



Islamorada, Village of Islands

REGULAR VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

December 10, 2024 - 5:30 PM
Founders Park Community Center
87000 Overseas Highway
Islamorada, FL 33036

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mayor Sharon Mahoney called the meeting to order at 05:32 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Sharon Mahoney, Vice Mayor Don Horton, Council Member Steve Friedman, Council Member Deb Gillis, Council Member Joseph B. Pinder III

ABSENT:

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Rev. Bruce Haven led the Pledge of Allegiance and Rev. Tony Hammon began the meeting with a prayer.

III. AGENDA: Requests for Deletion / Emergency Additions

Council Member Deb Gillis added a discussion item about sewers.

Interim Village Attorney John Quick added the announcement of an executive session during Village Manager/Village Attorney Communications.

Mayor Sharon Mahoney thanked Chamber of Commerce Director Judy Hull for a phenomenal job on the Winter Festival and announced that the Fire Department was collecting unwrapped gifts at the Fire Stations. She further noted that gifts would also be accepted during parade on Sunday, December 15.

Mayor Mahoney then introduced State Rep. Lauren Melo and June Smith. Rep. Melo noted she had requested appropriations of \$300,000 each for four Keys communities and that, according to the Governor's office the Islamorada appropriation was vetoed at the local level. She indicated that she would run the appropriation again in 2025.

The Council expressed concern that there was unanimous support by the Council and that their directive was vetoed locally.

June Smith, who lost her daughter in a Keys boating accident, noted that they called 911, but it was outside business hours and no emergency services were available until they got to land. Ms. Smith noted it scared her in a boating community such as Islamorada there's no one on the water to help in a similar situation.

IV. REPORTS, PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A.** Freebee Update from Richard Clark, Monroe County Transit Director
Monroe County Transit Director Richard Clark noted that Monroe County was running an on-demand ride service, similar to Islamorada's. He indicated that the BOCC wanted him to work directly with the Village Manager and then seek approval at the Council level. There will be a formal vote at BOCC, then to the Village for approval of agreement. Mr. Clark noted the County was looking at an Islamorada, Marathon and Key West walk-on ferry as well as expanding bus routes.

The Council unanimously agreed to move forward.

- B.** Request for Guidance on Village Council Mediation Participants (for both Gregg and Barley Mediations) **TAB 1**
Interim Village Attorney John Quick asked for an executive session for the Yates case on either January 7 or 9.

It was noted that a collective bargaining session had already been scheduled at 3:30pm on January 7.

Mr. Quick stated that upcoming meditations for the Gregg land use case and the Barley case required an elected official to participate. It was noted that they wouldn't be able to make any decisions in a mediation due to sunshine laws.

Mr. Quick noted that one Council Member should attend each mediation with the Village Manager.

Council Member Pinder agreed to participate in the Gregg mediation and Vice Mayor Horton indicated he would serve for the Barley mediation.

V. CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS & APPOINTMENTS

- A.** Land Acquisition Advisory Committee Report by Chair Greg Dully **TAB 2**
Chair Greg Dully reported on the activities of the Land Acquisition Advisory Committee and read a letter of support from the Committee for the Land Acquisition Action Plan. Mr. Dully further stated a list of potential names for the recently acquired Glynn property. Of the names for consideration, Council preferred either Glynn Family Preserve or Glynn preserve.

Interim Village Attorney John Quick noted that per the agreement the naming must include "Glynn Family."

ACTION: Motion to Approve the naming of the "Glynn Family Preserve" item V.A. by Don Horton second by Deb Gillis;
Motion Passed with a 5:0 vote

AYES: Sharon Mahoney, Joseph B. Pinder III, Don Horton, Steve Friedman, Deb Gillis

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

B. Discussion of Committee Appointments TAB 3

Village Clerk Marne McGrath introduced the discussion, noting that in 2023 the ordinance pertaining to committee appointments was changed. There was a need to stagger the terms, and it was suggested that all appointments be considered at the May meeting, which corresponds with the timing for LPA appointments. Clerk McGrath also noted that each committee should have a Council Liaison. The Council asked for a listing of all committees with vacancies.

