



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

**Founders Park Community Center
87000 Overseas Hwy
Islamorada, FL 33036
Wednesday, July 23, 2014
5:30 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mayor Ted Blackburn called the meeting to order at 5:32PM. 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 Maria Aguilar, Village Attorney Roget Bryan, Village Clerk Kelly Toth, Planning Director Cheryl Cioffari and all other appropriate personnel.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Bill Parker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Bill Parker spoke against the Grantor's Release portion of the Easement Agreement. He expressed concern pertaining to Section five of the agreement and asked for this section of the agreement be modified.

Mr. Doug Rabe spoke about the article in the Free Press pertaining to the value of the fill that is being excavated as a result of the sewer pipe installation. He encouraged Council to do what they thought was best regarding the matter.

Mr. Barry Wray expressed concern over sections of the right-of-way being taken by the Florida Department of Transportation.

Ms. Janet Wood thanked the staff and the Village Council.

Mayor Ted Blackburn closed public comment.

V. AGENDA: Request for Deletion / Emergency Additions

None.

VI. CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES

Mr. Barry Wray, Chair of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee thanked the Village Staff, Village Council, and members of the Affordable Housing Committee who made the \$700,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) approval possible. Mr. Wray announced that a press release has gone out to communicate the available programs.

Mr. Wray announced there is a great need for rental units in the Village and the committee will be working on a campaign to encourage commercial developers to develop rental units. He stated one of the ideas the committee is looking into is shipping containers that can be converted and used as rental units.

He spoke about the Mortgage Assistance Program the Committee approved and it is the Committee's desire to approve ten mortgage assistance awards and that the program is currently under review by staff.

Mr. Wray stated the committee is in need of more members and suggested Council appoint members to the committee preferably with banking and/or finance experience.

Councilman Ken Philipson stated the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) program would be funded again this year.

VILLAGE MANAGER REPORTS AND UPDATES

A. Update and Discussion Regarding FDOT US1 Right-of-Way Concerns

Village Manager Maria Aguilar reported State Representative Holly Raschien will coordinate a county-wide workshop in Marathon to include FDOT District 6 Supervisor Gus Pego. Councilman Mike Forster stated all elected officials would be invited to the workshop and suggested State Representative Holly Raschien invite all appropriate staff members and attorneys from each area in Monroe County. Councilman Mike Forester updated Mr. Barry Wray on the issues of Harriet's restaurant and stated Harriet was happy with the progress and that there will be closure in the foreseeable future.

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:

July 1, 2014 Special Call Executive Session

B. Resolution Declaring the 1998 Pierce Pumper Fire Vehicle Surplus and Authorizing Disposition

C. Amendment to Resolution Pertaining to the Islamorada Youth Council

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

VIII. WASTEWATER MATTERS

Vice Mayor Deb Gillis announced the Village has paid off its capacity agreement with the Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District resulting in the Village saving approximately 1.3 million dollars in interest. Vice Mayor Gillis stated this was accomplished by using a portion of the Mayfield Grant.

A. Wastewater Project Update

Wade Trim Executive Vice President, Tom Brzezinski reported on the wastewater construction progress stating that: preparation for foundations for the South Plantation Key Vacuum Pump Station has begun; valve pits are being installed in Venetian Shores; and, Windley Key is close to completion with only a few items remaining. Mr. Brzezinski stated that installation of vacuum sewers throughout the area of Upper Matecumbe Key continues and that line testing is close to completion. Mr. Brzezinski reported that there is substantial paving to be done on Upper Matecumbe Key and Lower Matecumbe Key is close to being connected to the rest of the Village's sewer system.

Mr. Brzezinski stated that a couple of grinder pump meetings had occurred resulting in a couple of people signing up for the grinder pump program.

Councilman Ken Philipson stated he wants to see start and stop dates for digging and the schedule for paving on the first page of the monthly report until the project is complete.

Councilman Dave Purdo expressed concern over Section Five of the Easement Agreement and stated he agreed with Mr. Bill Parker's earlier comment regarding this section. Councilman Purdo inquired about the fill and coral being excavated.

Councilman Mike Forester stated he was informed that the cost of excavating and the amount of fill that is excavated is a wash. Councilman Forster stated Richard Crow, Reynolds Water Islamorada, has done work for the Village and has not charged the Village and that Mr. Crow has done complimentary work at Morada Way and has made concessions for homeowners regarding pit locations.

