

**CITY OF BRADENTON
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

August 24, 2011

8:30 A.M.

MINUTES

The City of Bradenton City Council met for a special session in the City Hall Council Chamber, 101 Old Main Street, Bradenton, Florida, at 8:30 a.m. on August 24, 2011.

Present: Mayor Wayne Poston, Councilman Ward I Gene Gallo; Councilwoman Ward II Marianne Barnebey; Vice Mayor and Councilman Ward III Patrick Roff; Councilman Ward IV Bemis Smith; and Councilman Ward V Harold E. Byrd, Jr.

City Officials: Carl Callahan, City Clerk and Treasurer/Chief of Staff; Claude Tankersley, Public Works Director; William Lisch, City Attorney; Chuck Edwards, Fire Chief; Michael Radzilowski, Deputy Chief of Police; and Tim Polk, Department of Planning & Community Development Director.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Mayor Poston.

Carl Callahan, City Clerk & Treasurer / Chief of Staff

Get Down Downtown Public Event Application - Mr. Callahan brought forth some continued business regarding the Get Down Downtown Public Event application. He stated that at a not-too-distant date, meetings will be held with representatives from the various City Departments who work with the downtown events to determine the best means of handling large events and review our general public event processes and routines. The public would also be invited to share input. Mr. Callahan was recommending that at this time, Council consider approving only the first two Get Down Downtown events and then look at the remainder at a future City Council meeting.

MOTION to approve the Get Down Downtown events of September 15 and October 20 was made by Councilwoman Barnebey and seconded by Vice Mayor and Councilman Roff.

Discussion: Fire Marshal Kenneth Langston discussed the site plan that had been submitted and his concern about the proposed large tents being placed in access areas, particularly at 3rd and 4th Avenues. He said that they need to be moved to the east side of the street for emergency access.

MOTION TO AMEND THE MOTION to also require that the Fire Marshal meet with the organizers of the Get Down Downtown event and approve a final site plan which would be provided prior to the September 15 and October 20th events was made by Councilwoman Barnebey, seconded by Vice Mayor and Councilman Roff, and approved 4:0. Councilman Smith was absent during voting.

Employee Health Insurance – Mr. Callahan asked Barbara Hitzemann, Human Resources, to update Council on the Employee Health Insurance status. Ms. Hitzemann stated that on August 23rd, the insurance committee had approved the selection of Blue Cross/Blue Shield as the new insurance carrier. Some new features like long-term disability and flex spending, along with better coverages were now going to be available at a lower cost. Open enrollment classes will be held from August 29 – September 14 and employees will be provided with individual enrollment assistance as needed.

Discussion: Concern was expressed about acting too quickly in the selection of a new insurance carrier. It was explained that a lot of time has been spent behind the scenes to ensure accuracy of quotes, etc. Although it would have been preferable to bring this to Council earlier, with the new HR director just coming on board, timing was short. It was stressed that due diligence had been done over the last 30 days to ensure that this will be a beneficial change.

MOTION to accept Blue Cross/Blue Shield as the health insurance plan administrator was made by Councilman Gallo, seconded by Councilman Byrd, and passed 5:0.

School Resource Officers Contract with Manatee County School Board – Carl Callahan said that the 2011-2012 contract had been drawn up to hire 3 officers and he wanted to request that Council approve the contract with a start date of October 1, 2011.

MOTION to approve the 2011-2012 School Resource Officer contract with Manatee County School Board was made by Councilman Gallo, seconded by Vice Mayor and Councilman Roff, and approved 5:0.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Poston adjourned the meeting at 9:22 a.m.

NOTE: This is not a verbatim record. An audio CD or DVD recording of the meeting is available for a fee upon request.