Appointments of Council Members to external organizations were made.

Mayor Sharon Mahoney was appointed to the Florida Keys Transportation Coordinating Committee.

Council Member Steve Friedman was appointed to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program.

Vice Mayor Don Horton was appointed to the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives.

ACTION: Motion to Approve Council Liaison Appointments as stated item V.B. by Joseph B. Pinder III second by Steve Friedman;
Motion Passed with a 5:0 vote

AYES: Sharon Mahoney, Joseph B. Pinder III, Don Horton, Steve Friedman, Deb Gillis

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

VI. MAYOR / COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Sharon Mahoney asked staff to provide information about the regulation of food trucks. Interim Village Attorney John Quick indicated that there are some state regulations, but that overall they were treated the same as restaurants.

Council Member Deb Gillis noted the recent sewer line breaks and asked to sit in on any meetings concerning wastewater negotiations. Village Manager Rob Cole stated that they had tried to focus in on a smallest number of people involved to keep it on pace and that engineers were working on the problem. He further noted that he would check on the situation with DPW Director A.J. Engelmeyer and report back to the Council. He noted if the Council felt we weren't making progress, we could revisit the idea.

VII. VILLAGE ATTORNEY / VILLAGE MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

(This is general public comment. It provides an opportunity for the public to speak about matters not scheduled elsewhere on the agenda. The mayor opens public comment on agenda items throughout the meeting.)

Mayor Sharon Mahoney opened public comment.

Speakers included:

Ty Harris
Van Cadenhead
Roland Moore
Rev. Bruce Haven
Taimary Ruiz, Taco Jalisco
Joe Wischmeier
Alina Davis
Tom Raffanello, President of Islamorada Community Alliance

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Mahoney closed public comment.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Sharon Mahoney opened public comment.

Speakers included:
Joe Wischmeier

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Mahoney closed public comment.

ACTION: Motion to Approve item IX. by Deb Gillis second by Joseph B. Pinder III;
Motion Passed with a 5:0 vote
AYES: Sharon Mahoney, Joseph B. Pinder III, Don Horton, Steve Friedman, Deb Gillis
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

A. Approval of November 19, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes **TAB 4**
(Marne McGrath, Village Clerk)

B. Resolution Renewing an Agreement with RES Florida Consulting, LLC, for Continued Water Quality and Benthic Vegetation Monitoring in Village Canals **TAB 5** (Peter Frezza, Environmental Resources Manager)

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, APPROVING A RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS AND RES FLORIDA CONSULTING, LLC FOR WATER QUALITY AND BENTHIC VEGETATION MONITORING IN VILLAGE CANALS; AUTHORIZING VILLAGE OFFICIALS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE AGREEMENT; AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE RENEWAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

C. Resolution the Final Rankings and Recommendations of the RFP 24-17 Evaluation Committee for Selection of a Contractor for the

Pickleball Courts and Basketball Court Resurfacing Project **TAB 6**
(Maria Bagiotti, Founders Park Director)

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE FINAL RANKINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RFP 24-17 EVALUATION COMMITTEE FOR SELECTION OF A CONTRACTOR FOR THE PICKLEBALL COURTS AND BASKETBALL COURT RESURFACING PROJECT; AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER AND VILLAGE ATTORNEY TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT FOR THE REQUESTED SERVICES; AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT; AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

- D. Resolution Approving Lifescan, Inc., Expenditure Greater than \$25,000.00 **TAB 7** (Terry Abel, Fire Chief)

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, APPROVING FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 PURCHASE FROM LIFE SCAN WELLNESS CENTERS, TO PROVIDE ANNUAL PHYSICALS FOR TO THE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT; AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING A WAIVER OF COMPETITIVE BIDDING; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

- E. Resolution Approving Purchase of New Radios **TAB 8** (Terry Abel, Fire Chief)

RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE OF SIX (6) MOTOROLA APX RADIOS UTILIZING STATE OF FLORIDA STATE BID PRICING FOR FIRE RESCUE SERVICES

X. **RESOLUTIONS**

- A. Resolution Approving and Adoption of the Village's Land Acquisition Action Plan **TAB 9** (Peter Frezza, Environmental Resources Manager)

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE VILLAGE'S LAND ACQUISITION ACTION PLAN; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Pete Frezza noted the Village's Comp Plan required a Land Acquisition Action Plan, and one was developed in conjunction with the Land Acquisition Advisory Committee and consultant Rebecca Jetton. The Monroe County Land Authority has our list to keep an eye on whether any of our desired properties come up for sale. It was noted that the Action Plan included a list of properties to add to the Florida Forever program.

