

**CITY OF VERO BEACH, FLORIDA
JANUARY 20, 2009 5:00 P.M.
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Roll Call

Mayor Sabin Abell, present; Vice Mayor Tom White, present; Councilmember Debra Fromang, present; Councilmember Bill Fish, present and Councilmember Kevin Sawnick, present. Also Present: James Gabbard, City Manager; Charles Vitunac, City Attorney and Tammy Vock, City Clerk

B. Invocation

Pastor Buddy Tipton of the Central Assembly of God gave the invocation.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

The audience and the Council joined together for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

2. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Agenda Additions, Deletions, and Adoption

The Clerk requested approval from Council to pull item 2D-2) off of the consent agenda and place it under City Manager's Matters as item 7-D).

Mr. White added under his Matters to discuss "Charter Amendments."

Mr. Fish asked that Mr. Chris Mora, Assistant County Traffic Engineer, be allowed to speak under item 5-A).

Mr. Fish made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Mr. White seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. Proclamations

None

C. Public Comment

1. Mr. Frank L. Zorc to speak on Piper

Mr. Zorc was not at tonight's meeting when Public Comments was discussed.

Mr. Joseph Guffanti talked about cameras and giving people a citation for going through red lights (proposed Ordinance on the agenda). He said the reason we have traffic lights is to avoid accidents. The problem with Indian River County is that the lights are ill timed. He requested that the City Council not pursue passing this Ordinance.

Mr. Rusty Bragg spoke on the Ordinance that is on today's agenda (5-A) concerning tickets given to people who run red lights. He asked if someone else is driving his car and runs a red light who is responsible for the citation. He also wondered where the revenue collected from these citations will be going.

Mr. R.B. Sloan, Electric Utilities Director, sent out a Winter Weather Alert (please see attached).

Mr. Fish wondered if this was the appropriate time for Mr. Mora to speak. He was told to wait until item 5-A) is heard.

D. Adoption of Consent Agenda

- 1. Regular Council Minutes – January 6, 2009**
- 2. Proposal for Mobile Data Radio System Replacement**
- 3. Lease Agreement Between the City of Vero Beach and Brandts's Appliance Service, Inc.**
- 4. Monthly Capital Projects' Status Reports**

Mr. Fish made a motion to adopt the consent agenda (item 2D-2 pulled off of the consent agenda). Mr. White seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A) A Resolution of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, approving and adopting a revised Building Permit Fee Schedule and providing for an effective date.**

Mayor Abell read the Resolution by title only.

Mr. Wayne Coment, Assistant City Attorney, stated that this is basically a housekeeping measure. He said that these new fees for building permits have already been adopted by the Council. This will just bring the City up to date with the fees already being charged by the County.

Mayor Abell referred to the second section of page 3, under private provider fee discount. He read the particular paragraph and said that he didn't know what that meant.

Mr. Buddy Akins, Building Official, explained that the Legislature allows builders to hire their own private providers in place of local building departments for plan review and/or inspection services. In those cases the local building department must still issue permits,

record inspection results, and maintain records. This was done a lot after the hurricanes in order to expedite things. He also said that to ensure that codes are followed, the building division audits 10 to 25 percent of private provider activities. This includes plan reviews and inspections. He said often times these audits identify deficiencies.

Mayor Abell then asked Mr. Akins to explain the Building Valuation Data.

Mr. Akins stated that this information is provided by the International Code Council to aid jurisdictions across the nation in determining permit fees. He provided in his backup material on the square foot construction costs reported by the ICC for August of 2006 and included the most recent from August 2008. The construction cost data is routinely updated every six months by the ICC and provides an independent source of construction costs according to the construction category and type as defined in the codes.

Mayor Abell opened and closed the public hearing at 5:22 p.m., with no one wishing to be heard.

Mr. White made a motion to approve the Resolution. Mr. Fish seconded the motion and it passed 5-0 with Mr. Sawnick voting yes, Mr. Fish yes, Mrs. Fromang yes, Mr. White yes, and Mayor Abell yes.

