



City of Naples

Special Meeting 1-15-92

City Council Chambers
735 Eighth Street South
Naples, Florida 33940

-SUBJECT-

PAGE

DISCUSSION OF ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROPOSED TRANSFER OF
SAND FROM GORDON PASS

2

SPECIAL MEETING

Date 1-15-92

ROLL CALL

[illegible]

CITY OF NAPLES, FLORIDA

City Council Minutes

Date 1-15-92

COUNCIL MEMBERS	M O T I O N	S E C O N D	VOTE		A B S
			Y E S	N O	

ITEM 2

**DISCUSSION OF ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
PROPOSED TRANSFER OF SAND FROM GORDON
PASS.**

City Manager Woodruff explained that if sand is to be disposed of in a northerly direction, it must be placed at least one mile north of Gordon Pass. That would necessitate obtaining over 70 easements. It would be the City's responsibility to pay for those easements as well as the cost of laying the pipe for that additional mile, he added and the Army Corps of Engineers has estimated the project's cost at \$119,000.

Natural Resources Manager Jon Staiger told Council that the Corps would pump sand north or south, but not in both directions. The Corps will be dredging during the spring of 1992 with or without Council direction. After that time they will return in five-year increments. Dr. Staiger said that the DNR's (Department of Natural Resources) concerns had been modified to allow for beach restoration during sea turtle nesting season, if the nests can be relocated.

Discussion ensued with regard to the cost of the project and which area should be designated. Dr. Staiger's recommendation was that the sand should go to the south. A pass management plan should be done, he said, then based on its results the City can determine in the future whether sand should go to the north or south. According to State law, noted Dr. Staiger, sand should be passed to the south.

The City Manager explained that the Corps, not the City, had made a commitment to move sand to the north the next time they dredged. Dr. Woodruff said that he would not recommend Council approve any contract with the Corps unless a cap was placed on the cost.

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Council and staff discussed the erosion situation at Keywaden Island and by using visual aides, Dr. Staiger described the Island's shoreline.

Mrs. Sue B. Smith, 15 11th Avenue South, pointed out that the Old Naples area had experienced a "tremendous infringement" because of beach parking, however, she was an advocate of public use of the beach. She urged Council to consider putting the sand to the south.

Mr. Jack Conroy, 636 15th Avenue South, said that Council must address several factors. He recommended that Council begin negotiating with the Corps of Engineers and consider seriously the overall perspective of the dredging project. Mr. Conroy concluded, "Sand has gone to the south every time Gordon Pass is dredged. Let's put sand to the north."

Mr. Stan Sterrit, 6160 Cypress Hollow Way, reminded Council that the City would be responsible for any costs over \$60,000. He mentioned that many more people use Keywaden Island than other areas of the beach and asked Council to consider that the sand was obviously needed there. "There is not a need for it to the north," he said.

Mrs. Lavern Gaynor, 800 Admiralty Parade, a Naples resident since 1945, told Council that Gordon Pass was never dredged until after Hurricane Donna. There was never a problem of erosion until the Pass was dredged, she said. A fragile barrier island exists there and it was up to Council to protect it, stressed Mrs. Gaynor.

Vice Mayor Passidomo said that in his opinion cooperating with the Corps did not mean a legal obligation. He stressed the advisability of having a pass management plan in hand before decisions were made. Mr. Passidomo stated that there was no compelling need at this time for the project which would represent a potential loss of tax dollars. "I'm not prepared to support this proposal," he concluded.

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Mr. Bolton Drackett, 3150 Green Island Lane and a trustee of the Keywaden Lands, called attention to the fact that the Land Trust had to follow requirements of the City and the Corps, spending \$100,000 during the past eighteen months to enhance the revetment along the south side of Gordon Pass. Mr. Drackett said that more people enjoy the beach at Keywaden Island than other beaches. He pointed out that he was not asking for sand and told Council "do with it what you want."

MOTION: To DENY the proposal to make a financial commitment to dispose of the spoil to the north.

Council Member Barnett said that he would "like to see the sand go everywhere," but agreed that the sand should go to the south.

Council Member Herms also voted to deny the proposal, commenting that he had changed his opinion over the past two days and did not believe there was any indication of severe erosion and that the demand for sand was not as great in the northerly section of the beach as in the southerly section.

Council Member Korest said that he had been very much in favor of placing the sand to the north. However, the more he learned of the problem of cost coupled with the problems at Keywaden Island, he became very concerned about taking the money out of the Contingency Fund. He also voted in support of the motion.

Council Member Muenzer noted that during the last dredging, the Corps of Engineers' prediction of cost had been off 50% which was of great concern. As the sand must go one mile north and since the City would be taking a financial risk with the Corps, he also voted to deny.

COUNCIL MEMBERS	M O T I O N	S E C O N D	VOTE		A B S E N T
			Y E S	N O	
Barnett		X	X		
Herms			X		
Korest			X		
Muenzer			X		
Passidomo	X		X		
Sullivan			X		
Anderson			X		
(7-0)					

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Vice Mayor Passidomo supported the motion, saying, "When we all looked at this in a philosophical sense, we wanted to determine whether it was worth spending ad valorem tax dollars and other local funding sources. I said that it was if there was a compelling case for it. I don't think we've met that compelling case. What I think I'd like to take out of this is that there are no other sources of funds available to renourish the Naples beaches in my opinion, but for the Sales Tax. I hope that this is the message that we're all getting. That unless the Sales Tax is enacted, the Naples beaches will not be renourished. We don't have any other means to do it."

Council Member Sullivan commented that he had mixed emotions about this matter. He said that he wanted to see the sand go where it would do the most good and although he considered it to be a critical need, a compelling case was not made. Mr. Sullivan stated that as good a bargain as the sand presently is, the City simply has to be cautious of its spending. He said that the Contingency Fund was getting into a critical situation and in his opinion, Council could not afford to take advantage of even a "very good buy" at this time, therefore, he voted in support of the motion.

Mayor Anderson said that she had also hoped the sand could go to the north and thought that Council had made that commitment without consideration of funding. She went on to say, "We have no funds available. We would have to take it out of the Contingency and there's almost nothing left there. Every time we take something else out, we freeze another project." The Mayor supported the motion.

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ADJOURN: 3:20 p.m.

Kim Anderson
KIM ANDERSON, MAYOR

Janet Cason
JANET CASON
City Clerk

Marilyn McCord
Marilyn McCord
Recording Secretary

These minutes of the Naples City Council were approved on February 19, 1992.

SUPPLEMENTAL ATTENDANCE LIST

City Council Special Meeting - January 15, 1992

Sue B. Smith
Werner W. Haardt
Falconer Jones
Duke Turner
Bruce Graham
Wanda Klopff
Gest Hodge
Alexandra Engelsted
Jim Logie
Brian Street
Patrick H. Allman
Roger W. Watson
Philip C. Morse, Jr.
Fern Aitchison

Whit Ward
Charles Andrews
Philip Morris
Terry Hunt
George W. Batchelder
Charles Weiler
Daniel O'Brien
Rick Marchisio
Bob Rier
Robert Jepson
John Greco
Eric Klopff
Leonard Wassmer

Other interested citizens and visitors.

NEWS MEDIA

Jerry Pugh, Palmer Cablevision
Wendy Fullerton, Fort Myers News-Press
Eric Staats, Naples Daily News
Paul Kenney, WBBH-TV