



# *City of Tarpon Springs, Florida*

324 East Pine Street  
Post Office Box 5004  
Tarpon Springs, Florida 34689-5004  
(727) 938-3711  
Fax: (727) 937-8199  
[www.ctsfl.us](http://www.ctsfl.us)

February 23, 2010

## **City Manager's Presentation February 23, 2010 Board of Commissioners Meeting**

In past discussions with the City Commission, I have been asked to improve the operation of the office of the City Manager in seven major areas. Following is a summary of these seven areas and the steps that have been taken over the past year to improve them.

- A. **Accessibility and Accountability:** This objective addresses accessibility of the City Manager and staff to the public and the Board of Commissioners and the accountability of the City Manager and staff to the citizens of Tarpon Springs and the Board of Commissioners.
  - 1. City Manager and staff accessible to the public and accountable to the citizens that we have done all that we can to address their problem or concern
  - 2. City Manager more visible in the community
  - 3. Accountability to the needs of the citizens and the Board of Commissioners
  
- B. **Communication:** This objective addresses the City's ability to communicate with all of its stakeholders.
  - 1. Information is being made available to our citizens in a number of different media: a) website has been advanced and improved for easier navigability and clarity and we are constantly striving to make more information available through the web; b) Meetings are recorded and made available on television and online; c) Informational and event flyers are distributed through the media and press; d) Newsletter email list and Downtown Business Owner email list.
  - 2. Citizen Involvement has been increased dramatically through the re-establishment of the Recreation Advisory Board; the creation of a Budget Advisory Board; an increased number of Town Hall meetings on a variety of subjects and the creation of the Planning Focus Group.
  - 3. Communication with the City Commission by the City Manager has been improved through the use of email and other means.
  - 4. Inter-departmental communication has been improved to insure that various City departments are aware of the activities of others.

- C. **Continuity:** This objective addresses the Commission's desire for a seamless transition between City Managers
1. Many projects are proceeding as planned
  2. Major project coordination: Meres Town Center, Lowes, New Water Plant
  3. Modification of Projects: FDOT project / acceleration of landscaping and hard-scaping / adaptation to unforeseen project challenges
  4. New endeavors: sports complex; stormwater projects; CRA/Sponge Docks projects; Farmers' Market
- D. **Culture:** Renewal of what we do best
1. Re-establishment of our Greek culture and Historically significant resources by utilizing this unique aspect of our community for promotion, tourism, economic development and for our citizens
  2. Examples: Night in the Islands; Restoration of Mother Meres Park; Restoration of City Sponge Boat; Greek Cultural exhibits and events
- E. **Cooperation:** Reach out to our stakeholders and foster a spirit of cooperation
1. Downtown Business Alliance, Sponge Docks Merchants Association; Chamber of Commerce and City of Tarpon Springs regular weekly "Tourist Development Council"
  2. Establishing trust and cooperation with other Governmental agencies: Pinellas County; FDOT; SWFWMD; DCA; Other Cities and City Managers
- F. **Fiscal Responsibility:** Meeting the challenges of the economic downturn through a number of different strategies:
1. Achieved promise made in March 2009 to reduce the budget deficit by \$1 million
  2. Provided a budget with justification and gained unanimous support of the Budget Advisory Board established by the City Commission
  3. Continue our cost cutting with as minimal an effect on services as possible such as presenting re-organizations to the BOC for approval that SAVE money.
- G. **Employee Morale:**
1. Fix the problem that existed
  2. Insure the stability of morale to deal with future challenges. Many employees asked to perform extra duties – acknowledge and give credit where due for a job well done.