

**MINUTES
LONGBOAT KEY TOWN COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2010 - 1:00 P.M.**

Present: Mayor George Spoll, Vice Mayor Jim Brown, Commrs. David Brenner, Lynn Larson, Hal Lenobel, Robert Siekmann, Phill Younger

Also Present: Town Manager Bruce St. Denis, Town Attorney David Persson, Town Clerk Trish Granger

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the Longboat Key Town Commission was called to order at 1:03 p.m., in the Town Commission Chamber, 501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, Florida.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Spoll requested and Commr. Brenner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ORDINANCES - SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING

1. Ordinance 2010-20, Amending Chapter 156, Sign Code

Public hearing to consider Ordinance 2010-20, providing for the replacement of Chapter 156, *Sign Code* for the Town of Longboat Key. The Town Commission approved the ordinance with minor revisions at first reading on November 1, 2010. Recommended Action: Pending second reading, public hearing and discussion, adopt Ordinance 2010-20

Town Clerk Trish Granger placed Ordinance 2010-20 on record by title only for second reading and public hearing.

Commr. Younger moved to adopt Ordinance 2010-20. The motion was seconded by Commr. Larson.

Mayor Spoll opened the public hearing. As no one wished to be heard, the public hearing was closed.

Commr. Brenner inquired on the status of sign review by Town Staff and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

Planning Zoning, and Building Department Director Monica Simpson noted a meeting was held and minutes would be distributed to the Commission, advised that a minimum of 30 signs will be removed as a result of the meeting, commented on a meeting held by the Sarasota County Bicycle/Pedestrian/Trail Committee resulting in agreement for the removal of additional signs, and confirmed that one additional meeting will be held to formalize the agreements.

Commr. Lenobel inquired and Ms. Simpson opined that the new sign code will provide more clarity than the previous code.

The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote, as follows: Younger, aye; Larson, aye; Brenner, aye; Siekmann, aye; Lenobel, aye; Spoll, aye; Brown, aye.

2. Ordinance 2010-35, Annual Capital Improvements Element (CIE) Comprehensive Plan Amendment

Ordinance 2010-35 adopts an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan, updates the Capital Improvements Element, and provides for transmittal of the 2010 CIE Annual Update. The Town Commission approved the ordinance with no changes at first reading on November 1, 2010.

2. Ordinance 2010-35, Annual CIE Comprehensive Plan Amendment - Continued

Recommended Action: Pending second reading, public hearing and discussion, adopt Ordinance 2010-35.

Town Clerk Trish Granger placed Ordinance 2010-35 on record by title only for second reading and public hearing.

Commr. Siekmann moved to adopt Ordinance 2010-35. The motion was seconded by Commr. Larson.

Mayor Spoll opened the public hearing. As no one wished to be heard, the public hearing was closed.

The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote, as follows: Siekmann, aye; Larson, aye; Younger, aye; Brown, aye; Spoll, aye; Lenobel, aye; Brenner, aye.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Discussion Regarding Longboat Key Trolley Funding

At a Joint Meeting of the Town of Longboat Key, Sarasota County, and Manatee County Commissions there was discussion regarding options to continue the operation of the Longboat Key portion of the SCAT and MCAT route. Both Sarasota County and Manatee County have committed funds for continuation of the service, however there remains a \$100,000 funding shortfall. This item was forwarded from the November 2, 2010 Joint Meeting to the November 18, 2010 Special Meeting for Commission consideration. Recommended Action: Pending discussion, provide direction to Manager.

Town Manager Bruce St. Denis commented on the joint meeting held with Sarasota and Manatee Counties on November 2, 2010, noted the action taken, and advised of Commission direction to place the item for additional discussion this date.

Mayor Spoll commented on the action taken by Sarasota County and the proposal by Manatee County, noting that Sarasota County currently funds two-thirds of the cost for Route 18, and suggested that Sarasota County be requested to continue that funding level. Discussions were held on the following topics/issues:

- ridership breakdown between the two Counties
- cost per rider for the current route
- funding sources if Longboat Key contributes to the route costs
- Manatee County's current funding of bus service for Anna Maria residents/visitors
- current versus proposed route schedule.

