

TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP

MINUTES - JANUARY 20, 2015

The Town Council Workshop convened at 2:00 P.M. Those present were: Mayor Lawrence, Councilor Petruccelli, Councilor Smith and Councilor Soranno.

Absent: Vice Mayor Herndon

Also Present: Chief Hughes; Elaine Jackson, Town Clerk; Bonnie Dhonau, Town Administrator; Walter Pierce, Director of Finance; Attorney Robert Metz; Anne Miller; Diantha Schear; Barbara Soranno; Janet McKee; Art Newsome; Sara Mullins and Chris Stansel.

ITEM # AGENDA ITEM

1.0 Discussion relative to increasing Christmas decorations for Christmas 2015 season.

Janet McKee stated some of our lights are hidden behind palm trees and only on every third pole, which looks sparse. If every pole was decorated, as in neighboring towns, or more lights provided in the parks for the boat parade, it would feel more like Christmas. She liked the idea of banners that can be seen during the day, as has been suggested.

Barbara Soranno commented it would help if the poles across the street from the undecorated ones would be decorated to fill in the empty space.

Bonnie Dhonau, Town Administrator, stated she thought every other pole was decorated.

Mayor Lawrence reported Sea Club was one of the few condos that decorated its property and it looked very nice. Perhaps ISPOA could sponsor a decorating contest in conjunction with the boat parade. Banners could be used to fill in, but run approximately \$70 to \$100 each. He asked Ms. Dhonau to tour the south end of town to determine where more lights could be installed.

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

Art Newsome commented other cities have a lot more lights placed on both sides of Gulf Boulevard, wherein Indian Shores only has poles on the West side at the North end of Town. He stated at the next ISPOA board meeting he would ask if the members are interested in sponsoring a decorating contest.

2.0 Discussion relative to establishing an Ordinance regarding background checks.

Chief Hughes reported the FBI and FDLE have changed the rules, and now our Police Depart can only perform criminal background checks for police, prospective department employees or someone with a sensitive job; not for employees, independent contractors and other entities. Their regulations set forth what is allowed and prohibited.

In order for our Police Department to perform background checks on regular employees, independent contractors, vendors, instructors, etc., an ORI number must be requested and a local ordinance must be established in order to perform background checks on the others.

Council discussed what constitutes a private or an independent contractor, and who would be excluded from the process.

Attorney Metz stated by creating this ordinance, the Town will have the justification to perform any background checks it deems necessary.

It was the consensus of Council to direct Attorney Metz to draft an Ordinance regarding background checks to present to the Council on February 10, 2015.

3.0 Discussion relative to amending the Town's Ordinance regarding hours for Chief E.D. Williams Park.

Attorney Metz addressed the draft Ordinance submitted and reviewed the tentative changes to the existing code.

Council discussed amending the code to prohibit the riding of bicycles in Chief E.D. Williams Park for safety reasons, and the hours for use of the pavilion and playground.

It was the consensus of Council to direct Attorney Metz to amend Section 54-6(b)(2) of the draft Ordinance to state the hours of Chief E.D. Williams Park be dawn until dusk, unless fishing or using the lighted tennis courts, or unless the pavilion and playground are being used for a Town-approved event.

Council also agreed to not prohibit the use of bicycles in Chief E.D. Williams Park, unless there is a need to enforce this rule, at which time Council may amend the ordinance.

4.0 Discussion relative to establishing an Ordinance regarding reporting building flaws/deficiencies to the Building Official.

Mayor Lawrence stated this issue was being brought up due to the situation at Bay View Villas wherein a whistleblower reported on an unsafe situation and the Board was not taking action.

Ms. Dhonau spoke on behalf of the Building Official, stating in his experience, he felt this would create a privacy issue regarding personal property.

Attorney Metz reported his office had researched this matter and was unable to find any municipality with such an ordinance. However, one can be drafted if Council feels it would alleviate health and safety concerns. However, enforcement of a penalty might also be a problem.

Council discussed how the enforcement could be administered and who/what organization would be held responsible. It was the consensus of the Council to not pursue the drafting of an ordinance regarding reporting building flaws/deficiencies to the Building Official.

