

INDIAN SHORES

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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES - JANUARY 10, 2017

The Indian Shores Town Council meeting convened at 5:01 P.M. Those present were: Mayor Soranno, Councilor Hackerson, Councilor Schear and Councilor Smith.

Also Present: Chief Hughes; Elaine Jackson, Town Clerk; Bonnie Dhonau, Town Administrator; Susan Scrogam, Director of Finance; Greg Yantorno, Building Official; Attorney Kardash; Don Vinel; Larry Schear; Wallace Weylie; John Caruso; Art Newsome; Marcie Smith; Michelle Tidwell; Patti Gentry; Tracy Bates; Janet and Mark McKee; Jim Ryan; Marshall Eiss and Thomas Jerichon.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A moment of silence was observed in honor of Mayor James Lawrence who passed away on December 26, 2016.

1.0 Consideration of approving Council Agenda for January 10, 2017.

Mayor Soranno welcomed newly appointed Council Member, **Mike Hackerson**.

Motion by **Councilor Schear** – seconded by **Councilor Smith**, to approve the Council Agenda for January 10, 2017. **Motion carried 4-0.**

2.0 Comments from the public on any Agenda item.

There were no comments.

James J. Lawrence
Mayor

Patrick C. Soranno
Vice Mayor

Michael (Mike) Petruccelli
Councilor

Diantha Schear
Councilor

William F. (Bill) Smith
Councilor

Bonnie Dhonau
Town Administrator

Terry E. Hughes
Chief of Police

Susan L. Scrogam
Director of Finance
and Personnel

Elaine N. Jackson, MMC
Town Clerk

Gregory Yantorno
Building Official

Regina Kardash, Esq.
Town Attorney

3.0 Consideration of approving the "CONSENT AGENDA" as follows:

A. MINUTES: Council Meeting Dec. 6, 2016

B. RE-OCCURRING EXPENSES: for December 2016

Motion by Councilor Smith – seconded by **Councilor Schear**, to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. **Motion carried 4-0.**

4.0 Approval of Committee expenditures: None

5.0 Correspondence: None

6.0 Town Attorney's Report

Attorney Kardash stated she would be reporting on upcoming items on the agenda.

7.0 PUBLIC HEARING: FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2017-01. An Ordinance of the Town of Indian Shores, Florida, imposing a moratorium on the operation of Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers and Dispensaries for fifteen months within the Town; Providing for severability; Providing for penalties; Providing for conflicts with other laws; Providing for an effective date.

Attorney Kardash conducted the first reading of Ordinance 2017-01, by title only. She stated the title has been amended as advertised, from twelve months to fifteen months.

Mayor Soranno called for comments from the public relative to Ordinance 2017-01, however there were none.

Councilor Smith stated this has been thoroughly discussed at the Planning, Zoning and Building Committee meeting and the extension was added to give the Council more time to comply with the State's criteria.

Motion by Councilor Smith – seconded by **Councilor Schear**, to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 2017-01, as published. **Motion carried 4-0.**

- 8.0** **PROCLAMATION: A Proclamation of the Town of Indian Shores, Florida, declaring the month of January 2017, as Mayor James J. Lawrence Memorial Month, in honor of our former Mayor's service to his country and community.**

Mayor Soranno read the Proclamation into the record and stated the Town has lost a good man.

- 9.0** **PROCLAMATION: A Proclamation of the Town of Indian Shores, Florida, designating the week of January 22-28, 2017, as Indian Shores School Choice Week.**

Councilor Schear stated "Pinellas County" should be inserted at the beginning of paragraph four, and the other Council members agreed.

- 10.0** **Consideration of electing a new Vice Mayor, effective until March 2018.**

Mayor Soranno stated when we lost Mayor Lawrence, he stepped into the role of Mayor, which left a vacancy in his Council seat. Before there was a nomination, he asked if any Council member is prepared to take on the role and responsibilities of Vice Mayor

Councilor Schear indicated she would be honored to accept the position.