Councilman Mike Forester stated he agrees with Councilman Purdo and Councilman Philipson that the Old Road is a problem. Discussion ensued regarding the construction taking place on the Old Road.

Mr. Tom Brzezinski reported the flow was tested prior to pumping and that the flow to Key Largo, after a couple of weeks, showed an upward trend in the salinity. He said the contract is very specific about locating the sources of salinity and, as such, has been a primary focus. Mr. Brzezinski stated they have mobilized teams in North Plantation Key to identify these sources via hand testing with monitors. He reported about the different sources of the salinity and the short and long term solutions.

Councilman Dave Purdo questioned whether Key Largo is charging the Village for the salinity intrusion. Mr. Brzezinski said that Key Largo was not charging the Village.

Councilman Ken Philipson asked Mr. Tom Brzezinski to estimate how many pits would be replaced in the next two to three years. Mr. Brzezinski stated that at some point, from an operational and maintenance standpoint, it would make sense for the Village to replace these units and could not say how long they would last. He said some of them were tilting and breaking and required replacement and spoke in support of replacing them on a schedule. Mr. Brzezinski stated the newer pits have a life expectancy of twenty years.

Vice Mayor Deb Gillis stated the pits are not failing today and spoke in support of planning ahead.

Mayor Blackburn stated the issue is two-fold: do it all at once as a capital project or schedule different sections over a period of time.

Councilman Dave Purdo asked about the possibility of the sewers backing up into someone's home. Mr. Tom Brzezinski stated that this is not the situation and there is an operational staff and the technology to switch a pit out quickly if the need arose.

Mr. Robby Silk asked for clarification on an acceptable salinity level. Councilman Ken Philipson stated 2.0 was an acceptable salinity level and referred Mr. Silk to the chart on page two of the Monthly Report.

Mr. Barry Wray expressed concern over the environmental impact related to the failing pits.

Mayor Ted Blackburn closed public comment.

IX. ORDINANCES

None.

X. QUASI-JUDICIAL

None.

XI. RESOLUTIONS

None.

XII. MOTIONS

None.

XIII. MAYOR / COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

XIV. VILLAGE ATTORNEY / VILLAGE MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS

A. Planning Department's Projects and Priorities

Planning Director Cheryl Cioffari presented the Planning Department's projects and priorities. Ms. Cioffari added that these projects and priorities are in addition to the daily duties performed by planning department staff and elaborated on the various daily responsibilities of the planners. Ms. Cioffari explained how she would like to proceed with the current projects and initiatives and requested Council's direction.

Council commended Planning Director Cheryl Cioffari on her presentation. Vice Mayor Deb Gillis stated this presentation gives Council a good idea of the amount of work that is going through the Planning Department and expressed her support for Cheryl's method of prioritizing. Councilman Mike Forster stated he appreciated the information contained in the report and commented that initiatives should not be created unless they are very important to Council because there is so much other work to be done. Mayor Ted Blackburn expressed his agreement with the statements made by Council.

B. Speed Limit on Old Highway

Village Attorney Roget Bryan provided information regarding lowering the speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph. Mr. Bryan stated that Florida statute allows for the adjustment of county and city maintained roads. He reported that the statute requires conformity to FDOT criteria and that this criteria requires an investigation or analysis. Mr. Bryan stated that if it was Council's desire to move forward, staff would

obtain a quote for traffic consulting services. Mr. Bryan stated that in this type of analysis and for the speed limit reduction to be effective, the consultant looks to see if 85% of the drivers are voluntarily compliant.


Councilman Ken Philipson stated he would like to see the speed limit lowered to 25 mph. Councilman Mike Forster said he would like to see a study, but thinks it would be best to do the study when repaving has been completed and would like to know the cost of the study prior to moving forward. Councilman Dave Purdo spoke in support of moving forward with the study, unless it was cost prohibitive.

Vice Mayor Deb Gillis agreed with obtaining a quote for the consulting services and requested that staff ask the consultant if it was advisable to do the study now or to wait a year.

Councilman Mike Forster announced that citizens are inquiring about the lighthouse at Whale Harbor. Councilman Forster stated the owner and contractor had intended to save the lighthouse because of its historical value. Councilman Forster reported that the contractor informed him the structure was made of angle iron and mud, was structurally unsound and would not have stood after the building came down. Councilman Forster reported that the contractor stated they will build a new copper light house.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Dave Purdo made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Ken Philipson seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.



Kelly S. Toth
Village Clerk

Approved by the Village Council this 11th day of September, 2014.