



**ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS
REGULAR VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Founders Park Community Center
87000 Overseas Hwy
Islamorada, FL 33036
Thursday, January 9, 2014
5:30 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mayor Ted Blackburn called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m. The following Council members were present on roll call: Mayor Ted Blackburn, Vice Mayor Deb Gillis, Councilman Mike Forster, Councilman Ken Philipson, and Councilman Dave Purdo. Also in attendance were Village Manager Ed Koconis, Village Attorney Roget Bryan, Village Clerk Synthia Lankford, Monroe County Sheriff's Office Captain Corey Bryan and all other appropriate personnel.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Betsy Keteltas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Phoenix Award Presentations

Captain Terry Abel presented the Phoenix Award to Robert Young, Chris Staton, Jeremy Kimes, Dylan Cure, Andrew Gamil, Frankie Glasper and Shannon O'Boy. The Phoenix Award recognizes local emergency first responders for saving a human life.

B. Presentation by Monroe County Department of Health Director of Community Services Bill Brookman and Health Education Alison Morales Regarding the Community Health Improvement Plan 2013

Mary VanderBrook and Allison Morales presented a Power Point entitled "Community Health Improvement Plan for the Microcommunity of East Islamorada". Ms. Morales advised Council that Census Tract 9708 had the highest death rate in Monroe County. Ms. Morales requested funding for a Community Health Improvement Plan Study to be conducted in East Islamorada. The initial cost of the study is \$25,000, an additional \$18,000 for administration costs was requested.

Councilman Forster requested the item be brought back as a publicly noticed Agenda item.

Councilman Philipson requested clarification of the Mile Markers that comprise East Islamorada.

Village Manager Ed Koconis clarified Census tract 9708 was located on Plantation Key, approximately Mile Marker 86 to 91 and that Staff had identified a potential grant source in the amount of \$10,000 to fund a portion of the study.

Stan Margulies offered public comment and inquired if an age adjustment was made when calculating the death rates in East Islamorada.

C. Discussion Regarding Climate Change Adaptation and Action Plan

Mary Swaney apprised Council of the Mayors' Climate Change Action Pledge and options for a plan for Climate Resilience and Sea Level Rise specific to the Village and its properties. Planner Shane Laakso presented a Power Point Presentation entitled "Village of Islamorada Sea Level Rise Action Plan".

Council directed Staff to bring back recommendations and options for an action plan for the Village of Islamorada and the associated costs.

Councilman Ken Philipson made a motion to hear Item XIV. A. as the next item and to move Item XIV. F. up to Item VII. C. Councilman Mike Forster seconded the motion. Council voted all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

XIV. A. Discussion Regarding Morada Way Arts District's Request for Village Assistance with National Education Association Grant

Betsy Keteltas spoke about a grant opportunity from the National Endowment of the Arts. Ms. Keteltas discussed Morada Way Arts and Cultural District application to the National Endowment of the Arts Our Town Funding Opportunity Grant, in the amount of \$50,000-\$75,000, to launch a public art project in the Village of Islamorada. The grant application requires the applicant to be an art organization and a primary partner to be a municipality, as well as letters of support and cash or in kind match. Grant funding would be available September 1, 2014 and the match secured after September 1, 2014. The art project would be located on a six block area in the right-of-way on Upper Matecumbe Key from the Hurricane Monument to the Green Turtle. Ms. Keteltas requested the Village become the primary partner on the grant application and approve \$30,000 in non-federal FDOT funds towards furnishing, landscaping, bike racks, etc. as the matching funds. The deadline to submit the grant application deadline is Monday, January 13, 2014.

Mayor Blackburn inquired if FDOT funding could be used as a source for a match. Finance Manager Maria Aguilar advised FDOT funding could not be used and expressed concern over the use of public funds as a match for the art project.

Councilman Philipson inquired if Ms. Keteltas could submit the grant application without Council approving \$30,000 in funds. Ms. Keteltas responded the application would be stronger with the commitment of \$30,000 but it was not required to submit the application

Councilman Forster promoted the project but would prefer these items come to Council as an Agenda item with appropriate public notice. Vice Mayor Gillis was in agreement with Councilman Forster and believes back up for the item should have been provided in the Agenda.

Village Attorney Roget Bryan indicated he was not provided the grant application or any other documentation or information that he would require to provide a legal opinion to Council.

Ms. Keteltas responded the application can be submitted without a commitment for a dollar for dollar match, but instead an in kind contribution. The Village of Islamorada would only need to provide a letter of support from an elected official supporting the grant application as a primary partner.

Mayor Blackburn opened public comment.

