

CITY OF MELBOURNE, FLORIDA
MINUTES – TOWN HALL MEETING
MARCH 2, 2004



A town hall meeting was held in the City Council Chamber, 900 East Strawbridge Avenue, and was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor John A. Buckley.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

2. **Roll Call**

Present:	John A. Buckley	Mayor
	Richard Contreras	Council Member, District 1
	Ed Palmer	Council Member, District 2
	Pat Poole	Council Member, District 3
	Grace Walker	Council Member, District 4
	Cheryl Palmer	Vice-Mayor, District 5
	Loretta Isenberg-Hand	Council Member, District 6
	Jack M. Schluckebier, Ph.D.	City Manager
	Amy W. Elliott	Assistant City Manager
	Paul R. Gougelman, III	City Attorney
	Cathleen A. Wysor	City Clerk
	Marilyn Crotty, Facilitator	Director, Florida Institute of Government

3. **Welcome and Introductions - Mayor Buckley and Facilitator**

Mayor Buckley welcomed the public (approximately 100 in attendance) and introduced the facilitator, Marilyn Crotty.

4. **Annual Report Distribution - Facilitator**

Marilyn Crotty said that she is the Director of the Florida Institute of Government at the University of Central Florida. She noted that Melbourne is in the UCF service district. Ms. Crotty reviewed the agenda and referenced the City of Melbourne Progress Report that was distributed at the front door. Staff also distributed a “capital improvement projects” guide.

Ms. Crotty outlined the meeting procedures. Staff will provide an overview of capital projects. Following that, the public will be able to comment. Staff will provide an overview of funding and, following that, the public will be able to comment. The written comments received prior to the meeting – approximately 30 – have been distributed to Mayor and Council and will be entered into the record.

The Mayor and Council will not debate, make motions or vote at this meeting. They will listen to the audience. Citizens that wish to speak should wait to be recognized. At that point, they should come to the podium and state their name and address. It would also be interesting to know if they live inside/outside the City.

Based on the number of people who indicated they wished to speak (by show of hands), Ms. Crotty said that each person will be given five minutes. She asked everyone to respect

CITY OF MELBOURNE, FLORIDA
MINUTES – TOWN HALL MEETING
MARCH 2, 2004

those limits and follow the specific agenda item.

Ms. Crotty introduced Amy Elliott, Assistant City Manager.

5. **Capital Projects**

Review of general government capital improvement program - recently completed projects and five year projection – Staff

Amy Elliott provided an overview of capital improvement projects for the last five years, next five years and six to ten years. The next five years of projects total \$37,592,272. The projects for the next six to ten years total \$29,609,000. The categories include roadway and storm water improvements, leisure services, facilities and redevelopment districts. These are general government capital improvements paid by tax revenues. She provided examples from each category.

Continuing, Ms. Elliott pointed out that projects from the water and sewer system and golf courses have not been included in the outline. Both of these operations have their own financing.

Input/Ideas - Public participation

Ms. Crotty thanked Ms. Elliott and opened the floor for comments on capital improvement projects.

Joe Vladyka, Pavement Savers, Inc., stated that his company specializes in recycling roads. He elaborated on their process, which is patented and asked the City to consider recycling in its roadway projects.

Ben Williams, Live Oak Subdivision, referenced the cost for the capital improvement projects. He said that he has never seen a construction project for a city or state completed on time and within budget. He asked that his taxes not be raised to make up the difference.

Ms. Crotty said that unlike the federal government, city, county and state governments are not allowed to operate with a deficit.

Donna Hahle, 2220 Front Street, asked Council to consider two issues in the upcoming budget – public safety and maintenance. Because of the current residents, new construction, restaurants and marina in the area, they need a traffic light at Front Street/East New Haven Avenue. Regarding maintenance, she explained that the Melbourne Harbor Property Owners' Association was given the responsibility for maintaining the roads and streetlights in the area. Given the tax base and potential for growth of the tax base in the area, she said the City should take that responsibility back.