Motion by **Councilor Smith** – seconded by **Councilor Hackerson** to nominate Council Schear for the position of Vice Mayor. **Motion carried 3-0.**

- 11.0** **Consideration of appointing an individual to fill the Council seat vacated by the previous Vice Mayor, which expires on March 28, 2017 (77 days).**

Mayor Soranno stated Mr. Petruccelli will come on board in March 2017, due to being unopposed in the election, along with Councilor Hackerson and he thought it was appropriate to appoint him so we have a full five-member Council again.

Councilor Smith stated qualifying has passed and it is too late for another candidate to qualify. He asked if the Council wanted to continue operating with only four members.

Attorney Kardash stated it is not mandatory to fill the position, but the decision is at the Council's discretion.

Mayor Soranno stated he felt it would be a good thing to appoint Mr. Petruccelli to fill the interim position and get the benefit of his counsel for the next few months.

Vice Mayor Schear stated she did not see the point of waiting.

Motion by Councilor Smith – seconded by **Vice Mayor Schear**, to appoint Mr. Michael Petruccelli to the vacant Council position.
Motion carried 4-0.

12.0 Consideration of recognizing Michelle Tidwell, Permit Technician/CRS Coordinator, for completion of her certification to become a Certified Flood Plain Manager.

Mayor Soranno and **Building Official Greg Yantorno** presented Michelle Tidwell with her certificate of completion.

Mayor Soranno stated the Town's Community Rating is presently at Class 6, which gives Indian Shores residents a 20% discount on flood insurance. Michelle's designation earns the Town another 25 points toward lowering our Classification to 5, which will result in a 25% discount.

Mr. Yantorno stated the exam is very difficult and Ms. Tidwell worked very hard to pass the test, and that he was very proud of her.

13.0 Consideration of approving a request from Sara Kraus for a Special Event Permit to conduct a wedding ceremony and reception on Saturday, October 21, 2017, from 4 PM to 10 PM, at Bungalow Beach Place, 19722 Gulf Blvd., Indian Shores, FL.

It was determined that the entire event would take place entirely on private property, insurance would be purchased for alcohol coverage and there will be 75 people in attendance.

Attorney Kardash stated if the event is on private property, there is no requirement for the Town to be added as additional insured.

Motion by Councilor Smith – seconded by **Vice Mayor Schear**, to approve the request from Sara Kraus for Special Event Permit to conduct a wedding ceremony and reception on Saturday, October 21, 2017, from 4 PM to 10 PM, at Bungalow Beach Place, 19722 Gulf Blvd., Indian Shores, FL. **Motion carried 4-0.**

14.0 Consideration of accepting letter of resignation from Mike Hackerson from Seat #3 on the Indian Shores Board of Adjustment, and as Alternate Citizen Member of the Administrative and Finance Committee.

It was pointed out that, since Mr. Hackerson has been appointed to the Council, he was required to resign from his other positions.

Motion by Councilor Smith – seconded by **Vice Mayor Schear**, to accept the resignation from Mike Hackerson from Seat #3 on the Indian Shores Board of Adjustment, and as Alternate Citizen Member of the Administrative and Finance Committee. **Motion carried 4-0.**

15.0 Consideration of appointing John J. Yackowski to Seat #3 on the Indian Shores Board of Adjustment, term effective immediately and expiring on October 28, 2017.

Motion by Councilor Smith – seconded by **Vice Mayor Schear**, to appoint John J. Yackowski to Seat #3 on the Indian Shores Board of Adjustment, term effective immediately and expiring on October 28, 2017. **Motion carried 4-0.**

16.0 Consideration of appointing John J. Caruso as Alternate Citizen Member of the Administrative and Finance Committee, effective immediately.

Motion by Vice Mayor Schear – seconded by **Councilor Smith**, to appoint John J. Caruso as Alternate Citizen Member of the Administrative and Finance Committee, effective immediately. **Motion carried 4-0.**

17.0 Consideration of accepting letter of resignation from Gene Thompson from Seat #5 on the Indian Shores Board of Adjustment.

Mayor Soranno stated Mr. Thompson is now living in another city, due to his condominium burning down.

