

**CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING
MAY 16, 2011
4:30 PM**

Elected Officials Present

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor
Alan Zirkelbach, Vice Mayor, Commissioner-at-Large 1
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2
Mary Lancaster, Commissioner, Ward 1
Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner, Ward 2
Brian Williams, Commissioner, Ward 3

Staff Present:

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney
Jim Freeman, City Clerk
Allen Tusing, Public Works Director
Rick Wells, Chief of Police
Diane Ponder, Deputy Clerk-Administration

Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Proclamation: Police Week May 16 - 21, 2011
Accepted by Chief Wells

1. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Representative Jim Boyd updated the City Commission on the recent legislative session. Bills briefly discussed included growth management, illegal "pill mills", Port Manatee and Manatee Technical Institute, re-nourishment of local beaches, electronic filing of court documents, insurance reform, Medicaid reform and immigration.

2. CRA BOUNDARY CONCEPTUAL MAP

Mr. Burton informed Commission that the CRA must complete a slum and blight study prior to adoption of the Plan, which incorporates the map. The proposed boundaries were amended by adding properties to even out the perimeters of the district and add slum and blighted areas. He noted that Lincoln Middle School has been deleted from the district. CRA staff member Bob Marble discussed the process for expanding the CRA District and the criteria necessary to declare an area as blighted.

Commission discussed the need to include the City's gateway areas and main thoroughfares in the district. Mr. Burton explained that the map amendment is to properly identify what is currently in the CRA District and to clearly define the boundaries. He also suggested that staff needs to identify the CRA District's geographic funding.

Mr. Burton discussed using CDBG grant funds, which can be matched by the CRA, to accomplish code compliance for residential properties. The city can apply for a CDBG grant in the next cycle, but a consultant should be retained to write and administer a potential \$750,000 grant award.

In addition to Lincoln Middle School, Commission directed that the Green Bridge should be removed from the map. It was suggested that the entire gateway area on US 41 north of town should be added. CRA staff will look at the recommended additions.

Mr. Burton briefly discussed the three commercial incentive packages being created that will be brought to the CRA Board for approval in the very near future.

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The topic was carried forward to the 7:00 agenda for continued discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Minutes approved: June 6, 2011

James R. Freeman

James R. Freeman
City Clerk