

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
City of Belleair Bluffs  
Monday September 21, 2009  
7:00 PM

The Belleair Bluffs City Commission held a meeting Monday September 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Community Room B. The following answered roll call: Mayor Arbutine, Commissioners J. Barkley, H. Brand, J. Nazario, and S. Sofer. Attorney Trask, City Clerk Debra Sullivan, Largo Fire Chief Michael Wallace, were present as staff.

Presentation - Traffic Warrant Study - Joseph J. Grimail - Grimail Crawford Inc.  
Bill Reidy - Advanced Engineering

Mr. Grimail was not in attendance. Mr. Reidy informed the Commission of the proposed study on the traffic conditions on West Bay Drive and the Belleair Beach Causeway. He stated the study will include all areas from the marina to Bluff View Drive. The warrant study evaluates different criteria that may include different access points. They will evaluate pedestrian movement as well as traffic movement.

Mayor Arbutine stated his desire is to prepare more than a warrant study. He wants the study to include from Sunset Drive to the bridge, considering driveways and condominium entrances. He is expecting a full analysis of the private roads and public roads. The Commission already feels it is necessary to have a stop light at the boat ramp and one further east.

Commissioner Nazario expressed his concerns about the condominium entrances and exits. He spoke about the demographic population, the increased speed the bridge has caused, the probable increase of speed limit and the dangers that all of this might cause. He wants to prevent any serious occurrence.

Peter Ferrara - resident - addressed the fact that no one can walk across the street to visit the shopping areas close to the condominiums. He is concerned about the increased danger.

Mark Naedel - resident does not think the increased speed limit will be an issue but requested the barricades be moved to ease driving when turning onto West Bay Drive.

David Shimkus - resident - agrees with the study but wants to be sure Pinellas County will agree to the placement of the lights if the study so indicates.

Commissioner Barkley requested a time frame from the time of the study to the placement of the lights. Mayor Arbutine requested citizenry attend the MPO meeting at which he is the Chairman. *Consensus was given to have Commissioner Nazario attend the next meeting.*

**Citizens to be heard on non-agenda items**

Mark Naedel - 343 Bluff View drive - requested information related to the reimbursement of funds to Lt. Charles Barlet.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

Mayor Arbutine had nothing new to report.

Administration/Finance - Commissioner Sofer had nothing new to report.

Police Department - Commissioner Nazario had nothing new to report.

Fire Department - Chief Wallace reported firefighter physicals are in progress, uniforms have been ordered. Largo firefighters are training in Belleair Bluffs. There is a probability that some Belleair Bluffs firefighters may remain at the Belleair Bluffs station after their employment in Largo during the bidding process. Commissioner Sofer requested information related to the pension issue. Mayor Arbutine stated Largo management did not show interest in merging the Belleair Bluffs pension with their plan. They stated a pension is a benefit for years of service provided and the Belleair Bluffs fire fighters did not provide that service to the citizens of Largo. They did agree to present documentation at the Belleair Bluffs October workshop meeting.

Public Works Department - Commissioner Brand had nothing new to report.

Special Master - Commissioner Brand had nothing new to report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Resolution 2009-08 - Pinellas County Recycling Grant

A motion was made by Commissioner Sofer to approve Resolution 2009-09 which was seconded by Commissioner Nazario.

Roll Call:

AYE: Arbutine, Barkley, Brand, Nazario, Sofer

NEY: None ABSENT: None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Status of Fire Suppression Agreement with the City of Largo

Attorney Trask informed the Commission that the proposed agreement was sent to the City of Largo. Largo City Attorney Alan Zimmet will return the document later this week.

Status of Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Belleair Bluffs and the City of Largo

The City of Largo signed the agreement and placed a date of November 30, 2009 as the deadline for the MOU and omitted the language related to EMS services. Steve Langere, Belleair Bluffs Pension Chairperson inquired if the MOU or the Interlocal agreement referred to the pension plan. Attorney Trask responded that this issue is not present in either document.

Mayor Arbutine suggested the Pension Board wait until after the October workshop to make any decisions regarding the plan.

**OTHER**

Commissioner Nazario informed the Commission about a program that the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office is promoting Project Life Saver which assists the elderly population in need of assistance with mental distress issues such as Alzheimer's or dementia. This program would assist in locating the person if they are missing.

Commissioner Barkley requested consideration of applying accrued sick time as a severance packet for the outgoing firefighter personnel. This item will be considered at the October workshop.

Commissioner Sofer thanked Chief Wallace for showing her the firefighting operation at the nearby fire stations. Chief Wallace offered the same opportunity to each Commissioner. Chief Wallace thanked City Clerk Sullivan for her assistance in the transition.

There being no further comments the meeting adjourned at 7:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Debra S. Sullivan*

Debra S. Sullivan, CMC  
City Clerk