5.0 Recommendation to the Council by the Arts Council Ad Hoc Committee relative to the branding design.

Ms. Dhonau stated the artist was not yet able to provide a proof of the final design, but the Arts Council requested a change in the font to allow more daylight between the letters and the intent to print in sepia coloration. Ms. Dhonau requested feedback from Council before bringing this to a vote at the February meeting.

Sara Mullins read the artist's statement which included the artist's explanation of his intent to honor the Tocobaga and Timucua natives of the region and attempt to focus on the interpretation of the Indian with respect to his posture, releasing of the net and bringing a more contemporary design that would appeal to the younger citizenry.

Councilor Soranno commented on the design, addressing the abundance of tattoos, and the need to avoid any controversy relative to the native Indian theme.

Ms. Mullins reported she has reached out to the Historical Society in Jacksonville and presented the concept. However, there were no negative comments. She stated she would ask for their input on the final design.

Ms. Dhonau stated the final proof would be forthcoming on February 10, 2015, for approval to move forward with business cards, stationery, bus stop graphics and the municipal signs. This will introduce the design to the community.

Mayor Lawrence requested Ms. Mullins provide something in writing from the Historical Society relative to the design to alleviate concerns.

6.0 Review/discussion of applications for the purpose of filling the vacant Council member position, as a result of the resignation of Vice Mayor Herndon.

Mayor Lawrence stated that since this is a Council appointment of a person, not an election, he sent the offer out to those who have already been active on Town committees and boards, and volunteers at Town events. From the first emailing, the Town received a response from one person, Diantha Schear, who volunteered for the position, and one member of the Youth Advisory Council, Chris Stansel. If the Council comes to a consensus, Council will vote on the position on February 10, 2015. Mayor Lawrence then asked each person applying to address the Council.

Chris Stansel stated he had moved here over a year ago from Lutz, loves Indian Shores and wants to get involved in the community. At his former home he was involved in organizations and a youth group. He stated he wanted to bring new things and improve on the old things, and help get more of the younger people involved.

Diantha Schear stated she has lived in Indian Shores for seven years and during that time has volunteered to work in the library, participated and been president of the Women's Club, been on the Board of Adjustment for four years, has volunteered for Library events, Beach Cleanups, and Festivals. Her husband, Larry, is the Fire Commissioner representing Indian Shores and both feel it's important to serve the community.

Mayor Lawrence stated Diantha and Larry have always been the first ones to show up and the last ones to leave at all Town events. He complimented Chris on his courage to want to volunteer to serve at such a young age.

Councilor Soranno stated he applauds Chris for his interest to serve and continue with young ideas. However, in fairness, Diantha is more qualified and has demonstrated many years of service.

Councilor Smith stated he was impressed by Chris coming forward and looks forward to his role in the Youth Council. He further stated Diantha ran for Council, so definitely has an interest.

Councilor Petruccelli stated he will miss Joan and her leaving will be a big loss. However, he stated there are other people who wanted the opportunity to apply and he felt they had not been given enough time to do it, and that the process is being rushed.

Councilor Smith stated this is an appointment, only until the next election and it must be a quick process so we are not short-handed.

Attorney Metz stated having an even number of members on Council is not a good situation to be in.

Councilor Soranno responded the invitation was sent to those who have contributed and demonstrated they have the Town at heart.

Mayor Lawrence stated if we could not fill the position from the initial list, the invitation would have taken a wider scope.

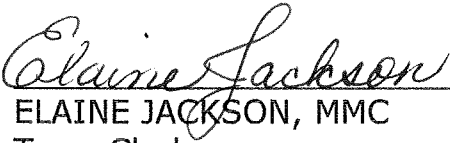
Councilor Petruccelli commented he felt it should have been a public notice, offered to everyone, so they all had the opportunity to apply.

Mayor Lawrence stated those who have proven themselves should have the first opportunity.

Mayor Lawrence announced there would be a reception held to honor Joan Herndon after the February 10, 2015 Council meeting.

Chief Hughes announced the Eagle Scouts' projects for the dog kennel and the picnic tables have been completed and the scouts are ready to present the Town with their contributions.

The Council Workshop adjourned at 3:28 P.M.



ELAINE JACKSON, MMC
Town Clerk