

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2016
4:00 P.M.
CITY HALL
9101 BONITA BEACH ROAD
BONITA SPRINGS, FLORIDA 34135
MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Peter Simmons called the workshop to order at 4:03 P.M.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At the request of Mayor Simmons, Council Member Greg DeWitt led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Mayor Simmons and all Council Members were in attendance except for Council Member Steven Slachta.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

4:04:32 PM Rick Steinmeyer suggested the City Council will find an improvement.

V. DISCUSSION ON DOWNTOWN:

A. GENERAL INTRODUCTION. CITY MANAGER CARL SCHWING

4:07:22 PM City Manager Carl Schwing provided a brief background on the downtown improvement project.

B. VISION/GOALS/LOOK OF AREA. JAY SWEET, COMMUNITY

4:07:22 PM Jay Sweet, Community Development, furnished a PowerPoint presentation (copy in Clerk's file) to present the vision, goals and look of the downtown improvement project.

4:22:47 PM Council Member Mike Gibson referred to the Gibbs Report mentioning not placing trees in front of businesses, however, with the current project trees are being placed in front of them. He wanted the discrepancy to be reviewed and provided possible corrections.

4:27:02 PM Council Member Amy Quaremba asked if there are plans to incorporate a historic overlay. Mr. Sweet stated that City Council would need to provide direction on whether they want a historic overlay and a possible location.

Council Member Quaremba asked whether suggestions that the Bonita Springs Downtown Alliance were being integrated with the project. Mr. Sweet stated that staff has had some interface with the Downtown Alliance.

4:28:23 PM Mr. Schwing stated he and the City are members of the Alliance. Staff attends their meetings and are aware of what is being asked. The group has been convinced of the Downtown Improvement's potential and are looking forward to its completion. The Alliance has added in suggestions on what can be done to improve downtown beyond construction including adding kiosks, which would need direction from Council.

4:29:19 PM Council Member Greg DeWitt asked about older properties in the area and whether Neighborhood Services was looking into identifying the owner of those properties. Mr. Sweet stated that Community Development has had inquiries into the old transmission shop and they are working on identifying other properties.

4:30:49 PM Frank Cassidy, Neighborhood Services Director, elaborated that efforts are being coordinated with Community Development.

C. INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMATION. PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR MATT FEENEY

4:37:33 PM Matt Feeny, Public Works Director, furnished a PowerPoint presentation (copy in Clerk's file) to address the infrastructure information. Andy Powell, Wright Construction, was in attendance to furnish a PowerPoint which addressed the project goals, including economic redevelopment, and area wide drainage and water quality improvements. He also referenced undergrounding the overhead utilities, opening the Imperial River and Oak Creek views, completing the streets and making them pedestrian friendly, and providing additional downtown area parking.

4:43:00 PM Kim Hoskins, Bonita Springs Utilities, proceeded to provide a visual of the improvements that were done in Phases I and II as well as their progress.

4:47:44 PM Kevin Mangan, Landscape Architect with Stantec Consulting Service Inc., spoke about directed landscape changes to the downtown area by replacing 90 Oak Trees with Shady Lady Black Olive Trees.

4:56:35 PM Mr. Schwing asked whether the Council would like to make any changes in regards to the replacement of the Oak Trees with Shady Lady Trees. Council Member Fred Forbes asked how often the roots of these trees need to be treated before they become an issue. Council Member Amy Quaremba expressed her concern with Live Oak Trees staining the sidewalks.

5:06:19 PM Council Member Mike Gibson suggested having a landscaper clean up the leaves to prevent staining. Mr. Feeny stated there are no contracted landscapers for the area at the moment but it can be written into the landscape specification. Council Member DeWitt asked whether the leaf litter would be a concern for Public Works. Mr. Feeny stated it was more of a concern before the project started and the new design is better and easier to address through a

maintenance contract. Council Member Quaremba stated that she feels if there will be staining with both tree options then Council should consider staying with the Live Oak Tree as opposed to the Shady Lady Olive Tree.

5:10:36 PM Mr. Schwing suggested if there is a time constraint for this workshop then the next workshop can resume what was not discussed during this session.

5:21:47 PM Vince Olioskis(sp?), Bridge Engineer with Haskins Engineering, provided an update on the bridge. He stated that the goal is to lower projected costs to the \$1 million dollar budget but also create a transparent barrier to provide a visual access, provide a greater visibility to the river and encourage pedestrians to use the sidewalks for the bridge. Mr. Olioskis(sp?) stated he will bring better graphics at the next meeting.

5:29:42 PM Tom Barber, Agnoli, Barber, & Brundage, provided a visual of the project and spoke in depth.

5:29:42 PM Council Member Peter O'Flinn requested to have Mr. Barber come back to speak about the financial aspects at the next meeting.

5:30:02 PM Mr. Schwing recommended to have drainage discussed at the next meeting. He recommend this to be done on the June 15th meeting.

D. FINANCIAL ASPECTS. FINANCE DIRECTOR ANNE WRIGHT (GREENSHEET NO. 16-06-0161)

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

5:31:20 PM Mr. Steinmeyer addressed the issue of trees.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further items to discuss the meeting adjourned at 5:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Charlen Wade, HR/ City Clerk Assistant

APPROVED:
BONITA SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL:

Date: JULY 7, 2016

AUTHENTICATED:


Peter Simmons, Mayor


Debra Filipek, City Clerk