



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

**Founders Park Community Center
87000 Overseas Hwy
Islamorada, FL 33036
Tuesday, December 22, 2015
3:00 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mayor Deb Gillis called the meeting to order at 3:02 P.M. The following Councilmembers were present on roll call: Mayor Deb Gillis, Vice Mayor Jim Mooney, Councilman Mike Forster, 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

Ken Philipson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Mike Forster announced he was appointing Sheri Mather to the Achievable Housing Citizens' Advisory Committee.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- A. Consideration of FDOT Request for Additional Funds for Project to Realign a Portion of the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail**

Documents for Reference:

TAB 1: Resolution 15-01-13 and Corresponding Agenda Package, Approving a Concept for the Realignment of the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail

TAB 2: Resolution 15-3-22 and Corresponding Agenda Package, Approving a Locally Funded Agreement between the FDOT and the Village for the Realignment of a Portion of the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail

TAB 3: December 2015 Communications between the Village and FDOT Regarding the FDOT's Request for Additional Funding for the Realignment of a Portion of the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail

This item was heard at 3:03 PM.

Village Manager Maria Aguilar explained the Florida Department of Transportation was requesting approximately \$62,000.00 because bids were received that were higher than FDOT's estimates. She explained that the costs were for the Village's portion of construction project to realign a section of the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail. Ms. Aguilar stated the Village requested realignment of the bike trail be included in the FDOT project to provide future space for parking in the Morada Way Arts District. She stated the Village had previously paid FDOT \$26,980.02 for engineering design costs and \$45,407.90 for construction costs, which were the costs estimated by FDOT prior to the receipt of bids. Ms. Aguilar recommended the Village pay the additional amount due to the need for parking and the higher costs associated with moving the bike trail if the Village decided to do the project on its own at a later date. She stated that with the additional funding, the total Village portion of the FDOT project costs would be \$135,154.00.

Council discussion ensued regarding an agreed upon partnership with Morada Way Arts District and their assistance with funding the project; the unexpected project costs doubling; the possibility of the Village not receiving a refund of the construction costs if they chose not to move forward with the project; the possibility of establishing paid parking in the future; and that the Village could not buy a piece of land for parking for less than it would cost to realign the bike path.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Deb Gillis opened public comment.

Ken Philipson spoke in support of Council approving the additional funding.

Dave Boerner stated the goal of the Morada Way Arts District was to assist with the funding, but that they did not have the money right now. He stated it was still their goal to work to try to pay for the parking spaces.

Dick Haagood, Executive Director of the Morada Way Arts District, inquired as to what sections of the land were the Village's responsibilities; and what sections were FDOT's responsibilities. Director of Public Works, Lesli Wojtecki, provided an explanation.

Ted Blackburn suggested the Council could give up the bike trail and spoke in support of creating additional parking in that area.

Mayor Deb Gillis closed public comment.

VI. MOTIONS

Councilman Mike Forster made a motion to approve the additional funding of \$63,000.00. Vice Mayor Jim Mooney seconded the motion. Council voted all in favor. The motion passed 5-0

VII. MAYOR / COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

VIII. VILLAGE ATTORNEY / VILLAGE MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS


A. Trip to Washington D.C. to Request Florida Keys Water Quality Improvement Funding

This item was heard at 3:55 PM.

Village Manager Maria Aguilar asked if any of the Council Members wished to attend meetings in Washington DC on January 12th to request \$5 million be included in the 2016 work plan for the Florida Keys Water Quality Improvement Program. Ms. Aguilar stated the funding is being requested from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (the "Army Corps") and that Army Corps received \$55 million in the Energy and Water Appropriations Title of the Omnibus Appropriations Act. Council agreed that Mayor Deb Gillis should attend.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Chris Sante made a motion to approve. Councilman Mike Forster seconded the motion. Council voted all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 3:58 PM.


Kelly S. Toth
Village Clerk

Approved by the Village Council this 28th day of January, 2016.

