

City of Gulfport Florida
City Council Workshop Minutes
Tuesday, August 9, 2011

A Workshop Meeting of the Gulfport City Council was held on Tuesday, August 9, 2011 in the City Hall, City Council Chambers, located at 2401 - 53rd Street South, Gulfport, Florida.

Michael J. Yakes, Mayor, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. All councilmembers were present with the exception of Sam Henderson who asked to be excused.

City Manager O'Reilly asked that the discussion of parking in the Waterfront District be postponed until Councilmember Henderson was present. There was a no objection from council.

Public Session.

Lee Stapella, 3025 York Street S., expressed her opinion that the City should abandon soft code enforcement.

Doug Hudson, 5525 Gulfport Boulevard S., stated the City needs a proactive code enforcement policy and expressed his agreement with adopting a business license fee for rental property.

Bob Newcomb, 921 Fremont Street S., said that the City should become tougher on code enforcement, adopt a business license fee for rental property owners to be allocated to code enforcement/inspections, and institute a local magistrate to conduct hearings on code enforcement violations.

Philip Reed, 5213 11th Avenue S., gave his opinion that Code Enforcement is doing a good job and the city should stay with the current program. Mr. Reed agreed with having a local magistrate to timely enforce violations.

Bobby Bush, 5132 14th Avenue S., commented that the codes need to remain the way they are and said the city should get rid of the soft codes.

Harold Ashley, 2618 Upton Street S., said that code enforcement is doing a good job and is against limiting the amount of cars parked in front of a property.

Cindy Davis, 2790 45th Street S., commented that the soft code enforcement could be used against people in various ways and would like a method that is fair to everyone.

Al Davis, 2790 45th Street S., stated there is a lack of clear code guidelines and does not think the standards are adequate to maintain curb appeal.

Pat Dunham, 53rd Street S., said she thinks it is important when someone moves to the City they are given a copy of the ordinances of the City so that they will know the rules.

1. Discussion Code Enforcement.

City Manager O'Reilly gave an opinion of past and present issues regarding code enforcement and turned the discussion over to Fred Metcalf, Community Development Director, who presented a PowerPoint and discussed with council the current code enforcement policies and procedures and options for new procedures. City Attorney Salzman explained the four ways to enforce the codes which are: local ordinance violations handled in county court; code enforcement board; civil and injunctive actions and the Special Magistrate process which is outlined by Florida Statutes. Council discussed the codes, fines and the process of code enforcement including the four options outlined by City Attorney Salzman.

After the completion of the presentation and discussion, City Manager O'Reilly asked council if they endorsed having a more aggressive level of code enforcement. It was the consensus of council to endorse Option #3 as presented: Use of Option #2 (skip intermediate steps, more resources, administrative hearing master, support for aggressive code enforcement), plus the enactment of specific ordinances targeting unwanted violations and support of aggressive code enforcement. City Manager O'Reilly will prepare ordinances, as outlined in staff's presentation, for council discussion.

Councilmember Banno asked City Manager O'Reilly to provide a list of homes with liens of \$25,000 or more. Councilmember Banno noted she would like to see the city's have the ability to upgrade our website to allow for a complaint procedure.

Vice Mayor Hastings questioned why a group using a smoker on the beach over the weekend was not stopped and he spoke on the need for a permit and deposit system for the use of beach pavilions. City Manager O'Reilly advised that he will be bringing the pavilion deposit and rental issue back to council.

2. Discuss parking options in the Waterfront Redevelopment District. Postponed.

3. Discuss Scheduling a visioning/strategic planning workshop.

City Manager O'Reilly asked council to schedule dates in October to hold a two day visioning workshop facilitated by Marilyn Crotty, Florida Institute of Government. Councilmembers Banno and Salmon and Mayor Yakes agreed; Vice Mayor Hastings questioned the need. City Manager O'Reilly advised that he will work with the City Clerk to schedule the workshop dates.

4. Any other business.

Vice-Mayor Hastings reported on a community clean up along 49th Street that will take place on Saturday. Approximately forty volunteers have signed up to participate.

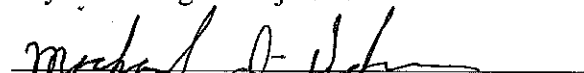
Mayor Yakes advised that he and Councilmember Banno will be attending the Florida League of Cities conference.

5. Adjournment.

Motion by Councilmember Banno, second by Vice Mayor Hastings to adjourn.

Date Approved: 9-20-11


Lesley DeMuth, City Clerk


Michael J. Yakes, Mayor