



**ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS  
VILLAGE COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

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

**June 3, 2014  
At 3:00 PM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER\ROLL CALL**

Mayor Ted Blackburn called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The following Council members were present: Mayor Ted Blackburn, Vice Mayor Deb Gillis, Councilman Mike Forster, Councilman Ken Philipson, and Councilman Dave Purdo. Also in attendance were Village Manager Maria Aguilar, Village Attorney Roget Bryan, Assistant to the Village Manager Mary Swaney, Village Clerk Kelly Toth, Director of Planning Cheryl Cioffari, Public Works Director John Sutter, and Fire Chief Terry Abel.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Peebles.

**III. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**A. Legislative Priorities**

Vice Mayor Deb Gillis spoke about her legislative priorities: monies to assist with sewer connections, creation of better working relationships with DOT, grants and financial assistance from the state for land acquisition and for properties filing for administrative relief.

Councilman Dave Purdo spoke about his legislative priorities: funding assistance for storm water and wastewater.

Councilman Mike Forster spoke about his legislative priorities: funding for storm water, flood and wind insurance, additional penny tax in the future, maintain our working relationship with Monroe County, and assistance with improving the working relationship with DOT providing for improved transparency and cooperation.

Councilman Ken Philipson spoke about his legislative priorities: Community Redevelopment Agency assistance/funding, storm water funding, relationship building with other agency departments and the Governor's office and assistance with FDOT.

Mayor Ted Blackburn spoke about his legislative priorities: funding opportunities continue for Islamorada, importance of unity and strength in numbers; importance of staff relationships with government agencies referencing a bottom up approach and top down approach (from Tallahassee).

Parks & Recreation and Public Works Director John Sutter stated staff is identifying the types of funding needed for storm water.

Mayor Ted Blackburn addressed the importance of identifying storm water hot spots, developing solutions and preparing cost estimates so we are ready to proceed when funding is available.

Lobbyist Bill Peebles acknowledged the cohesiveness of Council regarding areas of concern. He explained that the primary focus for the Village has been funding for wastewater and that wastewater funding will remain a primary focus in the short-term.

Lobbyist John Wayne Smith reported that the State of Florida is beginning to converse more about water related issues. He acknowledged the challenge in allocating available funding as each entity has specific expectations, and he suggested there would be synergy when Islamorada, Marathon and Monroe County meet to develop a plan for pursuing the allocation of funding.

Lobbyist Bill Peebles discussed the term “made whole” and the meaning to other municipalities. Mr. Peebles suggested Council look at their environmental needs regarding parity.

Councilman Mike Forster stated he does not agree with the “made-whole” idea. He agrees the Village will be more successful in obtaining funding if unified with other municipalities. Councilman Forster stated he likes the broader scope of seeking funding assistance for storm water, canal restoration, near shore waters and land acquisitions.

Vice Mayor Deb Gillis acknowledged the importance of partnerships and that emphasis should be on water quality as a whole.

Discussion ensued regarding sewers and wastewater around the state with emphasis on the Everglades and Lake Okeechobee issues.

Mayor Ted Blackburn discussed the idea of being “made whole”. Mayor Blackburn stated he wants the communities throughout Monroe County to be roughly on parity with regard to the amount of state funding received for wastewater, and Islamorada is not.

Mayor Ted Blackburn acknowledged the kickoff of the sea level rise project in preparation for storm water planning.

Lobbyist John Peebles discussed various types of parity pertaining to wastewater and suggested possible ways of achieving parity with Monroe County regarding future distributions of water quality money. Mayor Ted Blackburn identified potential complications with efforts to achieve parity.

Councilman Ken Philipson suggested money be set aside in the next budget for storm water research.

John Sutter, Director of Parks & Recreation and Public Works stated he received a proposal for a storm water feasibility study that will identify costs associated with the most chronic storm water areas.

Councilman Mike Forster suggested researching a call list to communicate important topics to citizens.

Lobbyist Bill Peebles discussed the penny tax and other local option revenue sources. Councilman Ken Philipson stated he was not sure he could support a full penny tax due to the burden it puts on retailers.

Mayor Ted Blackburn suggested a mixture of funding options.

Vice Mayor Deb Gillis addressed the additional taxes placed upon the hospitality industry.

Lobbyist Bill Peebles recapped Council's legislative priorities: wastewater, storm water and water quality in general, relationship building with FDOT and assistance with FDOT regarding the Sea Oats Beach project, consensus building with Monroe County, land acquisition opportunities, local option revenue sources, and funding sources for wastewater sewer hookups.

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Dave Purdo made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Mike Forster seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

  
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Kelly Toth  
Village Clerk

Approved by the Village Council this 26<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014.