

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Town Commission

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

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

Absent: 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 Cmsr. Bausch, seconded by Vice Mayor Schoppe to approve the agenda as noted. 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:** Joan Bausch discussed the coontie plant (in the Town Park) and how it encourages butterflies, and suggested replanting more of these plants. B.J. Escue asked for a FEMA update and Town Manager Kellogg responded he was hoping that within two weeks we would have more specifics. Ella Ford asked about the Charter and the Town was going to make an amendment (for the November ballot); she also asked about the Quisenberry case. Responding, Cmsr. Luger said he attended the last meeting at which time they were unable to reach agreement. Additional complaints have been filed and the case has been assigned to a retired judge. As for the Town Charter, Cmsr. Luger indicated he and Atty. Torcivia will have to look at the specifics and how it affects the Town and bring back at a later date.

3. **Discussion:**

- a. Proclamation for Civility – Mayor Thurlow-Lippisch read this Proclamation saying it was from the Florida Bar Association and noted its importance in dealing with all people/
- b. Beau Rivage – Supt. Of Schools Nancy Kline - Cmsr. Busha introduced Supt. Kline who explained the Interlocal Agreement with the St. Lucie County allowing students in the Beau Rivage community to attend Martin County schools; 78 students attended Martin County Schools in 2011-12 and if lines [County] change, “it will have no additional impact on schools”; student population is monitored very closely by the District; and there are no plans for redistricting in the 2012-13 school year. She went on to talk about the District’s achievements and concluded with a question/answer period. Supt. Kline thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to speak to the community, and in turn, the Commission thanked Supt. Kline and asked if she would come back again.
- c. Undergrounding Update - Danny Brannon gave a brief overview of the plan and an estimated cost of \$241,000 along with discussing easements, street lighting, etc. At that time Nick Blount, FPL, said he was anxious to see the Town go underground, and FPL costs. The timeframe was discussed and Mr. Brannon suggested before the AIA project starts, saying a bid package was necessary. Cmsr. Bausch supported going ahead with the project and getting the paperwork done quickly, and before hurricane season. Item to be placed on May 22nd meeting agenda.
- d. Additional Police Officers and Police Clerk Recommendations; and Update on Burglary Status & Police Department Strategy - Chief Cerniglia gave an overview of the proposed increase in staffing and justifications, at a cost of approximately \$153,866.00. Discussion followed with Vice Mayor Schoppe supporting the additional police officers and recommended hiring a full time clerk. Cmsr. Luger also supported the hiring of as many police officers as needed and asked the Chief to research the formula for numbers of officers/residents. Chief Cerniglia said there had not been any additional burglaries and schedules of all officers had been maximized. He did not wish to discuss Police Department strategy in an attempt to protect the residents. Several residents spoke praising the Police Department for their efforts. Summarizing, Town Manager Kellogg said they will hire a full time clerk, a 10th officer as quickly as possible, and the 9th officer should be on duty by the middle of June.
- e. Street Improvements - Town Manager Kellogg said 14 streets would be improved this year by sealing cracks and micro-surfacing in August/September. Vice Mayor Schoppe advised making sure the clean-up was done appropriately.
- f. Event Permit and bridge protection - Mayor Thurlow-Lippisch reviewed the permit pointing out areas of interest [to the Town]. Criteria for denial was brought up, fees to be charged, borders, liability and insurance requirements, jurisdiction and the issue of legal authority or not were discussed.

