



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

**Founders Park Community Center
87000 Overseas Hwy
Islamorada, FL 33036
Thursday, June 18, 2015
5:30 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mayor Mike Forster called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. The following Council members were present on roll call: Mayor Mike Forster, Vice Mayor Deb Gillis, Councilman Jim Mooney, Councilman Chris Sante and Councilman Dennis Ward. Also in attendance were Village Manager Maria Aguilar, Village Attorney Roget Bryan, Director of Planning Cheryl Cioffari, Village Clerk Kelly Toth and all other appropriate personnel.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Larry Barr led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Presentation of Employee Longevity Pins

Village Manager presented longevity pins to the following employees:

Tello Amaro 15 years, Juan Chavez 15 years, Ronald Jacobs 10 years (absent) and Rick Floyd 5 years (absent)

B. Acknowledgement of Todd Chandler's Service on the Achievable Housing Citizens' Advisory Committee

Mayor Mike Forster acknowledged Todd Chandler's service on the Achievable Housing Citizens' Advisory Committee.

Vice Mayor Deb Gillis announced she was appointing Rebekah Susa to the Achievable Housing Citizens' Advisory Committee. Mayor Mike Forster announced he was appointing Jack Niedbalski to the Achievable Housing Citizens' Advisory Committee.

Mayor Forster requested TAB 13 be moved to follow Committee Updates.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Mike Forster opened public comment.

Dave Purdo thanked everyone that attended the celebration of life for Captain Bob Reineman.

Patty Silver requested the Council add the following discussion topic to the next Council agenda: Discussion regarding lift stations and grinder pumps for small commercial businesses. She expressed concern regarding the costs associated with purchasing and installing a lift station.

Jim Bellizzi spoke regarding a Monroe County Resolution passed on June 3, 1958 pertaining to the County disclaiming their right to Bougainvillea Street and a portion of Coconut Palm Boulevard located in Plantation Key Colony. Mr. Bellizzi questioned the legal ownership of the aforementioned roads, as well as other roads within the Village.

Mayor Mike Forster closed public comment.

V. AGENDA: Request for Deletion / Emergency Additions

VI. CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES

A. Near Shore Water Citizens' Advisory Committee Update – Chair Bob Mitchell

Near Shore Water Citizens' Advisory Committee Chair Bob Mitchell reported on: the number of derelict vessels that are disposed of yearly. He reported on the committee discussion regarding special events that occur at the sandbar and the possibility of imposing fees to offset the cost of cleanup and buoy replacement. Mr. Mitchell stated warning signs had been erected at the Lower Matecumbe Wheel Ditch and buoy replacement had occurred at the Whale Harbor location.

Mr. Mitchell reported the committee would soon be distributing the snorkeling and diving brochures pertaining to the ten day period encompassing Lobster Mini Season and the first 5 days of the regular season. He stated the next Near Shore Water Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting would occur on August 25, 2015.

Discussion ensued among Mayor Mike Forster and Committee Chair Bob Mitchell regarding the incentive the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) had approved allowing participants to harvest an additional lobster each day when they also harvest 10 lionfish.

Mayor Forster announced the FWC was conducting a Marine Fisheries Management Survey to help determine priority areas for marine fisheries management projects and that the survey would be open until June 25th. Mayor Forster stated that the Division of Marine Fisheries would be conducting a workshop on July 7, 2015 at Founders Park Community Center from 6 to 8 p.m. He stated the purpose of the workshop was to obtain public input from citizens regarding their thoughts on the Divisions priorities and for citizens to offer suggestions as to what those priorities should include.

Vice Mayor Deb Gillis reported on her attendance at the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting. She stated discussion was held regarding controlling party beaches and encouraged citizens to attend the meetings. Vice Mayor Gillis reported that 13 DUIs were issued over the Memorial Day holiday.

Mayor Mike Forster opened public comment.

Dave Purdo stated he had been in contact with State Representative Holly Raschein regarding installing sewer pipe to create an artificial reef. He stated that he was unsure if the reef would be installed, if approved, in state or federal waters.

