

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Town Commission

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Present: Mayor Thurlow-Lippisch, Vice Mayor Schoppe, Cmsrs. Busha, and Luger, and Town Manager Kellogg, Attorney Torcivia, Chief Cerniglia, and Building Official Adams

1. **Call to Order** - Mayor Thurlow-Lippisch called the Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Hearing none, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Schoppe, seconded by Cmsr. Bausch to approve the agenda as amended. All in favor. (5-0)

In Favor: Bausch, Busha, Luger, Schoppe and Thurlow-Lippisch

Opposed: None

2. **Comments from the public on topics not on the agenda - Residents:** Ella Ford questioned if a referendum was needed to amend the Charter, and noted the ambiguity in the language of the Charter regarding Administrative Services. She asked the Commission to "... start thinking about this." Mayor Thurlow-Lippisch said she had asked Attorney Torcivia to look into this and he responded by saying the Charter is very hard to change and explained the process. Maria Dunn said her home was broken into on April 18th and was concerned about the fact that there were burglaries in February, as well. She asked what changes were being made to prevent this from happening [in the future.] Responding, Chief Cerniglia said additional personnel were brought in,

3. **Public Hearings & Presentations:**

- a. Approval of Resolution No. 746 Procedure for Disbursement of FEMA Funds – This resolution was prepared at the request of the Commission, said Town Manager Kellogg. He noted specifically, Sections 5 and 6 saying "... if funds were not available, no additional disbursement would be made," and "... the balance in the Standard Elevation Project Grant Account will never go below \$75,000.00." There were questions from the Commission on foreclosure/lien process, who goes first, second, third, etc. - possibility of a lottery, having only two projects going at same time, to name a few. Vice Mayor Schoppe recommended passing Resolution No. 746 as submitted, and then look into getting monies back and move forward. Residents expressed concern over height limits, getting building started before hurricane season begins, with the commission saying they need to safeguard the Town and ensure procedures are in place before anything starts. Attorney Torcivia read Resolution No. 746 Procedure for Disbursement of FEMA Funds into the record. Vice Mayor Schoppe's motion was seconded by Cmsr. Bausch. All in favor. (5-0)

In Favor: Bausch, Busha, Luger, Schoppe and Thurlow-Lippisch

Opposed: None

- b. Discussion of Ordinance No. 366 Amending Definition of Private Passenger Pick-Up Truck, First Reading – In the Chief's absence, Lt. Ciechanowski said the singular change she could see in this amended version of the ordinance was the weight modification from 5,000 to 6,000 pounds. The Chamber was filled with several residents, some of whom spoke to the issue of the height of the Sprinter Vans, how demographics are changing in the Town, and wanting a change, while other residents continued to express their dismay over changing the ordinance to meet the needs of a few. A young resident (Isabella Luger) addressed the commission and asked why vans could not be parked in front of people's homes? Mayor Thurlow-Lippisch commended the young resident for getting up and speaking of her concerns to the Commission, and answered the question. A lengthy discussion followed, each commissioner gave his/her thoughts about the issue and a suggestion was made to form a committee to represent each commissioner and to come back to the Commission with its thoughts. Because discussions began to go beyond what the ordinance was written for, Cmsr. Bausch made a motion, seconded by Cmsr. Busha to table Ordinance No. 366. In favor (4-1)

In Favor: Bausch, Busha, Luger, and Thurlow-Lippisch

Opposed: Schoppe

Mayor Thurlow-Lippisch said she would speak with Town Manager Kellogg and come up with clear parameters for the group to follow.

- c. Review of Salary/Wage for Police Department, Town Clerk, Maintenance – Town Manager Kellogg provided the Commission with hand-outs saying the Sewall's Point Police Department was the fourth lowest in benefits and wages compared to others. He went on to say his proposal was to give the four officers still on the step pay both of the step increases they should have received, and recommended a 2% increase for the remaining officers, Town Clerk and Maintenance. Several residents said they were in support of such increases and felt the Town could afford it, with resident David Shore saying, "... our Police Department is the most valuable asset we have." Mayor Thurlow-Lippisch read letters from residents into the record and Cmsr. Busha expressed her desire to have an evaluative tool in place.

