

TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA

TOWN COMMISSION

WORKSHOP MINUTES

Town Commission Meeting Room

4501 Ocean Drive

Monday, March 31, 2008

5:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER, MAYOR ROSEANN MINNET

Mayor Minnet called the workshop to order at 5:07 p.m. Present were Mayor Roseann Minnet, Vice Mayor Jerry McIntee, Commissioner Jim Silverstone, Commissioner Birute Ann Clotney, and Commissioner Stuart Dodd. Also present were Town Manager Esther Colon, and Town Clerk June White.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

3. TOWN ATTORNEY SERVICES - RFP# 08-03-02

Proposers Presentation

a. Weiss Serota Helfman Pastoriza Cole & Boniske, P.A.

Richard Weiss briefly explained his background and his goal as a full service law firm. He explained that one person from his firm would be assigned as the Town's Attorney, but other lawyer's within the firm would be available when necessary. Mr. Weiss said he was located within 10 to 15 minutes of the Town and received messages on his Blackberry to which his response would be immediate.

Mr. Weiss introduced Alan Gabrielle as his choice for the Town's Attorney. Mr. Gabrielle was currently the Special Magistrate for Parking Enforcement for the Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea. Mr. Gabrielle was located just over the bridge and familiar with the Town.

The Commission was concerned with Mr. Gabrielle's background and the fact that he had previously represented developers. Manager Colon asked whether the Town would be able to negotiate for a Town Attorney. Mr. Weiss replied that if it was a personal issue, or there was a problem with Mr. Gabrielle he would discuss it. Vice Mayor McIntee thought the Town Attorney should be a new person in Town, unbiased, and without any prior history. He asked Mr. Weiss if he would accept a 12 month contract. Mr. Weiss said he would accept a one (1) day contract. He added that if the Town was not happy with his firm, his firm would leave the Town. Mr. Weiss only asked to be treated with respect.

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The Commission inquired as to how Mr. Weiss would handle political embarrassment and whether he was familiar with Burt J. Harris and Eminent domain, Robert's Rules, and the State Ethics Rules. Mr. Weiss said he would not embarrass a Commissioner; instead he would walk over and quietly whisper in his/her ear. Mr. Weiss was familiar on both sides of Eminent Domain and Burt J. Harris and very familiar with Roberts Rules and State Ethics Rules.

The Commission was also shocked at the response to the RFP. Commissioner Clotey wanted to re-advertise the RFP. Manager Colon explained the cost of the advertisement between was \$1300 and \$1400 and from that ad there were six calls. She added that out of those six only two submitted bids. Commissioner Dodd also wanted to advertise again. He suggested the Town hire a temporary lawyer on an hourly basis.

The Commission discussed the poor response to the RFP and it was suggested that the Town re-advertise. Discussion followed regarding the cost, the number of responses, and the fact that there were only a few municipal law firms. Mayor Minnet polled the Commission as to whether they wanted to move forward and award the bid to Weiss Serota Helfman Pastoriza Cole & Boniske, P.A. The Commission agreed that the firm had a good strong reputation and were in favor of moving forward. Mayor Minnet instructed Manager Colon to start negotiations with Mr. Weiss. Manager Colon wanted the Town Attorney to attend the Planning and Zoning meetings as well as the Commission meetings. The Commission agreed.

b. Mitch Kraft

Mitch Kraft was not present.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor McIntee made a motion to adjourn. With no further business before the Commission, Mayor Minnet adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.



Mayor Roseann Minnet

Attest:


June White, Town Clerk

5/13/08
Date