Motion by **Councilor Smith** – seconded by **Vice Mayor Schear**, accepting letter of resignation from Gene Thompson from Seat #5 on the Indian Shores Board of Adjustment. **Motion carried 4-0.**

18.0 Consideration of appointing James R. Ryan to Seat #5 on the Indian Shores Board of Adjustment, term effective immediately and expiring on October 28, 2019.

Motion by **Councilor Smith** – seconded by **Vice Mayor Schear**, to appoint James R. Ryan to Seat #5 on the Indian Shores Board of Adjustment, term effective immediately and expiring on October 28, 2019. **Motion carried 4-0.**

19.0 Consideration of accepting a donation from Communications Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$5,000 for equipment improvement and maintenance for the Indian Shores Police Department.

Chief Hughes explained the donation comes from a very successful company, which installs 911 communication towers. The donation will be used to buy the extended warranties for the refurbished vehicles.

Motion by **Councilor Smith** – seconded by **Councilor Hackerson**, to accept the donation from Communications Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$5,000 for equipment improvement and maintenance for the Indian Shores Police Department. **Motion carried 4-0.**

20.0 Consideration of accepting donation toward a Memorial sign for the Nature Park Boardwalk, honoring Mayor James Lawrence, and recognition of PSFRD's plan to dedicate the new Station #26 in the Mayor's name.

Bonnie Dhonau, Town Administrator, explained that she was approached by Commissioner Cookie Kennedy, and informed that Forward Pinellas wanted to make a substantial donation in memory of Mayor Lawrence.

Ms. Dhonau stated there is a need for updating the old key-west style kiosk at the boardwalk in the Nature Park to coordinate with the new Town signs. This was just one idea brought forth and the Arts Council could discuss.

Councilor Smith commented the monument project might be a possibility also, since Mayor Lawrence had such a huge influence and deserves a significant memorial.

Mayor Soranno reported that Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue District (PSFRD) will also dedicate new Station #26 in the Mayor's name.

Motion by Vice Mayor Schear – seconded by **Councilor Smith**, to accept the donation from Forward Pinellas toward a memorial for Mayor Lawrence and seek recommendation from the Arts Council relative to the type of memorial project to be created. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Mayor Soranno requested that the letter from Forward Pinellas be included as correspondence at the next regular Council meeting.

21.0 Consideration of approval to purchase three refurbished vehicles for the Police Department, at a total cost of \$32,425.

Chief Hughes explained more than \$37,000 had been allocated in the Capital Improvement budget to purchase a new vehicle for the police department. However, the fleet is getting old and he has been evaluating other alternatives to purchasing brand new. For less than the cost of a new vehicle, the department can purchase three refurbished vehicles, with life expectancy of 4 years and a savings of \$4,000. A donation of \$5,000 that was given to the department will be used to partially purchase extended warranties. The F-150 purchased will be used as a patrol vehicle, as often there are objects in the road that need to be hauled away.

Motion by Councilor Smith – seconded by **Vice Mayor Schear**, to approve the purchase of three refurbished vehicles for the Police Department, at a total cost of \$32,425. **Motion carried 4-0.**

22.0 Consideration of a request from Susann Demple to conduct a 35-minute cool-down class for Zumba, on Saturdays from 10:40 – 11:15 A.M.

Elaine Jackson, Town Clerk, explained that the instructors would be team teaching this class, and Ms. Demple will be instructing the last half of the class.

Motion by **Councilor Smith** – seconded by **Vice Mayor Schear**, to approve the request from Susann Demple to conduct a 35-minute cool-down class for Zumba, on Saturdays from 10:40 – 11:15 A.M. **Motion carried 4-0.**

23.0 Report from the Building Official for December 2016.

Greg Yantorno, Building Official, reported 116 inspections done in December 2016, along with 64 permits issued, with contract valuations of \$1 million and permit fees totaling \$13,000. He stated the code enforcement log for December will be updated for the February meeting.

