



**ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS
SPECIAL CALL VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING**

**Founders Park Community Center
87000 Overseas Hwy
Islamorada, FL 33036
Thursday, September 10, 2015
3:00 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mayor Mike Forster called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM. The following Council members were present on roll call: Mayor Mike Forster, Vice Mayor Deb Gillis, Councilman Jim Mooney, and Councilman Chris Sante. Also in attendance were Village Manager Maria Aguilar, Village Attorney Roget Bryan, Village Clerk Kelly Toth, and all other appropriate personnel. Councilman Dennis Ward was absent.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ken Gentes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. WORKSHOP PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

**A. Discussion Regarding FDOT Roadway Improvement Project from MM 77.5 to MM 81.4
Including the Fills**

Village Manager Maria Aguilar introduced FDOT representatives Nathan Pulido, Project Manager and Gus Pego, District Secretary. Mr. Pulido introduced the consultant design engineers Rohan Hameed and Adriana Gonzalez; and FDOT members Patty Ivey and Chris Tavella. Mr. Pulido stated the principal purpose of the project was to preserve and extend the service life of the roadway as well as to enhance the general highway safety. He defined the project parameters as south of the Lignumvitae Channel Bridge at MM 77.47 to Jerome Avenue at MM 81.44. Mr. Pulido stated that construction was due to begin March of 2016, would last eleven calendar months, or 320 days, and quantified the total cost of construction as \$4.9 million dollars.

Mr. Pulido presented an overview of the project scope, which included: resurfacing the existing roadway and shoulders; widening the southbound paved shoulder to five feet and designating it as a bike lane; widening the northbound paved shoulder to 10 feet to serve as an evacuation lane and within the 10 foot shoulder there would be a designated bicycle lane; providing new striping along the entire corridor including the bridges; installing guardrails that met the newest safety standards, pedestrian bicycle bullet railings on the existing bridge barrier wall, and rubble rip-rap for shoreline protection.

Mr. Pulido presented a drawing identifying some of the designated parking areas and typical signage. He explained the installation of rip-rap was to prevent additional erosion and to prevent unlimited access for watercraft and other vehicles. Mr. Pulido stated "No Parking" signs would be used to eliminate parking on existing swales; and existing trees within the clear zone would be relocated behind designated parking areas. He stated at the end of the project, FDOT would relocate the existing shared use path per the Village's recommendation.

The presentation concluded at 3:14 PM.

Mayor Mike Forster inquired as to why the rip-rap would be pushed so close to the highway, as opposed to back toward the shoreline. Adriana Gonzalez of HDR Engineering, Inc. stated the mean-high high water line was at the level of the rip-rap, not the seawall. Councilman Chris Sante stated erosion had already occurred. He asked if the purpose was to restore the area, why not restore the area to its original boundary by back-filling the area, in an effort to preserve what was left. Councilman Jim Mooney stated the rip-rap depicted in the presentation would not provide true shoreline restoration.

Mayor Mike Forster provided a brief explanation of the Council's views at this stage of the project. He stated the Council was seeking to be included in the decision making process in the hopes of correcting what had been damaged while also including public use in the plans for the Fills area.

Gus Pego addressed the Council, reiterating the primary purpose of the project was to repair the road. He stated FDOT was also trying to meet the needs of the Village and law enforcement and stated he often worked with Public Works Departments with issues such as overcrowding. Mr. Pego stated he would like for everyone to be on the same page regarding the project; but that the purpose of the current project was never to repair the Fills, but rather to repair the roadway.

Mayor Mike Forster stated boat ramps to the north of Islamorada had been closed and that the Fills area had been and would continue to be impacted by traffic as an effect of those closures. Mr. Pego advised that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) was the lead agency concerning the boat ramp at the Fills and encouraged collaboration for a comprehensive plan.

Vice Mayor Deb Gillis stated she would expect the current number of parking spaces presented to create future parking issues and spoke in support of finding a solution that would allow public access to the water. Mr. Pego informed Council the primary purpose of the FDOT Roadway Repair & Resurfacing Project No. 425600-6-52-01 was to address pavement related repairs, and that other requests are beyond the scope of the project. Vice Mayor Deb Gillis stated that through Village staff, FDOT was asked to develop 44 parking spaces. Mr. Pego suggested adjustments could be made to the plan regarding the driveway turnouts shown in the presentation. Councilman Chris Sante requested a timeline for discussing the parking and layout changes, along with clarification of who that discussion should be with so as to not interrupt the start of the roadway project. Mr. Pego requested Council provide him with a proposed parking layout. Village Manager Maria Aguilar asked Council if they were prepared to request the elimination of the parking spaces shown in the presentation. Vice Mayor Deb Gillis, Councilman Chris Sante, and Mayor Mike Forster discussed the possibility of removing the designated parking spaces.

Mayor Mike Forster requested a workshop in two weeks between FDOT and the Council. Mr. Pego confirmed he would have staff available to attend the workshop.

Mr. Pego announced FDOT's Tentative Five Year Work Program Public Hearing would occur in Marathon on September 17th, 2015.

Councilman Jim Mooney asked for a better solution to the delineators along US-1. Discussion ensued between Council, Mr. Pego, and Captain Corey Bryan regarding unsafe passing in the center lanes of traffic.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Mike Forster opened public comment.

Ms. Cara Lundgren thanked everyone for taking the time to meet regarding the project.

Mayor Mike Forster closed public comment.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Chris Sante made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Mike Forster seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:47 PM.



Kyle McLeod
Deputy Village Clerk

Approved by the Village Council this 1st day of October, 2015.