B. Local Planning Agency Update – Chair Pete Bachelor

Local Planning Agency Chair Pete Bacheler reported the committee discussed allowing LPA members to serve on additional committees and that the committee voted unanimously in favor of the item. Mr. Bacheler stated the committee discussed the maximum size of permitted and conditional uses within the Village, but decided to defer the item until the July 13th meeting to allow for the review of additional documentation to be provided by staff. He reported the committee discussed the abundance of outdoor seating and that they suggested the Village provide stronger code compliance enforcement in this area.

- C. Achievable Housing Citizens' Advisory Committee Presentation- Janet Wood
(This item was removed from the agenda prior to the beginning of the meeting.)

Councilman Chris Sante requested a discussion agenda item for the next Regular Village Council Meeting pertaining to the costs associated with purchasing and installing lift stations and grinder pumps by small business owners. Council agreed to the request.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. May 28, 2015 Regular Village Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Resolution Approving the Interlocal Agreement between Monroe County, Florida and Islamorada, Village of Islands for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Boating Improvement Funds Not to Exceed \$25,000 for the Islamorada Buoy Maintenance Program
- C. Resolution Approving the Lease Agreement with Florida Department of Transportation for Right-of-Way Property Bayside, Mile Marker 84, Parcel No. 489
- D. Resolution Approving Grant Agreement with the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services for a 2015 EMS Matching Grant to Purchase a Lucas Chest Compression System and an AED

Councilman Chris Sante made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mayor Mike Forster seconded the motion. Council voted all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

VIII. WASTEWATER MATTERS

- A. Wastewater Project Update

Gene Hoffman, Wade Trim Construction Manager, reported that of the 436 connection letters issued for the vacuum collection system for Phase A on Middle Plantation Key, 130 had connected and 53 were in the process of connecting. Mr. Hoffman reported on the progress made pertaining to the various substantial completion dates. He stated Reynolds Water Islamorada was striving to get all of the collection systems, excluding residential grinder pumps, north of Upper Matecumbe Key active by July 1, 2015. Mr. Hoffman stated that they expect the air vacuum station on South Plantation Key to be permitted by the Department of Environmental Protection by next week and that the engineer had approved the improvements. He provided the following progress report for Lower Matecumbe Key: the vacuum collection system was about 60% complete, the low pressure system was about 95% complete and the masonry work had begun on the vacuum pump station. Mr. Hoffman reported on the Residential Grinder Pump Program stating that 70 grinder pumps had been installed and that crews were averaging four grinder pump installations a day and sometimes as many as six per day. He stated that as a whole, the project was approximately 86% complete.

Vice Mayor Deb Gillis confirmed the following dates that wastewater connection letters would be sent out: North of Upper Matecumbe Key July 1, 2015, Upper Matecumbe Key August 1, 2015, and all other remaining areas would be sent out by October 31, 2015.

Mayor Mike Forster opened public comment.

Larry Barr expressed concern regarding the paving in the area around his home and encouraged Council to keep an eye on the quality of the paving work being performed. He expressed concern over waiting longer than usual on a wastewater report from Severn Trent. Councilman Chris Sante asked Mr. Barr where he had seen the asphalt damage. Mr. Barr stated that he had seen damage on Harbor Lane, Kahiki Drive and Sunshine Boulevard.

Jim Bellizzi expressed concern regarding the condition of the roads in the Venetian Shores subdivision and ponding on the roads.

Mayor Mike Forster closed public comment.

B. Resolution Ratifying and Approving Modifications to Change Order No. 11 to the Design Build and Operate (DBO) Agreement Between Islamorada, Village of Islands, and Reynolds Water Islamorada, LLC, Providing for Revisions to the Design Build Work

Village Attorney Roget Bryan read the title of the Resolution and provided the staff report recommending approval.

Mayor Mike Forster asked if the Council had any questions; there were none.
Mayor Mike Forster opened public comment.

Stan Marguiles spoke in support of an independent evaluation of the roads.

Mayor Mike Forster closed public comment.

Councilman Chris Sante requested a report to be provided at the next Council Meeting from Wade Trim regarding the status of the roads that addresses the complaints regarding the condition of the roads.

