



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

**Founders Park Community Center  
87000 Overseas Hwy  
Islamorada, FL 33036  
Thursday, November 12, 2015  
5:30 PM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

Mayor Mike Forster called the meeting to order at 5:40 P.M. The following Councilmembers 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, Village Clerk Kelly Toth, and all other appropriate personnel.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mary Rice led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Presentation Regarding the Proposed Plantation Key Courthouse and Detention Center – Commissioner David Rice and Kevin Wilson, Assistant County Administrator/Public Works Director**

This item was heard at 5:41 PM.

Commissioner David Rice provided a brief introduction to the presentation regarding the need for a new courthouse and detention center. Kevin Wilson, Assistant County Administrator thanked Village staff for their assistance in the project and introduced Doug Esposito, Director of Project Management and Public Works Facilities. Doug Esposito presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the proposed Plantation Key Government Center. He explained the project timeline and the various phases of construction. He displayed a master schedule which indicated the process began March 2015 and was expected to be completed in 2020 with an estimated total cost of \$28,175,000 dollars.

Mayor Mike Forster opened public comment.

Captain Corey Bryan inquired as to the number of entry points from Highpoint Road. Doug Esposito stated the entries on Highpoint Road would remain the same and that there would be no turn-ins from US 1.

Dave Purdo spoke in support of a less modern looking building.

Mayor Mike Forster closed public comment.

**B. Presentation of Islamorada Matters Sea Level Rise Plan - Erin L. Deady P.A. and Dr. Jason M. Evans**

**TAB 1**

This item was heard at 6:14PM.

Erin Deady, P.A. and Dr. Jason Evans presented a PowerPoint and provided a brief history of the Islamorada Matters Sea Level Rise Plan project. Ms. Deady explained the planning process, the modeling approach, tools that were used to obtain and create data, the data analysis results and some of the 62 plan recommendations. Plan recommendations were made in five areas: Habitat Recommendations, Infrastructure & Built Environment Recommendations, Village Building & Key Facilities Recommendations, Adaptation Strategies Recommendations, and Sustainability Recommendations. (The PowerPoint with recommendations is on file with the Village Clerk).

Councilman Chris Sante suggested staff develop a long-term flood plan and begin implementing some of the long-term recommendations. Discussion ensued regarding flooding, flood proofing, and elevating buildings. Mayor Mike Forster recommended researching the efforts being made by other municipalities. Councilman Jim Mooney suggested providing additional BPAS points for elevating the structure.

Mayor Mike Forster opened public comment.

Larry Barr spoke in support of the Village allocating funds and encouraging FDOT to raise US Highway 1 by White Marlin Beach Road because it had experienced flooding in the past; and reminded the Council of the costs associated with raising a structure.

Brad Dougherty spoke about the climate being cyclical. He spoke against long-term projects that would result in higher taxes wherein the tax payers would not be alive to receive the benefit.

Mayor Mike Forster closed public comment.

**C. Presentation of FY 2013-2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report  
THIS ITEM WAS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA**

**TAB 2**

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dave Purdo thanked the individuals that assisted with the Veterans' Day event held at Fire Station 20. He thanked Mayor Forster for offering free lunch to the Veterans; and thanked the Village staff and volunteers that assisted with Bacon Fest. He announced the Islamorada Moose Lodge would be offering Thanksgiving dinner on November 26, 2015 for anyone that wished to partake.

Jim Enright spoke about the costs associated with buying a home in the Village, the costs of repairs when you buy a home, and the need for assistance through the Achievable Housing Down Payment Assistance Program.

Larry Barr stated he was against food trucks in the Village, unless they were at special events. Mayor Mike Forster closed public comment.

**V. AGENDA: Request for Deletion / Emergency Additions**

**VI. CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Minutes**

**TAB 3**

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**B. Resolution to Adopt FY 2014-2015 Re-Appropriation Budget Amendment TAB 4**

**THIS ITEM WAS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA**

**C. A Resolution Approving Two Agreements Between Florida International University and Islamorada, Village of Islands to Provide Water Quality Testing TAB 5**

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

Vice Mayor Deb Gillis made a motion to approve Tab 3 & 5. Councilman Jim Mooney seconded the motion. Council voted all in favor.