Dick Hagood spoke in support of the proposed public art project.

Dave Boerner stated his belief that the art project would be an improvement to the property and enhance quality of life.

Mayor Blackburn closed public comment.

Council provided direction to Staff to work with Ms. Keteltas to complete the grant application with the Morada Way Arts and Cultural District as the applicant and the Village of Islamorada as the primary partner and make every effort possible to submit the application by the January 13, 2014 deadline.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Stan Margulies requested the Wastewater update be heard earlier in the Agenda. Mr. Margulies believes the Health Department study was not medically or scientifically correct.

Fire Chief Terry Able announced the Wounded Warrior ride would be in Islamorada on Friday, January 10, 2014 at 9:30 a.m., and encouraged attendance to support the event.

Larry Barr encouraged Council to move Wastewater ahead in the Agenda.

Council directed Staff to have the Wastewater Update on future Agenda's after Citizens' Advisory Committee updates.

V. CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES

A. Workforce/Affordable Housing Citizens Advisory Committee Update
No update was provided.

B. Water Quality Improvement Citizens Advisory Committee Update
No update was provided.

C. Landscape Advisory Committee Update was added to the Agenda

Kathy Holmes informed Council the Landscape Advisory Council will host a booth at the Morada Bay Arts District walk beginning next week and continuing through April. Ms. Holmes presented a sample of "razzle" a colored synthetic mulch which will be used to beautify the Villages north entry area at Tavernier Creek bridge.

Councilman Forster made a motion to move the Wastewater Project update Item XII forward in the Agenda to be heard next. Councilman Philipson seconded the motion. Council voted all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

XII. WASTEWATER MATTERS

A. Wastewater Update

Tom Brezinski from Wade Trim provided the update. The construction on the force main from Tavernier Creek north to CVS is complete and has been successfully tested. The force main running from the existing wastewater treatment plant to Tavernier Creek has been installed and pretested.

Work has begun in Key Largo to install the underground pipe to make the connection to the Key Largo Wastewater Treatment Plant. Reynolds has successfully completed crossings at Tavernier Creek, Snake Creek and Whale Harbor. Paving is complete on Royal Poinciana and Sunshine Boulevard is complete, next week paving will begin on the Old Highway on North Plantation Key.

Mayor Blackburn asked for public comment; no public comment was offered.

VI. VILLAGE MANAGER REPORTS AND UPDATES

A. Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant First Public Hearing

TAB 1

Mayor Blackburn opened the public hearing.

Jay Berenzweig introduced Calvin Knowles, Government Services Group, to provide a brief summary of the application process for a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant. Mr. Knowles advised that the Village of Islamorada was eligible for to receive up to \$750,000. The application would be submitted asking for funding for housing rehabilitation, which can be used for sewer installation for low income residents.

Vice Mayor Gillis inquired if the funds for housing rehabilitation other than sewers. Mr. Knowles clarified that it would be possible by amending the application through the State of Florida.

Councilman Purdo confirmed the income limits for low income residents are set by H.U.D.

Mayor Blackburn opened public comment; no public comment was offered.

The public hearing was closed.

Staff was given direction to proceed with the application for a Housing Category for the Small Cities Development Block Grant.

B. Options for Sunshine and Ethics Training and Strategic Planning Session

Village Manager Ed Koconis presented the Options for Sunshine and Ethics Training,

Councilman Philipson stated Sunshine and Ethics training should be conducted every two years to coincide with the election.

Vice Mayor Gillis expressed support for Dr. Lee's proposal and believes it is a better option for Committee member attendance.

Council gave direction to hire Dr. Robert Lee to conduct the Sunshine and Ethics training at a cost of \$2,200.

Village Manager Ed Koconis provided the options for a Strategic Planning Session from Dr. Robert Lee and Mr. Lyle Sumek.

In preparation for the Session Dr. Lee would review the Village Charter, Budget, CAFR and other relevant materials, to propose strategic initiatives for the municipality. The proposal is for a two to four hour session at a cost of \$2,800. Dr. Lee would be open to expand to a longer session, charging only additional true costs.

Mr. Sumek provided a proposal detailing a ten step activity process to provide a strategic plan for 2014 – 2019 – 2029, at a cost of approximately \$14,000-\$22,000.

Mayor Blackburn would prefer a one day session for Strategic Planning. Councilman Philipson expressed his agreement.

Council directed Staff to hire Dr. Lee to conduct the Strategic Planning Session and bring back potential dates.

C. Discussion Regarding Zoning in Progress Related to Nonresidential Development

Village Manager Ed Koconis opened the discussion regarding zoning in progress and requested direction from Council.

