

ISLAMORADA VILLAGE OF ISLANDS



ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS VILLAGE COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES

Founders Park Community Center
87000 Overseas Hwy
Islamorada, FL 33036

Monday, September 15, 2014
Immediately Following SCVM at 5:30

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mayor Ted Blackburn called the meeting to order at 6:13 PM. The following Council members were present on roll call: Mayor Ted Blackburn, Vice Mayor Deb Gillis, Councilman Mike Forster, Councilman Dave Purdo, and Councilman Ken Philipson. Also in attendance were Village Manager Maria Aguilar, Village Attorney Roget Bryan, Village Clerk Kelly Toth, Special Counsel Lily Arrango, Wade Trim Executive Vice President Tom Brzezinski, Wastewater Program Manager Greg Tindle and all other appropriate personnel.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Janet Wood led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Wastewater Utility Policy

Wastewater Program Manager Greg Tindle explained the draft Wastewater Utility Policy was a collaborative effort between Wade Trim Engineers Raftelis Financial Consultants, Weiss Serota Law Firm and Village staff. Mr. Tindle stated the document had been sent to Reynolds Water Islamorada and the Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District for comment. He stated the policy was developed with the KLWTD Interlocal Agreement in mind. Mr. Tindle stated the policy incorporated the Grinder Pump program for residential properties with four and fewer equivalent dwelling units (EDUs). He stated that the policy did not include commercial properties or properties with greater than four EDUs because the format for that program was unknown at the time. Mr. Tindle stated the policy would be modified when that program was approved.

Weiss Serota Attorney Lily Arrango stated the first Wastewater Utility Policy was adopted by the Village Council in April 2006 and was tailored to the North Plantation Key facility. She stated the new policy includes information from the original policy and has been expanded upon to reflect the full sewer system.

Mayor Ted Blackburn stated that it was important to him that the Wastewater Utility Policy contain safeguards necessary to protect the integrity of the wastewater system.

Councilman Ken Philipson asked if the policy has been proven in other jurisdictions as being enforceable. Ms. Arrango stated they reviewed policies of several cities including Miami Dade County and Marathon to include all items necessary to protect the wastewater system. She stated the operations protocol from Key Largo is referenced and incorporated in the Wastewater Utility Policy and is applicable and enforceable. Wade Trim Executive Vice President Tom Brzezinski spoke of the importance of educating the public.

Councilman Dave Purdo inquired as to where pump-out trucks took their waste. Mr. Tom Brzezinski explained that it was delivered directly to the Key Largo Wastewater treatment plant.

Mayor Ted Blackburn expressed concern over the possibility that something could have been left out of the policy. Mr. Brzezinski explained that the document could be revised as needed.

Councilman Ken Philipson asked what methods would be used to educate the public. Wastewater Program Manager Greg Tindle explained the direct mailings that would occur. Councilman Philipson spoke about hotel guests and the importance of educating these individuals.

Vice Mayor Deb Gillis asked if the gravity service definitions found on page 5 sections (n) and (o) would be amended with the implementation of the gravity system. Wastewater Program Manager Greg Tindle stated that they would be changed.

Mayor Ted Blackburn stated the Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District Interlocal Agreement requires that the Village incorporate portions of the agreement into the Wastewater Utility Policy.

Councilman Ken Philipson inquired about a schedule of fines. Ms. Lily Arrango stated that fines or surcharges imposed by the KLWTD on Islamorada would be passed on to the customer to include administrative charges and attorneys fees where applicable. Ms. Arrango spoke of enforcement of violations and references found on pages 33 thru 36 of the document. Wastewater Program Manager Greg Tindle explained that there are six months to connect before enforcement action would be taken.

Councilman Ken Philipson asked for an update on wastewater financing assistance to Village residents and inquired about using credit cards to pay for connection charges. Village Manager Maria Aguilar stated the Village could not take credit cards due to the fees associated with the credit cards. She suggested potential payment arrangements and suggested, if possible, changing the language associated with the affordable housing "in-lieu of fee" to enable the Village to assist residents.

Vice Mayor Deb Gillis requested an explanation of the section of the Wastewater Utility Policy on page 15, section H as it relates to owners being obligated to install and maintain the Gravity Service Lateral Connection. Mr. Tom Brzezinski explained that the Village installs the connection, however, the property owner will be repaying the Village for these costs and thus will own and be responsible for

maintaining the gravity service lateral connection. Ms. Lily Arrango explained the owner is responsible for the connection from their house to the grinder pump station.

Councilman Ken Philipson requested that a red-lined copy be provided to Council if there were any changes to the document.

Mayor Ted Blackburn asked how long it would take for the Wastewater Utility Policy to go into effect. Village Attorney Roget Bryan stated staff was waiting for comments from KLWTD and anticipates the policy would go into effect in October.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Ted Blackburn opened public comment; seeing none, public comment was closed.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Dave Purdo made a motion to adjourn at 7:10 P.M. Councilman Ken Philipson seconded the motion.



Kelly S. Toth
Village Clerk

Approved by the Village Council this 6th day of November, 2014.