Diane Constantini, 217 Oak Lake Road, stated that she represents the South Lakes Homeowners' Association. Ms. Constantini said that they need a traffic light on their corner.

CITY OF MELBOURNE, FLORIDA
MINUTES – TOWN HALL MEETING
MARCH 2, 2004

When their development was first constructed, 130 homes in the area accessed Babcock Street. She listed all of the new development that accesses Babcock Street.

Lee Bohlmann, President, Melbourne Palm Bay Area Chamber of Commerce and resident in Melbourne, said that the Chamber represents 1,500 business and 20,000 employees. She discussed the Chamber's mission for 2005 and said that their goal is to help the community achieve pro-business elected officials, aesthetically pleasing environment and redevelopment, highly educated and stable workforce, multi-modal transportation and a safer community. Ms. Bohlmann expanded on each of the Chamber's goals.

Bobby Bowen, Senator Way, said he is a long time resident retired from the Melbourne Police Department, current member of the City's Code Enforcement Board and current Code Enforcement Manager for Brevard County. Mr. Bowen encouraged Council to consider adopting the code enforcement special master process outlined in Chapter 162 of the State Statutes. This process protects a person's constitutional and property rights; rulings and findings of fact are consistent; this process tends to be cheaper than operating a code board; and lay people who are not experienced in land development laws or zoning serve on code boards. Mr. Bowen concluded by saying that he is ready to assist by providing statistical data.

Ms. Crotty said that this item would have been more suitable for the end of the agenda. She asked the audience to stay with comments on capital projects.

Cleave Frink, 3215 South Redwood Lane, said that he is the current Chairman of the Citizens' Advisory Board. His board solicits input from citizens, and one citizen has asked that the Lipscomb concession stand be funded. Regarding the improvement and widening of Florida Avenue, he asked that this be prioritized and that the cost be reviewed because he believes it is a little high. Mr. Frink said there is also concern about the third phase of the Grant Street Community Center. This relates to the educational portion and has not yet been funded.

William Roberts, Board of Directors of the Shady Dell Riverview South Association, said this building is at the corner of Parkway Drive and U. S. 1. When residents attended a meeting with the Florida Department of Transportation in 1998, they shared their safety concerns and asked that the median on their western entrance be opened to allow residents to cross the road. FDOT accepted their idea and said it could be done. The construction phase of the widening project is winding down and the median has not been opened. He asked that the City follow through with the commitment that was given to the residents to improve the safety at their entrance.

Charlie Barger, 810 Glenmore Circle, said that the light from the projector bothered him. He left the podium to allow time for another resident to speak while the projector was being turned off. Mr. Barger was later recalled to the podium; however, he did not respond.

Daniel Baker, 1401 Baker Drive, said that a traffic signal is needed at University Boulevard and Monroe Street. He noted that people have trouble accessing University Boulevard from

CITY OF MELBOURNE, FLORIDA
MINUTES – TOWN HALL MEETING
MARCH 2, 2004

this street. He added that Florida Avenue/Monroe Street also needs a traffic signal because of the amount of traffic and accidents.

Margie Zernetzky, 2328 Myla Lane, North Melbourne, said she reviewed the capital projects list. She said that she saw plenty of roadway improvements but no mention of sidewalks. She asked Council to include sidewalks on the list. She added that she lives near Croton Road and Lake Washington Road and would like to see a left turn signal added to the traffic light.

Dennis Meehan, 1310 East Prospect Avenue, said that he has been the Chairman of the Melbourne Downtown Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee for 23 years. He reported that the redevelopment of Melbourne, Babcock and Eau Gallie is important to the overall good of Melbourne. He added that we need to continue with those projects.

