



**TOWN OF NORTH REDINGTON BEACH, FLORIDA  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
November 10, 2005**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The November 10, 2005 regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Queen. The meeting was held at the Town Hall building, 190 - 173<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, North Redington Beach.

Commissioners Present: Mayor Bill Queen, Commissioner Richard Bennett, Commissioner Gary Curtis, Vice Mayor Jerry Knight and Commissioner Curtis Blocker

Others Present: Jim Baldanza, Joe Baldanza, Henry Browning, Jeanne Carlson from the Beach Beacon, Ted Dahl, Bo and Steve Freidman, Phyllis Johnson or the Clearwater Sun, Don May, Frank Novak, and Attorney Edwin Peck

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Everyone arose and joined in the pledge to our flag.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

- Mr. Novak, North Bath Club Boulevard, questioned the status of the house at 310 North Bath Club Boulevard. Mayor Queen said the situation is unknown since it has gone through two auctions, the first of which was stopped by Mr. Miller's attorney. The mayor will attempt to find out where the ownership, as well as the construction, stands.
- Mr. Dahl, Yacht Club Circle, related an incident where a lady had been ticketed for not stopping her vehicle for a pedestrian standing in the median on Gulf Boulevard. Florida law says the car must stop for a pedestrian half way across the street in a crosswalk—but not for one that is just starting across on the other side of the street. The possibilities of the car getting hit from behind or the pedestrian proceeding in front of the stopped car and a vehicle in the curb lane not stopping and hurting the walker were raised. If the walker is not in a crosswalk, they are technically "jaywalking". Again, the Town's plan to educate the public as well as possible when the crosswalks are in place was brought forth. Construction on the crosswalks will start next week. A caution was also given that drivers have to be extremely aware of every possibility and deal with each situation wisely. Mr. Dahl also questioned the status of the effort to get the house at the corner of Gulf Boulevard and Bath Club Circle North cleaned up. Mayor Queen explained he is very cognizant of the disrepair of that house and mentioned two tries for solutions that have not worked as yet—Pinellas County attempted to buy the property for a park/beach parking spot and developers are looking at combining that property and perhaps the lot behind it with the Billows.

**CONSENT AGENDA: October 10, 2005 workshop, October 13, 2005 regular and October 19, 2005 special meeting minutes; Resolution 2005-111 Supporting a Memorandum of Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation; Resolution 2005-112 Declaring October 31, 2005 as pedestrian Safety Awareness Day**

Vice Mayor Knight made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Commissioner Blocker seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken.

Commissioner Blocker	Yes	Vice Mayor Knight	Yes
Commissioner Bennett	Yes	Commissioner Curtis	Yes
Mayor Queen	Yes		

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**A. REQUEST BY JAMES AND VERONICA BALDANZA TO EXTEND THEIR TWO VARIANCES UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2005**

Mr. Baldanza explained to the Board that he and his wife had been granted two variances in the past. When the new law passed on November 11, 2004 giving variances a life of one year, he requested that he be given that year to get architects, plans and contractors together for what will be one large project, a house renovation, and one smaller project, a swimming pool enclosure. He began working toward that goal, but ran

into trouble getting an acceptable set of plans drawn. He has those in place and has submitted the plans to the building department. He is asking for the extension because the time it takes to get the permit issued varies greatly.

Vice Mayor Knight made a motion to grant the extension of these two variances as originally given and Commissioner Blocker seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion after it was ascertained this would not set a precedent for others. The result was:

Commissioner Curtis	Yes	Commissioner Bennett	Yes
Vice Mayor Knight	Yes	Commissioner Blocker	Yes
Mayor Queen	Yes		

Motion carried. Extension granted until December 31, 2005.

## **B MISCELLANEOUS**

- Mayor Queen explained two items had come up before the meeting that were too late for the agenda. Progress Energy requires access to their meters, which the flood codes require to be above base flood elevation. Therefore, the owner of new buildings must construct a pad at least 5' by 4' with stairs to get to the pad. Ordinance 2005-617 was written to allow that pad to extend five feet into the side setback in single family districts. The ordinance was read by title, which is:

