central Avenue, addressed the Commission. Mr. Reynolds stated that the Ordinance did not impose a limit on the number of units to be rebuilt as the exact number of units that were already there. He stated that what the owner is entitled to is what would be allowed by the factors, criteria and standards that are set forth in the ordinance. He further stated if the owner, because of the properties size, is entitled to more units, the current ordinance would allow more units if they met the applicable codes. He also pointed out that he did not see anything in the Ordinance that would give the City Commission discretion regarding the number of units per acre, as long as the codes, criteria and standards are met.

Attorney Reynolds pointed out that the sketch/drawing that was referenced is not intended to be a site plan for consideration of approval; it was submitted to give an idea of something that could be on the property. He stated that he felt that it would be unfair to tell the owner that he could not put a restaurant on the property if it would meet the code requirements. He stated that if a restaurant is desired the owner will have to meet the parking requirements of the Code. He stated that to limit the owner to 14 units would impede on his right to make a financially viable use of his property. He asked the Commission to approve this Ordinance without any restrictions.

Mr. Takvor Evrikoz, applicant (1307 Gulf Way) addressed the Commission. Mr. Evrikoz stated that under the Ordinance 50.1 units per acre are allowed which in his case calculates to 19 units and he will accept no less. While displaying a proposed drawing he stated that it was just an example of what could be put on the property. He pointed out that if a restaurant is allowed under the Code it should not be questioned.

Attorney Reynolds called upon Ralph Lickton. (1706 Pass-a-Grille Way) to address the Commission. City Attorney Mike Davis swore in Mr. Lickton so that he could testify in this case. Mr. Lickton displayed the previously mentioned drawing and pointed out that he did the conceptual drawing, which is an example of a new building that could include between 14 and 19 units. He also stated that he felt there would be some ancillary uses allowed in connection with a new hotel. He continued to explain what was shown on the drawing, pointing out that there is always a concern in Pass-a-Grille to save the old structures.

Mayor Finnerty asked for audience comments.

Mr. Joe Caruso, 1301 Gulf Way, addressed the Commission. City Attorney Davis advised Mr. Caruso that he was already under sworn testimony from the previous case. Mr. Caruso stated that these types of properties need to be profitable after the payment of the taxes, insurance and businesses expenses.

Mr. Evrikoz, 1307 Gulf Way, informed the Commission that he needs the re-zoning in order to get a loan to improve the property and if he does not get the financing nothing will be built on the property. He disclosed that he has maintained the property for 20 years. He advised the Commission that if he gets the financing, he will submit a proposal for the property.

Mr. Chet Chmielewski 3201 El Centro addressed the Commission. City Attorney Davis swore in Mr. Chmielewski so that he could testify in this case. Mr.

Chmielewski stated that he supports Mr. Evrikoz's plans and it would be good for the City and Pass-a-Grille.

Ralph Lickton addressed the Commission. He stated that when DCA reviewed this issue there was some concern about the increase of residential density, and at that time Mr. Holley made it clear that the increase in residential density would be counter acted by the decrease in residential density, in the large hotel district. He pointed out that Mr. Holley satisfactorily addressed the DCA's concerns at that time.

Mr. Holley stated that it was not possible to interrupt the information provided by DCA that the invalidation of one of the ordinances would invalidate the other.

Mayor Finnerty closed the public comments section, noting that there was no one to speak against the application.

Vice Mayor Metz made a motion to approve Ordinance 2008-46, First Reading and Public Hearing, An Ordinance of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida providing for amendment of the Land Development Regulations of the City by Amending the Official Zoning Map incorporated therein; providing for amendment of the Zoning Designation of property generally located at 1307 Gulf Way and more specifically described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein; providing fora change

in the designation of said parcel from Residential Low Medium 2 to Traditional Hotel District on the City's Official Zoning Map; providing for the repeal of ordinances, or parts of ordinances, in conflict herewith, to the extent of such conflict; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leonard. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Mayor Finnerty called for a ten minutes recess. After the recess, Mayor Finnerty called the meeting to order and all members of the City Commission were present.

