

Discussion continued regarding the manner in which to acquire the unimproved lots: (1) City Manager Lewis recommended that staff bring back a proposal to hire a professional specializing in real estate acquisition to work with the City Attorney to set parameters and bring back a contract for Commission review; (2) confirmation was provided that the project would be exempt from the procurement process.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cook; seconded by Commissioner Jones; to direct staff to investigate the best ways to acquire the properties and to bring a report back to the Commission. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Yates, Vice-Mayor DiFranco, Commissioner Cook, Commissioner Jones and Mayor Blucher

9. PUBLIC COMMENT: 3:59 p.m. -- 4:02 p.m.

10. SCHEDULING OF WORKSHOPS:

Commissioner Jones: requested a Commission Workshop on Proclamations.

11. COMMISSION REPORTS:

Commissioner Yates: (1) reported attending several community events; (2) attended the Sarasota County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Economic Outlook event; (3) attended the Manasota League of Cities; (4) reported on legislation recently passed on the State level regarding ethics training for local officials; (5) the Manasota League of Cities will coordinate with Florida League of Cities to organize standardized ethics training.

Vice-Mayor DiFranco: (1) attended several community events; (2) will attend the Sarasota County Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA) training on ethics; (3) due to the upcoming transition to in-house legal services, Vice-Mayor DiFranco will request a future agenda item to recommend that Nelson Hesse provide an engagement letter with overflow and backup legal service/information to the new attorney.

Mayor Blucher: (1) attended several community events; (2) requested a consensus to present a Key to the City of North Port to Gwen McKenzie, Chief Operations Officer for Sarasota Memorial Hospital, who is moving out of state. The presentation will either be at the next Commission meeting or at the next hospital board meeting.

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Commissioner Jones: (1) attended the Kiwanis Prayer Breakfast; (2) attended North Port High School Hall of Fame where his daughter, Erin, was inducted.

Commissioner Cook: (1) attended several Community Events; (2) thanked City Manager Lewis for scheduling a meeting regarding water quality with Public Works Director Adumuah, staff, and Harrison Fox, Ph.D., an environmentalist. A report of the meeting will be provided at the next Commission meeting.

12. ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL REPORTS:

City Manager Lewis: (1) announced the 2nd Annual Stone Crabs Night for City Employees is May 17, 2014; (2) the North Port Police Department will host the Law Enforcement Memorial Services on May 21, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.; (3) a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Water Control Structure 101 is scheduled for May 13, 2014, at 6:00 p.m.;