



**ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS
SPECIAL CALL VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING**

**Founders Park Community Center
87000 Overseas Hwy
Islamorada, FL 33036**

**June 04, 2013
Immediately following the 3:00 PM Village Council Workshop**

I. CALL TO ORDER\ROLL CALL

Mayor Ken Philipson called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

The following Council members were present on roll call: Mayor Philipson, Vice Mayor Ted Blackburn, Councilman Mike Forster, Councilwoman Deb Gillis, and Councilman Dave Purdo. Also in attendance were Village Manager Ed Koconis, Village Attorneys Nina Boniske, Lillian Arango and James White, Village Clerk Ariana Lawson, Finance Director Maria Aguilar and all other appropriate personnel.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilwoman Deb Gillis led the pledge of allegiance.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Philipson called for public comment. Larry Barr spoke in support of transitioning to an in-house attorney. Mayor Emeritus Ron Levy spoke against transitioning to an in-house attorney, stating that the Village is in a precarious stage of land development and in danger of losing its character for the sake of development. Mr. Levy noted Council's commendations during the Village Council Workshop immediately preceding this Special Call Meeting of Weiss Serota Helfman Pastoriza Cole & Bonsike, P.L.'s (Weiss Serota) quality of work and questioned, therefor, why Council would choose to switch to an in-house attorney. Mayor Philipson closed public comment.

Village Attorney Nina Boniske announced a hearing before Judge Garcia on June 6, 2013 in the case of Intercoastal Contracting Corporation, Case No. 2006-CA-43-P. She also announced a hearing before Judge Garcia on June 7, 2013 regarding Case No. 11-CA-389-P and Paul Bates' motion for an emergency injunction to prevent the Village from shutting off the power at Coconut Cove Resort and Spa.

IV. AGENDA: Request for Deletions / Emergency Additions

There were no deletions or emergency additions to the agenda.

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V. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A. Discussion and Direction Regarding Village Attorney / Legal Services

Councilwoman Gillis briefly summarized her report (Tab 1) from the preceding Village Council Workshop.

Councilman Purdo stated that he wants local attorneys to review responses to the Village Attorney advertisement. Councilwoman Gillis cautioned against using local individuals on the selection committee who may have vested interests in the outcome of the selection process. Councilman Purdo suggested scheduling another workshop to outline the Village Attorney selection process. Vice Mayor Blackburn agreed, but wanted to move forward with issuing an advertisement for the position.

Councilwoman Gillis stated that she felt the current form of Village Attorney is the beset route for the Village for a number of reasons, including financial, but that following the vote she would support the direction Council decides to go in for legal services.

VI. MOTIONS

Mayor Philipson made a motion to terminate the contractual agreement with Weiss Serota and replace the firm with a chartered in-house attorney. Councilman Purdo seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1, with Councilwoman Gillis dissenting.

Councilman Forster made a motion to direct the Village Manager Ed Koconis, Finance Director Maria Aguilar and Village Attorney Nina Boniske to draft an advertisement for the in-house attorney position with an employment start date of October 1, 2013 for Council to finalize at the June 13, 2013 Regular Village Council Meeting, with the understanding that a subsequent Village Council Workshop would be held to discuss minimum qualifications and/or selection procedures, if needed. Councilwoman Gillis seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

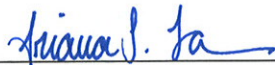
VII. VILLAGE ATTORNEY / VILLAGE MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS

Council agreed to schedule a Village Council Workshop for June 27, 2013 at 4:00 pm to discuss the selection procedures for the in-house Village Attorney position.

Councilwoman Gillis announced the official opening of the new Islamorada Chamber of Commerce Visitor's Center in Founders Park.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Purdo offered a motion to adjourn; Councilman Forster seconded the motion. Council voted All in Favor. The meeting adjourned at 5:37 pm.


Ariana S. Lawson
Village Clerk

Approved by the Village Council this 27th day of June, 2013.

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