

**ST. PETE BEACH CITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES**

**Tuesday, February 3, 2009
6:30 p.m.**

THOSE PRESENT:

Mayor Finnerty
Vice Mayor Metz
Commissioner Halpern
Commissioner Chaney
Commissioner Leonard

ALSO PRESENT:

City Clerk Theresa McMaster
City Manager Mike Bonfield
City Attorney Mike Davis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

CALL TO ORDER

GULF BOULEVARD BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM

Mr. Michael Welsh, East Debazan, stated that when he was asked to serve on the Citizens Advisory Committee, for the MPO, it was with a mandate of looking out for St. Pete Beach's interest, particularly the pedestrian situation on Gulf Boulevard. He advised that a plan was developed that included 6 crosswalks for Gulf Boulevard, which had to be presented to Pinellas County by the City along with a request for the funding. He reported that FDOT and all the agencies involved have approved the crosswalks.

There was a general discussion regarding funding for the Beautification Program. It was agreed that the crosswalks are the most important aspect of the Program.

City Manager Bonfield gave a presentation of the County and FDOT Plans for Gulf Boulevard, by use of a power point presentation. A copy of these plans are on file in the City Manager's office.

Mr. Bonfield answered questions for the Commission.

There was a general discussion regarding the cost of undergrounding of utilities for Gulf Boulevard.

Mr. Bonfield reported that the City requested \$5,000.000 for the funding about 6-8 months ago to the BIG C.

The Commission was in agreement that the City needs to develop a plan to submit to the County and FDOT for funding.

Mr. Bonfield recommended that the City hire a professional to design the plan to submit to the FDOT and the County.

The Commission was in agreement to hold another meeting with Gladding-Jackson to present and discuss a plan.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Mr. Bill Pyle, 6600 Sunset Way, suggested that the City seek funding through the Federal Government Stimulus Plan.

Mr. Tom Bennett, Sylvette Condominiums, stated that crosswalks are the most important aspect of the plan and that people may not use them unless they are enhanced, so they can be well seen.

It was pointed out that the underground of utilities was going to be postponed at this time and to focus on the beautification and crosswalks.

Mayor Finnerty closed audience comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Being, no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Mayor Michael Finnerty

Attest:

City Clerk Theresa B. McMaster