## **VIII. WASTEWATER MATTERS**

### **A. Wastewater Update**

This item was heard at 7:09 PM.

Wastewater Program Manager Greg Tindle reported the salinity levels had exceeded the threshold for most of the month and into the beginning of November due to the King Tides and reported that work was underway to address the North Plantation Key salinity problems identified during the high tides. He stated staff members had prepared notice to connect letters for property owners participating in the grinder pump program on Plantation Key and Windley Key and those on the vacuum system on Lower Matecumbe Key. He announced the last resident meeting regarding connections would occur on November 17<sup>th</sup> at Sea Base. Mr. Tindle provided the following report regarding the progress associated with the notice to connect letters and sewer connections:

- Upper Matecumbe Key: 488 letters were mailed out; 97 had connected or were in the process.
- South Plantation Key: 784 letters were mailed out; 368 had connected or were in the process.
- Middle Plantation Key: 578 letters were mailed out; 316 had connected or were in the process.

Councilman Chris Sante asked if Wastewater Program Manager Greg Tindle would inquire as to what the Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District salinity levels were during the high tides. Councilman Sante inquired as to the remaining number of property owners that had not connected on Upper Plantation Key. Mr. Tindle responded there were fewer than one hundred that had not connected.

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

## **IX. ORDINANCES**

## **X. QUASI-JUDICIAL**

## **XI. RESOLUTIONS**

**A. Resolution Approving Nonresidential Building Permit Allocation System Ranking and Awards for Quarter 4 of 2015 TAB 6**

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

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

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

**B. BPAS Allocation Distribution for 2016**

**TAB 7**

This item was heard at 7:16 PM.

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

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

Councilman Jim Mooney stated that the commercial square footage limit was too high and spoke in support of reducing the limit. He requested discussion regarding commercial square footage at a future meeting. Mayor Mike Forster spoke in support of redevelopment instead of new development.

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. Resolution Approving Amendment No. 4 to SRF Loan No. WW882020**

**TAB 8**

**THIS ITEM WAS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA**

**D. Resolution Approving United Data Technology Services Agreement**

**TAB 9**

This item was heard at 7:20 PM.

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

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

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

**E. Resolution Extending Zoning in Progress – Development of Structures Greater than 10,000 SF**

**TAB 10**

This item was heard at 7:21 PM.

Village Attorney Roget Bryan read the title of the resolution and presented the staff report recommending approval.

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.

**F. Resolution Committing to Annually Increase Wastewater Rates Based on CPI if Required to Secure Approved SRF Funding**

**TAB 11**

**THIS ITEM WAS REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA**

**XII. MOTIONS**

**XIII. MAYOR / COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Discussion Regarding Naming the Coral Shores Baseball Field at Founders Park after Roger Allen – Councilman Mooney**

This item was heard at 7:23 PM.

Councilman Jim Mooney requested the Coral Shores Baseball Field be named after Roger Allen. Councilman Mooney spoke about Roger Allen's contributions to the students. Council agreed to rename the field after Mr. Allen. John Sutter, Parks and Recreation & Marine Resources Director, explained that the Monroe County School Board had approved the renaming of the field when the Coral Shores baseball field was moved to Founders Park. He stated he had spoken with the Athletic Director, Ritchie Russell, regarding the details. Mayor Mike Forster reported that Ritchie Russell stated that the Monroe County School District would absorb the costs associated with the renaming.

#### **XIV. VILLAGE ATTORNEY / VILLAGE MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS**

##### **A. Discussion Regarding New Date for Village Workshop Previously Scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup>**

This item was heard at 7:26 PM

Village Manager Maria Aguilar explained the previously scheduled workshop for November 18<sup>th</sup> required rescheduling due to the Mayor, Vice Mayor and Village Manager receiving a request to travel Tallahassee for legislative meetings. Ms. Aguilar stated staff would email each of the Council to obtain their availability for a January meeting.

##### **B. Discussion Regarding Proposed Monroe County Ordinance RE: Adult Entertainment Workers TAB 12**

This item was heard at 7:28 PM.