Continuing, Mr. Meehan said that U. S. 1 through Melbourne would look nice with the Brazilian pepper trees removed. The redevelopment committee members would like to see a boardwalk run the length of U. S. 1 so that people could walk on the river side. Also, U. S. 1, from New Haven Avenue south to University Boulevard, and North U. S. 1 need to be considered in the redevelopment effort. These areas serve as entrances to the City.

Jeffrey Tomlinson, 120 Avenue A, pointed out that Melbourne is known as “the Harbor City.” He said that the bridges have been overtaken by pepper trees. With some effort, resources could be devoted to control the growth and eradicate pepper trees at both harbors. Mr. Tomlinson commented that a boardwalk along U. S. 1, if done right, would be wonderful. Along Babcock Street, he supports better sidewalks and covered bus stops. He pointed out that if we want people to use the bus system, we need to provide covered stops. He suggested an artistic competition where local artists in the community design the bus stops. He commented that he has not heard any more news about Amtrak; however, having an airport, train and bus system at the same location would be one way to provide inter-modal transportation.

Mr. Tomlinson concluded by stating his support for the Trailer Haven residents. He said they are a strong thread in the fabric of our community and this area provides a convenient location for our seniors.

Philip Azeredo, 1957 Pineapple Avenue, said that he lives on the waterfront in the Eau Gallie area. He explained that when the town was developed, the town fathers were not thinking about mass transportation. Mr. Azeredo referenced the loss of Port O’ Call from the Airport property and only one airline serving the community. He asked how these revenues will be replaced.

That concluded comments from the public. Ms. Crotty introduced Karen Windsor, Management and Budget Officer, who will discuss funding.

6. **Funding**

CITY OF MELBOURNE, FLORIDA
MINUTES – TOWN HALL MEETING
MARCH 2, 2004

Review of general government revenue/funding for recently completed projects and five-year projection of funding sources – Staff

Karen Windsor explained the following funding sources:

Roadway and Storm Water Improvements – local option gas tax, transportation impact fees, storm water fees and bond proceeds.

Leisure Services – General Fund revenue, recreation impact fees, grants, insurance and contributions.

Facilities – General Fund revenues, grants and bonds.

Redevelopment Districts – Tax increment revenue, loans and grants.

Ongoing revenue provides about \$2.5 million per year. However, as mentioned under the previous agenda item, there are \$37.6 million in projects in the next five years. Additional funding of nearly \$25 million will need to be identified to provide for the required capital improvement needs of the City. She stressed that without additional funding, we are not able to do additional projects.

Ms. Crotty said that it is a tough issue all over the State of Florida. There is a high desire for services and facilities that improve the quality of life but not a high desire to see taxes go up. Ms. Crotty asked for comments on funding sources from the audience.

Input/Ideas - Public participation

Ben Williams, Live Oak Subdivision Executive Board, referenced the impact development has on schools. He said that nobody has mentioned raising impact fees on new homes. The builders are greedy and should pay their fair share.

Cleave Frink, 3215 South Redwood Lane, said the City should consider charging user fees for every ton of waste our neighboring cities dump in the City landfill.

Joe Vladyka, Paver Savers, said that the City will double its resurfacing effort by using his company's system. He elaborated on the process.

Philip Azeredo, 1957 Pineapple Avenue, suggested that people who have children build the new schools. He recommended a "hide tax" as one way to raise revenue.

Ms. Crotty agreed that schools are an important and expensive issue. However, she pointed out that the City Council is not responsible for funding schools.

Ron Grass, 5867 Arlington Circle, said he is the Melbourne Planning and Zoning Board member appointed by the Brevard County School Board. He reported that the School

CITY OF MELBOURNE, FLORIDA
MINUTES – TOWN HALL MEETING
MARCH 2, 2004

Board is reviewing new home impact fees. He reported that the developers/builders won't pay – purchasers of new homes will. He said there is another area that citizens need to consider. Years ago we decided that the scrub jay is so important that we can't build schools where they are located. One piece of property considered for a new school went up \$6 million because of the scrub jay issue.

