



The Depot Cultural Center
1051 Fifth Avenue South
Naples, Florida 34102

**City Council Town Hall Meeting – Thursday, March 14, 2002 – 5:30 p.m.
(Old Naples)**

Mayor MacKenzie called the meeting to order and presided.

ROLL CALLITEM 1

Present:

Bonnie R. MacKenzie, Mayor
Gary Galleberg, Vice Mayor

Council Members:

Joseph Herms
Clark Russell (left at 6:05 p.m.)
Penny Taylor

Absent:

William MacIlvaine
Tamela Wiseman

Also Present:

Kevin Rambosk, City Manager
Tara Norman, City Clerk
Dan Mercer, Public Works Director
Ralph LaCivita, Comptroller
Lori Burke, Human Resources Director
Don Wirth, Community Services Director
David Lykins, Recreation Manager
Jon Staiger, Natural Resources Manager

Steven Moore, Police Chief
Steven Young, Police Officer
Ann Walker, Planner
Fred Coyle, County Commissioner
Peter Van Arsdale, former Council Member
Virginia Corkran, former Council Member
Eric West, Airport Authority Commissioner
See also following pages

WELCOME BY MAYOR.....ITEM 2

Mayor MacKenzie introduced City Council Members, County Commissioner Fred Coyle, former Council Members Virginia Corkran and Peter Van Arsdale, and Eric West, Airport Authority Commissioner. She told the audience that the purpose of the meeting was to hear residents' concerns.

PRESENTATION BY STAFF.....ITEM 3

City Manager Kevin Rambosk introduced City staff in attendance, noting that they are available to answer questions. He then reviewed the City's 2020 Vision Strategic Plan. (A copy of which is contained in the file for this meeting in the City Clerk's Office.) He said the City would primarily be addressing redevelopment because the City lands are 90% occupied. Staff has been researching alternatives to providing potable water at a reasonable cost, although the City could one day consider infrastructure renovation sufficient to provide bottled water quality from the tap. Council, he said, was in 60 days to also consider a master plan for reuse water which will include a review of current rates. The wastewater treatment plant was expected to require improvements in approximately 20 years, Mr. Rambosk noted. City Manager Rambosk

continued his report by indicating that the City will consider purchasing fuel-efficient vehicles when technology becomes more cost efficient. Contractual services would be utilized in the future such as commercial recycling of solid waste and horticultural services. The City intends to relocate its horticultural site from Goodlette-Frank Road to the airport property and provide a waterside park at that location. He also said that the City must undertake costlier road rebuilding because heavy construction machinery has been destructive. Citizens learned that many homeowner associations have been requesting interconnection of sidewalks and bicycle paths, and the City would also be considering median, streetscape, and lighting improvements. The City will soon begin a swale restoration and underdrain project pursuant to its stormwater master plan. Citizens learned that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has funded replacement of mast arms for computerized traffic lights which allow traffic to flow more effectively. The City will also be applying computer technology to improve building permitting and inspection processes. Less expensive, alternative energy sources will be considered in the future, Mr. Rambosk said. He also said that the City should endeavor to obtain additional green space, such as the recently acquired Pulling Property. Citizens learned that staff will address water quality in Naples Bay and related issues. Other citywide projects for future consideration include undergrounding utilities, electronic bill payment system, and dissemination of information to the public via the internet. With reference to personnel, Mr. Rambosk said that the City strives to provide the highest quality of service through recruiting and maintaining long-term employees, however associated costs such as health care continually increase. In addition, adoption of a new national fire code will necessitate increasing the number of firefighters.

It was noted for the record that Council Member Russell left the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

COMMUNITY ISSUES/PUBLIC DISCUSSION.....ITEM 4

Sally Ferrero – Encouraged historic preservation and recommended maintaining the Wilkinson House as a tourist attraction. *(Council Members present responded in support of historic preservation.)*

Dick Evans, 14th Avenue South – Noted the need for traffic calming on 13th and 14th Avenues and increased speed enforcement. *(City Manager Rambosk requested that Mr. Evans phone him to obtain information regarding the City's traffic calming program and recommended contacting Police & Emergency Services to request additional speed enforcement. Vice Mayor Galleberg suggested residents attend the meeting at Development Services that evening which will address traffic calming. He noted Council is considering reducing the speed limit to 25 mph and suggested residents debate whether additional speed enforcement is the answer rather than decreasing the speed limit. Council Member Herms said he met with County staff to discuss the road network and traffic levels, and recommended minimizing development in the City to reduce the number of County residents coming into the City.)*

Kim Prince – Noted that the revised parking code disallows parking on landscaped rights-of-way without the permission of abutting property owners. He asked Commissioner Coyle to address any County plans for attracting residents who traditionally come to Naples for goods and services to other County areas. *(City Manager Rambosk noted residents would receive information regarding revised parking and property maintenance codes in two weeks and suggested reporting parking violations in order for the City to respond. Commissioner Coyle responded that the County is attempting to develop appropriate infrastructure to serve eastern County residents.)*

John Raker, 14th Avenue South – Noted a petition signed by a majority of 14th Avenue residents forwarded to a third street association concerning slowing traffic, with residents willing to assist with time and money.

