

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - MARCH 24, 2015

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

Also Present: Chief Hughes; Elaine Jackson, Town Clerk; Bonnie Dhonau, Town Administrator; Walter Pierce, Director of Finance and Personnel; Malcolm Green, Building Official; Captain Rawson; Attorney Metz; former Mayor Bob McEwen; Anne Miller; Mary Green; June Steding; Steve Sutch; Alice Lawrence; Mike Hackerson; Candiss Rinker; Barbara Soranno; Marcie Smith; Carole Irelan; Fred and Dotty Strahlendorf; Mathew Patsch; Christopher Andrews; Art Newsome; Chief Sal D'Angelo, Larry Schear; Rene Weyburne; Chris Stansel; John Holbert; Lynn Rogacki, and several other residents.

1.0 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

1.0 OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO MAYOR JAMES J. LAWRENCE AND PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION.

Attorney Metz administered the oath of office to Mayor James J. Lawrence for his next three-year term of office and presented his certificate of election.

Mayor Lawrence commented it was hard to believe he was beginning his 18th year on the Town Council and his 10th year as Mayor. A lot of things have happened since he first took office: building of the new road, undergrounding of utilities, completion of the new municipal center, and we are now embarking on the Gulf Boulevard beautification project, with a great staff and volunteers who are motivated and dedicated.

Mayor Lawrence thanked all for making Indian Shores a great place to live and work.

James J. Lawrence
Mayor

Patrick C. Soranno
Vice Mayor

Michael "Mike" Petruccelli
Councilor

Diantha Schear
Councilor

William F. Smith
Councilor

Bonnie Dhonau
Town Administrator

Terry E. Hughes
Chief of Police

Walter H. Pierce, III
Director of Finance
and Personnel

Elaine M. Jackson, MMC
Town Clerk

Robert J. Metz, Jr.
Town Attorney

Malcolm Green
Building Official

2.0 Presentation by Town Attorney regarding the “Sunshine Law.”

Attorney Metz reviewed the history of the open records law wherein it stated all meetings must be open to the public, reasonable notice must be given and minutes must be taken. These rules apply to all elected officials and appointed board members. Members are not prohibited from visiting socially, but must not discuss, exchange documents outside a public meeting or use a third party as liaison. Public records are all communications, including personal notes, emails and reports, and a violation of the sunshine law could result in a person being found guilty of a misdemeanor.

3.0 Consideration of approving Council Agenda for March 24, 2015.

Motion by Councilor Smith – seconded by **Vice Mayor Soranno**, to approve the Council Agenda for March 24, 2015. **Motion carried 5-0.**

4.0 Comments from the public on any Agenda item.

There were no comments.

5.0 Consideration of approving the “CONSENT AGENDA” as follows:

- A. MINUTES: Council Workshop - March 3, 2015
- Admin & Finance - March 10, 2015
- Council Meeting - March 10, 2015

Motion by Councilor Smith – seconded by **Councilor Schear**, to approve the Consent Agenda covering above minutes for March 2015. **Motion carried 5-0.**

6.0 Approval of Committee expenditures: None

7.0 Correspondence: None

8.0 Town Attorney's Report

Attorney Metz reported he was illegally parked downstairs and he apologized.

9.0 Consideration of authorizing the purchase of CEWs/Tasers for the Indian Shores Police Department in the amount of \$12,849.85, with \$10,000 being reimbursed by an FDLE Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant.

Chief Hughes reported this purchase had been approved in the Capital Improvement budget for \$14,000. However, through the FDLE Grant, \$10,000 will be reimbursed.

Motion by **Councilor Smith** – seconded by **Vice Mayor Soranno**, to approve the purchase of the CEWs/Tasers in the amount of \$12,849.85, with \$10,000 being reimbursed by an FDLE Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant. **Motion carried 5-0.**

10.0 Consideration of hiring two part-time Police Officers, Matthew Patsch and Christopher Andrews for the Indian Shores Police Department.

Chief Hughes reported he had three sworn officers out on Worker Comp, one employee out due to surgery, and not enough part-time officers to cover shifts. He would rather hire part-time employees, rather than full-time with benefits.

Captain Rawson stated they usually keep a small pool of candidates for backup, but now 35% of the work force is out and we need the two applicants to fill in the gaps. He stated they will be a great benefit to the department.