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

IX. ORDINANCES

A. First Reading – Ordinance Amending Chapter 30 “Land Development Regulations” Article V “Schedule of District Use and Development Standards”, Division 9 “Fencing Standards”

Village Attorney Roget Bryan read the title of the ordinance. Director of Planning Cheryl Cioffari presented the staff report recommending approval.

Councilman Chris Sante requested clarification regarding fence buffers within the right-of-way. He expressed concern regarding a property owner planting a buffer and the possibility of roadwork being conducted that would require the buffers to be removed. Ms. Cioffari stated that was a possibility and further explained that section of the ordinance.

Vice Mayor Deb Gillis expressed concern regarding certain fences being decorative and more ornate than standard fencing and the requirement to essentially mask these fences with vegetation. Vice Mayor Gillis requested an exception for these types of fencing materials. Discussion ensued among Council and the Director of Planning. Following the discussion, Director of Planning Cheryl Cioffari clarified Council preference to keep the ordinance as it currently exists with regard to vegetation. Council was in agreement.

Mayor Mike Forster opened public comment.

Jim Bellizzi stated the Village could not require a property owner to plant and maintain vegetation on Village-owned right-of-way property. He suggested the Village plant the vegetation on Village owned right-of-ways and suggested an impact fee to offset costs associated with planting the vegetation.

Mayor Mike Forster closed public comment.

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

B. First Reading – Ordinance Amending the Land Development Regulations to Increase the Permitted Size of Caretaker’s Cottages

Village Attorney Roget Bryan read the title of the ordinance. Director of Planning Cheryl Cioffari presented the staff report recommending approval.

Mayor Mike Forster asked if the Council had any questions; there were none.

Mayor Mike Forster opened public comment; seeing none, public comment was closed.

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

C. First Reading- Ordinance Amending and Renaming Chapter 22 “Fair Housing” of the Village Code of Ordinances as Chapter 22 “Housing”; Creating Chapter 22, Article I “In General” and Article II “Fair Housing” and Establishing Sections 22-12 through 22-60 Therein: Creating Article III “First Time Homebuyer Down Payment Assistance Program” and Establishing Sections 22-61 through 22-70

Village Attorney Roget Bryan read the title of the ordinance. Director of Planning Cheryl Cioffari presented the staff report recommending approval.

Discussion ensued among Council regarding a prorated repayment program that would require the applicant to pay back the loan in its entirety if the applicant sold the home within five years; if the applicant sold the home after five years, but prior to owning the home for ten years, the applicant would pay back 50% of the loan. If the applicant kept the home for ten years, the loan would be forgiven.

Mayor Mike Forster spoke against the program stating getting the money back from the borrower would prove difficult if the homeowner could not afford the home. Councilman Dennis Ward stated he agreed with Mayor Forster and spoke in support of the suggestion made by Rebekah Susa regarding providing assistance in the form of a monthly stipend as opposed to lump-sum down payment assistance.

Vice Mayor Deb Gillis recommended budgeting \$20,000 for the first year for down payment assistance. She stated that there is no one solution to solve the affordable housing problem.

Councilman Chris Sante suggested the item be tabled, stating the program contained good ideas, but that inventory was low. He spoke in support of a lien program or a program similar to a SHIP program.

Mayor Mike Forster opened public comment.

Jerry Sanders spoke in support of the down payment assistance program.

Larry Barr expressed concern regarding the small impact \$10,000 dollars would have on the purchase price of a home in Islamorada. He spoke in support of the repayment program being proposed.

Mayor Mike Forster closed public comment.

Councilman Jim Mooney expressed concern regarding available affordable housing inventory in the Village.

Discussion ensued regarding mortgage payments, housing inventory within Islamorada, the affordability of homes, the qualification requirements of Habitat for Humanity and the need for more affordable housing programs.

Councilman Chris Sante made a motion to table the ordinance. Councilman Dennis Ward seconded the motion. Council voted all in favor. The motion to table the ordinance passed 5-0.

X. QUASI-JUDICIAL

XI. RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution Approving Selection of Alcalde & Faye and Agreement for Professional Federal Lobbying Services

Village Attorney Roget Bryan read the title of the resolution. Village Manager Maria Aguilar presented the staff report recommending approval.