B) An Ordinance of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, applying Interim Regulations to amend Chapter 38, Article 1 of Part III of the Vero Beach Code of Ordinances related to Sandwich Board (“V-Shaped”) Signs; establishing the Interim Ocean Drive/Cardinal Drive Commercial Sign Overlay District; providing for Interim permitting of Sandwich Board Signs; providing requirements for Sandwich Board Signs; providing for an effective date.

Mayor Abell read the Resolution by title only.

Mr. Tim McGarry, Planning and Development Director, reported that this is the final hearing on the interim regulations for sandwich board signs. The size has been reduced as asked by Council at their last meeting.

Mrs. Fromang brought up the same question that she mentioned at their last meeting. She thought that this came up because the Lemon Tree Restaurant needed it. She had some concerns that she had not heard from the Oceanside Business Association or any of the property owners on Ocean Drive concerning these sandwich board signs. She knew that some prior City Councils’ (such as when Jay Smith was on the Council) would not have adopted this Ordinance. She wondered if this is a necessity when they really don’t know who wants it.

Mr. McGarry commented that he talked to some owners who wanted the signs and that are already putting signs up without permits. He expressed that this is a policy issue. His staff is doing a review of their sign Ordinance and this is one of the things that will be

looked at. He said in these economic times a lot of the owners feel stressed and this might help.

Mrs. Fromang said that she hasn't heard that. She doesn't want to pass Ordinances if they don't need to.

Mr. McGarry explained that these are interim regulations and can be repealed at any time.

Mr. James Gabbard, City Manager, gave the history of how this got started. He said that it began with a code enforcement issue on Ocean Drive. He said that the Lemon Tree Restaurant had problems conforming with the sign Ordinance.

Mrs. Fromang asked if the Lemon Tree Restaurant has seen this Ordinance and commented on it.

Mr. McGarry did not know. He said that they allow sandwich board signs downtown, but with this Ordinance there is more control than with the one that governs downtown.

Mr. White stated that he would rather see the sandwich board signs than the thin wire signs.

Mr. McGarry added that these signs will help out of town pedestrian traffic find places. He said that Council could always sunset the Ordinance and revisit it in one year or even six months. He hopes to have the new sign Ordinance completed within the next couple of months.

Mrs. Fromang suggested having the Oceanside Business Association come and give them a report to see if this is what they needed.

Mr. Vitunac said that Council can postpone or continue this hearing in two weeks and see if they (Oceanside Business Association) wants it.

Mayor Abell opened and closed the public hearing at 5:35 p.m., with no one wishing to be heard.

Mrs. Fromang made a motion that they come back in two weeks (continue public hearing) and have a report from the Oceanside Business Association and businesses on the strip who this may or may not effect. Mr. White seconded the motion.

Mr. White asked if when this Ordinance went before the Planning and Zoning Board did anyone speak on it.

Mr. McGarry did not believe that there was any input on it.

Mrs. Fromang restated her motion to revisit the Ordinance in two weeks and have a report from the Oceanside Business Association, the Lemon Tree Restaurant, the hair

salons, and the different businesses on the strip (Ocean Drive). Mr. White seconded the motion and it passed 5-0 with Mr. Sawnick voting yes, Mr. Fish yes, Mrs. Fromang yes, Mr. White yes, and Mayor Abell yes.

4. RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT PUBLIC HEARING

None

5. FIRST READINGS BY TITLE FOR ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS THAT REQUIRE A FUTURE PUBLIC HEARING

- A) **An Ordinance of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, amending Chapter 74, “Traffic and Vehicles,” of the Code of the City of Vero Beach; reserving certain Section numbers for future use in Article IV; creating Article V, to be entitled the “Intersection Safety Enhancement Ordinance;” providing definitions; authorizing the establishment and operation of a traffic signal violation automated enforcement program and the use of traffic signal violation detectors; requiring driver obedience to traffic control signals; providing for vehicle owner responsibility and defenses; providing for enforcement and penalties; providing for appeals; providing for a public awareness campaign and a thirty-day grace period; and providing for an effective date.**

Mayor Abell read the Ordinance by title only.

