

Town of Indian Shores

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PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES - JANUARY 4, 2011

INDIAN SHORES PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE convened at 3:00 P.M. Those present were Vice Mayor Herndon, Chairman; Councilor Irelan and Neil Rode, Alternate Citizen Member.

Absent: Janet McKee, Citizen Member

Also Present: Mayor Lawrence; Councilor Sutch; Marcia Grantham, Town Clerk; Chief Williams, Town Administrator; Lawrence Nayman, Building Official; Dave Berger, Public Services Supervisor; Anne Miller; Art Newsome.

1.0 Consideration of approving Committee Agenda for January 4, 2011.

MOTION by Councilor Irelan – seconded by Neil Rode – to approve Committee Agenda for January 4, 2011 as published, subject to adding Item 8.0 to discuss establishing a stormwater utility fee, and Agenda Item 9.0 to discuss St. Petersburg Mayor Bill Foster's letter on Pinellas Safe Harbor. Motion carried 3-0.

2.0 Consideration of approving Minutes of Committee meeting held on August 3, 2010.

MOTION by Councilor Irelan – seconded by Neil Rode – to approve Minutes of Committee meeting held on August 3, 2010, as published. Motion carried 3-0.

3.0 Consideration of improving signage in the Nature Refuge Park.

Chief Williams reported it was discussed about a month ago that signage identifying species of birds were missing and needed to be replaced.

Dave Berger, Public Services Supervisor, reported there were two signs missing along the boardwalk.

James J. Lawrence
Mayor

Joan G. Herndon
Vice Mayor

Carole Irelan
Councilor

Steve Sutch
Councilor

William F. Smith
Councilor

E.D. Williams
Town Administrator
Chief of Police

Mary Karayianes
Director of Finance
and Personnel

Marcia Grantham
Town Clerk

James Yacavone
Town Attorney

Lawrence G. Nayman
Building Code
Administrator

Discussion follows and it was noted that resident David Knowles takes wildlife photos, and Councilor Irelan stated she would contact him to determine if he could provide some appropriate photos for signage.

Consensus of the Committee members for Councilor Irelan to contact David Knowles and see if he could be of assistance to the Town.

4.0 Consideration of improving forty (40) foot right-of-way area in front of Haven's Hideaway.

Chairman Herndon stated this is a nice entry way into the heart of Town and she would like to determine if there could be some improvements made in the area.

Dave Berger, Public Works Supervisor, reported the area was approximately 40' X 200'.

Chief Williams advised improvements in this area would start south of 192nd Avenue and would require a landscape permit from FDOT, noting he did not feel FDOT would give the Town a hard time as long as the Town was funding the improvements.

Discussion followed on ideas such as palm trees and benches. Chief Williams stated he would come back to the Committee with a proposed plan.

It was a consensus of the Committee members to approve the proposed plan in concept, and await a proposal from Chief Williams.

5.0 Consideration of establishing a "Community Garden".

Chief Williams reported the area would need to go through a "kill and fill" soil process, and anticipated planting could begin around April.

Chief Williams proposed disassembling the portico roof in the center of the front of Town Hall, noting this could be done in-house and re-assemble at the garden area.

Chief Williams advised he felt the neighbors should be advised and requested Dave Berger, Public Services Supervisor, to make contact for neighbor feedback.

It was a consensus of the Committee members to proceed accordingly with the proposed plan to establish a "Community Garden".

6.0 Discussion of proposed extension of Second Street E. to provide a walkway through the mangroves.

Chief Williams reported the original concept was to install 10" wide pavers up to ADA grade to a walkover thru the mangroves and come out on 192nd Avenue, noting the approximate cost for this was \$40,000.00, with \$50,000.00 in the CIP budget for this project.

Chief Williams further reported that in retrospect it would be simpler to do a level walkway, which would prohibit viewing of private yards, noting a concrete wall goes through the mangroves and this would not require a bump-out, and continue pavers to the Boardwalk.

Chief Williams stated he had discussed this project with Bob Brotherton, Engineer, and the issue with the County regarding trimming of mangroves, which he felt they could overcome. He advised half of the walkway would be for traffic and pedestrians and the other half would be for pedestrians only.

Chief Williams advised he believed the project could be done with the available funds and requested permission to proceed with the permitting process first.

It was a consensus of the Committee members to approve Chief Williams proceeding with the permitting process first relative to the walkway through the mangrove area.

7.0 Discussion of enclosure for transformers located at 193rd Avenue West.

Chairman Herndon reported a enclosure of some type would dress up the streetscape across from the new Municipal Center.

Chief Williams reported he and the Mayor had met with three representatives from Progress Energy in this regard and were advised switchgear could not be painted and there were certain guidelines to follow and the Town could not block them in without access to the switch station.

Chief Williams further reported they seemed receptive to the lattice type fixture, wherein one panel can be opened for access, and he would want to obtain their approve on a proposal prior to starting a project.

Dave Berger, Public Services Supervisor, reported on measurements and price of lattice, which is approximately \$200.00.

Chief Williams advised he would come up with a visual concept and bring back to the Committee for consideration.

8.0 Discussion of the Town establishing a Stormwater Management Utility Fee.

Chief Williams reported the Town is well into the NPDES process and is scheduled to be audited on January 12, 2011 under the Town's NPDES Permit, noting for several years the Town was exempt due to population, however that was waived and the Town elected to comply under its own permit.

Chief Williams further reported on obtaining a cost for cleaning out the CDS units, which ranged from \$12,000.00 to \$14,000.00, noting others were less and selected Seminole Septic advising that water always flows back into the unit. He advised that blocking devices cost from \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00, and have the potential to blow up if not properly installed.

Chief Williams stated it is costing the Town money to comply with the NPDES requirements, and advised the expenses could be offset by establishing a Stormwater Management Utility Fee, which could cover beach raking, human resources, and storm drains.

Chief Williams advised that most communities have a fee of this type based on residential units. He reported that the rate is set through a study, which is a complex process. He noted the Town of Redington Shores levies a fee of \$1.50 a month through the utility and it is based on square footage of 1,350.

Chief Williams stated he was presenting this information to determine whether there is any interest in pursuing this fee to offset NPDES expenses.

Discussion followed with Committee members and Councilor Irelan stated she did not feel it fair to base the fee on square footage, and that everyone should pay their fair share.

Chief Williams further reported that presently Indian Rocks Beach, Belleair Beach and Belleair Bluffs do not levy a fee, however they may be reviewing this option and there may be the potential to do a group study.

It was a consensus of the Committee members for Chief Williams to pursue and bring back additional information which can be discussed at a Workshop meeting.

9.0 Discussion of St. Petersburg Mayor Bill Foster's letter on Pinellas Safe Harbor.

Mayor Lawrence addressed a letter from Mayor Foster, City of St. Petersburg, who is spearheading support for the Pinellas Safe Harbor project at the 49th Street Complex for the homeless population.

Mayor Lawrence cited some of the cities which have contributed to the project, noting Mayor Foster is requesting communities contribute \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00.

Mayor Lawrence acknowledged that from a County perspective the homeless population is everybody's problem.

Mayor Lawrence stated he understood some of the BIG-C members were discussing taking the donation from the City of St. Petersburg and divided it by per capita and took the beach population and divided by per capita which came out to \$.40 cents, thus the Town's share would be approximately \$700.00, noting this was more of a fair share contribution.

Mayor Lawrence asked Council members to review and consider prior to the Council meeting next week as it will be an Agenda item.

INDIAN SHORES PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING adjourned at 4:10 P.M.


MARCIA GRANTHAM, CMC
Town Clerk