



**TOWN OF NORTH REDINGTON BEACH, FLORIDA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 9, 2006**

CALL TO ORDER

The March 9, 2006 regular meeting was called to order by Mayor Queen at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Town Hall building, 190 - 173rd Avenue, North Redington Beach.

All the Commission were present--Mayor Bill Queen, Vice Mayor Jerry Knight, Commissioners Richard Bennett, Curtis Blocker and Gary Curtis--as well as Town Attorney, Edwin Peck.

Others in attendance were Jim Baldanza, Joe and Terry Baldanza, Beach Beacon Photographer, Tim Burns, Steve Busse, Mari Campbell, Jeannie Carlson, Reporter from the Beach Beacon, John and Barbara Creighton, Ted Dahl, Frank Novak, Steve Suzanski and Carnig Terzian

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Queen led the group in saluting our flag.

PUBLIC INPUT:

- Frank Novak, North Bath Club Blvd., complimented Commissioner Curtis in his efforts to get people to attend the last meeting and everyone on the way the meeting was conducted. He questioned information he had read in the newspaper that it would have been smarter for NRB to lease the light fixture rather than buy them. Mayor Queen informed him the truth is NRB does lease the fixtures, because they must then be maintained by Progress Energy. Mr. Novak questioned the status of 310 North Bath Club. A "for sale" sign has again been erected, but no one had any new information. Finally, he asked the Commission to think about lowering taxes in the next budget, because even with the "Save Our Homes" cap, taxes go up 3% every year. The Commission explained that may not be the best thing for the Town, but would think about it.

CONSENT AGENDA: February 9, 2006 Regular and February 23, 2006 Special Meeting Minutes; Resolution 117 Supporting the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States saying "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

Commissioner Bennett suggested passing the consent agenda. Commissioner Blocker supported the motion and the vote was unanimous by call of the roll.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Jerry Knight, Seat 3 Unopposed Curtis Blocker, Seat 4 Unopposed

Mr. Peck swore in Mr. Knight and Mr. Blocker as Commissioners. They each signed the loyalty oath and the audience applauded their continued efforts serving the community.

NEW BUSINESS

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. **RESOLUTION 118 SUPPORTING IN CONCEPT THE STRATEGIES CONTAINED IN PINELLAS BY DESIGN: AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE PINELLAS COMMUNITY**

Vice Mayor Knight explained this is the most recent of several plans the County has developed. It has taken several years of meetings for the PPC, Economic Development groups and citizen groups to develop this strategy to assure the continuance of a diverse economic base for a "built-out" county by concentrating on redevelopment. This plan is an adjunct to the Comprehensive Plan. The County adopted the plan as a matter of principle and is asking the cities to adopt it and use it as a guide—not to require things that may be injurious to the community. Vice Mayor Knight made a motion to pass this resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bennett and the vote was:

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

Resolution 118 passed unanimously.

2. Mayor Queen reported on his meeting with County Commissioner Bob Stewart during the week saying the three Redingtons could be the "pilot program" to spearhead the undergrounding of utilities on Gulf Boulevard. The County has agreed to fund the costs of the utility conversion to underground if the towns would fund the necessary beautification. Mayor Queen reported NRB is well ahead of the game on beautification, so the Town's share of the overall project should be manageable. The time frame for the project is still uncertain because of several unsettled issues.
3. Commissioner Blocker reported citations for moving, parking and crosswalk violations are being issued at an increased pace. People are still not used to stopping for pedestrian crosswalks, but the number of cars stopping is getting better. Mayor Queen reported an rear-end accident at the crosswalk in front of Gull Harbor that morning saying it could have happened anywhere because the person whose car hit the other vehicle was not watching. He reiterated that pedestrians need to be careful and motorists need to focus on their driving.
4. Vice Mayor Knight said officials in Madeira Beach didn't make any effort to educate the people about the crosswalks. The number of people crossing the boulevard outside the crosswalks doesn't seem to be improving. Mayor Queen explained he is attempting to get the cars to stop for people in the crosswalks first, and then he will focus on the pedestrians who are crossing the street improperly. Mayor Queen plans to talk with the CVB to ask them to distribute information to car rental agencies about the State law requiring vehicles to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.
5. Commissioner Bennett spoke of a couple at his condominium complex who barely avoided getting "rear-ended" at a NRB crosswalk. He diverted their intent to report the dangerous situation to FDOT by pointing out that vehicles across the country have to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks. It is not unique to Gulf Boulevard. He agreed the number of cars stopping for pedestrians is getting better.
6. Commissioner Curtis reiterated his request that the memo given to the tourist facilities in town also be sent to the residents via the newsletter. He also wanted to reinforce the information about our website as a viable source of what is happening within NRB in the newsletter.
7. Joe Baldanza pointed out crosswalks elsewhere are at the intersections and everyone expects people to be crossing at the intersection. Therefore, crosswalks there would be safer. Mayor Queen stated the crosswalks were put in at locations where the most people crossed the street and in the middle of the medians to avoid turning lanes where palm trees could add some protection to the pedestrian. Making Gulf Boulevard safe for people to cross is a learning process and we are doing everything we can to make that happen.
8. Vice Mayor Knight would like Waste Management to distribute a letter telling residents about the "rear door" service saying it is safer to let WM return them to their back door rather than carrying them to the street and leaving them there to blow around all day.
9. Commissioner Curtis inquired about the burned town homes. Apparently, the anticipated sales have failed and a decrease in the sales price was reported. It was felt they would be rebuilt, bringing them up to code rather than being demolished.
10. Mayor Queen spoke to the group about the value of volunteers to the community. Special volunteers have received awards for their extra-ordinary work for the Town. Since 1988 six people have been named "Citizen of the Year". Mayor Queen was pleased to name John Creighton as the seventh "Citizen of the Year" for his many hours of service as our Emergency Management Coordinator since _____, Election coordinator since _____ and Planning and Zoning Board member since _____ and Chair since _____. He presented Mr. Creighton with a commemorative plate and a \$50 gift certificate to the Conch Republic restaurant. Mr. Creighton thanked the Board and the people with whom he had worked over the years.
There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon V. Proehl, CMC, Town Clerk