Mr. Coment explained that this Ordinance is on today’s agenda for first reading and staff is asking Council to move it to a public hearing. The Ordinance was drafted based on many other Ordinances around the State, as well as around the Country. They also looked at the legislation that has been considered in the House and in the Senate and have incorporated some of the things that they have in those bills. He said as of today this bill has not passed the Legislation, but by having this Ordinance passed by the City Council they will have a jump on the process.

Police Chief Don Dappen explained that this Ordinance will give them the ability to bring back to them a vendor that meets the needs that the City requires. He has been looking at this for the last two years. He has had some discussions with Mr. White on this. The things that he has been looking at in doing this are what the pros and cons are. In looking at everything and weighing it he has found out that you can’t argue with statistics. The statistics say that these cameras on red lights, specifically ones designated in this community, will reduce traffic accidents. This has been seen in many communities, not only in the State of Florida, but also around the country. In the backup material provided it lists almost 30 cities in the State of Florida that either have operating systems in place or are moving towards that. He said that as Chief of Police, part of his job is to find ways to reduce crime and increase the safety of our citizens. He believes by having this Ordinance in place that will be done. With these cameras there is a 30% reduction in traffic accidents. The other benefit is what is known as the “halo” effect. He said that

once these cameras are in place at particular intersections (maybe at 3 or 4 different intersections) citizens get used to them being there and obey them, then they start doing the same thing at the intersections where there are no cameras on the red lights. These cameras will only take pictures of the car and no shots inside the cab of the vehicle. He said instead of having to have a Police Officer at every red light to write tickets to the people who run red lights, this will allow him to use one Officer to cover those four intersections on a daily basis. The Police Officer will have to review the footage and will determine whether or not a fraction has occurred. If the Police Officer says that a fraction has incurred then the person will be sent a citation through the mail and have to pay for the citation. There will be no points going against their driving record. They will also have the opportunity to go on the internet and view their vehicle that went through the intersection.

Mr. Sawnick asked if someone borrows someone's car and the person who registers the car gets the ticket, how is that going to be differentiated.

Mr. Comment explained that the owner is responsible. He referred to a case in the City of Chicago where this was raised and it was decided in the United States Federal Court. He read the results of the case. Again, he reiterated that the owner is liable for the running of their vehicle through a red light.

Mr. Sawnick referred to the intersections that the cameras will be and asked what happens when drivers start going to other intersections (crime moves to different areas).

Chief Dappen said that most people are law-abiding people and that is what we are counting on. He said that this is just going to be reinforcement. He has been looking at this for two years and has not seen a downside to it. He said that the public will be given plenty of notice that this is going to be taking place before the cameras are activated.

Mr. Sawnick asked if someone runs a red light 10 times, does the fine increase.

Chief Dappen answered no. He said that the fine stays the same each time.

Mr. Fish noted that he talked to Chief Dappen about the fact that some States issue license plates that are very difficult to read. He then referred to the intersection on 58th Avenue and Route 60 where the entire string of cars turning left are going through the red light no matter what. Also, while approaching an intersection and the light has been yellow for quite a while and the light turns red while you are under it and you look in your rearview mirror and the car behind you has also ran the red light. He asked Chief Dappen how is he going to handle out of State license plates.

Chief Dappen said basically they are handled the same way as a Florida license plate. If the City does not receive the owed fine then the matter will be turned over to a collection agency.

Mrs. Fromang thought that this was a good idea if it prevents accidents, but it is also a money maker for private enterprise. She said that it concerns her when private enterprise is involved.

Mr. Coment commented that he has not seen a proposed contract for any vendor. The way the vendor gets paid can be arranged many ways.