Councilman Forster stated he would like to see a zoning in progress on adjoining properties to slow down on a proliferation of high density projects and suggested Council appoint a task force to look at the U.S. 1 corridor and propose a vision for the future.

Councilman Philipson believes Council should hold a Workshop on Zoning in Progress.

Village Attorney Roget Bryan recommended Staff compile a comprehensive inventory analysis of parcels in the Village to determine the availability for development before enacting legislation.

Village Manager Ed Koconis proposed the option of limiting the size of commercial developments outside of the Village Center zoning district and the potential to limit the square footage allocation. Mr. Koconis stated Staff is working on a comprehensive data set of commercial parcels.

Mayor Blackburn suggested Council conduct a Workshop, the Workshop is scheduled for February 26, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

Village Manager Ed Koconis advised Council that three bayside lots are for sale in the Village at approximately mile marker 87.3. Monroe County Land Authority has offered to purchase the properties for the Village of Islamorada, but would require a conservation easement. Direction was given to bring back a Resolution approving a conservation easement.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

(All items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the Village Council and will be approved by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Councilmember so requests, in which event, the item will be moved to the Main Agenda.)

A. Minutes:

TAB 2

August 22, 2013 Regular Village Council Meeting

September 12, 2013 Regular Village Council Meeting

September 26, 2013 Special Call Village Council Meeting
(Executive Session: Case No. 2006-CA-43-P)

September 26, 2013 Regular Village Council Meeting

December 12, 2013 Regular Village Council Meeting

- B. Resolution Approving Grant Agreement with the Florida Forest Service for a 2013 Volunteer Assistance Grant to Purchase Turnout Gear Coats and Pants **TAB 3****

Councilman Dave Purdo offered a motion to approve. Councilman Mike Forster seconded the motion. Council voted all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

Councilman Mike Forster made a motion to move TAB 9 forward in the Agenda to be heard next. Vice Mayor Deb Gillis seconded the motion. Council voted all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

- A. Application for Administrative Relief (AR-14-01) for Brian and Jocelyn Tiedemann **TAB 9****

Village Attorney Roget Bryan read the title of the Resolution. Shane Laakso provided the staff report recommending Council approve the allocation award pursuant to Village Code Section 30-475(g) from previous market rate roll over allocations. Village Attorney Roget Bryan advised Council the Application for Administrative Relief (AR-14-01) was a Quasi-Judicial item and read the Quasi-Judicial statement; Village Clerk Synthia Lankford swore in the witnesses. The Village Attorney requested Council disclose any ex parte communications; Councilman Forster indicated he had spoken with Mrs. Tiedemann.

Mayor Blackburn opened public comment; no public comment was offered.

Councilman Dave Purdo made a motion to approve the allocation award from previous market rate allocations. Councilman Mike Forster seconded the motion. Council voted all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

IX. ORDINANCES

- A. Second Reading – Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment for Bulkheads, Seawalls or Other Hardened Vertical Shoreline Structures and Stabilization Canals and Shorelines **TAB 4****

Village Attorney Roget Bryan read the title of the Ordinance. Susan Sprunt presented the staff report and advised Council there were no changes made from the First Reading.

Mayor Blackburn opened public comment; no public comment was offered.

Vice Mayor Deb Gillis made a motion to approve. Councilman Mike Forster seconded the motion. Council voted all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

- B. Second Reading –Comprehensive Plan Amendments Regarding Nonconforming Structures **TAB 5****

Village Attorney Roget Bryan read the title of the Ordinance. Village Manager Ed Koconis presented the staff report and advised Council there were no changes made from the First Reading.

Mayor Blackburn opened public comment; no public comment was offered.

Councilman Ken Philipson made a motion to approve. Councilman Dave Purdo seconded the motion. Council voted all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

- C. Second Reading – Text Amendment to the Definition of Hotel and Motel Room **TAB 6****

Village Attorney Roget Bryan read the title of the Ordinance. Village Manager Ed Koconis presented the staff report and advised Council there were no changes made from the First Reading.

Mayor Blackburn opened public comment; no public comment was offered.

Vice Mayor Deb Gillis made a motion to approve. Councilman Mike Forster seconded the motion. Council voted all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

X. QUASI-JUDICIAL

A. Application for Minor Conditional Use (MN-13-03) by H & C Islander Resort, LLC TAB 7

Village Attorney Roget Bryan read the Quasi-Judicial statement; Village Clerk Synthia Lankford swore in the witnesses. The Village Attorney read the title of the Resolution and requested Council disclose any ex-parte communications; there were none. Assistant Director of Planning Cheryl Cioffari presented the staff report, recommending approval of the Minor Conditional Use with the conditions as listed in the Resolution.