Village Attorney Roget Bryan stated the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners was considering an ordinance that would require Adult Entertainment Workers to obtain an identification card through the Monroe County Tax Collectors office. He explained the ordinance was being proposed in an effort to prevent human trafficking and the employment of under-age workers. Mr. Bryan stated the ordinance would have county-wide application. Council expressed support for the ordinance. Mr. Bryan stated he would provide Council with an update at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> Regular Village Council Meeting.

##### **C. Discussion Regarding Illustration of the Fills**

This item was heard at 7:30 PM.

Village Manager Maria Aguilar directed Council attention to the displayed maps of the Fills that identified the amount of land available to be leased from FDOT. She provided a brief recollection of Council discussions that had occurred at prior meetings pertaining to the area, which included a conversation about reducing the speed limit through the Fills area.

Ms. Aguilar read the following information from the FDOT webpage pertaining to the reduction of speed limits: <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/trafficoperations/faqs/speedlimitfaq.shtm#Q6>

##### **How are speed limits established?**

It is common traffic engineering knowledge that about 85 percent of all drivers travel at reasonably safe speeds for the various roadway conditions they encounter, regardless of speed limit signs. This leaves 15 percent of drivers who must be reminded of the maximum speed limit. This reminder must be coupled with meaningful enforcement. Based on this knowledge, a traffic engineering study is conducted to establish speed limits on the state highway. The Department uses the "85th percentile" method of determining appropriate and safe posted speed limits in conjunction with the maximum statute based speeds. This method is based on extensive nationally accepted studies and observations. By measuring the speed of hundreds of vehicles at various points along the roadway, traffic engineers are able to use data to determine a reasonable and safe maximum speed to post for all vehicles to travel.

##### **How do I get a speed limit reviewed on a State Highway?**

If you feel there is a need to change a speed limit on a state highway, or you have further questions regarding our determination of speed limits, please contact the [District Traffic Operations Engineer](#) at your local Florida Department of Transportation office.

Councilman Dennis Ward and Councilman Chris Sante spoke in support of waiting until FDOT finished their project before pursuing Village projects in the area. Councilman Sante stated the Village should, however, be fully involved when FDOT begins the landscaping portion of the project, as this will affect the amount of land available for future projects. Mayor Mike Forster suggested the Village utilize the Sheriffs' Department to conduct a traffic speed study prior to requesting a study from FDOT. He expressed concern that the timing of an FDOT study may not provide accurate data due to holidays and seasonal traffic. Vice Mayor Deb Gillis referred to the score the Village received for the Level of Service (LOS) study and stated the Council needed to understand how the LOS was calculated and any other items that were considered when determining the speed limit. Village Manager Maria Aguilar stated Director of Planning Cheryl Cioffari could explain the Level of Service at a future Regular Village Council Meeting. Councilman Dennis Ward stated changing the speed limit mostly affects the residents of Lower Matecumbe and that he would like input from the public. Discussion ensued regarding speed consistency throughout the Village, obtaining public input, the carrying capacity of the Fills area, and utilizing a private firm to conduct a study. Councilman Chris Sante directed the Council's attention to the maps and pointed out the limited area that would be available for project planning.

Mayor Mike Forster opened public comment.

Larry Barr spoke in support of conducting two studies and recommended that they occur in February and July. He spoke in support of Councilman Sante's comments regarding waiting until the FDOT roadway project had been completed to determine the amount of land available for future projects.

Brad Dougherty suggested the Council obtain access to FDOT's plans for the project.

Mayor Forster closed public comment.

Village Manager Maria Aguilar clarified that staff would obtain the project costs for an engineer to: conduct a study of the area; to work with FDOT to identify possible parking; and to work with FDOT regarding the speed limit issue. She stated staff would not move forward with the study until Council had reviewed the associated costs. Ms. Aguilar stated Captain Corey Bryan with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office would look into whether or not the Sheriff's Department conducted speed studies.

## **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Mayor Deb Gillis made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Dennis Ward seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.



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Kelly S. Toth  
Village Clerk

Approved by the Village Council this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2015.