

MINUTES OF MEETING
DANIA BEACH CITY COMMISSION
PRE-BUDGET WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2009 – 6:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Castro called the workshop to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present:

Mayor:	Anne Castro
Vice-Mayor:	C.K. "Mac" McElyea
Commissioners:	Bob Anton
	Walter Duke
	Albert C. Jones
City Manager:	Robert Baldwin
City Attorney:	Thomas Ansbro
City Clerk:	Louise Stilson

3. Preliminary discussion of 2010 Budget

City Manager Baldwin referenced the memo he sent to the Commission requesting their input for the preparation of the upcoming FY 2009-2010 Budget. He clarified that the memo did not contain any recommendations from him or staff; it asked for feedback from each Commissioner. City Manager Baldwin noted we need to take the necessary action to prepare for what will happen in the next few years.

Mayor Castro noted that we do not know if some of the initiatives that are being discussed in Tallahassee would impact us yet, and as a result of those discussions, some drastic action may be needed. She indicated that redevelopment would be a good source for generating revenues.

Patricia Varney, Director of Finance, presented a PowerPoint overview, which is attached to and incorporated into these minutes.

Director Varney pointed out that if we do not implement User Fees now, we may not be able to add them in future years. She suggested adding a Special Event Application fee, considering the staff time involved in processing these applications. Director Varney also suggested new fees could be charged for: Code Compliance/Special Magistrate, Zoning Review for Building Permits/Certificate of Use, Annual Rental Inspections, and Capital Improvement/Infrastructure Assessments which would be paid by the residents in the area that would be improved.

City Manager Baldwin noted that he would not make any recommendations for the City Attorney or the Community Redevelopment Agency; nor would he give advice on any donations. He asked for direction from the Commission.

Commissioner Duke noted that in 2010 we should receive approximately \$500,000 in ad valorem taxes for the construction in progress. He remarked that the Marina needs a lot of work in order to make it more competitive. Commissioner Duke indicated that increasing our commercial tax base would be something to consider. Lastly, he stated that we need to address our long term needs, as well as our short term needs.

Commissioner Anton said he is willing to look at User Fees, provided our costs are in the mid-range compared to other cities. He is concerned with the full cost recovery because the citizens pay taxes for these services. Commissioner Anton noted that reserve funds are for these types of situations. He clarified he would not support raising the ad valorem taxes or the millage rate. Commissioner Anton noted we need to be very careful when considering any assessment fees because we are trying to encourage redevelopment and attract new businesses into our City. He commented that he would not have a problem with looking at outsourcing services, however, in the past, the savings were minimal.

Vice-Mayor McElyea concurred that we should consider outsourcing the Marina, as well as Solid Waste services. He noted we have one of the best Public Services Departments in the County. Vice-Mayor McElyea stated that we could also explore outsourcing Code Compliance services, as well as Parking Enforcement and Life Guards.

Commissioner Jones noted he would be open to letting the City Manager and Finance Director bring back options, and the Commission would then decide what would benefit the City. He will consider outsourcing some services and the four day workweek or Furlough Program. Commissioner Jones indicated that we may need to use the Contingency Fund. He suggested we look at funds that are uncollectable and if there is a way to go after them. Commissioner Jones noted we may have to stay where we are with the current millage rate.

Mayor Castro concurred with Commissioner Jones on the millage rate. She agreed we could look at increasing some of the user and administration fees, but to be cautious not to overdo it. Mayor Castro noted we should not cut the Park and Recreation programs because those are services provided for the enjoyment of our residents. She agreed to an increase in Pier admission fees only if we get better accounting from the restaurant operators. Mayor Castro was agreeable to adding an administrative fee to Code Compliance/Special Magistrate, site plans, zoning reviews, etc. She would like staff to look for more grants or stimulus money. Mayor Castro requested a year-to-date accounting from the Finance Director before she meets with the City Manager. She noted the City Commission salaries should be considered for cuts, as well as management. Mayor Castro does not favor the four day workweek at this point; however, she does favor the secretarial pool and outsourcing other services, per the City Manager's suggestions.

4. Adjournment

Mayor Castro adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF DANIA BEACH

LOUISE STILSON, CMC
CITY CLERK

ANNE CASTRO
MAYOR-COMMISSIONER

Approved: May 12, 2009