



**TOWN OF REDINGTON BEACH, FLORIDA
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
January 20, 2009**

Having been duly advertised as required by law, the **Workshop** Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Redington Beach, Florida, was held on **Tuesday, January 20, 2009, at 7:45 p.m.**, following a Regular Meeting, in the Redington Beach Town Hall at 105 – 164TH Avenue, Redington Beach, Florida.

Mayor Simons called the **Workshop Meeting** to order.

Roll Call:

	Present	Absent
Commissioner Fox	X	
Commissioner Drillick	X	
Commissioner Steiermann	X	
Vice Mayor Deighton	X	
Mayor Simons	X	
Town Attorney Salzman	Excused	
Town Clerk Patrus	X	

Motion by Vice Mayor Deighton and seconded by Commissioner Fox to approve the Agenda. **Agenda approved with all ayes.**

PUBLIC FORUM – Non-Agenda Items Only

No Public comments.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Board review of the Gulf Blvd. beautification program –Mayor Simons reiterated for the Public the history on this project. As early as 2000, based on the beach communities request for a major beautification program for Gulf Blvd., the County plan was developed. This was a plan for some undergrounding, landscaping and aesthetic changes. At the end of the summer of 2008, the County offered \$35 million dollars to the beach communities toward this project. Funds would become available October 1, 2009 over a five year period; these funds are sourced from the Penny for Pinellas tax. The County allocation of funds is based on length of road; Redington Beach could be awarded \$1.4 million dollars.

In meeting with Progress Energy, the estimate for undergrounding just a mile of Gulf Blvd. was \$3 million dollars; this did not include Bright House or Verizon quotes. This did not include the cost of securing easements, nor hook-ups or restoration.

Resident Jack McCorkle did a survey of Gulf Blvd. of 62 residents who replied, 90% were in favor of buried utilities and 66% in favor of landscaping.

Undergrounding the utilities on Gulf Blvd. with the additional cables, drilling, easements, etc. could run as high as \$6 million dollars; in addition to creating a disruption to Town's residents and undermining the aesthetics of the road.

Mayor and Mark Davis met with David Reed (St. Pete capital projects coordinator) and based upon the walk through, we were presented with a couple of different options. By opting for upgrading the street lighting with different versions of street lights, installing street pedestrian strobes at the crosswalks and possibly installing false medians on Gulf Blvd. we could develop a plan and be eligible for the \$1.4 million grant.

Mayor opened for Public discussion. Public comments were heard from Poul Madsen, 6th Street; Leslie Peck Epstein and Rob Epstein, Redington Drive and Tina Evans, Gulf Blvd. Comments were to pursue some of the

upgrading of the street lighting, beautification with landscaping, construction of median and pedestrian safety walkways; all in agreement to aesthetically improve that stretch of the Boulevard.

Mayor said that this \$1.4 million dollar funding if not spent in the 5 year period would be forfeited or the Board could decide to have it allocated to a neighboring community.

No action is being taken at this Workshop. This item will be put on the Board Feb. 3rd meeting agenda to refer the review of the Gulf Blvd. beautification project to the Planning and Park Boards for review. The recommendation from the Planning Board can then be brought before the Board of Commissioners.

No further business, **Motion** made by Vice Mayor Deighton to adjourn and seconded by Commissioner Drillick. Workshop session was **adjourned at 8:40 p.m.**

Adopted: February 17, 2009

Janina Patrus, CMC
Janina Patrus, Town Clerk CMC