

MINUTES FROM THE CITY OF WEST PALM BEACH CITY
COMMISSION/TOWN OF PALM BEACH
JOINT SESSION HELD ON APRIL 19, 2002

The City Commission of the City of West Palm Beach and the Palm Beach Town Council met in joint session Friday, April 19, 2002 at 10:00 a.m., at City Hall, with the following persons present:

On behalf of the City of West Palm Beach: Mayor Joel T. Daves, President of the Commission James L. Exline, Commissioner Kimberly Mitchell, Commissioner William Moss, Commissioner Isaac Robinson, Jr., Commissioner Alfred Zucaro, Jr., City Administrator Ed Mitchell, Interim City Attorney Claudia McKenna, City Clerk Therese du Bouchet, and other City staff.

On behalf of the Town of Palm Beach: Mayor Lesly S. Smith, President of the Council William J. Brooks, Council President Pro-Tem Norman P. Goldblum, Council Member Jack McDonald, Council Member Samuel C. McLendon, Council Member Allen S. Wyett, Town Manager Peter B. Elwell, Town Clerk Mary Pollitt, Fire-Rescue Chief Kent Koelz, Police Chief Michael Reiter, Public Works Director Albert Dusey, and Assistant Town Manager Tom Bradford.

Pledge of Allegiance: the President of the Commission led the Town Council and City Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introductions: The Town Council Members and City Commissioners introduced themselves.

AGENDA:

1. **Transportation Issues**

[a] **Bridge Construction Presentation by City and Florida Department of Transportation** - Raj Rajaswami, construction manager for the Royal Park Bridge project, provided an update regarding [i] phasing of the project; [ii] anticipated completion of the project; and [iii] public meeting to be held May 7, 2002 at the West Palm Beach Police Community Room.

[b] **Bridge Opening Schedules** - Concern was expressed regarding the frequent and disruptive bridge openings and it was the consensus of the Town and City that the two Mayors will communicate jointly with the Coast Guard to request that bridge openings be

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further restricted during rush hours and during the summer months.

[c] Regional Impact of Traffic Flow Modifications in Downtown West Palm Beach (including Flagler Drive) - Tim Stillings, City Transportation Planner, discussed projects impacting Palm Beach traffic. Issues of concern expressed by the Town were: [i] public safety, i.e., the ability of emergency vehicles to access hospitals; and [ii] the impact of West Palm Beach traffic on Palm Beach traffic. Town Fire-Rescue Chief Kent Koelz discussed the routes open to ambulances to bring patients from Palm Beach to Good Samaritan and JFK hospitals. Mayor Smith and Town Manager Elwell encouraged greater communication between the Town and City regarding street closures, traffic flow modifications, etc. Mayor Daves concurred with the suggestion.

[d] Synchronization of Traffic Signals on Okeechobee Boulevard - There was discussion regarding the synchronization of traffic signals. The Royal Park Bridge consultant stated that the matter would be discussed at the referenced meeting of May 7, 2002 and representatives of Palm Beach County will be invited to the meeting. It was the consensus of City and Town officials that the two Mayors will jointly request Palm Beach County to permanently synchronize the traffic signals on Okeechobee Boulevard.

[e] Coordination of Construction Projects (including Seasonal Construction Schedules) - It was noted that the Dixie construction project had a direct as well as negative impact on the traffic in Palm Beach. In response to a question from a Council Member, the City Administrator stated that communication with FDOT of project schedules would be beneficial. At the request of Commissioner Zucaro, Mayor Smith stated that she would place on the agenda of a Town meeting discussion of joint lobbying efforts by the City and Town to accomplish goals common to the two governmental bodies.

2. Presentation by Mat Forrest, Community Events Supervisor, regarding 4th on Flagler event - Mr. Forrest discussed the scope of the 4th on Flagler event, the type of entertainment offered, the benefits to sponsors of the event, and requested that the Town of Palm Beach consider participating as a \$10,000 sponsor of the fireworks for the 4th on Flagler 2002 event. Council President Brooks stated that he supported the suggestion and would place the request on the agenda for consideration. Mr. Forrest stated that he would provide the Town Manager with the dates and times of road closures for special events that may impact the Town of Palm Beach.

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3. Water Issues

[a] Town Construction Projects - Director of Public Utilities Ken Rearden made a presentation and discussed construction projects in Palm Beach, the bid and construction status and anticipated completion dates.

[b] Water Supply Management - Director of Public Utilities Ken Rearden discussed the Renaissance project, the wetlands reclamation facility, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, etc. The matter of security was addressed and Mr. Rearden stated that the topic is an important one and the City will continue to be vigilant. It was noted that a presentation will be made at the City Commission meeting of April 29, 2002 by John Roberts regarding homeland security and a copy of the videotape will be provided to the Town.

[c] Rates - City of West Palm Beach Fiscal Services Manager Richard Williams discussed the impact of water restrictions, the rate study, the estimated increase in water and sewer fees, and stated that a breakdown of water and sewer charges would be available within ninety days.

4. Continued coordination with Good Samaritan Medical Center and St. Mary's Medical Center to ensure protection of the public interest in the continued evolution of the private operation of those facilities - Council Member Wyett discussed [a] the risk posed by the lack of an angioplasty facility at local hospitals; [b] the importance of appealing to Tenet Corporation to permit hospitals to have the needed facility; and [c] the appropriateness of bringing the matter to the attention of the State legislature. Mayor Daves stated that he will participate in discussions with Council Member Wyett and the hospital administrator on this subject.

5. Other Business - Mayor Smith responded to the inquiry regarding the possibility of the closure of the Palm Beach Public School and stated that the issues of concern to the Town are parking and traffic, not the closure of the school. The City of West Palm Beach Commission was thanked by Mayor Smith for the invitation to attend the joint meeting and she stated that the next meeting would take place in Palm Beach.

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ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the City Commission and Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Prepared by:
Therese du Bouchet
West Palm Beach City Clerk

Edited by:
Mary A. Pollitt
Town of Palm Beach Town Clerk