Council expressed concerns about potential new taxes as a result of adopting the plan.

ACTION: Motion to Approve with addition of language in 5th whereas section to include village stakeholders item X.A. by Don Horton second by Deb Gillis;

Motion Passed with a 5:0 vote

AYES: Sharon Mahoney, Joseph B. Pinder III, Don Horton, Steve Friedman, Deb Gillis

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

- B.** Resolution Considering Guidance to Monroe County Board of County Commissioners Regarding any Future BPAS Allocations **TAB 10**
(Jennifer DeBoisbriand , Planning Director)

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, PROVIDING A RECOMMENDATION TO THE MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGARDING THE NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMIT ALLOCATIONS THE VILLAGE WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE IN POTENTIAL FUTURE ALLOCATIONS; REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 24-10-122; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL OF THIS RESOLUTION TO CERTAIN PEOPLE WITH THE COUNTY

Planning Director Jennifer DeBoisbriand noted that if the Council wishes to make a different recommendation than the 104.75 allocations voted by the previous council, it must be done tonight as the County needed the Village's recommendation by December 11, 2024.

Mayor Sharon Mahoney opened public comment.

Speakers included:

Van Cadenhead

Rick Barrato, on behalf of Tavernier Community Coalition and Florida Keys ROGO Coalition

Capt. Ed Davidson, on behalf of Florida Keys Citizens Coalition

Tom Raffanello

Joe Wischmeier

Joan Follmer

Sue Miller, on behalf of Islamorada Community Alliance

Harold Dalton

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Mahoney closed public comment.

Vice Mayor Don Horton expressed concerns about taxes, property rights, and takings and recommended asking for additional permits.

Council Member Steve Freidman expressed concerns about overdevelopment

and the environment, and noted his displeasure at the effort to overthrow the past council's decision. He contended that 104.75 permits was enough and rejected this attempt to more than double that amount.

Council Member Deb Gillis said for her, it was about protecting our resources and our residents from unforeseen taxes due to takings claims. She thought the Village should request more permits, but was flexible on the number being 250.

Council Member Joseph B. Pinder III said he favored smart growth and that the Village should ask for, and accept, up to 250 additional permits.

Mayor Sharon Mahoney noted she had spoken to some connections in Tallahassee. She was told there were only 220 permits being granted to the entire County and there wouldn't be more without a plan for them.

Planning Director Jennifer DeBoisbriand noted the County took the lead and at their commission meeting this month, and they would figure our request into their request to the state.

Council Member Joseph B. Pinder III asked Planning Director Jennifer DeBoisbriand for her recommendation. She noted that if the Council couldn't decide, then we could go with the 104.75 the previous council approved, but noted her professional recommendation is 250.

After robust discussion, the Council decided that 200 permits would be sufficient. Planning Director DeBoisbriand noted the Council should take the .75 of a permit into consideration and requested they move to request 199.25.

ACTION: Motion to Approve the request for an additional 199.25 BPAS permits item X.B. by Don Horton second by Deb Gillis;
Motion Passed with a 3:2 vote
AYES: Joseph B. Pinder III, Don Horton, Deb Gillis
NAYS: Sharon Mahoney, Steve Friedman
ABSTAIN: None

XI. MOTIONS

- A.** Approval of 2025 Regular and Land Use Council Meetings Calendar **TAB 11** (Marne McGrath, Village Clerk)

Approve the 2025 Council Meeting Calendar

Council requested additional time to decide on some alternate dates and moved the item to be considered first thing at the Thursday, December 12 meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Don Horton moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.