Councilman Chris Sante inquired as to the amount of funding the firm had assisted in obtaining on behalf of the Village and the funding opportunities they were currently pursuing. Village Manager Maria Aguilar stated that Alcalde & Faye assisted in the procurement of one million dollars in Army Corp of Engineers funding and they prepared correspondence that assisted the Village in applying for a fire department grant. Village Attorney Roget Bryan stated Alcalde & Faye were currently working on appropriations for the next fiscal year.

Mayor Mike Forster opened public comment; seeing none, public comment was closed.

Councilman Chris Sante made a motion to approve. Councilman Jim Mooney seconded the motion. Council voted all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

B. Resolution to Adopt FY 2014-2015 General Fund Budget Amendment

Village Attorney Roget Bryan read the title of the resolution. Village Manager Maria Aguilar presented the staff report recommending approval. She stated staff would present budget amendments on a monthly basis as needed.

Mayor Mike Forster inquired as to whether Council had further questions or comments; there were none. Mayor Mike Forster opened public comment; seeing none, public comment was closed.

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

C. Resolution Approving the Residential Building Permit Allocation System Ranking and Awards for Quarter 2 of 2015

Village Attorney Roget Bryan read the title of the resolution. Planner Thomas Skidmore presented the staff report recommending approval.

Mayor Mike Forster inquired as to whether Council had questions or comments; there were none. Mayor Mike Forster opened public comment; seeing none, public comment was closed.

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

XII. MOTIONS

A. Motion Approving Termination of Operating Agreement with Green Turtle Island School

Village Manager Maria Aguilar stated the Village has had an operating agreement with Green Turtle Island School (GTIS) for approximately three years. She stated the purpose of this arrangement, from the Village's perspective, was to relieve the Village of some of the financial and staffing obligations required of the Village in the Management Plan with the Florida Communities Trust (FCT). Ms. Aguilar explained that the FCT was the state agency that funded the purchase of the Green Turtle Hammock and that there were conditions included in the restrictive covenants tied to the property. She explained that the GTIS's role was to assist the Village in the maintenance of the property and to conduct marine research activities.

Ms. Aguilar explained that the Green Turtle Island School contacted FCT regarding possibly expanding their marine research activities which would require a change to the management plan as well as the grounds and facilities. Ms. Aguilar stated the FCT had not provided any official communication regarding this matter.

Village Manager Maria Aguilar stated last week an FCT staff member visited various properties in the Keys to determine which government entities were meeting the requirements of the management plans. Ms. Aguilar stated staff is currently waiting on a comment letter from FCT, regarding their visit to the GTH, that would address any outstanding issues. She stated that as a result of the visit, it was apparent to Carl Haamp, GTIS representative, the likely hood of FCT allowing expanded marine research activities and alterations to the property was unlikely. Ms. Aguilar stated staff was seeking approval to draft and execute a letter of termination on mutual grounds so that neither the Village nor GTIS was impacted financially.

Carl Haamp, GTIS representative, stated the Village Manager was "pretty much correct." Mr. Haamp explained that there was more interest than was originally anticipated and the scientists were requesting additional buildings for marine research. He stated that GTIS would like to use the GTH property to do this, but that it appeared the FCT staff member was not in favor of the expansion. He stated the GTIS is asking if the Council would like for the GTIS to pursue their request with a higher level staff member within the FCT agency or was it the Council's desire to terminate the agreement.

Councilman Chris Sante explained that GTIS had expanded beyond the use of the property due to their success and commented that there is not public access for use as a park. Council discussion ensued regarding FCT decisions, properties purchased with FCT funds, and the requirement to abide by the management plans.

Mayor Mike Forster made a motion to mutually terminate the operating agreement with Green Turtle Island School. Councilman Dennis Ward seconded the motion. Council voted all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

XIII. MAYOR / COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Discussion Regarding Setbacks for Pools within the Shoreline Setback –Councilman Sante

Councilman Chris Sante requested the Village Council consider acting as a quasi-planning board to consider small variance projects, requiring minimal changes. He stated this would occur prior to an applicant paying the required fees and going through the planning process. He explained this would give the property owner some indication as to whether or not the Village Council would even consider the development request.

