

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - JANUARY 13, 2015

The Indian Shores Town Council meeting convened at 6:00 P.M. Those present were: Councilor Smith, Councilor Soranno and Councilor Petruccelli.

Absent: Mayor Lawrence and Vice Mayor Herndon

Note: Due to the absence of the Mayor and Vice Mayor, Councilor Smith chaired the meeting.

Also Present: Chief Hughes; Elaine Jackson, Town Clerk; Bonnie Dhonau, Town Administrator; Walter Pierce, Director of Finance; Malcolm Green, Building Official; Captain Jeff Rawson; Nancy Sheridan, Brent Winter, and Tom Graef, Southwest Regional Director, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

1.0 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

1.0 Consideration of approving Council Agenda for January 13, 2015.

Motion by Councilor Soranno – seconded by Councilor Petruccelli, to approve the Council Agenda for January 13, 2015. **Motion carried 3-0.**

2.0 Comments from the public on any Agenda item.

There were no comments from the public.

3.0 Consideration of approving the "CONSENT AGENDA" as follows:

A. MINUTES: Planning, Zoning & Building Comm.	12/9/2014
Board of Adjustment Workshop	12/9/2014
Board of Adjustment	12/9/2014
Town Council Meeting	12/9/2014

Motion by Councilor Soranno – seconded by Councilor Petruccelli, to approve the Consent Agenda for Minutes of December 2014. **Motion carried 3-0.**

B. RE-OCCURRING EXPENSES: For December 2014

Motion by Councilor Petruccelli – seconded by Councilor Soranno, to approve the re-occurring expenses for December 2014. **Motion carried 3-0.**

4.0 Approval of Committee expenditures : NONE

James J. Lawrence
Mayor

Joan G. Herndon-Parrott
Vice Mayor

William F. Smith
Councilor

Patrick C. Soranno
Councilor

Michael "Mike" Petruccelli
Councilor

Bonnie Dhonau
Town Administrator

Terry E. Hughes
Chief of Police

Walter H. Pierce, III
Director of Finance
and Personnel

Elaine N. Jackson, MMC
Town Clerk

Robert J. Metz, Jr.
Town Attorney

Malcolm Green
Building Official

5.0 Correspondence:

Letter of resignation from Vice Mayor Herndon, effective February 1, 2015.

Councilor Smith read the letter into the record and expressed his regrets that Ms. Herndon would be leaving. He announced there will be a reception for recognition of her service after the Council meeting on February 10, 2015.

Letter from Fire Chief Salvatore D'Angelo III, relative to establishing a temporary facility in Indian Shores to operate Station 26.

Councilor Smith read a short excerpt from the letter, referring to the establishment of a fire and emergency medical service tenant space at the Municipal Center.

6.0 Town Attorney's Report - No report

7.0 PUBLIC HEARING: Consideration of RESOLUTION 1-2015, declaring James J. Lawrence to have been elected Mayor, as a result of being unopposed for the position in the Municipal Election scheduled for March 10, 2015.

Attorney Metz read Resolution 1-2015 by title only.

All members of Council expressed their pleasure that Mayor Lawrence decided to run for another three-year term.

Motion by Councilor Petruccelli – seconded by Councilor Soranno, to approve Resolution 1-2015, as presented. **Motion carried 3-0.**

8.0 Report from Nancy Sheridan, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, (FFWCC) relative to shark fishing from the beach.

Captain Rawson stated there was some concern by citizens relative to shark fishing on the beach and it was determined that no laws were being violated; however, there was concern it might be a danger to residents.

Nancy Sheridan and Brent Winter presented a PowerPoint presentation which discussed misconceptions about sharks propagated by fictional depictions. Shark attacks have increased in recent decades and Florida is at the top of the list of attacks, per records kept since 1837; the most attacks occurring in Volusia, Brevard and Palm Beach Counties. There have only been 12 attacks in Pinellas County since records have been kept. Attacks take place mostly in the middle of the day, during the summer months and surfers are the most predominate victims, as a case of mistaken identity, and due to the amount of time spent in the water vs. swimmers, divers, etc. However, the risk of being attacked by a shark in Florida is 1 in 3,748,067; less than being struck by lightning.

Ms. Sheridan emphasized that sharks are vital to the ecosystem, economic value and Florida coastal waters are essential to fish habitat. Florida manages sharks from its shores to nine miles out into the Gulf of Mexico. Regular fishers will chum, but shark fishers do not chum. There is no evidence showing an increase of shark attacks associated with fishing from shore.

The presenters answered numerous questions from the audience.

Ms. Sheridan stated it is legal to fish from the shore. Sharks cannot be conditioned by people chumming on the shore and will always chase their natural prey. The County or City would have to own the beach area in order to prohibit shark fishing from the beach.

The FFWCC has established a program entitled "Shark-Smart Fishing", which educates anglers, to maximize public safety, use common sense, be respectful and minimize shark mortality.

Bonnie Dhonau, Town Administrator, extended an invitation for the FFWCC to set up an information booth at the St. Patrick's Day Festival in March.

9.0 Report from the Building Official

Malcolm Green, Building Official, stated the monthly report was established to apprise Council of permits issued, fees collected, code enforcement and any unusual issues that might have occurred during the previous month.

Mr. Green further reported the situation at Bay View Villas is progressing. The engineer's report was submitted, showing all but three balconies could be occupied, with repairs to one of those already being completed, and the remainder due to be completed no later than January 15, 2015.

