

MINUTES
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF NICEVILLE, FLORIDA
FEBRUARY 20, 2007

The Niceville City Council met in special session at 6:00 PM, February 20, 2007 in the Council Chambers, 208 N Partin Drive. All Council members except for Councilman Swihart, and Councilman Smith, and the Mayor were present. Also present were City Manager, Lannie Corbin; City Clerk Dan Doucet; Library Director, Sheila Bishop; a member of the press and visitors in the audience. Mayor Wise called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING

Presentation – Scholarship Fund

Mr Corbin advised the council that the purpose of this meeting is to provide input regarding the Scholarship Fund that was established by the City to honor the terms of the will of the late Katie Moody. Mr Corbin advised that the City received \$469,000 from the estate and also acquired the property where the Katie's Flower shop was located. The building will be renovated at a later date and turned in to a Senior Center. Mr Corbin advised that the city purchased a Certificate of Deposit (CD) and invested the funds for a year at 5.75% APR. He envisioned that we would allow the fund to grow to \$500,000. Then the following year we would be in a position to use the interest to purchase scholarships. He further stated in his discussions with the late Katie Moody that it was her wishes to provide a program that would help children who reside in Niceville to obtain a higher education who otherwise could not afford it.

Mr. Jeffrey McInnis, Attorney for the Okaloosa Public Schools Foundation, Inc. who was instrumental in setting up the Library Foundation briefed the council regarding the terms of the Katie Moody will and provided an overview of the Scholarship Program. He advised that the terms of the will included funding 10% of the interest to Library programs and 90% for funding scholarships.

Dr Alexis Tibbits, Superintendent of Education spoke highly of the "Take Stock in Children Program". She responded to questions from the Council and praised those involved in the overall management of the program.

Ms Dort Baltes provided an in-depth briefing regarding the "Take Stock in Children Program". She advised that the Student, Parents, and the foundation sign an agreement (contract). The student is selected in the 6th grade; is assigned a mentor; receives a

Background check; must have a good attendance record; and must have and maintain good behavior. She advised that the program has a zero-tolerance drug policy and the student must maintain an acceptable grade point average and must have a need for financial assistance. Students would be required to write an essay on what receiving the scholarship means to the child. She advised that if the City of Niceville purchases a \$5,000 scholarship the state will match the amount resulting in a \$10,000 scholarship. It's a four year scholarship; two years at a community college and two years at a Florida University. Selection criteria would include forming a Public Committee Meeting that is advertised. Using a numbering system vs. a student's name would be an example on how to proceed with the process. The City Council would make the final selection based on input from the Okaloosa Public Schools Foundation.

Mr Corbin thanked all speakers for their in-depth information/briefing. Mr Corbin suggested that another presentation be scheduled at a later date when the full council was present before making a council decision. Discussion followed. Councilman Brewer discussed the terms of the will and expressed a desire to review it. Mr McInnis advised he can provide a synopsis of the will in layman's terms.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

ATTEST:

MAYOR

CITY CLERK