



**TOWN OF SEWALL'S POINT**  
**TOWN COMMISSION MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 9, 2017**

[Verbatim details available at [www.sewallspoint.org](http://www.sewallspoint.org) by clicking the “audio” link for the meeting]

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Campo at 5:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Campo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mayor Campo led the Moment of Silence

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor James W. Campo, Vice-Mayor Paul Luger, Commissioner Vinny Barile, Commissioner Frank Fender, Commissioner Dan Morris (absent), Town Manager Pamela M. Walker and Town Clerk Lakisha Burch.

**ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

Town Manager Walker showed a video of Mayor Campo addressing the State of Florida’s Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriation Committee requesting funding for septic tank conversion. Mayor Campo stated that it was a pleasure representing the Town of Sewall’s Point.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Fender, seconded by Vice-Mayor Luger, to approve the agenda; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Campo, Vice-Mayor Luger, Commissioners Barile and Fender. Motion passed unanimously.**

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Commissioner Fender stated that he has drafted a position paper reflecting his views on septic system conversion to sewers. A copy of Commissioner Fender’s position is available from the Town Clerk’s office.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ANY TOPIC**

There were none.

**SEPTIC TO SEWER UPDATE**

**1. Status of Grants – Joe Capra, P.E.**

Joe Capra, Town Engineer, presented to the Commission a summary of all grants and legislative appropriation requests for water quality projects in Sewall’s Point, beginning with the stormwater

grant applications for the Mandalay-Marguerita project. Amy Adams, Grant Writer also addressed the Commission about the legislative appropriation process.

Town Manager Walker sought direction from the Commission about whether to execute the two grant agreements with SFWMD for Mandalay-Marguerita project. There was discussion with Amy Adams regarding the grant request process and timelines, including the time for signing grant agreements. Ms. Adams confirmed that most agreements require construction to commence within 180-days of execution. The Town Engineer indicated that the two grants currently offered are "stand-alone" projects that can go forward even if the state appropriation is not received, and that he recommends proceeding with the projects with or without the state appropriation.

There was discussion about flood control and stormwater management water quality projects generally. Town Manager Walker raised issues of matching grant costs and long-term capital improvement budgetary needs, indicating that the total Town match for the Mandalay-Marguerita project is approximately \$900,000. The consensus was to table the execution of the two pending grant agreements with the goal of signing them after the legislative session if possible.

Town Engineer Capra described the septic conversion investigation being undertaken and the requirement to apply for legislative grants quickly due to deadlines. He described areas in Town that are already connected to sanitary sewer and showed maps of "dry" gravity lines in areas of Town. He advised that the grants require a fifty percent match. He confirmed that the County will provide costs for converting to sewer in May at the soonest. Mayor Campo asked that the Town Engineer report on the funding alternatives offered by Martin County as grant matching funds for the grants. The Town Engineer described the special assessment process used by Martin County Utilities, as well as county departmental support for road repair, and the possibility of long-term financing.

Vice Mayor Luger requested legal research on the issue of mandatory connection requirements. Town Engineer Capra reported on the Health Department rules regarding mandatory connection requirements, and advised that the County staff's proposed financial plan for septic conversion programs requests mandatory connection, but he was unsure if the Commission had approved the mandatory component. Mr. Capra agreed with Mayor Campo that the mandatory connection issue is a variable to be decided by the Town, with the Mayor confirming his lack of support for a mandatory connection. Ms. Adams provided a copy of the state statute requiring mandatory connection within 365 days of notice that sewer is available. She indicated that waivers have been given in the past but that the State is not going to continue to allow waivers. Ms. Adams confirmed that the 365-day clock does not begin to run until the construction is complete and notice is given.

Ms. Adams described the legislative appropriation process and indicated that the Town Commission will likely be asked to prioritize its three legislative appropriation requests. Mayor Campo asked the Town Manager about lobbyists and Ms. Walker confirmed that the Town has not retained a lobbyist. Ms. Adams indicated that she and the Town Engineer are not lobbyists but that they will track the bills and keep the Town advised about the appropriation committee hearings where support would be helpful. She encouraged the Town Commission to consider prioritizing the three requests and to seek lunch meetings or other opportunities to meet with local legislators.

There was further discussion among the Commissioners.

**2. Direction to Staff for Education, Research & Communication Program**

Town Manager Walker requested direction from the Commission regarding actions to be taken by staff for communication and support of septic to sewer conversion efforts. Manager Walker presented power point slides summarizing the current position of the Commission, and received consensus that the Town's current efforts are to seek data to develop a business case to offer a potential service to interested residents who may choose to connect to sewer. There was discussion among the Commission confirming that the Town is in the evaluation stage now and not advocacy, and that this needed to be communicated to the public. There was discussion about retaining professional communication services, but the commission commended the communication presented by staff and directed that professional communication consultants not be retained at this time. Consensus was reached to support the staff recommendations to invite Dr. Brian Lapointe to present environmental issues to the Town Commission, and to invite Martin County Utilities to present financial issues to the Town Commission.

Amy Adams presented information about the negative environmental impacts of septic systems.

Direction was given to the Town Engineer to bring back a budget for the \$105,000 Capital Planning Budget line item.

Public comments were made by Kathy Miscoski and Mona Leonard.

**COMMISSIONERS OR STAFF COMMENTS**

Town Manager Walker addressed Ms. Leonard's concern stating that the meeting recordings are usually up by the next day following the meeting.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

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**Mayor James W. Campo, Presiding Officer**

**ATTEST:**

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**Lakisha Q. Burch, Town Clerk**