Peter Gough, 365 1st Avenue South – Complained about yard flooding caused by runoff from a large home constructed next door which is drowning a 40-year old tree, and questioned whether there are regulations to protect older homes. *(City Manager Rambosk suggested Mr. Gough phone him since staff should already have this information, and that contractors are held responsible according to the new construction maintenance ordinance for funneling water to front or rear yards into normal drainage systems; he said Parks & Parkways Superintendent Terry Fedelem would contact him regarding the tree.)*

Joseph R., 225 Central Avenue – Complained about the increase in airport noise and lack of affordable commercial airline service. *(Mayor Mackenzie responded that the Naples Airport Authority has taken steps to address noise and Eric West, Airport Authority Commissioner responded that the community requested the airport remain and the noise decrease, and briefly reviewed the process to ban certain aircraft noting Naples had successfully banned Stage 1 jets and is working toward banning Stage 2 jets as well.)*

Unidentified – Commented that it would be less troubling knowing that fellow residents were on board a plane overhead than one corporate executive.

Kim Prince – Commented that the bad news is the airport will remain and jets will continue to use it. *(Council Member Herms said the City and Airport Authority must work together to improve the quality of life.)*

John Mayer, 505 13th Avenue South – Noted that his residence is directly in the flight path and questioned whether the City had future plans to move the airport to the east. *(Commissioner Coyle responded that past studies have shown moving the airport to be impractical, and Airport Authority Commissioner West cited the cost of land acquisition and environmental issues to be deterrents to relocation; alternative land use for the current airport site would be either intense commercial or residential, neither of which he said would be desirable. Mayor MacKenzie suggested widening Immokalee Road to make the Immokalee airport a viable competitor.)*

Raymond Cleary, 141 6th Avenue South – Requested a City contact to address water runoff and resulting loss of trees. He also requested traffic calming on Second and Third Streets and questioned the priority of sidewalk installation versus brick walkways. *(City Manager Rambosk asked Mr. Cleary to phone him to coordinate the runoff issues with City Engineer Ron Wallace; the City will obtain necessary permits in the near future for major renovations to Drainage Basin III to address water runoff. Funding is available for sidewalks although residents are divided requiring the City to determine whether the majority wants sidewalks and where to place them.)*

Paul Arsenault, Gordon Drive – Noted continued redevelopment destroying Old Naples homes and suggested a program to relocate historic homes and buildings; he also complained about restaurant and aircraft noise. *(Mayor MacKenzie responded that the Council would in the near future review a Sanibel ordinance related to protecting historic structures. Council Member*

Taylor suggested either an architectural or historical review board to examine preservation of historical buildings. Council Member Herms suggested designating a particular area as historical with City Council control over proposed demolition of historic structures by either purchasing the property or negotiating relocation.)

Phyllis Krieger, 7th Street South – Complained about the detrimental effect of airport noise on quality of life and took issue with restricting water usage for residents while the remaining 12% (visitors) have no restrictions on water consumption. *(Commissioner Coyle responded that the County developed new water rates which dramatically increase with consumption which will not affect the average homeowner; studies in other communities have shown a 25% reduction in water usage three years after these regulations have gone into effect. Public Works Director Dan Mercer said the same conservation program along with other measures will be presented to Council within 60-90 days. Council Member Herms noted the importance of expanding the City's reuse system and developing other alternatives.)*

Kim Prince – Noted the majority of complaints center around whether Naples exists for the enjoyment of residents or visitors. *(Mayor MacKenzie said that she disagreed with State government focusing on attracting more people to Florida rather than addressing resident needs; Vice Mayor Galleberg noted that amenities attractive to residents however also attract visitors.)*

Erika Hinson, Central Avenue – Requested information on completing Central Avenue repairs; she also noted a sailboat at the end of Central Avenue that had not been moved in 374 days. *(Mayor MacKenzie responded that Central Avenue will be overlaid when stormwater repairs are complete. Natural Resources Manager Staiger also noted that Police Sgt. George Patneau is in charge of enforcement of vessels at street ends.)*

Chris Hunter – Commended the Naples Airport Authority for successfully banning Stage 1 jets and ongoing effort to ban Stage 2 jets; he however complained about the airport becoming a jetport and questioned whether the Airport Authority could increase jet landing fees, restrict hours of operation, and discourage jet pilots. *(Airport Commissioner West responded that it is illegal to restrict hours of operation, discourage usage, or increase landing fees and that current marketing efforts are restricted to replacing the commercial airline service no longer available.)*

Nick Niles, 528 Central Avenue – Suggested exploring transportation alternatives such as a high-speed rail and questioned whether roundabouts are effective in traffic control. He also took issue with speed bumps which result in heavy materials falling from trucks and suggested both increasing traffic fines and instituting stricter speed enforcement. *(Council Member Taylor responded that roundabouts have both reduced truck and bus traffic as well as speeds. Mayor MacKenzie also noted that the City would be pursuing a much more aggressive traffic calming program in an effort to contain traffic on major roads.)*

Kim Prince – Thanked the City Council, staff and Commissioner Coyle for addressing resident concerns and inquiries.

ADJOURN
7:25 p.m.

Bonnie R. MacKenzie, Mayor

Tara A. Norman, City Clerk

Minutes Prepared by:

Brenda A. Blair, Recording Specialist

Minutes Approved: 8/20/02