

**CITY OF ANNA MARIA  
SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING  
NOVEMBER 12, 2004  
3:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

**ROLL CALL:** Commission Chair John Quam, Commissioner Dale Woodland, Commissioner Carol Ann Magill, Commissioner Duke Miller, Deputy Commission Chair Linda Cramer (3:05 p.m.)

**Also present:** Christopher Collins, City Clerk Alice Baird, Minutes Clerk Sylvie Reichmann

**Press:** Sun, Islander

**1. STORMWATER UTILITY FEE - Decision to proceed with establishing this fee**

Commission Chair John Quam asked Commissioner Dale Woodland to start the discussion. Commissioner Woodland explained that the handouts provided by Christopher Collins were designed to show a system for testing scenarios relative to drainage projects and funding. He said that the entire worksheet is flexible and extremely useful in manipulating values and time frames.

Commission Chair John Quam confirmed with Christopher Collins that the four bullets on the first page of the adoption guidelines were the decisions to be addressed at this afternoon's meeting.

Commissioner Duke Miller confirmed that the tasks now before the Commission were to first decide whether or not it wishes to pursue the utility fee at all, and if so, then decide on a time frame. He said he would like to see the fee deployed in a five-year plan.

Commissioner Carol Ann Magill said that how the ERU is set up should be looked into, since a business is now being charged the same as a residence, and the fee structure did not seem equitable. She said that whether a lot or a parcel is being addressed is a relevant factor to consider, as is the actual amount of runoff (i.e., impervious area). The Commissioner added that she thought there was a possibility that some of the projects currently listed may not be necessary, while others were not being addressed.

Christopher Collins confirmed to Commission Chair John Quam and Commissioner Carol Ann Magill that any arrangement is possible, as in the case of Bradenton Beach, and said that he would be willing to adjust the structure according to the Commission's preference. Commissioner Carol Ann Magill said she would like to see the variables discussed and would like to proceed with looking at the projects themselves. She said that she would then also be interested in discussing a five-year plan.

Commission Chair John Quam confirmed with Christopher Collins that he came up with the \$750,000 based on the list that the CIAC provided. He noted that, as Commissioner Duke Miller had pointed out, other costs could arise over five years. Commissioner Duke Miller confirmed with Christopher Collins that the fee could be applied to capital improvements in general.

Christopher Collins cautioned the Commission against getting caught up in the mechanical details of the fee, and urged them to focus on whether or not they would like to adopt the **Resolution** in January 2005. Christopher Collins confirmed that the fee structure could be changed over the months following adoption of the resolution indicating the City's intent to impose a fee.

**There was consensus among the Commissioners that this fee was going to be adopted for stormwater only.**

Commission Chair John Quam noted that City Attorney Jim Dye had not yet been instructed to draw up a Resolution. Commissioner Duke Miller pointed out to the other Commissioners that they could also decide not to do anything when they vote on January 2, 2005.

Christopher Collins noted that if the Resolution is adopted, the City might incur some expenses that were currently not budgeted for, such as consulting and engineering fees.

Commissioner Carol Ann Magill said information was needed about what the cost to the City of passing a Resolution would be. Commission Chair John Quam confirmed with City Alice Clerk that Resolutions did not need to be advertised for a public hearing.

Commissioner Dale Woodland noted that the process is regulated by Florida Statute, which is very specific about collecting non ad valorem fees. Commissioner Dale Woodland clarified that one of the collection activities was relative to Stormwater Utility Fees, but not all capital improvement projects might be sanctioned. He agreed with Commissioner Duke Miller that spreading the projects over a ten-year period could be advantageous. Commissioner Dale Woodland said that he was confident that changing the ERU structure would not result in a great impact to the individual resident. The Commissioner said that the City would need to revisit the fee each year and decide whether to continue it or to adjust it.

Commissioner Dale Woodland said that it would remain for the Commission to decide which projects are undertaken each year. Commissioner Duke Miller noted that in a given year more cash may be spent than came in that year, however, this plan ensures that the money will be recouped over a specific and definite period of time.

Deputy Commission Chair Linda Cramer noted that if the first year carries a heavy project schedule, the people would be able to see what they are paying for by the time the tax comes out of their wallets.

Commissioner Duke Miller recommended including vacant lots in this assessment system. Deputy Commission Chair Linda Cramer said that she liked the idea that Bradenton Beach implemented, giving credits and discounts for voluntary stormwater improvements on individual properties.

Commission Chair John Quam confirmed that if the Commission agrees to instruct the City Attorney to draw up the Resolution, it would only express the **intent** of the City to implement a stormwater utility fee.

Commissioner Duke Miller recommended setting up a timetable within which to answer the four questions before January 2, 2005.

Commissioner Dale Woodland recommended that Public Works staff become involved, along with the CIAC and others, in coming up with a timetable for the projects.

CIAC Vice-Chair Bill Snow noted that drainage improvement projects impact the scheduling of road improvement projects. CIAC Chair Larry Albert said that he felt the members of the CIAC would be able to formulate the timetable. **Commissioner Carol Ann Magill recommended a joint meeting of the Commission and the CIAC after this information is developed. There was consensus for the CIAC to examine different ERU configurations.**

Commissioner Dale Woodland recommended that the CIAC members contact Rich Bohnenberger at Holmes Beach and Mayor Chappie at Bradenton Beach for valuable input.

#### **Public Comment**

**MOTION: Commissioner Duke Miller moved that the Commission instruct the City Attorney to draft a Resolution proclaiming the City's intent to proceed with a stormwater utility fee to fund various stormwater improvement projects, as proposed by the CIAC; and that in January 2005 the City will arrive at an organization structure to effect a January 2006 start date. Commissioner Linda Cramer seconded the motion.**

**Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried.**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Resident Shirley O'Day expressed relief that the fee would only address stormwater improvements. She said that she agreed with Commissioner Carol Ann Magill's comment relative to the equitability of the ERU structure. The resident said she wondered whether vacant lots should be included, since they absorb more water; however, she noted that this fee was similar to the school tax, and therefore could be

justified for vacant lots. She said that she hoped that some of the money collected would go toward clearing out the alleyways, since this would be a step toward improving drainage.

CIAC Vice-Chair Bill Snow agreed that each vacant lot should pay a share,

**PRESS COMMENT**

None offered.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: Deputy Commission Chair Linda Cramer moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Carol Ann Magill.**

**Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Baird  
City Clerk

December 17, 2004  
Date