Upon the request of Commissioner Chaney Item #4 b was moved up on the agenda. Ordinances

e. **Ordinance No. 2008-47, First Reading and Public Hearing, An Ordinance of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida, amending the text of the Housing, Infrastructure, Conservation and Coastal, and Intergovernmental Coordination Elements of the Comprehensive Plan to implement the recommendations in the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR); providing for severability; providing for the repeal of ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith to the extent of such conflict' and providing for an effective date.**

Mr. Holley addressed the Commission. He stated that this is the conclusion of a process that has been underway for some time. He disclosed that the Commission adopted the EAR in May of 2007; it was reviewed and approved by DCA; we are required to implement amendments to those areas of the Plan that we have identified where changes are proposed that are part of the major issues identified, as specified in the Plan. He pointed out that this Ordinance does not include all of the changes that are suggested in the EAR, they are only those changes that address major issues, as required by law. He reported that the City still has a major Comprehensive Plan Amendment that was adopted by the voters in June which is in an unresolved challenge and that many other items in the EAR relate directly to policies that are affected by that adopted Plan Amendment. He stated that it would be imprudent to include those items pending the outcome of that challenge. Mr. Holley outlined the provisions of the ordinance.

There was general discussion regarding the deadline to provide ballot language to the Supervisor of Elections to hold an election regarding some of these changes.

Mr. Holley stated that these changes are required by law to be implemented by June 30, 2009. Mr. Holley pointed out that he did not think that the DCA comments would be received in time for the March election and if they recommend changes the ballots may already have been sent out. He stated that a special election may be needed.

Mr. Bonfield suggested other related items from the Charter be included if there is a special election. He clarified that he would like to eliminate having to take State mandated requirements to the voters to avoid holding an election every other year.

Mr. Holley pointed out that if these changes are not implemented by June 30, 2009 the City will be prohibited from making any other changes to the Comprehensive Plan until such time as these requirements are met.

Commissioner Chaney made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2008-47, First Reading and Public Hearing, An Ordinance of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida, amending the text of the Housing, Infrastructure, Conservation and Coastal, and Intergovernmental Coordination Elements of the Comprehensive Plan to implement the recommendations in the Evaluation and Appraisal Report;

providing for severability; providing for the repeal of ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, to the extent of such conflict; and providing for an effective date. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Halpern.

Mayor Finnerty called for audience comments. Hearing none, he asked for the roll call.

The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

f.<u>Ordinance No. 2008-49, First Reading and Public Hearing, An Ordinance of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida providing for amendment of Section 8631 of the Code of Ordinances of the City, pertaining to updating terminology from sewer to wastewater pertaining to wastewater (sewer) use charges: providing for increased wastewater (sewer) rates: providing for severability: providing for repeal of ordinances or parts of ordinances, in conflict herewith, to the extent of such conflict; and providing for an effective date.</u>

Mr. Bonfield reported that this is the Ordinance to enact the changes discussed at previous workshops; customers have been notified in their bills that the final reading on this Ordinance will be on January 13, 2009.

Steve Hallock addressed the Commission. He explained that the City has not raised the wastewater rates in 8 years. He pointed out that there were several major expenses, (replacement of master pump station, St. Petersburg 3 year true-up payment, etc.) and that the reserve funds declined. He stated that after a study the City's consultant (PRMG) recommended that the City raise the rates by 45% which was based on being able to fund all operations and maintenance of the system and to eliminate borrowing from the genera(fund. He disclosed that the wastewater fund has borrowed 1.2 million dollars from the general fund. He stated that the City Commission was concerned with the recommended 45% rate increase, so a 30% increase was proposed for FY 2009; with two 7.5% increases for the following two years. He clarified that the revenue from this increase will be used strictly for the wastewater fund.

Mr. Hallock answered the Commission's questions.

Mayor Finnerty called for audience comments.

<u>Deborah Schechner, 710 Boca Ciega Isle Drive</u> asked that Boca Ciega Isle be considered a priority for use of the discretionary funds for repairs to the system, as they have serious issues that have been identified.

Mr. Hallock outlined where the discretionary funds would be used, and that Boca Ciega Isle is on the top of the list for infiltration problems.

Vice Mayor Metz asked if the lift station on 6th Avenue could have lattice work placed around it like other stations in the City. Mr. Hallock stated that he would take a look at it.

