

ST. PETE BEACH CITY COMMISSION

**WORKSHOP MEETING
MINUTES**

**Thursday, November 6, 2008
6:30 p.m.**

THOSE PRESENT:

Mayor Finnerty
Vice Mayor Metz
Commissioner Halpern
Commissioner Chaney
Commissioner Leonard
City Clerk Theresa McMaster
City Manager Mike Bonfield

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Finnerty called the Workshop Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

WATER SPORTS ORDINANCE

1. Discussion of Proposed Watersports Ordinance

City Manager Bonfield alluded to the items agreed to at the last City Commission Workshop Meeting as well as items that need to be discussed, amended and finalized. He presented the revised map that still need changes for the size of the channel and the size of the vessels. City Manager Bonfield named the five locations (hotels) that currently have vessels approved that will require the 50' channel. He alluded to the other size boats and the channel size they would need.

There was discussion concerning how to write this so it can be revoked. City Manager Bonfield spoke to the issues discussed at the last Workshop Meeting.

Commissioner Halpern

Commissioner Halpern felt that this is a good Ordinance and is what this Commission needs to approve. There was discussion with respect to aggregation.

Commissioner Chaney

Commissioner Chaney spoke to the existing hotels that have personal water vessels available for the public to rent. She referred to the many vessels that would be coming to the beach and for safety reasons, should be limited.

Commissioner Leonard

Commissioner Leonard stressed the need to have a limit on the number of water vessels. If possible, there should be consideration of the sandy beach for traffic issues. He agrees with the licensing of the boats, but would like to establish a number.

Vice Mayor Metz

Vice Mayor Metz spoke to the number of vessels that are not regulated by the City. He proposed that the City apply regulations to the entire City and not only the sandy beaches.

With regard to having a Code Enforcement Officer, Vice Mayor Metz felt that there is more of a need to have two officers working on the street, rather than the beach.

City Manager Bonfield spoke to the restricted area approved for having buoys in the water.

There was discussion regarding environmental standard issues, number of jet skis allowed at one location, control of vessels for safety, charging a fee to all of the power boats to help regulate enforcement of safety, etc.

It was noted that vessels that are existing at the date of this Ordinance are grandfathered.

Audience Comments

The following concerned citizens spoke in favor of this proposal:

Rick Childs, Gulf Beach Resort

Dave Winkler, Captain Dave's Water Sports, 9540 Blind Pass Road

The following concerned citizens spoke against this proposal:

Mike Bomar, 4th Palm Point

Commission Comments

Commissioner Leonard expressed his concern for the north end of the beach. He also spoke to his concern regarding stacking the boats. He does not want to double the number of personal water craft vehicles or increase the number of boats.

Mayor Finnerty would like to have a one year trial period.

Commissioner Chaney would like to (1) Grandfather what is currently there, and (2) not allow conditional use. Commissioner Chaney would also like some information from City Attorney Davis concerning the conditional use application that is currently turned in.

Commissioner Chaney moved to eliminate conditional use for water crafts on the sandy beach. Vice Mayor Metz seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by individual roll call vote of four to one (4-1) with Mayor Finnerty voting no.

2. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, this Workshop Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Mayor Michael Finnerty

Attest:

City Clerk Theresa B. McMaster