**ORDINANCE 2005-617: AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO SETBACK REQUIREMENTS; CREATING SECTIONS 98-210(3) AND 98-180(3); PROVIDING THAT A SINGLE PLATFORM REQUIRED BY A UTILITY COMPANY NOT TO EXCEED FIVE (5) FEET MAY BE CONSTRUCTED IN THE SIDE SETBACK IN SINGLE FAMILY DISTRICTS; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Mr. Peck suggested since the need for such a structure at new construction on Dolphin Drive was imminent; this could be an emergency ordinance taking effect immediately with a permanent ordinance to follow. The title would be changed to "AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE...". Commissioner Blocker made a motion supporting the amended Emergency Ordinance 2005-617 and Vice Mayor Knight seconded the motion. A drawing of the type of platform required is attached to the ordinance. An example of the type of installation required is at the rear of the Beach Access store. The pad provides a safe place to stand and work. The meter may be only five to six feet from the ground, so a much smaller structure would be needed. Mayor Queen will work with Progress Energy to make sure only a minimum structure is required. The roll was call and the vote was:

Commissioner Blocker	Yes	Vice Mayor Knight	Yes
Commissioner Bennett	Yes	Commissioner Curtis	Yes
Mayor Queen	Yes		

Motion carried. Emergency Ordinance 2005-617 was adopted.

- Ordinance 2005-616 was read by title, which is: AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION; AMENDING SECTION 2.2, ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION FROM TOWN LEVY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE THAT PINELLAS COUNTY PROVIDES FOR AN ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION FROM (COUNTYWIDE TAXES) OR (ANY COUNTY TAX LEVY). Mr. Peck explained the ordinance lists two choices (in parentheses) and the third would be to eliminate the county requirement.

Mayor Queen reminded those present that in 1999 the Board of Commissioner passed an ordinance to give an extra \$25,000 homestead exemption to those property owners in town sixty-five or older and had an income of \$20,000 or less. The ordinance would take effect when Pinellas County passed a similar ordinance. On November 15<sup>th</sup> Pinellas County Commissioners will probably do just that for those living in the unincorporated area of the county. There is some question, and no determination has been made, about the intent of the 1999 Board as to if the extra county exemption had to be countywide or if the Town's ordinance would apply when any such exemption were granted. Commissioner Blocker made a motion to pass this ordinance eliminating the county requirement. Vice Mayor Knight seconded the motion after affirming the \$20,000 income limit has increased over the years to approximately \$23,000. Commissioner Blocker made a motion to amend Section III of the ordinance to read "This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption." Commissioner Bennett seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the motion to amend was:

Commissioner Curtis	Yes	Commissioner Bennett	Yes
Vice Mayor Knight	Yes	Commissioner Blocker	Yes
Mayor Queen	Yes		

The vote on the amended motion was:

Commissioner Blocker	Yes	Vice Mayor Knight	Yes
Commissioner Bennett	Yes	Commissioner Curtis	Yes
Mayor Queen	Yes		

Motion carried. Ordinance 2005-616 was passed on first reading. In order for those applying for the extra exemption for this next year, the ordinance must be finalized by December 1, 2005 and sent to the Property Appraiser. A special meeting will be called at the end of November to accomplish this and included on the agenda will be a review of proposals for the playground for Radcliffe Park. The park committee will be invited to give their input.

- Mayor Queen reported a credit of \$90,354 given by Pinellas County Utilities for overcharges during the past year. Town Clerk Proehl noted the problem, gathered the backup information and wrote to the Utilities Department with her concerns. A meeting was held with the Utilities personnel, Mayor Queen, Bruce Mercer, Public Works Director and Ms. Proehl where some good discourse about the maintenance of the sewer equipment and reporting of the information took place. This credit is the result of that review.
- Commissioner Blocker reported the Sheriff's continued efforts to cite speeders. Deputy Godin worked for an hour and a half to catch scam artists trying to collect money for a fake sports tournament.
- Vice Mayor Knight announced Mayor Queen has been appointed as the BIGC representative on the Tourist Development Council d/b/a St. Petersburg/Clearwater Convention and Visitors Bureau. This group is important since they control the money used for beach renourishment. He also pointed out the unsightly/unsafe houses on North Bath Club and on Gulf Boulevard were also addressed in the new Comp. Plan. The Town must work to develop a minimum housing code for the community. The Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) for N.R.B must be submitted before February 2007. There will be more public meetings when that process begins. He felt proud for what the Town has accomplished thus far with its planning.
- Commissioner Bennett mentioned the Holiday celebrations. They are: Tree Lighting, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Gazebo in Radcliffe Park; House Decorating Contest, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.; and the Boat Parade, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:00 p.m. going north from the south end of Redington Beach.
- Commissioner Curtis urged caution when developing a minimum housing code noting the difference between aesthetics and structural soundness. He acknowledged Veterans Day the next day and asked the veterans in the audience to stand. They were applauded by each other and the remainder of those present.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon V. Proehl, CMC, Town Clerk