

9:30 A. M. 7. Second Reading and Public Hearing

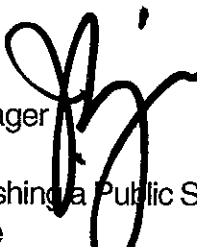
- a. City Manager Memorandum – Recommendation to establish an Energy and Water Conservation Task Force and table Ordinance 08-009



MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 30, 2008

TO: City Council

FROM: Judie Zimomra, City Manager 

SUBJECT: Ordinance 08-009 Establishing a Public Service Tax on the Purchase of Electricity & Water Service

Per City Council's direction, staff drafted legislation which would enable the implementation of a Public Service Utility Tax.

This Ordinance was drafted to address five primary challenges:

1. Provide economic incentives to Sanibel property owners to conserve water and electricity.
2. Improve Sanibel's water quality by encouraging native vegetation as alternatives to irrigated, fertilized landscaping.
3. Provide revenue to support Sanibel's energy and water conservation initiatives and programs.
4. Reduce the property tax burden of Sanibel citizens.
5. Diversify the City of Sanibel's revenue stream.

The City of Sanibel has a long history and tradition of tapping the expertise and knowledge of our citizens when addressing municipal challenges. Staff recommends that prior to further consideration of the Public Service Utility Tax, City Council appoint an Energy & Water Conservation Task Force with the following mission:

- Review Sanibel's energy and water usage history and trends
- Study Energy & Water Conservation Best Management Practices successfully utilized by other communities
- Prepare a written recommendation to City Council for Energy & Water Conservation on Sanibel that addresses all users and specifically addresses the following segments: municipal facilities, non-municipal governmental facilities, residential, resort, commercial and non-profit.

MEMORANDUM

- The Energy & Water Conservation Task Force recommendations are to include an implementation plan which establishes goals and addresses consumer education, cost estimates, enforcement, funding, including evaluating the feasibility of establishing a Public Service Utility Tax to fund these initiatives.
- The Energy & Water Conservation Task Force membership would be five Sanibel citizens. Additionally, the following stakeholders would be invited to participate as non-voting members of the Task Force:
 - Island Water Association (IWA)
 - Due to the fact that Sanibel's water provider, the non-profit IWA, provides water service to Captiva, it is also recommended that Lee County appoint a Captiva resident to the Task Force
 - Lee County Electric Cooperative (LCEC)
 - Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF)
 - Condominium Association of Sanibel Island (CASI)
 - Sanibel & Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce
- The Task Force will be scheduled to sunset twelve months after appointment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this recommendation. Thank you.

JAZ/cjm

Xc: Executive Staff