Continuing, Mr. Grass said that large cities are naming ballparks and other facilities after big industry in the area in return for a big contribution. He said that big industry in our area may wish to have facilities named after them.

Wendy Brandon stated that she and her husband own property in the City of Melbourne. Also, she is a member of the Melbourne Downtown Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee. She reported that people from other successful downtown areas/organizations have taken advantage of grants. The City Council should hire staff to focus attention on applying for grants in the redevelopment areas.

Dennis Meehan, 1310 Prospect Avenue, said that the recent annexation activity should be bringing new dollars into the City. He said he has not heard the estimates, but it must be a substantial increase. Regarding the recent one-cent sales tax issue, he said that the wish lists were way too long. He said that a shorter period with scaled back plans might be more palatable in the future.

That concluded comments from the public on funding.

7. **Other: Ideas/Recommendations - Public participation**

Ms. Crotty opened the floor to any other comments.

Johnnie Groot, 2892 Maderia Circle, said the residents have a quality of life issue in Monaco Estates, located between Lake Washington Road and Parkway Drive. The east side of their development is adjacent to heavy industrial. A concrete plant runs 24 hours per day. The City's noise ordinance is not being enforced and he does not know why. At this point, he hates being in his house. The cacophony of noise from the plant operation, railroad cars, and trucks can't be adequately measured by instruments. They are all impact noises that do not happen all at once, although they are always happening. Vibration is also an issue. He said that he is concerned about their property values. At a minimum, they need an abatement wall.

Bobby Bowen, Senator Way, read the purpose of the City's landscape ordinance. He noted that his neighbor cut down two large oak trees. One of the trees was 50 years old and located half on his property. The current Code does not require a homeowner to obtain a permit for tree removal. He asked the City to consider changing this so that a permit is required for any tree to be cut down.

Charles Sitton, 2904 Maderia Circle, President of the Monaco Estates Homeowners' Association, said that the developer of the adjacent concrete plant property originally

CITY OF MELBOURNE, FLORIDA
MINUTES – TOWN HALL MEETING
MARCH 2, 2004

stated that this would be a small “mom and pop” operation. (The developer) attended homeowners’ association meetings and said he would do all of these wonderful things, including building a fence. The residents never heard from him again and then he sold the business. The operation has doubled; there is constant dust; the noise is unbearable; jackhammers and chisels begin operating at 3:00 a.m.; and vegetation has been removed so that U. S. 1 is in the line of site. Mr. Sitton stressed that the operator has no regard for noise. This is a serious issue and it doesn’t seem like the City is addressing it through Code Enforcement action.

Terry Ables, 1156 Coleman Street, said that they would like to have speed bumps in their area to slow the traffic. She is afraid for the children in the area.

Joseph McNeil, 804 Poplar Lane, President of the Melbourne Community Police Relations Council, said the community needs to come together to rid the area of the drug problem. The problem is not just in the South Melbourne area. People are operating meth labs and growing marijuana in their homes. He stressed that this issue is community wide and not just a Melbourne Police Department issue.

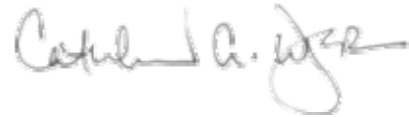
Gladys Williams, 2609 Fenton Court, said that they need a right turn lane at U. S. 1 and University Boulevard. Also, she expressed concern for the school zone in the area. People speed through the area even when the lights are flashing.

That concluded comments from the public.

Ms. Crotty thanked everyone for participating. She said that Council will schedule a workshop meeting on April 20. At this meeting, Council will review, debate and discuss the ideas that have been mentioned. It will be an open meeting; however, the public probably won’t have a chance for input. She encouraged the public to attend and observe and noted that this is the start of the process; these ideas will be factored into the budget.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



City Clerk – 3/9/2004

Approved by Council 3/23/2004

Attachment to official minutes: Written comments submitted prior to the meeting.