Mayor Mike Forster expressed concern regarding arbitrary application of the Village Code of Ordinances and stated that it was the responsibility of the Local Planning Agency to review development applications.

Director of Planning Cheryl Cioffari explained the criteria that must be met for a variance request to be approved. She suggested Council consider different variance procedures for shoreline setbacks; or amending the criteria that must be met for a variance. Discussion ensued among Council and staff regarding variance criteria, arbitrary application, and Council's current role in the approval/denial process.

Director of Planning Cheryl Cioffari suggested staff review the variance criteria of other municipalities.

Council discussion ensued regarding potentially amending the setback requirements for pools. Director of Planning Cheryl Cioffari explained the main concern that the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) has with reducing setbacks is stormwater infiltration and the effects stormwater runoff has on nearshore water quality. Ms. Cioffari stated there may be some flexibility regarding altered shorelines. Discussion ensued among Council and the Director of Planning regarding buffers, possible inconsistencies in the Code of Ordinances pertaining to altered shorelines and 10 foot setbacks for pools. Council expressed agreement for 10 foot setbacks on altered open water shorelines. Council directed staff to contact DEO to determine whether or not this would be allowable.

B. Discussion Regarding Anti-Fracking – Councilman Dennis Ward

Councilman Dennis Ward requested the Village consider opposing fracking via a resolution, in conjunction with the efforts of the City of Key West. Council expressed agreement for a fracking resolution.

XIV. VILLAGE ATTORNEY / VILLAGE MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS

A. Discussion Regarding Sprinkler Systems

Chief Terry Abel requested the Village Council consider amending the Village's Code of Ordinances to require sprinkler systems in new residential homes and construction that falls under Chapter 43 of the Florida Fire Prevention Code. He reported on the costs associated with installation and loss of life due and property to home fires. Councilman Chris Sante stated he was in agreement with Chief Able, but expressed concern regarding the aesthetics of sprinkler heads. Councilman Jim Mooney stated he was not against the item, but that it was just one more cost for the home owner to incur. Council agreed not to pursue the requested changes.

B. Discussion Regarding 10,000 Square Foot Limitation on Commercial/ Nonresidential Buildings

(This item was moved up on the agenda and discussed at 6:05 p.m.)

Director of Planning Cheryl Cioffari stated the purpose of the discussion was to obtain answers to a few questions regarding limiting commercial square footage to 10,000 square feet. Ms. Cioffari reviewed the current Comprehensive Plan limitations and restrictions found in 1-2.1.8 related to gross floor area. She stated that the Comprehensive Plan did not define semi-public uses. Ms. Cioffari presented the remaining questions where Council direction was needed: the reason to limit the building size and types of uses that should be exempt from the limitation.

Mayor Mike Forster opened public comment.

Daniel Phair spoke in support of the 10,000 square foot limitation.

Tucker Gibbs, Attorney for Beth Kamenstein and KIPPS (Keep Islamorada Peaceful, Prosperous and Safe) spoke in support of a charter amendment limiting the square footage of commercial buildings to 10,000 square feet. Mr. Gibbs explained the position of his clients regarding the questions posed by the Director of Planning.

Dave Purdo stated he was speaking on behalf of Phil Sena stating that he wanted Council to consider Mr. Sena's request to add additional square footage to one of his commercial structures. Mayor Mike Forster clarified that the total maximum square footage Mr. Sena was requesting was approximately 7,800 square feet.

Steve Kurutz, with the Drop Anchor Resort, expressed concern regarding the ability to rebuild his existing hotel structures if the need arose and the potential impact a 10,000 square foot limitation would have on his ability to rebuild.

Dr. Darrell Pruett spoke in support of a 10,000 square foot limitation.

Larry Barr stated he felt strongly about Council retaining the ability to issue a variance when needed. He stated that he did not want to see this ability taken away.

Pete Bacheler spoke in support of creating a code that protects existing structures over 10,000 square feet and the ability to rebuild. He spoke in support of specifying, in the Code of Ordinances, the protection for these types of existing structures.

Daniel Phair stated he was in agreement with Pete Bacheler.

Mayor Mike Forster closed public comment.