Mrs. Fromang asked how many traffic lights will be involved and which ones were they talking about. She asked at those traffic lights, in the last four years, how many tickets have been writing for red light infractions and how many accidents have taken place due to red light infractions. She said that this is a very serious piece of legislation that they are talking about. She said for her to vote for this she would have to be convinced that a lot of accidents have occurred and a lot of tickets have been written at these particular intersections. She just doesn't want to have a money generator for the City.

Chief Dappen told Mrs. Fromang that in order to answer her questions they have to look at all the details. At this point they don't have a vendor or contract in place. He said what will happen is they will do a study of the intersections and will look at the number of accidents at each of the intersections. He said as far as the number of accidents, if this saves one life then it has paid for itself. He said that they are at the point now where they can really use this. However, just because the Ordinance passes does not mean that they have to do a red light camera program. It just gives them the ability to do it and bring a vendor in to show Council what they can offer. He went over where some of the bad intersections are located (base of the Barber Bridge, 17th Street and Indian River Boulevard, State Road 60/US1, etc.). He said that there is no sense in going out and getting vendors for the project if Council is not interested in it.

Mr. Coment added that he has talked to one of the vendors who has said that they don't go out and spend their money to do surveys of intersections until they know that authorization has been given for such a program. What staff has done is create an Ordinance that they thought would work for the City of Vero Beach. He said that the vendors will work with their Ordinance. They will take the Ordinance and they will fit their program to meet the Ordinance. He then recalled that the House had a proposed bill and the Senate had a proposed bill. The House bill provided for enforcement of the State traffic laws and then there was a split of fines 30/70 and the Senate bill was more like 30/70 for the State. The House bill mentioned outside vendors and said if you have a contract in place by a certain date then they could still maintain the operation of their system until the end of the first term of that contract then you would have to follow the State Statues. In the Senate bill all they really addressed was just the equipment. If the State does adopt legislation on this then it will be pulling resources of the vendors and right now the vendors are putting in the equipment at their own cost.

Mr. White noted that he is a former Law Enforcement Officer and has been to many accidents and so he is a supporter of this Ordinance. He has looked at other cities to see how they handle it. He said that the red light was put there for a purpose. He said that if

this program doesn't work then there is nothing that says they can't remove the cameras. He feels they should try it and go over the contract to look at the ins and outs.

Mr. Chris Mora, Assistant Public Works Director for Indian River County, said that this is an issue that a lot of states and cities have dealt with. It is now legal in about 13 states and numerous cities throughout the country. He said that what Mr. Fish asked him to speak about was the different types of cameras out there today. The County has several cameras in place. He said that these are not enforceable cameras, but they are surveillance and detector cameras that they use in conjunction with traffic signal systems that they maintain. He said that the type of system being proposed by Chief Dappen is a totally different type of camera system. The County maintains all of the traffic signals Countywide. He met with Chief Dappen about this and is willing to work with the City on this if that is what Council wishes to do. He said that the County has not pursued this because of the different privacy issues. He feels that this is something that is going to happen and eventually everyone will be required to do it.

Mrs. Fromang commented that they are mainly concerned with preventing accidents. She asked Mr. Mora if there was a camera throughout the County that they could utilize.

Mr. Mora answered no because the cameras they have are just used for surveillance and are not good for enforcement.

Mayor Abell commented that he has been aware of the time of the yellow lights and thinks they are running about four seconds. He thought that the caution lights should be a little longer.

Mr. Mora went over what formula that the County uses for calculating clearance, which includes the yellow interval.

Mrs. Fromang commented on some of the terrible accidents that have occurred on Indian River Boulevard and 17th Street and asked Mr. Mora why he thought there were so many accidents at this intersection.

Mr. Mora said they have seen left turn crashes, some rear end accidents, etc. He said what you usually see at an intersection where there is a lot of traffic is that people take chances. He said when they are competing for the green time, they don't like to wait for more than one cycle to get through. At this particular intersection they just received all the detection cameras back and they are all working.

Mrs. Fromang asked if there was any traffic analysis that would say that there would be a time for them to put these cameras in to prevent a death.

