



City Council Chamber
735 Eighth Street South
Naples, Florida 34102

City Council Town Hall Meeting – Thursday, March 15, 2001 – 5:00 p.m.

Mayor MacKenzie called the meeting to order and presided.

ROLL CALL ITEM 1

Present:

Bonnie R. MacKenzie, Mayor
Joseph Herms, Vice Mayor
Council Members
Gary Galleberg
William MacIlvaine
Fred Tarrant
Penny Taylor (*Arrived 5:49 p.m.*)

Absent: Tamela Wiseman

Also Present: Pam Mac'Kie, Collier County Commissioner

Kevin Rambosk, City Manager
Tara Norman, City Clerk
Ron Lee, Planning Director
Don Wirth, Community Services Director
Ann Walker, Planner
Ron Mosher, Police Officer
Virginia Neet, Deputy City Clerk

WELCOME BY MAYOR ITEM 2

Mayor MacKenzie welcomed those attending and explained that this Town Hall Meeting was an informal forum intended to receive the residents' input. She thanked Old Naples Association President Leonard Reina for his assistance in scheduling this meeting and also noted the presence of Collier County Commissioner Pam Mac'Kie.

PRESENTATION BY STAFF ITEM 3

City Manager Kevin Rambosk introduced the City staff in attendance, noting that they are available to answer questions. He also provided updates on various City projects, including the reconstruction

of the Gordon River Bridge (Gateway project), the Royal Harbor entrance passive park, and other improvements/expansions proposed for park facilities. City Manager Rambosk then commented on the new 19-member Heart of Naples Committee (41-10 District) and the City's efforts to draft a new construction management ordinance to better address disruptions caused by new construction and redevelopment. He then noted that additional law enforcement officers have been placed in the 5th Avenue South business district and said efforts were underway to hire two more Code Enforcement Officers.

COMMUNITY ISSUES / PUBLIC DISCUSSION ITEM 4

Paul Arsenault, (Old Naples) commented that continued redevelopment in Old Naples is destroying many of the classic old homes. He suggested a program, similar to the one established in Bonita Springs, whereby historic homes and buildings, otherwise slated for demolition, are relocated to City property and saved for future generations. *(City Manager Rambosk suggested future discussions on this issue.)*

Collier County Commissioner Pam Mac'Kie noted that the County is establishing a Greenspace Preservation Committee to identify land for possible acquisition and preservation; she estimated that this issue would again be before voters within two years and noted the possibility of utilizing a County pollution control tax for this purpose.

Lois Selfon noted recent instances of crime in the area of the fishing pier and requested additional streetlights, particularly in the block just east of the pier's entrance. *(Police Officer Ron Mosher relayed that the City had purchased streetlights for this area that will be installed in the near future.)*

Phyllis Kreager, 7th Avenue South, suggested increasing the City's setback requirements. *(Council responded with general discussion regarding prior efforts to establish a mega-house ordinance. Council also promised to work with the Old Naples Association on the setback issue.)*

Shirley Zawistowski, Broad Avenue South, expressed concerns regarding the parking on the greenspace on Broad Avenue South, between 7th and 8th Streets and noted rumors that this may become a permanent parking lot. *(City Manager Rambosk clarified that there are no plans to make this parking permanent.)*

Hank Sleethe commented that historical districts in other communities often control setbacks by limiting the percentage of the total lot that can be improved. *(Planning Director Ron Lee cited current Code provisions regarding setbacks.)*

Mary Brett suggested that the City make efforts to retain rather than sell the historic Wilkinson House.

Allen Wright, 590 East Lake Drive asked for improved sidewalks and a more efficient sidewalk network in Old Naples. *(Mayor MacKenzie noted that staff is currently surveying existing sidewalk conditions in order to develop an integrated Citywide system.)*

Leonard Reina, 316 Third Avenue North, questioned whether any traffic-calming devices were planned for 3rd Street. *(City Manager Rambosk noted the success of traffic calming efforts elsewhere in the City and also commented that staff is researching the possibility of implementing a Citywide 25-mph speed limit. Council also discussed current development and redevelopment*

trends and related impacts on City and County traffic. Commissioner Mac'Kie urged residents to make their feelings known to the County Commission.)

Erika Hinson, Central Avenue, while commending the Police and Emergency Services Department, nevertheless asked how the City will address traffic and speeding problems on Central Avenue. She also questioned the status of certain components of Central Avenue's median/traffic calming project approved in 1996. *(City Manager Rambosk said he would contact the Engineering Department in this regard and report back to Ms. Hinson).*

It is noted for the record that Council Members Galleberg and MacIlvaine left the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Eileen Arsenault questioned the current status of efforts to clean up Naples Bay and asked how the City will address stormwater run-off problems. *(City Manager Rambosk noted that the Engineering Department is currently developing a stormwater basin project for Old Naples.)*

Virginia Corkran encouraged Council to identify and acquire property for preservation and green space. She also urged all neighborhood associations to educate their residents on hurricane evacuation.

Alan Mingle, Broad Avenue South, maintained that Old Naples, more than any other area of the City, bears the impact of tourists and visitors. He said there is insufficient parking downtown during season and also noted that the resident's yards often absorb overflow parking. Mr. Mingle questioned whether Old Naples residents had been considered when restaurants and bars were encouraged to locate downtown; he also said another parking garage is needed. *(Commissioner Mac'Kie noted efforts to redevelop the intersection of Davis Boulevard and U.S. 41, which she said may draw some downtown visitors to the County. Vice Mayor Herms suggested a Charter amendment to ensure that any new parking garages are not tied to development. Mayor MacKenzie noted that the City provided certain incentives at one time to encourage 5th Avenue South redevelopment; she added that it may be prudent in the future to apply such incentives Citywide.)*

Unidentified Speaker commended Council and Commissioner Mac'Kie and expressed approval of 5th Avenue South redevelopment.

Kim Prince asked for suggestions on how the association can send a clear message to elected officials on issues important to this area.

Larry Schultz asserted that Collier County's growth is out of control and noted the County's desire to interconnect with the City's sewer system. *(Mayor MacKenzie clarified that such an interconnect, if approved, could not be used to provide for the County's future growth; however, Council Member Tarrant expressed his opposition to such an interconnect.)*

Leonard Reina, urged residents to continue to express their views to their elected officials.

Unidentified Speaker questioned whether the above sewer interconnect would indeed solve the County's problems and also expressed concern that it could jeopardize the City's system. *(Council Member Taylor confirmed that the interconnect would not overburden or harm the City's system. Commissioner Mac'Kie also clarified that the County would likely not contribute effluent to the*

City's treatment facilities after Easter; the additional capacity, however, is required by the Department of Environmental Protection.)

Unidentified Speaker questioned how to ensure that this interconnect is temporary. *(City Manager Rambosk noted that the City had received the County's request for this interconnect. Staff will work to define the specific time frame for this interconnect and ensure that this assistance will be limited to emergency conditions.)*

ADJOURN
7:25 p.m.

Bonnie R. MacKenzie, Mayor

Tara A. Norman, City Clerk

Prepared by:

Virginia A. Neet, Deputy City Clerk

Minutes approved: 8/15/01