Upon inquiry, Mr. Tom Aposporus, President of Longboat Key, Lido Key, and St. Armands Key Chamber of Commerce, noted that the Anna Maria trolley does have advertising on the trolley vehicles, advised that Manatee County has returned one hundred percent of the revenue for the advertising on the vehicles, and discussed the fund raising efforts of the beach communities to retain a free ride system, funding from the communities budgets, and other fund raising (advertising) options. Mr. Aposporus noted the LLSA Chamber's efforts through their membership base to increase ridership.

3. Discussion Regarding Longboat Key Trolley Funding - Continued

Discussions were held on the following topics/issues:

- lack of concern by Manatee County for their Longboat Key residents
- \$347,000 paid to Manatee County for the Transportation Trust Fund (separate line item on Manatee County tax bills).

Commr. Siekmann moved to fund \$100,000 for Route 18 (Trolley) in Manatee County for service through December 2011 and to make a strong marketing effort to increase ridership. The motion was seconded by Commr. Brenner.

Subsequent to discussion on the Town's Comprehensive Plan and transportation requirements and marketing options to increase ridership, Commr. Siekmann restated the motion to appropriate \$100,000 for continuation of the route through the end of 2011 with condition that at mid-point that service has not improved that Town has the right to cancel the agreement.

Discussions were held on the following topics/issues:

- postponing formal action pending additional discussion with both Sarasota and Manatee Counties
- taxes paid to Manatee County
- options to postpone action until the December regular meeting
- continued discussions with both Counties.

Commr. Younger moved to postpone consideration of the motion to appropriate funding until the Regular Meeting on December 6, 2010. The motion was seconded by Commr. Lenobel.

Mr. Aposporus responded to inquiry regarding the feasibility to provide a response to a ridership survey by December 6, 2010.

Following comments from Mayor Spoll, Town Manager St. Denis advised he will contact both Counties and advise them of the action taken this date.

The motion to postpone consideration to appropriate funding carried by a 5-2 roll call vote, as follows: Younger, aye; Lenobel, aye; Siekmann, no; Brenner, no; Larson, aye; Brown, aye; Spoll, aye.

Commr. Siekmann requested clarification and Mayor Spoll noted the motion on the table to fund the route will be taken up at the December 6, 2010, Regular Commission meeting.

Commr. Larson suggested that Longboat Key citizens contact both Manatee and Sarasota County Commissions to express their opinions.

Ms. Marie Riepenhoff, Palmetto Avenue, supported the continuation of the trolley service.

Ms. Freda Perrotta, Gulf of Mexico Drive, supported the continuation of the trolley service, noted improved ridership and surveys being performed on the buses by SCAT and MCAT employees, commended the comments of Manatee County Commr. McClash pertaining to Longboat Key's tax monies at the Joint Meeting, and supported continued review of grant funding options. Ms. Perrotta noted support to permit revenue sources through advertising options.

3. Discussion Regarding Longboat Key Trolley Funding - Continued

Town Manager St. Denis inquired and there was consensus to ask Manatee County to place the item on their December 7, 2010, County Commission agenda.

Commr. Brenner requested and there was consensus to authorize Commr. Brenner to work with Mr. Aposporos on the marketing aspects of the issue.

Commr. Siekmann requested that Staff compile and provide the Commission with information on the free trolley service on Anna Maria Island, without objection.

Town Manager St. Denis noted a meeting on November 30, 2010, with Manatee County on other issues and requested that the Commission not raise Route 18 Transit service at the meeting and advised that Staff would continue to work on the issues.

Commr. Larson requested that grant funding be sought to provide alternate funding for Route 18.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Spoll adjourned the November 18, 2010, Special Meeting at 2:03 p.m.

/s/ Trish Granger
Trish Granger, Town Clerk

/s/ George Spoll
George Spoll, Mayor

Minutes Approved: 01/03/2011