Lt. Ciechanowski gave an historical overview of why the 8-step salaries were put into place, travel vs. no take-home car, benefits lost, to name a few. Salary ranges were discussed, and Cmsr. Luger made a motion, seconded by Cmsr. Schoppe to approve the proposed salary ranges. There was a discrepancy in the way the police officer maximum salary had been noted and the following was proposed in its place: Building Official \$82,500-95,700; Building Clerk \$30,000-40,000; Officers \$39,125-66,500; Lieutenant \$70,000-80,000; Chief \$82,500-92,500; Town Clerk \$42,500-52,500; Town Manager \$105,000-115,000; Maintenance \$30,000-42,500. Cmsr. Bausch made a motion to amend the original motion to reflect the changes noted, and seconded by Cmsr. Luger. All in favor. (5-0)

In Favor: Bausch, Busha, Luger, Schoppe and Thurlow-Lippisch

Opposed: None

- d. Approval of New Resident “Welcome” Packets – Town Manager Kellogg presented the new “Welcome” packets and asked for approval by the Commission. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Schoppe, seconded by Cmsr. Luger to approve the New Resident packets at presented. All in favor. (5-0)

In Favor: Bausch, Busha, Luger, Schoppe and Thurlow-Lippisch

Opposed: None

- e. Approval of Additional Work to Seawall on Simara Street Bridge – Town Manager Kellogg asked the Commission to authorize the additional \$7,700 funds for the Simara Street bridge repairs saying it was an absolute necessity. A motion was made by Cmsr. Bausch, seconded by Cmsr. Busha to approve the additional work and costs of \$7,700 for the Simara Street bridge. All in favor. (5-0)

In Favor: Bausch, Busha, Luger, Schoppe and Thurlow-Lippisch

Opposed: None

4. **Consent Agenda:**

- a. Approval of Minutes: January 24, 2012
- b. Approval of Financial Reports for January 2012
- c. Approval of Disbursements for January 2012 #14779-14831
- d. Approval of P&L Report for January 2012

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Schoppe, seconded by Cmsr. Busha to approve the Consent Agenda. All in favor. (5-0)

In Favor: Bausch, Busha, Luger, Schoppe and Thurlow-Lippisch

Opposed: None

5. **Town Manager’s Comments** – Town Manager Kellogg spoke about the trees at the Bessemer Building saying it was a “delicate” situation. The Mayor said she wants a decision made “in the Sunshine,” and asked that the owner’s be contacted. Suggestions were made that if the trees died they should be replaced, and if so, with substantial Oaks. Town Manager Kellogg indicated he had arranged to have a meeting with the owners, but they had to reschedule and hoped the Mayor would attend at a future date. He spoke about the sidewalk plans between Miramar and Town Hall and said he should have them next week. Lights and trees were discussed and Cmsr. Busha was asked to follow-up on that with Marcela Cambolor Associates.

6. **Chief of Police Report** – Lt. Ciechanowski spoke about the recent burglaries and indicated the Sheriff’s Office had been contacted, information was sent to the FBI for analysis in their databases, and email notices had been sent out as a resource to residents; and Officer Steere was participating in training down in Miami.

7. **Comments from Commissioners on topics not on the agenda** – Cmsr. Busha said for those concerned about redistricting in the County, it was not happening. She said she would like to see the LPA brought back. Mayor Thurlow-Lippisch said Sue Sokel from Indialucie had contacted her and said they were planning a get together for their area on Sunday and said the Police Department would be in attendance. She asked Mr. Kellogg to speak about the Sailfish Regatta and all of the concerns that go with that event. Vice Mayor Schoppe mentioned the Inlet Advisory Board and preparations for dredging. Cmsr. Bausch said he heard mothers in the park talking about the need for a port-a-potty and asked for consideration. And in conclusion, the next meeting will be a workshop and due to the vacation schedule, it will be held on Wednesday, March 7th.

8. **Adjourn:** A motion was made by Vice Mayor Schoppe, seconded by Cmsr. Luger to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 P.M. All in favor. (5-0)

In Favor: Bausch, Busha, Luger, Schoppe and Thurlow-Lippisch

Opposed: None

Respectfully submitted,

Ann-Marie S. Basler, Town Clerk