Mayor Blackburn opened public comment; no public comment was offered.

Vice Mayor Deb Gillis made a motion to approve. Councilman Ken Philipson seconded the motion. Council voted all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

B. Variance Application (VAR-14-01) by H & C Islander Resort, LLC TAB 8

Village Attorney Roget Bryan read the title of the Resolution and requested Council disclose any ex-parte communications; there were none. Assistant Director of Planning Cheryl Cioffari presented the staff report, recommending approval of the Variance application.

Mayor Blackburn opened public comment; no public comment was offered.

Councilman Ken Philipson made a motion to approve. Vice Mayor Deb Gillis seconded the motion. Council voted all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

XI. MOTIONS

A. Approval of Regular Village Council Meetings for Calendar Year 2014 TAB 10

Mayor Ted Blackburn presented the proposed calendar for Regular Village Council meetings for 2014. Councilman Philipson stated he would prefer two meetings in December. Council agreed to schedule a meeting on December 4, 2014 and December 18, 2014.

Councilman Ken Philipson made a motion to approve the 2014 Meeting Calendar as amended. Vice Mayor Deb Gillis seconded the motion. Council voted all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

B. Approval of Appointments to the Islamorada Youth Council TAB 11

Director of Parks and Public Works John Sutter announced the students recommended for the Islamorada Youth Council from Coral Shores High School and Island Christian School. Mr. Sutter requested Council approve the appointments to the Islamorada Youth Council and advised the appointees would be introduced to Council at the January 23, 2014 Regular Village Council

Meeting. The appointees from Coral Shores High School are Mary Belle Gresh, Kyle Estrada-Clarke and Lars Vihlen

The appointees from Island Christian School are Brianna Calderwood and Tom Lindholm.

Councilman Ken Philipson made a motion to approve the appointments to the Islamorada Youth Council. Councilman Mike Forster seconded the motion. Council voted all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

XII. MAYOR / COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

B. Discussion Regarding Acceptance of Private Roads (Village Council)

TAB 12

Director of Parks and Public Works John Sutter requested direction from Council on acceptance of private roads.

Vice Mayor Gillis advised Council approximately one-third of the private roads do not meet the standards proposed at the county level. Vice Mayor Gillis recommended accepting all private roads in the Village and providing guidance to property owners in how to dedicate a road to the Village.

Councilman Philipson affirmed the Village needs to adopt standards for new roads.

Village Attorney Roget Bryan clarified the standards from the Monroe County code will be codified into the Village Ordinances.

Council gave direction for Staff to come back with an Ordinance to adopt the Monroe County standards and procedures for accepting private roads.

Mayor Blackburn opened public comment.

Brad Dougherty spoke in favor of the Village accepting private roads.

Councilman Ken Philipson made a motion to extend the meeting for one hour. Councilman Mike Forster seconded the motion. Council voted all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

Stacy Krupa spoke about the substandard road in her neighborhood.

Mayor Blackburn closed public comment.

C. Discussion Related to FIRM e-mail on Biggert-Waters

TAB 13

Mayor Blackburn encouraged Council to submit a letter to FIRM on behalf of the Village in support of stopping Biggert-Waters. Council directed staff to prepare a letter for Mayor Blackburn's signature.

D. Discussion Regarding Allowing Golf Carts and Limited use by 18-Wheelers on the Old Hwy

Councilman Philipson opened the discussion and recommended Council take action to allow golf carts on the Old Highway and limit 18-wheeler traffic.

Captain Corey Bryan advised that it is not safe or practical to allow golf carts on the Old Highway and there was no legal avenue to limit 18-wheeler traffic.

The discussion was closed, no action was recommended.

E. Discussion Regarding Village Manager's Evaluation

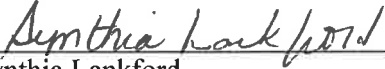
Village Manager Ed Koconis presented the form that was used last year for the Village Manager's evaluation. Councilman Philipson advised last year's evaluations could be provided upon request. Council directed Mr. Koconis to complete an evaluation on himself. The Village Manager's evaluation will be an Agenda item at the January 23, 2014 Regular Village Council meeting.

XV. VILLAGE ATTORNEY / VILLAGE MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS

There were no further communications from the Village Attorney or Village Manager.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Dave Purdo made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Mike Forster seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:18 p.m.


Synthia Lankford
Village Clerk

Approved by the Village Council this 23rd day of January, 2014.