



Islamorada, Village of Islands

REGULAR VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

April 8, 2025 - 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 5:30 pm

PRESENT: Mayor Sharon Mahoney, Vice Mayor Don Horton, Council Member Steve Friedman, Council Member Deb Gillis, Council Member Anna Richards

ABSENT:

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MCSO Captain Lissette Quintero led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. AGENDA: Requests for Deletion / Emergency Additions

Council Member Anna Richards added a discussion on Committees to Mayor/Council Communications.

Vice Mayor Don Horton moved Tab 5 to the Resolutions section to discuss and removed Tab 6 from the agenda.

IV. REPORTS, PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Village Manager Finalists **TAB 1**

Human Resources Director Jamie Terry introduced the Village Manager candidates, noting Mark Sohaney had withdrawn his candidacy.

The candidates briefly spoke about their qualifications:

Jennifer DeBoisbriand
Theodore Munchmeyer
Ron Saunders

B. Presentation on Monroe County's 'Less Than Fee Program' - Cynthia Guerra - Executive Director of the Monroe County Land Authority **TAB 2**

Cynthia Guerra, Executive Director of the Monroe County Land Authority, shared information on the Less Than Fee program, one of the tools the County has deployed to purchase properties to effect the retirement of development rights for

those properties. Ms. Guerra noted the County Attorney's office created the program, not the Land Authority.

C. Presentation on Proposed New Special Assessment for Canal 147 Residents, Lower Matecumbe Key **TAB 3**

Environmental Resources Manager Pete Frezza noted that the canal restoration has been going smoothly. He said that the Village needs to establish an assessment to pay for the air curtain and timelines to get it on the 2026 tax roll. If the Council wants to move forward, he will bring forth a resolution for the May 6, 2025, Council meeting. Grant funds will cover everything except the air curtain electrical costs and maintenance.

The final resolution establishing the assessment will be in June after sending and publishing a notice by May 20. Mr. Frezza noted that the estimated cost over 5 years would be approximately \$1,163 for each of the eighteen parcels.

Council directed Mr. Frezza to bring back a resolution for the assessment at the May 6 meeting.

D. Proclamation of April 2025 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month - MCSO

Capt. Lisette Quintero

Mayor Sharon Mahoney read the proclamation recognizing April 2025 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. MCSO Capt. Quintero shared information and thanked the Council for approving the proclamation.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

This is general public comment. It provides an opportunity for the public to speak about matters that are pertinent to the Village but 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:

Van Cadenhead

Joe Wischmeier

Pam Martin

Fire Chief Terry Abel

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

VI. MAYOR / COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Discussion of Committee Appointments (Council Member Anna Richards) - ADDED DURING THE MEETING

Council Member Anna Richards noted the requirement for staggered terms on all committees and asked what the process would be for the May 6 appointments.

It was noted that only the LPA had staggered terms thus far and the other committees need to fulfill that requirement as well.

Village Clerk Marne McGrath indicated that all current committed members had been contacted to gauge their interest in continuing to serve. She noted that she would forward all current committee member applications to Council for their

perusal.

Interim Village Attorney John Quick offered to craft an ordinance establishing a uniform appointment date for the May Council Meeting.

B. Lobby Firm RFP FY 25-26 (Vice Mayor Don Horton)

Vice Mayor Don Horton suggested creating an RFP for lobbyist services, noting the Village had an annual contract renewal and always used the same lobbying firms.

Discussion included the consideration of adding a local lobbyist.

C. Marina Enterprise Fund

Renovation of Boat Ramp for Fishing Guide Use (Mayor Sharon Mahoney)

Mayor Sharon Mahoney requested information on creating a second ramp at the Plantation Yacht Harbor for use by local fishing guides.

Acting Village Manager Denoncourt noted that Environmental Resources Director Pete Frezza had created a presentation on this topic the last time Council discussed it.