Mr. Mora explained that in the County they review all of the crash reports from all of the police agencies. If an accident occurs in the County, they look to see the number of accidents that have occurred in that particular area and the rate of accidents. They break them down by intersection volume.

Mr. Fish made a motion to approve the Ordinance on first reading and set the public hearing for February 3, 2009. Mr. White seconded the motion and it passed 5-0 with Mr. Sawnick voting yes, Mr. Fish yes, Mrs. Fromang yes, Mr. White yes, and Mayor Abell yes.

6. CITY CLERK'S MATTERS

A) Time of City Council Meetings

Ms. Vock reported that she talked to each Councilmember about what time that they would like to have their Council meetings and it was the consensus to hold them at 9:30 a.m.

Mr. Sawnick commented that because he works at night that mornings are better for him, however he suggested having one meeting in the morning and one at night for any of the public who cannot make a morning meeting.

Mr. Vitunac noted that they would need to adopt a new Ordinance. He suggested putting in the Ordinance that the Council meetings will occur at 9:30 a.m. every first and third Tuesday of the month, however they have discretion to change the time of their meeting.

Mr. White commented that it seems like they get more of the public coming to their meetings when they are held during the day. He personally likes night meetings because he works during the day, but he realizes that some of their older population cannot make night meetings because they do not like to drive once it gets dark.

Mr. Fish suggested throwing in some evening meetings. He said maybe they could have their first Tuesday meeting at 9:30 a.m. and then their second Tuesday meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. White made a motion to set their Council meetings for 9:30 a.m. the first and third Tuesday of the month. These times can be changed at the will of the Council and moved to a night meeting. Mrs. Fromang seconded the motion and it passed 4-1 with Mr. Sawnick voting no.

Mr. Vitunac said that he would be bringing an Ordinance to Council in the near future to clear this up.

7. CITY MANAGER'S MATTERS

A) Unit 3 Chemical Cleaning

Mr. Jim Stevens, Director of Power Resources, reported that Unit 3 boiler tubes were sent to NALCO, their boiler chemical supply vendor, for analysis to determine if Unit 3 boiler tubes required a chemical cleaning based on the boiler tube deposit weight density. As a

result of the boiler tube deposit analysis it is the recommendation of staff and NALCO to chemically clean the Unit 3 boiler. There were two bids sent out and after review they selected HydroChem Industrial Services, Inc., which was not the low bidder, but was the preferred bidder as a result of the date reviewed and the compiled matrix results submitted by staff members who reviewed the bids. This item has been budgeted in the current fiscal budget.

Mrs. Fromang made a motion that Council approve the Award of Unit 3 Chemical Cleaning to HydroChem Industrial Services. Mr. Fish seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B) Agreement to Terminate Commercial Lease Agreement for Airport Parcel 5 Between the City of Vero Beach and Bridgeton Real Fund I, LP

Mr. Eric Menger, Airport Director, asked Council to look at the diagram shown in their backup material to understand what property he will be referring to. He said that Bridgeton Real Fund I, LP has been a good tenant since 2005. He went over the history and the problem they had with leasing the property. Their tenant has formally requested that the City terminate the lease immediately due to the serious economic issues facing their community. There have been numerous efforts to market the site to potential subtenants for building space, which could be constructed on the land but have failed. No new prospects are currently available and the tenant has significant vacancies in two other developments recently constructed on other Airport parcels. Staff believes that it is in the best interest of the City to terminate this leasehold voluntarily rather than to rely upon the ultimate outcome of litigation that would be costly and time consuming. The tenant will be liable for the taxes up until December 31, 2008.

Mr. White made a motion that Council approve the Agreement to Terminate the Commercial Lease Agreement for Airport Parcel 5 between the City of Vero Beach and Bridgeton Real Fund I, LP. Mrs. Fromang seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

C) Vision Implementation Plan Program Update

Mr. McGarry reported that the consultants held a workshop for the Osecola Park neighborhood and while there were not a lot of people attending the meeting it was pointed out where the improvements for the neighborhood needs to take place.

