



City Council Chamber
735 Eighth Street South
Naples, Florida 34102

**City Council Town Hall Meeting – Thursday, March 28, 2002 – 5:00 p.m.
(Aqualane Shores and Port Royal)**

Mayor MacKenzie called the meeting to order and presided.

ROLL CALL ITEM 1

Present:

Bonnie R. MacKenzie, Mayor
Gary Galleberg, Vice Mayor
Council Members
Joseph Herms (Arrived 5:23 p.m.)
Clark Russell

Absent:

William MacIlvaine
Penny Taylor
Tamela Wiseman

Also Present:

Kevin Rambosk, City Manager
Jon Staiger, Natural Resources Manager
Dan Mercer, Public Works Director
Ron Lee, Planning Director
Ralph LaCivita, Interim Finance Director

Terry Fedelem, Parks and Parkways Supt.
Mike O'Reilly, Police Officer
Fred Coyle, County Commissioner
Annette Thompson, Recording Specialist

See also following pages

WELCOME BY MAYOR..... ITEM 2

Mayor MacKenzie told the audience that the purpose of the meeting was to hear concerns of residents. She then introduced City Council Members and County Commissioner Fred Coyle.

PRESENTATION BY STAFF..... ITEM 3

City Manager Kevin Rambosk introduced staff and then reviewed the City's 2020 Vision strategic plan. (A copy of this material is contained in the file for this meeting in the City Clerk's Office. For a full summary of the points highlighted at the various Town Hall meetings in this series, see the minutes of 3/14/02.). Mr. Rambosk then noted stormwater basin work in Old Naples to improve areas immediately adjacent to Aqualane Shores. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), he reported, had funded replacement of mast arms for traffic lights which would be computerized and allow traffic to flow more effectively, and staff would conduct a City-wide traffic study. He encouraged residents concerned about traffic calming to contact their homeowner associations, which would notify the City of requested improvements. City Manager Rambosk also commented on the acquisition of additional green space such as the Pulling property. City staff had also been considering water quality in Naples Bay and other areas, revegetation of spoil areas, and maintenance of beaches. In conclusion, he noted the City's vehicle maintenance program and cited crime statistics.

It was noted for the record that Council Member Herms arrived at 5:23 p.m.

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

Kirk Materne, 1976 Galleon Drive, inquired whether the City was still considering a desalinization plant and requested the status of Florida Power and Light (FPL) agreeing to partially fund underground power in Port Royal. *(Mayor MacKenzie recommended a referendum to gauge public support for partially funding such an undergrounding project, which could be coordinated with installing a City-wide reuse system and constructing sidewalks and bicycle paths. She said placing utilities underground would be too expensive for the City to fund although neighborhoods could consider the proposal individually if a city-wide referendum failed. Council Member Herms said Port Royal homeowners would incur large expense because of costly property restoration. Vice Mayor Galleberg noted, however, the City could assist Port Royal and Aqualane Shores neighborhoods with establishing a taxing district to provide for underground utilities. Public Works Director Mercer said the City has been considering desalinization, a reverse osmosis treatment, that could be funded with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants, state revolving loan funds, and bonds. He said the City has also been considering alternative sources to providing reuse water such as installing horizontal and aquifer storage and recovery wells.)*

Chip Shotwell, Aqualane Shores, expressed concern that 60% of Aqualane Shores and Port Royal residents paid Collier County real estate taxes but could not vote to determine how underground utilities should be funded. He also inquired whether the City was still providing sewage treatment for County residents. *(Mayor MacKenzie said Florida law requires a ballot referendum for a general obligation bond or taxing authority, and Vice Mayor Galleberg said the County could establish taxing districts based upon ownership rather than voter eligibility. City Manager Rambosk noted that the interlocal agreement for sewer interconnects to Collier County would not be used by the County to address massive development or ease sewer capacity problems but could only be used for emergencies after approval by the City Council, City Manager or Mayor. Council Member Herms noted, however, that many County residents receive regular City sewer service.)*

Martha Pollock, Aqualane Shores, suggested that impact fees fund water improvement projects. *(City Manager Rambosk said fewer impact fees would be available because new construction in the City has declined. County Commissioner Coyle said impact fee improvements must occur in the district in which the funds had been generated. City Manager Rambosk said the approximately \$350,000 received annually from system development fees assessed to building expansion is used to improve infrastructure in the City.)*