Commissioner Halpern made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2008-49, First Reading and Public Hearing, An Ordinance of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida providing for amendment of Section 86-31 of the Code of Ordinances of the City, pertaining to updating terminology from "sewer" to "wastewater" pertaining to wastewater (sewer) use charges; providing for increased wastewater (sewer) rates; providing for severability; providing for repeal of ordinances or parts of ordinances, in conflict herewith, to the extent of such conflict; and providing for an effective date with the addition of 7.5% in year two and three. Commissioner Leonard seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

g. **<u>Ordinance No. 2008-50, First Reading and Public Hearing. An Ordinance of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida providing a supplemental appropriation to the General Fund for Fiscal Year ending September 30. 2009; providing for funding; providing for an effective date.</u>**

Mr. Bonfield explained that this was a budget adjustment due to grants that have been received, one from FDOT in the amount $53,084 and another from FDLE in the amount of $21 ,091. This Ordinance placed the funds into the appropriate budget accounts.

Commissioner Chaney made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2008-50, First Reading and Public Hearing, An Ordinance of the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida providing a supplemental appropriation to the General Fund for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2009; providing for funding; providing for an effective date. Commission Halpern seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Mayor Finnerty called for audience comments. There were none.

5. **<u>Action Items</u>**

a. **Authorization for the Mayor and City Manager to sign an agreement between the City of St. Pete Beach and the International Association of Firefighters — Local 2266.**

City Manager Bonfield reported that the Commission was provided a handout regarding this item (it was not included in the agenda packet). That there was an Impasse Hearing held on November 1 3th , the City Commission laid out the provisions for a two-year agreement which was presented to the union and the members; they have ratified the contract with the conditions that were agreed upon by the Commission. He stated that if this agreement is authorized, they will have a contract through September 30, 2009.

Vice Mayor Metz made a motion to authorize the Mayor and City Manager to sign an agreement between the City of St. Pete Beach and the International Association of Firefighters — Local 2266. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Leonard. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

b. **Conditional Use case #20080015, request for modification of a previously approved Conditional Use at 5500 Gulf Boulevard (The Tradewinds Hotel) to increase the number of non-personal powered watercraft from one to two, and to increase the allowable length to 40 feet maximum from 36 feet.**

City Attorney Davis advised that this is a quasi-judicial hearing and witnesses would need to be sworn in before testimony begins.

Mayor Finnerty asked if there was anyone in the audience that needs to be sworn in. City Attorney Davis swore in those who wished to testify in this case.

Mr. Holley gave the staff report on this case and answered questions for the City Commission. He advised that Mr. Scully has been authorized by the Tradewinds to represent this application, however Mr. Ian Henderson is present to represent the case.

Mr. Bonfield suggested that if the Commission decides to impose the condition that the non-personal watercraft could not be used simultaneously, that should be included in the motion.

Mr. Ian Henderson explained that the boats are out for several hours and are not continuously entering and leaving the channel. The boats pick up and discharge passengers then leave the area. He pointed out that the

Captains are all licensed. He clarified that the boats will not enter the channel until another boat leaves, so that there are never two boats in the channel at the same time. Upon inquiry, Mr. Henderson stated that there was a demand for an additional boat. He also clarified that one boat is used for Shell Island and Egmont Key trips while the other boat is used as a shuttle boat.

There was a general discussion regarding the length of the boats being used currently as well as the request to allow a 40-foot boat in the channel.

Mr. Henderson stated that they are only asking to allow a 40 feet boat into the channel. He stated that the other boat they use is only 36 feet in length.

Mayor Finnerty asked for audience comments.

Rick Childs, water sports operator, spoke in favor of the application.

Mr. Bonfield pointed out that the 36-foot boat being used currently has a restriction that it cannot be used for parasailing. He suggested that the same restriction be placed on the 40-foot boat, if approved.

Mr. Holley stated that he understood the intention of the Tradewinds is not to have two 40-foot boats.

Mike Bomar, parasail operator, asked if there would still be a restriction that there would be no parasailing operations from either of the boats.

Mr. Bonfield stated that restriction needs to be placed on the 40-foot boat if approved.

Upon inquiry, Mr. Henderson clarified that his boat was a "Sight Seeing Boat".

There was a general discussion regarding the regulations for registering these boats.