Mr. McGarry hoped to have the Planning and Zoning Board discuss the Overlay district at their first meeting in February.

Mr. McGarry felt that in the future there needs to be a discussion on the regulations that were set up for the Architectural Review Commission.

Mr. McGarry reiterated that they are working on revising the sign Ordinance.

D) Item Pulled off of the consent agenda
2D-2) Proposal for Mobile Data Radio System Replacement

Chief Dappen explained that the terminals that they are currently using in their vehicles are obsolete. They have outgrown the system and need to go with something more advanced. He said that when they originally budgeted this it was for the old system, but since this replacement system he feels that it will address some of their important security concerns and long standing trouble issues will be resolved at the same time.

Mr. Fish made a motion that Council approve the Mobile Data Radio System Replacement for the Police Department, at an initial cost of \$38,450.00, with an annual service charge of \$18,648.00. Funds are currently budgeted in the amount of \$16,455.00 and it is requested that the difference (\$21,995.00) be funded from the forfeiture fund and second dollar fund. Mrs. Fromang seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

8. CITY ATTORNEY'S MATTERS

None

9. CITY COUNCIL MATTERS

A. Old Business

None

B. New Business

Mr. White reported on a trip that he would be taking to Washington the week of February 24th to lobby for the City to receive money from the stimulus package proposed by the President. He said that the Florida League of Cities is having a fast fly in and would like him to be there to lobby for some federal funding. He has already emailed Bill Nelson to get an appointment with him while he is in Washington. He will also be requesting funding for the beach. He will be in Washington for two days with other Councilmembers and Mayors around the State.

Mr. Gabbard said that he would have some information for Mr. White to take with him when he goes to Washington concerning the relocation of the Water Plant.

Mr. White mentioned that during his Beach and Shore meeting they were discussing beach renourishment. He received a copy of the City Charter concerning funding sources for the beach because the County is looking for money to help with funding for the beaches. He said that their Charter states that they cannot expend any money except in a natural disaster for any type of beach renourishment or from local, state or federal governments and this is a federal beach. He said for them to renourish their beaches they have to go to the federal government because the Army Corp of Engineers has declared it a federal beach. He said that the point is if the federal government wants to help with

renourishing the beach they cannot take their money without a voter referendum. He wanted permission to ask their City Attorney to draft an Ordinance to have the voters change this in their Charter.

Mr. Vitunac agreed that it might be time to revisit that Charter issue. He explained that the City had to turn over the whole job of renourishing the beaches to the County because the City was unable to spend any money on it except for emergency repairs. He said that if conditions are now different they can put it to the voters to change it. He said one of the changes since this was adopted in the 1980's was that the County is apparently running out of money to renourish the beaches.

Mr. White reported that the City beach renourishment was scheduled for 2012 or 2013. He said that they are Sector 5 and one of the erosion beaches that the State would approve funding for, as well as the federal government but they can't take the money without a voter referendum.

Mr. Vitunac said he would need to look into this further. He agreed that the City could not take the money, but maybe the County could.

Mrs. Fromang brought up the joint Resolution passed by both Indian River County and the City of Vero Beach for beach renourishment. This is something that they really need to take a look at. She said if they have to do a Charter vote she wondered if they should have a Charter Review Commission. She said that they all should take a look at the Charter and see if there are any other items in the Charter that need to be addressed. She wasn't sure if the new Election date that now occurs in November works out well for the public or not.

Mr. White instructed Mr. Vitunac to look and see what can be done and whether or not they have do anything on this.

Mayor Abell asked him also to look at beach protection. He said if there are other issues in the Charter that need to be addressed then they should be given to Council and they can talk about them.

At this time, Mr. Frank Zorc arrived for the meeting. Council allowed him to speak.

Mr. Zorc provided Council with some information for them to review and said that he would return at their February 3rd meeting and speak to them. He said that he would need approximately ten minutes.

