

DECEMBER 4, 1984

PORT AUTHORITY

The Board of County Commissioners, Manatee County, Florida, convened as the MANATEE COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY in Special Session in the Courthouse in Bradenton, Florida, Tuesday, December 4, 1984 at 2:06 p.m.

Present were Commissioners:

Kent G. Chetlain, Chairman  
Vernon E. Vickers, Vice-Chairman  
Edward W. Chance  
Westwood H. Fletcher, Jr  
Lloyd C. Hagaman, Jr.

Also present were:

Claude E. McGavic, Port Director  
Richard H. Ashley, Chief Deputy Clerk, representing  
R. B. Shore, Clerk of Circuit Court.

Representatives of the various news media were present.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chetlain.

U.S. NAVY: BATTLESHIP GROUP HOMEPORTING

Claude E. McGavic, Port Director, submitted a resolution adopted by the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida urging the Honorable John F. Lehman, Jr., Secretary of the Navy, to select Florida as the homeport of the United States Navy Gulf Coast Battleship Surface Action Group (SAG). He stated that Manatee County, Pensacola, Key West and Tampa are competing for selection.

Dewey Dye, Chairman of the Port Manatee Navy Advisory Committee (Blue Ribbon Panel), reported on the results of a study conducted on the proposal of locating a Navy battleship group at Port Manatee. He explained that the SAG will consist of a battleship, a guided missile cruiser, a guided missile destroyer, a guided missile frigate, two reserve guided missile frigates and a destroyer tender. The ships would involve approximately 3,500 Navy and 250 civilian personnel.

He outlined possible options and the determinations made:

- (1) Take No Action - Determined inappropriate due to widespread expression of support and a commitment by the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce to secure the berthing in the Tampa area.
- (2) Apply to the Navy for the berthing of the entire SAG at Port Manatee - Determined unfavorable due to:
  - a. Substantial costs and lack of sufficient time to prepare a proposal (application must be submitted by January 1985);
  - b. Serious disruption and hampering of development of Port Manatee due to high level of activity by entire berthing of the Navy SAG.
- (3) Oppose any proposal to base the SAG in the Tampa Bay Area - Unanimously rejected due to elimination of possible benefits to Port Manatee and Manatee County, particularly if Port Redwing is selected (located 12 miles from Port Manatee).
- (4) Officially support the Tampa area effort to have facilities within the Port of Tampa designated as the home port of SAG - Recommended along with the Port Authority submitting application to have the two reserve frigates based at Port Manatee and that Port Manatee be designated as a support facility to the primary location.

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(Cont'd)

He explained that the recommendation was based upon several considerations; i.e., benefits to Port Manatee and Manatee County if Tampa Bay is selected; community cooperation; favorable economic impacts; endorsement from the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce recognizing that the Port Manatee entrance channel should be federally maintained; Port Manatee being designated as the home port for the two reserve frigates and as a provider of certain support facilities, such as bunkering.

Discussion included regarding economic benefits to Manatee County, the close proximity of Port Redwing to I-75, the land requirements of the Navy, the number of families that would be coming into the area, etc.

Mr. Fletcher moved to authorize staff to prepare an application, with all appropriate supporting data, to be submitted to the U.S. Navy Gulf Coast Home Porting Study Team urging selection of Port Manatee as the permanent berthing location for the two reserve frigates constituting part of the proposed Battleship Surface Action Group being planned for the Gulf Coast. Such application should also urge the designation of other support facilities at Port Manatee, including fuel oil bunkering facilities. Motion was seconded by Mr. Hagaman and carried unanimously.

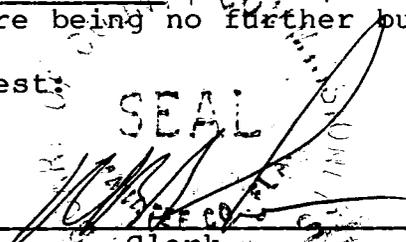
Motion was made by Mr. Fletcher, and seconded by Mr. Hagaman, to adopt a resolution directed to the U.S. Navy Gulf Coast Home Porting Study Team expressing support for the location of the Battleship Surface Action Group in the Port of Tampa.

Motion was amended to read "prepare a resolution for adoption" instead of "adopt a resolution". Motion carried unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

SEAL  
  
 Clerk

APPROVED:

  
 Chairman 2/12/85

Adj: 2:36 p.m.