

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL JOINT CITY COMMISSION, AND
AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2013
CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBER, 210 SAMS AVENUE
NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FLORIDA 32168**

Having been duly advertised as required by law, a special joint meeting of the City Commission and Airport Advisory Board of the City of New Smyrna Beach, Florida, was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2013, in the City Hall Commission Chamber, 210 Sams Avenue, New Smyrna Beach, Florida 32168.

Mayor Barringer called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and the following members of the City Commission answered present to the roll call:

Mayor Adam R. Barringer
Vice Mayor Jack S. Grasty
Commissioner Judith A. Reiker
Commissioner Andrew J. McGuirk
Commissioner Kirk E. Jones

the following members of the Airport Advisory Board answered present to the roll call:

Vice Chair Herbert Gardner
Member Robert Abbaticchio
Member William Feger, III
Member David Maib

Also present were: City Manager Pamela Brangaccio; Assistant City Manager Khalid Resheidat; City Attorney Frank Gummey; Planning Manager Gail Henrikson; CRA Director Tony Otte; Airport Manager Rhonda Walker; and, City Clerk Johnny Bledsoe. Airport Advisory Board members Doyle Hilson and Alan Norris were absent.

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PURPOSE OF THE SPECIAL MEETING – Mayor Barringer outlined the purpose of the special joint meeting was to review and discuss the response from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regarding the recently completed Part 150 Noise Study conducted at the municipal airport. Mayor Barringer also advised that an update would be given regarding the recent notice that operations at the municipal airport FAA air traffic control tower would soon be terminated.

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FAA RESPONSE TO THE PART 150 NOISE STUDY –

Airport Manager Rhonda Walker commented on noise mitigation efforts at the municipal airport and outlined discrepancies found by the FAA in the airport's Noise Exposure Map.

Ms. Walker introduced a representative of the consulting firm that conducted the Part 150 Noise Study.

Michael Arnold, Vice President of ESA Airports, the firm that conducted the Part 150 Noise Study, outlined correspondence received from the FAA, which advised the City that the FAA no longer felt the City was in a position to certify Noise Exposure Maps from 2010, as operations at the airport had decreased and reflected current conditions.

Mr. Arnold outlined FAA's recommendation that the City implement local measures, as opposed to expending funds to update noise exposure maps and submitting such to the FAA for final review. Mayor Barringer restated the recommendation.

Member Feger commented on unintentional consequences and questioned whether voluntary reductions in operations had an impact on the test results. Mr. Arnold felt results were impacted.

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UPDATE ON FAA TOWER CLOSURE NOTICES – Airport Manager Rhonda Walker reported that the tower at the municipal airport was scheduled to close on April 7, 2013. She commented on legal actions taken in response to a similar action at the Naples Municipal Airport.

City Attorney Gummey commented on the legal firm contracted by the City of Naples, and course recommended to challenge the action of the FAA in ordering the towers closed, as a short term action. In the long term, Mr. Gummey felt it was a matter of congressional funding. He commented on recent efforts by Congress and estimated \$25,000 to \$50,000 would be needed in order to pursue legal action. He also reported the City of Ormond Beach had considered taking similar legal action.

Mayor Barringer commented on his recent trip to Washington D.C. to visit Florida Congressional Representatives. He felt the state representatives supported the municipalities in their efforts, but further felt steps to reverse the action would not be successful.

Discussion continued regarding the proposed closure of the tower and steps necessary in order to reestablish tower operations. Member Maib commented on aviation policy regarding tower utilization.

Member Feger commented on economic impacts of the loss of tower operations. Ms. Walker clarified that business at the airport would be lost. Vice Chair Gardner read a statement that recommended the City to reinstitute the Sunday and Holiday operations and to rescind the seventh prohibition on flying.

Mayor Barringer respected the job of the Airport Advisory Board and Noise Abatement Committee, and felt past noise abatement actions were affective in the reduction of flights at the airport. As such, Mayor Barringer could not support rescinding voluntary noise abatement actions.

Mayor Barringer felt actions taken should be:

- Not move forward with actions to update the Noise Exposure Maps
- Allow the consultant to review other FAA recommendations and make its own recommendations to the City Commission

Commissioner McGuirk commented on changes to aircraft traffic patterns at the municipal airport. Commissioner Jones agreed and felt no funds should be expended on updating of the Noise Exposure Maps. He did not support the expending of funds on legal matters.

Commissioner Reiker agreed that the FAA Study should not have anything else done, and was disappointed about the political response to the proposed tower closure. She hoped the tower remained operational and felt it was a huge hit to economic development.

Member Abbaticchio commented on past noise complaints received and offered suggestions to assist citizens.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS –

David Burt, Executive Director, New Smyrna Beach Balloon and Sky Fest Foundation, ensured all citizens the imminent closure of the tower at the airport would have no affect on the conduct of the 2013 Balloon and Sky Fest.

Tom Thompson commented on airport safety impacts related to the closure of the air traffic control tower. Mr. Thompson suggested that users of the airport should pay for the operation of the airport.

City Manager Brangaccio clarified that no general fund monies were utilized to operate the municipal airport.

An unnamed citizen commented on past usage of the municipal airport, prior to the implementation of the air traffic control tower, and past efforts to stop air traffic control tower operations.

Cindy Ratigan commented on existing noise levels in the residential areas surrounding the municipal airport, and questioned policies and regulations that would be utilized by airport traffic.

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With no further business to address, Mayor Barringer declared the joint meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL JOINT MEETING, HELD MARCH 26, 2013, WERE APPROVED AT THE REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 13, 2013.

ATTEST:

ADAM BARRINGER, MAYOR

JOHNNY R. BLEDSOE, CITY CLERK