

Mayor Johnson discussed red tide, land acquisition, and beach renourishment funding; suggested Sarasota County land acquisition monies be made available to Longboat Key.

Public to be Heard

David W. Brenner, 2301 Gulf of Mexico Drive, urged Commissioners to proceed with the Islander Club groin project; photos of the eroded beach at the Islander Club were displayed; requested updated project information and completion timeframes be provided by Coastal Planning and Engineering (CP&E). Cliff Truitt, Town Technical Advisor, verified substantial amounts of sand was lost in the area of the Islander Club; discussed escarpment and analyzed beach measurements; the area south of the Islander realized more erosion than the beach to the north. Discussion continued regarding T-head groins, permitting, turtle season, construction restrictions, and beach erosion and stabilization.

4. Opportunity for Public to Address Town Commission

Mr. Moneuse, 524 Lyons Lane, discussed utilizing Bayfront Park Recreation Center for Little League activities; requested the field to be upgraded by installing: (1) a moveable fence, (2) foul poles and netting, (3) lighting, (4) turf and irrigation conditions, (5) two portable batting cages, (6) mobile concession trailer, and (7) sponsor banners on side field fences.

There was consensus to discuss the request at the February 16, 2006 Regular Workshop.

Discussion Items for Consideration of the Town Commission

5. Proposed Resolution 06-03, Application of Partial Terms of Office to Term Limits

Attorney Persson advised the Town Charter, Article II, Sections 2, 7, and 8, and Florida and Federal Laws indicated commissioners should be elected by the qualified electors to hold office for two years. No elector shall serve more than three (3) consecutive terms as Town Commissioner without an interval of one complete term. The Town Commission shall fill vacancies with any person so appointed to be a qualified elector from the district of the vacated commissioner to serve until the next general municipal election. The Town Commission shall be the judge of the election and qualification of its members, subject to review by the courts.

There was consensus to forward Resolution 06-03 to the January 19, 2006 Special Meeting for formal action.

6. Discussion Regarding District 3 Commission Seat Vacancy

Commissioner Robert Dawson resigned as the District 3 Commissioner effective January 9, 2006. An appointment to fill the vacated seat within 30 days of the effective date of the vacancy (the 30-day period ended on February 8, 2006); if the Commission did not make an appointment within 30 days of the vacancy an election would be held within 90 days after the the 30-day period (ending April 9, 2006). This option was not applicable because Peter O'Connor would fill the District 3 seat after the March 14, 2006 municipal election.

There was consensus to adopt Resolution 06-03 and elect an appointee to fill the District 3 vacancy at a Special Meeting.

A recess was called at 2:12 PM; the Regular Workshop reconvened at 2:17 PM.

There was consensus to forward Item 24 to be heard at this time.

24. Community Plan Update

Mr. Herb Marlowe, Town Consultant, reported the first community vision process meeting was held on January 11, 2006. Subsequent discovery phase meetings were scheduled to be held as follows: (1) January 19, 2006, in the St. Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Church at 7:00 PM, (2) January 20, 2006, in the SunTrust Bank Building at 9:30 AM, and (3) February 9, 2006, in the SunTrust Bank Building at 1:30 PM. Telephone interviews with approximately 50 residents were scheduled for January 30 and 31, February 3, 6, and 7. Citizens identified aesthetics, demographic changes, environmental issues, open space, healthcare, infrastructure, recreation, retail and tourism, and water (conservation) as concerns and community objectives.

Commissioner Whatmough suggested a public survey could include: (1) underground utilities, and (2) viewing statistics of televised commission meetings.

A recess was called at 2:27 PM; the Regular Workshop reconvened at 2:40 PM.

There was consensus to forward Item 18 to be heard at this time.

18. Personal Watercraft Discussion

Town Attorney Persson discussed watercraft concerns, i.e., noise, safety, and watercraft operation within Town corporate limits. Florida law provided that an ordinance may not discriminate against personal watercraft (Section 327.60 (1) Florida Statutes). The following considerations were presented to the Town to regulate personal watercraft (jet skis):

Noise:

1. Ban launching of all motorized vessels from the beach except in an emergency.
2. Ban launching of all vessels from the beach with two-cycle internal combustion engines except in an emergency (less than 6-horsepower engines could be exempted.)
3. Limit or prohibit the rental of personal watercraft and other vessels with internal combustion engines solely in Tourist Districts.
4. Limit or prohibit personal watercraft and other vessels with two-cycle combustion engines.
5. Prohibit landing or beaching on the Gulf side of motor driven watercraft including personal watercraft, except in an emergency.

Safety:

5. Prohibit operation of all motor driven vessels within 300 feet of the beach,