

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 28, 2009

Proclamation

Sister City Agreement

Agenda Item Number:

2.1.2



City of Fort Walton Beach

America's Most Beautiful Beaches

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, sister cities are created to enhance international understanding and provide mutual benefits, and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Fort Walton Beach and Kristinehamn in evidence of their friendship and good will, agree to collaborate for the mutual benefit of their communities in exploring cultural, educational, governmental, and economic facets of life in their respective communities, and

WHEREAS, the cities of Fort Walton Beach and Kristinehamn share common values and interests in business and the economy, the environment, education and culture including the Women's Professional Tennis Tournaments conducted in each location, and have enjoyed visits by the respective Honorable Mayor's and other dignitaries that have brought the two cities and their citizens closer together, and

WHEREAS, we agree to encourage and support opportunities for mutually beneficial exchanges including, but not limited to, the fields of business and economic development, history and culture, tourism, sports, education, science and technology.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Anderson, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Fort Walton Beach, do hereby proclaim the cities of Fort Walton Beach, Florida, USA and Kristinehamn, Varmland Region, Sweden as

SISTER CITIES

and declare their intent to abide by the guidelines stated herein.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the City of Fort Walton Beach to be affixed this 28th day of April 2009.

Mike Anderson, Mayor
Fort Walton Beach, Florida

Ake Thornesjo, Mayor
Kristinehamn, Sweden



SISTER CITY cont.

Further discussion included support expressed on pursuing the Sister City relationship and a cordial exchange of opinions between those who did not support and those who did support paying the \$499 registration fee for the trip to Savannah. Comments were expressed that the City should not be responsible for promoting Northwest Florida, that the City also has a tight budget, that the trip to Savannah would be better addressed by the Chamber of Commerce; and when the economy is bad is when more advertising is needed.

Mr. Garvie moved to support the registration fee (\$499) and that the Mayor represents the City at E-Days (Entrepreneurial Days in Savannah). Mr. Patterson seconded motion.

During discussion it was commented that the City cannot afford to promote the entire area; that the City is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the EDC and that is their profession; it was commented that it is a good opportunity to put the City out in front of a large community; it was commented that the City has received plenty of exposure lately; it was commented there is no need to travel somewhere to try to get a small business to open here when there are businesses here that need help; it was commented that the Mayor should go, and that someone from the Chamber should go with the Mayor; and it was commented that the right people are needed to promote the area.

The Mayor called for the vote on the motion and it failed by a vote of 3 to 4 with Garvie, Nabors, and Patterson in favor and Holmes, Miller, Reeves, and Rynearson opposed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Reeves moved to withdraw Item 14.5 discussion regarding the Role and Responsibilities of City Council and Mayor from the agenda. Mr. Rynearson seconded motion.

Mr. Miller disagreed with the withdrawal of the item from the agenda and explained the reason he requested the item on the agenda.

The Mayor called for the vote on the motion and it carried by a vote of 5 to 2 with Holmes, Reeves, Garvie, Nabors, and Rynearson in favor and Miller and Patterson opposed.

The Mayor noted the request from the CRA Chairman to postpone item 14.6 until May 12th. Mr. Miller agreed to postpone until May 12th item 14.6 discussion regarding Council to declare itself the Community Redevelopment Agency Board of Commissioners and utilize existing CRA Board Members as a downtown advisory group.

Mr. Reeves moved to approve the agenda as amended with Item 14.5 withdrawn and Item 14.6 postponed until May 12th. Mr. Holmes seconded motion and it carried unanimously with Holmes, Miller, Reeves, Garvie, Nabors, Patterson, and Rynearson in favor.

BOARD/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Code Enforcement Board report – Chairman Horn.

Paul Horn, Code Enforcement Board Chairman, gave a report on the code enforcement activities of the past year which included a review of the primary activities of the Board with the authority to impose administrative fines for code violations, order liens for failure to satisfy a code violation or pay a fine; and the type of code violations that appear before the Board, the number of Orders issued and the amount of fines and fees collected.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Reeves moved to approve the following Consent Agenda items. Mr. Patterson seconded motion and it carried unanimously with Holmes, Miller, Reeves, Garvie, Nabors, Patterson, and Rynearson in favor.