Virginia Corkran, 213 9th Avenue South, recommended the County adopt the City's Comprehensive Plan Policy 2-21 regarding water usage, and expressed concern about an interlocal water agreement between the City and the County. *(County Commissioner Coyle said an interlocal water agreement could assist the City as well as the County and that he expected the County to implement mandatory year-round water restrictions by May 2002. Mr. Coyle said he would propose Comprehensive Plan Policy 2-21 to the County Board of Commissioners and further expressed the view that County planning had been inadequate, although water and sewer infrastructure improvements would be forthcoming so that interlocal hook-ups would be unnecessary except in case of disaster.)*

Gary Thomas, Aqualane Shores, said reuse water system development should occur before the City undertakes reverse osmosis, and he also expressed concern about the impacts of annexation. *(Vice Mayor Galleberg said residents in a contiguous area could petition for annexation and a vote would occur, but the City's policy has been to not pursue annexation. Mayor MacKenzie said annexation had been included in the 2020 Vision Report only for consideration of the current policy.)*

Sharon Kenny, Aqualane Shores Neighborhood Association president, commended staff for participation at neighborhood meetings. She however cited inadequate tree plantings or replacements on 15th and 16th Avenues South and pointed out placement of an unsightly beach restoration trailer at 17th Avenue. She also noted that Aqualane Shores has many inadequately maintained vacant lots and recommended that owners donate empty lots for parks. *(City Manager Rambosk said Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds would provide renovation of the 17th Avenue beach entrance, and he said funds were available for tree plantings, which he said would occur after a tree inventory had been completed. He said that a revised lot maintenance program requires property owners to properly maintain empty lots and allows the City flexibility in correcting violations and imposing liens. Vice Mayor Galleberg noted that the Code should require that empty lots have at least minimal landscaping.)*

Unidentified Speaker, Aqualane Shores, recommended replacement of a chain link fence at the end of the canal on Third Street between 14th and 15th Avenues South. *(City Manager Rambosk said the fence would be repaired.)*

Unidentified Speaker expressed concern regarding the elimination of the bicycle rack at the end of 18th Avenue South and requested an explanation of the attempt to aerate canals on 17th and 18th Avenues in Aqualane Shores. *(Natural Resources Manager Jon Staiger said that aeration experiments had occurred on 14th and 15th Avenues because public access was not available on 17th and 18th. He said the City had been considering the installation of an air stone system, which would be similar to aquarium rocks.)*

Bill Wynne, Port Royal, complained about discourteous drivers on Gordon Drive near the Port Royal Club. *(City Manager Rambosk said the Engineering Department has been studying traffic-related safety problems in that area.)*

Unidentified Speaker commented that the Parker Sand Web System should be expanded to other beach areas because it had been accumulating sand less expensively than dredging.

Sharon Kenny, Aqualane Shores Neighborhood Association president, however, said she had been unable to determine whether the Parker Sand Web System actually accumulated sand. *(Mayor MacKenzie said that the City had independent verification that it does accumulate sand. County Commissioner Coyle, however, said placement of the unsightly sand web had occurred where sand already accumulated. Vice Mayor Galleberg noted that the sand web and dredging were equally expensive, and he expressed skepticism regarding the effectiveness of the former; however, he said that approximately \$1-million in Tourist Development Funds (TDC) could be used to study the apparently effective flow-thru groins although sea turtle habitat and other issues have limited these installations. Mayor MacKenzie further said the State of Florida requires that sand web installations be monitored for three years.)*

Unidentified Speaker, 14th Avenue South, expressed concern about speeding on 14th between Third and Seventh Streets. *(It was noted that Officer O'Reilly would present alternative traffic calming measures at the next Aqualane Shores Neighborhood Association meeting; also, it was reported that Officer O'Reilly had been operating radar on 14th, 17th and 18th Avenues.)*

Dave Parish, 261 Aqua Court, recommended repaving of his street to correct excessive runoff into his driveway. *(City Manager Rambosk requested a telephone number so that the Engineering Department could contact Mr. Parish.)*

Sharon Kenny, Aqualane Shores Neighborhood Association president, expressed concern that some individuals consistently neglected to remove pet droppings in the rights-of-way, and she advocated additional police enforcement to address loitering at 7-Eleven and Cracker Grill on Third Street South. *(City Manager Rambosk said staff would develop a flyer stating the County's regulations regarding pet waste removal, and he said additional police enforcement would be provided at the locations cited.)*

ADJOURN
6:48 p.m.

Bonnie R. MacKenzie, Mayor

Tara A. Norman, City Clerk

Minutes prepared by:

Annette Thompson, Recording Specialist

Minutes approved: 8/20/02