Councilman Jim Mooney explained why the first Village Council chose 10,000 square feet as the limitation. He stated the Southwinds property was originally going to be developed as a 100 pump gas station with a huge structure and that this development led Council to consider the maximum square footage for commercial structures. Councilman Mooney stated that many public meetings were held to discuss this limitation. He explained that the first Council stated that existing structures would be allowed to be rebuilt and used exactly the way they were and provided Caribee Boat Sales and Marina as an example.

Councilman Chris Sante stated he was in agreement with Councilman Mooney but that a few exceptions needed to be included in the Code of Ordinances.

Vice Mayor Deb Gillis stated she was opposed to the original referendum because of the way it was written. She expressed concern that the language of that referendum would have overridden the portion of the Code of Ordinances that pertains to existing non-conforming structures. She suggested a unanimous vote by Village Council on commercial developments over 10,000 square feet.

Mayor Mike Forster stated he was in agreement with Councilman Jim Mooney and Councilman Chris Sante. He spoke in support of a referendum.

Director of Planning, Cheryl Cioffari stated that at the last Village Council meeting Council agreed staff would create the language for the referendum and make changes to the Code of Ordinances concurrently. She

encouraged the Council to contact her with any additional comments, as she moved forward with drafting the language.

C. Discussion Regarding FY 2015 / 2016 Budget Preparation Calendar

Interim Finance Director Ariana Lawson presented two options for setting the budget calendar for the 2015-2016 budget year. Council discussion ensued with the majority of Council agreeing to Option 2.

D. Discussion Regarding Non-Ad Valorem Assessment for Stormwater

Village Manager Maria Aguilar referenced Exhibit 1 containing the historical data pertaining to stormwater non-ad valorem assessments beginning with fiscal year 2005-2006. She explained that the Village Council could approve and adopt a maximum \$62.00 dollar per equivalent stormwater unit (ESU) without triggering additional public noticing requirements. She requested Council guidance as to whether or not the Council desired to exceed the \$62 dollars per ESU. Ms. Aguilar explained Exhibit 3 which identified thirteen stormwater problem areas and the associated costs estimates for each. Discussion ensued among Council and staff regarding the money currently on reserve for these projects and the amount of money needed to correct the problem areas. Councilman Chris Sante suggested not burdening the tax payer with a larger assessment and spoke in support of beginning work on the smaller projects. Vice Mayor Deb Gillis clarified that the direction the Village Manager was requesting from Council was whether or not they were going to exceed \$62 dollars per ESU. She explained the actual stormwater assessment rate would be discussed and decided at the budget workshop. Council agreed that they would not exceed \$62 dollars per ESU.

Larry Barr spoke in support of Council raising the stormwater assessment to \$62 dollars per ESU. Village Manager Maria Aguilar stated that the Village could now begin applying to the South Florida Water Management District for grants to assist with stormwater costs.

Mayor Mike Forster opened public comment.

Mr. Barr expressed concern regarding the French drain installed on Harbor Lane and the fact that although silt was removed from the drain, it no longer worked properly. He explained the silt was due to the wastewater construction. Mr. Barr spoke in support of accumulating stormwater reserves.


Mayor Mike Forster closed public comment.

E. Discussion Regarding Outdoor Seating

Director of Planning Cheryl Cioffari stated that staff had a discussion with Local Planning Agency members to gather their input. She explained the LPA was not in favor of changing the ordinance but they favored stronger code enforcement. Ms. Cioffari explained the item was brought up by an ad-hoc committee two and a half years ago and that it was rejected by the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). She inquired as to whether the Council had any desire to amend the current Code. Vice Mayor Deb Gillis suggested utilizing the Chamber of Commerce to provide suggestions and recommendations for outdoor seating. She explained that part of the attraction of the Keys was enjoying the outdoors. Councilman Dennis Ward suggested the Village charge a fee for outdoor seating. Director of Planning Cheryl Cioffari suggested staff review the ordinance to determine if there was a way to help businesses come into compliance. Council expressed support for staff reviewing the ordinance to assist businesses to obtain permitted outdoor seating and address the DEO's comments.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Dennis Ward made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Chris Sante seconded the motion. Council voted all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM.



Kelly S. Toth
Village Clerk

Approved by the Village Council this 9th day of July, 2015.