

NOVEMBER 6, 1986

The Board of County Commissioners, Manatee County, Florida, met in SPECIAL SESSION in the Courthouse, Bradenton, Florida, Thursday, November 6, 1986, at 10:30 a.m.

Present were Commissioners:

Westwood H. Fletcher, Jr., Chairman  
Patricia M. Glass  
Maxine M. Hooper

Kent G. Chetlain entered during the meeting

Absent:

Edward W. Chance, Vice-Chairman

Also present were:

Ronald H. Rabun, County Administrator  
H. Hamilton Rice, Jr., County Attorney  
Richard H. Ashley, Chief Deputy Clerk, representing  
R. B. Shore, Clerk of Circuit Court

Representatives from the Cities were present.  
Representatives of the various news media were present.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Fletcher.

ANNA MARIA BRIDGE OPERATIONS

Ronald Rabun, County Administrator, referred to his memorandum dated October 28, 1986 concerning proposal (outlined in Public Notice 21-86) by the United States Coast Guard on change to drawbridge operation regulations on the Anna Maria Bridge, State Road 64, and deadline of November 20, 1986 for response/comments.

He noted that the bridge currently opens on signal Monday through Friday, except holidays. On Saturday, Sunday and holidays, from 9:00 a.m. to 6 p.m., the bridge opens on the hour, quarter-hour, half-hour, and three quarter-hour to allow waiting vessels to pass. The proposed change would alter Federal Regulations to provide the following changes:

December 1 through May 31, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 6 p.m., the drawbridge will open only on the hour, quarter-hour, half hour, and three-quarter hour.

(Enter Mr. Chetlain)

Brandon Green, Vice-Mayor of Anna Maria, recommended the drawbridge be opened every half hour and suggested the citizens of the island be asked to sign a petition requesting the 30-minute time opening to be sent to the Coast Guard.

B. Pollock, Long Boat Key Commissioner, concurred.

Rick Maddox, Chief of Police for the City of Holmes Beach, concurred that the half hour time openings would be much more beneficial to the traffic flow. He suggested a written agreement be obtained from the Coast Guard so that in the event one of the bridges is not operational, as far as traffic flow to and from the island, they would not open the other bridge span to deter traffic flow until such time as both bridges are fully operational.

Katherine Fernald, Longboat Key Councilwoman, said that although the bridge at the north end of Longboat Key has not been discussed, it is facing the same problem. She suggested the roads be given preference over boat traffic.

Mrs. Hooper moved to authorize staff to prepare a resolution with a cover letter to the Coast Guard favoring at least a 30 minute interval in raising up all three bridges and taking into consideration other points that have been raised. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Glass and carried unanimously.

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Cont'd

RECESS/RECONVENE

The meeting was declared recessed until 1:30 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 1:49 p.m. with all members present.

ANNA MARIA BRIDGE OPERATIONS

Jim Engelhardt, Assistant County Administrator, advised that after meeting with Chief Maddox and Mr. Green, they have reached a concensus to recommend a half hour operating schedule and submitted resolution

R-86-286: A RESOLUTION SEEKING AMENDMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE 21-86 REGARDING OPERATIONS OF THE ANNA MARIA DRAWBRIDGE AND SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF A UNIFORM POLICY OF DRAWBRIDGE OPERATION FOR THE ISLAND DRAWBRIDGES OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

He said that letters have been prepared to the Commander of the Coast Guard District, responding to Public Notice 21-86, and to the legislative delegation in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Fletcher pointed out that the Public Notice 21-86 for procedure change pertains only to the Anna Maria Bridge, State Road 64 .

Mrs. Glass recommended that a paragraph be added to the letters to the Coast Guard Commander, the Congressmen and Senators, stating that the Board realizes that Public Notice 21-86 pertains only to Anna Maria Bridge, State Road 64, Manatee County Florida, but the Board wants them to be aware of all the concerns to the island communities.

Mr. Chetlain moved to adopt Resolution R-86-286 and authorize the Chairman to sign the letters to the Coast Guard Commander, U.S. Senators Chiles and Hawkins and Congressman Ireland. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Glass and carried unanimously.

RECORD RESOLUTION

S36-023

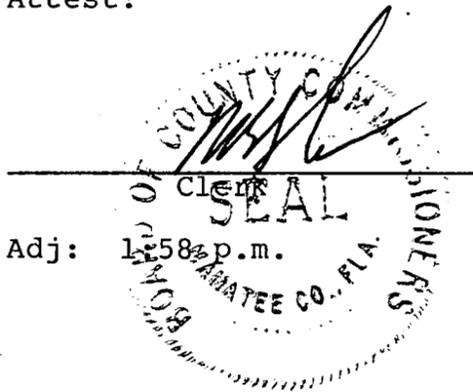
MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

APPROVED:

Adj: 1:58 p.m.



*Walter H. Chetlain*  
Chairman  
1/20/87