Mayor Abell suggested to Mr. Zorc that if City staff needs to look at the material that he get it to them and talk to them about it before the February 3rd meeting.

Mr. Fish wondered if the recent meeting held about the Interlocal Agreement was successful.

Mr. Vitunac reported that the Committee met for two hours and a lot of progress was made.

Mrs. Fromang suggested that instead of having one person representing them on the USAC, why not leave it to where all Elected Officials get together.

Mr. Vitunac said that the Committee felt that it would be hard to have 30 members voting at one time.

Mayor Abell announced that on February 6th Coffee with the Council will take place at the Airport in conjunction with Aviation Day and that Aviation Day will be on February 7th.

10. INDIVIDUAL COUNCILMEMBERS' MATTERS

A. Mayor Sabin Abell's Matters

- 1. Correspondence**
- 2. Committee Reports**

Mayor Abell reported that he attended the Special Call meeting that Council had to discuss the Utility report, he attended Coffee with the Council, spoke in front of the Republican Women's Club, he gave a key to the City to the Canadian Council, he attended an MPO meeting, the Planning and Zoning Board meeting, and he walked in the Martin Luther King parade.

3. Comments

B. Vice Mayor Tom White's Matters

- 1. Correspondence**
- 2. Committee Reports**

Mr. White reported that he attended a Beach and Shore meeting, the Special Call City Council meeting and tomorrow would be attending a Senior Resource Council meeting and on Thursday would be hosting the Treasure Coast League of Cities meeting to be held at the Airport.

3. Comments

- A) Review City Charter**

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

C. Councilmember Debra Fromang's Matters

- 1. Correspondence**
- 2. Committee Reports**

Mrs. Fromang reported that she attended a Treasure Coast Council of Local Governments meeting.

3. Comments

D. Councilmember Bill Fish's Matters

- 1. Correspondence**
- 2. Committee Reports**

Mr. Fish reported that he attended an Emergency Services District Committee meeting where he was elected as Chairman of the Committee.

3. Comments

E. Councilmember Kevin Sawnick's Matters

- 1. Correspondence**
- 2. Committee Reports**

Mr. Sawnick reported that he attended an Economic Development Council meeting. He will be holding a town hall meeting on February 21st at 12:00 p.m. at Boglea's (spelling may not be correct), which is located downtown.

Mr. Sawnick has contacted a Charter School representative to set up civic participation with the Council in order to educate students about city government and how they can be involved.

3. Comments

A) Creation of Downtown Advisory Board

Mr. Sawnick talked about creating a Downtown Advisory Board. He said that he didn't know what it is going to be like or who will be involved. He read a mission statement that he came up with (please see attached). He would like to see a meeting schedule that would accomplish three goals and they would be: 1) get more people involved with the downtown area 2) have a constant conversation on issues that effect the downtown and 3) give people a venue to address issues that effect the downtown He will set up a meeting with Mainstreet Vero Beach and try to get their input on what they would like to see occur. He said right now there is not a place they can go.

Mrs. Fromang commented that they already have a Downtown Association. She asked if the Downtown Association wants government to be involved.

Mr. Sawnick answered yes.

Mrs. Fromang thought that it was a good idea as long as the business owners agree. She said if that is the case then she would support it.

A short discussion about the total downtown area took place.

Mr. White commented that if you do this for Downtown then you are going to have to do it for Royal Palm Pointe, the Oceanside and Miracle Mile. He said that if you do something for one area then the other area will say you haven't done anything for them. He said that Council is always willing to meet with anyone from downtown. He said they supported downtown with the Hibiscus Festival and recently gave them money to help fund a Downtown Manager. He agreed that this was a wonderful idea, but they would have to have everyone involved.

Mayor Abell suggested talking to the property owners, as well as the business owners to make sure they all agree with forming this Committee.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fish made a motion to adjourn tonight's meeting at 7:22 p.m. Mr. Sawnick seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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