Commissioner Chaney made a motion to approve Conditional Use Case #20080015, request for modification of a previously approved Conditional Use at 5500 Gulf Boulevard (The Tradewinds Hotel) to increase the number of nonpersonal powered watercraft to retain one 36 foot boat not to be used for parasailing and to add one maximum 40 foot boat not to be used for parasailing and that only one boat will be allowed in the channel at a time. Commissioner Halpern seconded the motion. The motion was approved by roll call vote 4-1, with Vice Mayor Metz voting "no".

6. **Items for Discussion**

a. **City-Wide Survey — Commissioner Leonard**

Commissioner Leonard presented a draft survey for the Commission's consideration. He stated that with all the different issues ongoing in the community he felt a City-wide survey with 5-6 questions should be sent to the residents and have them rank these issues according to the level of importance in order to get a bench mark of what issues the residents are most concerned about. He suggested that each Commissioner appoint one person to serve on a committee to work on this survey process and submit drafts for the Commissions consideration and once that is approved to send out the survey and then tabulate the results. He also stated that he would like to have a section on the survey for the residents to make additional comments. He felt this could be updated on a quarterly basis and that it would assist with future planning. He stated that he hoped to get a return of greater than 25%. He suggested that the survey be on the City's web site.

There was general discussion by the City Commission concerning the cost of postage, how many questions would be on the survey, the format of the survey as well as how to control one person from submitting more than one survey.

Commissioner Leonard stated that he estimated that the survey would cost between $10,000 - $12,000.

Commissioner Halpern stated that he felt it would be too costly to do a mailing to 8,000 residents and to include the return postage.

Commissioner Chaney suggested using the message cart, e-news and the web site to inform the citizens that the survey is available at City Hall and see what type of response they get.

Mr. Metz suggested also passing out the surveys at the Neighborhood Association Meetings.

There was a general discussion of using volunteers to pass out the surveys and to tally the results.

Mr. Bonfield pointed out that a Committee will have to abide by the Florida Sunshine Law, hold public meetings and have minutes taken. He also pointed out that a survey is an art and a science especially formulating the wording of the questions so that the information is useful.

Mayor Finnerty asked for audience comments.

Rosemary Manning, 200 1st Avenue, stated that she did not think the City has the money to spend to conduct this survey only to get "maybe" 10% of the people responding to it. She was against the idea of the survey.

Commissioner Leonard asked the Commission to think about a survey and if there is a cost-effective way to conduct a survey, he would appreciate their consideration.

Bob Manning at 200 1st Avenue, stated that there is an election coming up and the candidates will be going door to door looking for support and at that time they could also poll the citizens to see what's important to them. He also stated that polls could be taken at the neighborhood association meetings.

Mayor Finnerty said the Commission would take this under consideration and if they have any ideas, they will bring them up at a future meeting.

b. **City Commission Retreat — Commissioner Leonard**

Commissioner Leonard suggested that the City Commission have retreats to discuss various issues and ideas that are of concern to the Community and to come up with a business plan for the City.

Mayor Finnerty agreed that a retreat would be a good idea, after the upcoming election.

Upon inquiry, Attorney Davis advised that a retreat would have to be held in St. Pete Beach, it would have to have a public notice and the public would be invited to attend.

Commissioner Leonard stated that he felt that the Commission should come up with five or ten issues that they want to discuss at the retreat and focus on those issues to formulate a long-term plan.

c. **Comprehensive Plan Amendment — Commissioner Chaney**

Commissioner Chaney stated that if the challenges to the Comprehensive Plan stand and they end up without a revised Plan, she would like the Commission to be the ones taking the action to create the Plan this time.

She stated that she is willing to delay this discussion until after the Shade Meeting. She stated that her point was that she wanted the Commission to be prepared to develop a Plan, if necessary.

The Commission agreed to discuss this issue at the next regular meeting after the Shade Meeting.

7. **Reports.**

The following persons gave verbal reports.

City Manager Bonfield
City Attorney Mike Davis
Commissioner Halpern
Commissioner Chaney Commissioner Leonard
Vice Mayor Metz
Mayor Finnerty

8. Adjournment

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 a.m. on December 17, 2008.

Minutes approved: February 23, 2021

Amber M. LaRowe
City Clerk

Alan Johnson
Mayor