24.0 Report from the Town Administrator.

Bonnie Dhonau, Town Administrator, reported on the following:

- (1) Foundations are being poured for the new signs and the frames should be out of the ground soon.
- (2) Both the AED and the boardwalk piling inspections were eligible for 50% reimbursement under the TIPS Grant. She suggested a photo op with the Mayor receiving the check in the amount of \$2,099.50.
- (3) The new landscaping and sod have been installed in the front of the Municipal Building.
- (4) Town has received the beach easements from the County and the Gulf Blvd. teams will be dividing them up to work on obtaining signatures before the deadline.
- (5) LED street lights are completed and there is more visibility.
- (6) Public Services is now fully staffed, with the return of Willis Knight.
- (7) All Town staff made a huge effort for the memorial service.

The citizens in attendance gave the staff a standing ovation.

25.0 Consideration of approving Financial Statement for period ending November 30, 2016.

Susan Scrogam, Finance Director, pointed out of the actual revenues for the General Fund of \$663,511, \$364,716 was Ad Valorem Tax thru the month of November, which is about 24.8% and more Ad Valorem will be received through the end of April. In the Capital Improvement Revenue, of the \$813,072, \$801,674 is the reimbursement for the Undergrounding project.

Ms. Scrogam stated we are looking to make some changes to the Finance Report and is open to any suggestions and recommendations from Council on how to make it more informative.

Mayor Soranno stated the report is pretty self-explanatory and that Ms. Scrogam should just highlight the changes. The major change is the \$800,000 we received from the County as the Penny for Pinellas, and we have one more installment of \$800,000 coming in the future.

It was noted that the Penny for Pinellas is coming up for referendum on November 7, 2017, to hopefully continue the appropriations from 2020 through 2030.

Councilor Smith stated the citizens will have to pass the Referendum, and then the County Commission will have to vote if there is going to be additional funding provided, which the Big-C has proposed is estimated at \$45 million, with more freedom on what projects can be done.

Mayor Soranno stated the Town of Indian Shores will receive \$5.154 million of that \$45 million.

Motion by Councilor Smith – seconded by **Vice Mayor Schear**, to approve the Financial Statement for period ending November 30, 2016. **Motion carried 4-0.**

26.0 Consideration of approving the Police Activity Report covering December 2016.

Chief Hughes reported the car burglars are getting more sophisticated, using socks to open doors and leaving no fingerprints. Also, they are staying in the car and trying doors as they drive by. The troops are doing more traffic enforcement than issuing warning.

Motion by Councilor Smith – seconded by **Vice Mayor Schear**, to approve the Police Activity Report covering December 2016.
Motion carried 4-0.

27.0 Citizens' Comments on any subject.

Larry Schear, Fire Commissioner, stated he and Chief D'Angelo both agreed that the new Station #26 should be named in honor of Mayor Lawrence, and they are still looking for an alternative location, since the temporary quarters are very cramped.

Art Newsome announced ISPOA Happy Hour will take place on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 5:30 P.M. at Mi Casa in Redington Shores.

Bonnie Dhonau requested volunteers for the St. Patrick's Day Festival sign waivers at the meeting.

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

Councilor Hackerson stated it was great to be aboard.

Councilor Smith congratulated Councilor Hackerson for being appointed to Council, and Vice Mayor Schear for being elected Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Schear thanked Council for their vote of confidence.

Vice Mayor Schear reported the Boat Parade Viewing Party went well, with 75-100 people in attendance. She thanked Chief Hughes for providing the music and Chris Stansel for helping with set up and the children's activities. The Salt Rock Grill provided soup. She also thanked Larry Schear for all his help.

Vice Mayor Schear announced there will be a Read and Feed at 6 P.M. on Tuesday, January 31, 2017, featuring the book "The Caves of Steel."

Vice Mayor Schear also announced the Library Volunteer Appreciation dinner will take place on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at the Salt Rock Grill.

Mayor Soranno congratulated Vice Mayor Schear and Councilor Hackerson.

Mayor Soranno thanked the volunteers who worked hard to make the memorial a success. He stated Jim Lawrence was a fixture in Town, and he would do his best to fill his shoes.

The Town Council meeting adjourned at 6:10 P.M.



ELAINE JACKSON, MMC
Town Clerk