Mr. Green explained Council's questions regarding the \$750 limitation for minor repairs, wherein no permit is needed, and home owners may sign an affidavit to do their own work and pull their own permits.

10.0 Consideration of approving Financial Statement for period ending November 30, 2014.

Director of Finance, Walter Pierce, reported the General Fund Revenue was at \$445,762 and Expenses at \$319,661. Change in Fund Balance is \$126,101. The Town is still in the negative for Road and Bridge and Capital Improvement. More than \$400,000 has been received from Pinellas County relative to the undergrounding. Current balance for Police Education is \$2,668.29 and for Beautification is \$11,341.92.

Mr. Pierce further reported working with Mr. Green to finalize the procedure for collecting Transportation Impact Fees.

Motion by Councilor Soranno – seconded by Councilor Petruccelli, to approve the Financial Statement for period ending November 30, 2014. **Motion carried 3-0.**

11.0 Report from the Town Administrator.

Town Administrator, Bonnie Dhonau, reported on the following:

- (1) Lobby benches are on the way
- (2) The Town took possession of the Bucket Truck
- (3) Staff will begin working on the Sea Oats planting program to be better organized this year.
- (4) The Town is still in the process of migrating to the Cloud, but closer to completion.
- (5) The Town's CRS rating remains at 6, which mean a 20% discount on premiums. Kudos to Michelle Tidwell and Malcolm Green for doing a great job.

Councilor Smith commented there are very few cities that have this CRS rating and sustaining it is not easy.

12.0 Consideration of approving Police Activity Report covering November 2014 and December 2014.

Chief Hughes presented the Police Activity Report for Council's review.

Motion by Councilor Soranno – seconded by Councilor Petruccelli, to approve the Police Activity Report covering November 2014 and December 2014. **Motion carried 3-0.**

13.0 Consideration of Efforts and Accomplishments Measures for year-end September 30, 2014 and Fiscal Year Activity Report for 2014 for Police Department.

Chief Hughes stated his department has been pro-active and crime rates are down.

Motion by Councilor Petruccelli – seconded by Councilor Soranno, to approve the Efforts and Accomplishments Measures for year-end September 30, 2014 and Fiscal Year Activity Report for 2014 for Police Department. **Motion carried 3-0.**

14.0 Citizens' Comments on any subject.

Larry Schear, Fire Commissioner, stated Chief D'Angelo has been very proactive in getting an engine here as a two-man rescue unit. Eventually he would like to expand to three and a fire engine. The unit will cover the south portion of Indian Shores and parts of the mainland. He is presently talking with the County relative to cost of an EMT on that unit. Stationing this unit at the Municipal Center will take two minutes off response time.

Mr. Schear further reported the 9/11 memorial is back on top of the priority list and progress is being made.

Debra Kamajian asked about body cams for police officers, and if there should be more than one officer assigned per vehicle.

Chief Hughes responded body cams were very expensive, and the State Attorney is against them. Also, it is better to have one officer in each of the two cars rather than two in one car.

Janet McKee inquired what happened to the white benches in the lobby.

Ms. Dhonau reported one was broken and the second has been stored away. The two new benches that will be placed in the lobby are six feet long, with vinyl upholstery and wood accents. The Indian Shores Property Owners Association donated the \$1300 to purchase them on state contract.

Another gentleman inquired relative to noise restrictions of traffic.

Chief Hughes stated if vehicles are too loud they can be cited, however the loudness of motorcycles is considered a safety feature.

Art Newsome announced the Indian Shores Property Owners Association Happy Hour will take place at Mickey Quinn's on Wednesday, January 14th at 5:30 P.M.

15.0 Mayor's and Council Members comments on any subject.

Councilor Petruccelli thanked the people who braved the rainy weather to come to the Holiday Boat Parade and praised the chocolate dessert provided by Salt Rock Grill.

Councilor Petruccelli stated he would miss Joan and had some people ask how to apply for the position. He expressed concern that the Town has not given the public enough time to respond.

Motion by Councilor Petruccelli – to extend the deadline for applying until the end of January. **Motion failed for lack of a second.**

Attorney Metz stated the Town's Charter requires the vacant position be filled within sixty days; however it does not specify the amount of time for notifying applicants for the position. It is to the Town's advantage to minimize the amount of time without the missing Council member and to fill the position as soon as possible.

Councilor Smith explained this is not an election, it's an appointment by Council to fill the empty position only until the next regularly scheduled election. He also stated he intended to consider only those who have played an active role in Town or served on boards or committees, not every person.

Councilor Soranno announced the March Coastal Cleanup, which is coordinated with Keep Pinellas Beautiful, and is waiting on the exact date.


Councilor Smith reported Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association is having another National Conference on beach technology and we are fortunate it will be held at the Sand Key Marriott. This is a great opportunity to gather information to use for managing our beaches. Anyone interested in attending they should contact him.

Councilor Smith reported the Art Council Ad Hoc Committee held its first meeting on January 6th and is off to a good start, and the Youth Advisory Board will be meeting with the Mayor later this month.

Councilor Smith wished everyone a Happy New Year and reminded everyone there is a workshop scheduled for January 20, 2015 at 2 P.M. and the next Council meeting is February 10, 2015 at 6:00 P.M.

Chief Hughes informed Council a marathon race would be coming through on Sunday morning January 18, 2015, entering the city from the north, crossing Gulf Blvd. at the boat ramp and going over the Park Blvd. Bridge.

The Indian Shores Town Council meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.


ELAINE JACKSON, MMC
Town Clerk