Motion by **Councilor Smith** – seconded by **Vice Mayor Soranno**, to approve the hiring of two part-time Police Officers, Matthew Patsch and Christopher Andrews for the Indian Shores Police Department. **Motion carried 5-0.**

11.0 Consideration of approving Financial Statement for period ending February 28, 2014.

Director of Finance, **Walter Pierce**, reported the General Fund Revenue is \$1,631,274.00 and Expenses are \$889,131.00, with a positive balance of \$742,143.00. Road and Bridge Revenue is \$8,667.00 and Expenses are \$35,563.00, with a negative balance of \$26,896.00. Capital Improvement Revenue is \$435,319.00 and Expenses are \$399,089.00, with a positive balance of \$36,230.00. Police Education balance is \$2,792.79 and Beautification balance is \$12,707.72.

Motion by **Councilor Smith** – seconded by **Councilor Schear**, to approve Financial Statement for period ending February 28, 2015. **Motion carried 5-0.**

12.0 Citizens' Comments on any subject.

Lynn Rogacki, 19201 Gulf Blvd., Indian Shores, (Mahuffer's) reported numerous street light outages on 192nd Ave, Whispering Pines Drive and 2nd Street East; and her numerous attempts to contact town personnel for help.

Those numbered lights being:

(1) #31: on 192nd Ave, in between Gulf Blvd. and Whispering Pines Drive.

(2) #30: on Whispering Pines (light fixture fell off the pole and is stored in Mahuffer's)

(3) #26: on 2nd Street East (entire pole is missing)

(4) #16: on Whispering Pines Drive is flickering on and off.

(5) #28: knocked down

(6) #28 and #29 are out

Duke Energy says they do not own the light poles. One light fixture is on the Mahuffer building and running off the owner's power.

Ms. Rogacki stated the one on the corner of 192nd belongs to them.

Bonnie Dhonau, Town Administrator, stated historically, the lights in the parking lot were Mahuffer's and there has been a long history of problems with these lights, and parts are either impossible to find or backordered for a long time.

Mayor Lawrence stated we need to ascertain who owns the lights, and advised Ms. Rogacki to contact Ms. Dhonau so this can get resolved.

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

Councilor Petruccelli asked if there is a survey showing ownership of the lights.

Ms. Dhonau responded that Ken Nayman had rewired a lot of the lights and Duke Energy has met with Michael Scrogam in the field. She stated she would check with Mr. Scrogam regarding the outcome and get to the bottom of it. The last information indicated lights were back on, except for those on private property. We have had difficulty getting parts, since some were on back order and the hook just came in, but she was not sure about the light fixture.

Ms. Dhonau further stated the police officers report light outages to Duke Energy by the pole number, if they find any lights out while on patrol.

Building Official, Malcolm Green, stated he would check into the light on the commercial property.

Mayor Lawrence requested a police officer observe if there is a safety issue. He further stated it was a mistake to get lights on our own and now they belong to us, not Duke Energy.

Ms. Rogacki stated the one on the corner of 192nd and Whispering Pines hasn't worked for seven years and it makes it dark.

Councilor Petruccelli reported four or five people have sent letters to the County, asking the Board to financially support Station #26.

Councilor Schear stated she was glad Mayor Lawrence will be here for another three years.

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Councilor Schear announced the library will hold a book drive during April and May. Donors names will be put into a hat and the winner will receive a \$25 gift card to Barnes and Nobel.

Councilor Smith reported he would be attending the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association September 23-25, 2015. This meeting will be on the east coast between Key Largo and Key West. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact him, as it is a six hour drive and travel arrangements will need to be made.

Councilor Smith stated he was grateful Mayor Lawrence would be serving his fourth term as Mayor.


Mayor Lawrence stated five members are going to the Florida League of Cities Conference and should contact our Finance Director, Mr. Pierce, as to available funding for FSBPA travel prior to committing to attend.

Vice Mayor Soranno thanked everyone for coming and congratulated the Mayor on a very hard-won campaign. He stated Mayor Lawrence is starting his 18th year in office. If he averages 1,000 hours per year being available, this equals eight years of full time service. The first lady probably works 2,000 hours per year, thus we have had at least one full time Lawrence since 1999.

Mayor Lawrence announced the next big event will be the Memorial Day event, a remembrance of those who have served and a picnic lunch. Normally one elected official works with staff and asked for a volunteer. Councilor Schear volunteered to work on the Memorial Day event.

Mayor Lawrence also announced there will be a Hurricane Awareness event mid-June, which is enjoyable and informative.

The Indian Shores Town Council meeting adjourned at 6:45 P.M.


ELAINE JACKSON, MMC
Town Clerk