Council directed staff to explore the feasibility of installing the ramp with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Interim Village Attorney John Quick noted this was a good topic to have our lobbyists work on. He further noted that if guides are required to be licensed, that may be the best way to ascertain whether they qualify as a local guide.

D. Consideration to name the dog park for Mike Forester (Mayor Sharon Mahoney) - ADDED DURING THE MEETING

Mayor Sharon Mahoney noted that the previous Council discussed naming the dog park for former Mayor and County Commissioner Mike Forster. She asked this Council to reconsider naming it after Mr. Forester.

Discussion ensued regarding establishing a survey for the public to vote on a name.

Acting Village Manager/Chief Building Official Sheila Denoncourt noted staff could bring back a resolution for Council's consideration and public comment.

VII. VILLAGE MANAGER/VILLAGE ATTORNEY COMMUNICATIONS

A. Starcks Wheel Ditch Update (Village Attorney) TAB 4

Interim Village Attorney John Quick noted that Starcks Wheel Ditch was within the Village's jurisdiction. He noted the most likely thing we can do is establish a low-speed zone. He clarified that there were high standards for no wake or kayak only zones, and the first step should be a slow-speed minimum wake zone if Council was interested in moving forward.

Mr. Quick noted staff would prepare a draft ordinance for Council's consideration.

B. Discussion of Barley Appeal (Council Member Steve Friedman) - ADDED DURING THE MEETING

Council Member Steve Freidman inquired as to whether the Village was filing an appeal in this case.

Interim Village Attorney John Quick recommended appealing as the court ruling isn't clearly defined. It was noted the newspaper said the litigant was planning to appeal, and the judge didn't rule in favor of either party.

Mr. Quick indicated the standards are inconsistent, and therefore, it was difficult to meet the order. He noted that if Council wanted to proceed, it should do so today, as it must be filed within 30 days and there was legal work on the brief that must be done.

The consensus of Council was to move forward; Council Member Friedman dissented.

Mr Quick noted that a formal resolution was not necessary with a consensus. He noted that although the Village did not initiate this case, we were required to defend it. He indicated the Village was required to take a position and that, on appeal, we would argue that the Court didn't follow the proper standards of the law. Therefore, the Village was seeking to overturn the condition.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

Interim Village Attorney John Quick noted that the Consent Agenda consisted of Tabs 7, 8, and 9. He indicated that Tab 6 was removed from the agenda, and Tab 5 was previously moved to resolutions at the beginning of the meeting.

Mayor Sharon Mahoney opened public comment.

Speakers included:
Van Cadenhead on Tab 7

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

ACTION: Motion to Approve item VIII. by Don Horton second by Deb Gillis;
Motion Passed with a 5:0 vote

AYES: Sharon Mahoney, Don Horton, Steve Friedman, Deb Gillis, Anna Richards

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

- A.** Resolution Approving a Change Order to the Construction Agreement with Native Construction for the Green Turtle Hammock Preserve Pavilion Project **TAB 6 - REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA AT THE MEETING** (Peter Frezza, Environmental Resources Manager)

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS AND NATIVE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTING, INC. RELATED TO THE GREEN TURTLE HAMMOCK PRESERVE PAVILION PROJECT; AUTHORIZING

THE VILLAGE OFFICIALS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 1; AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA

- B.** Resolution Approving a Refund to Cheeca Lodge for the Overcharge of Wastewater Flow from 2021-2024 **TAB 7** (A.J. Engelmeyer, Public Works Director, Lisa Lynch, Finance Director)

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA; APPROVING THE REFUND OF OVERCHARGED WASTEWATER FLOW CHARGES FOR CHEECA LODGE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

- C.** Approving & Ratifying FY 24-25 Purchases from Ferguson Waterworks for Wastewater Department **TAB 8** A.J. Engelmeyer, Public Works Director

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, RATIFYING PURCHASES FROM FERGUSON WATERWORKS FROM THE BEGINNING OF FY 2024-2025 THROUGH APRIL 2025; AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL PURCHASES THROUGH THE END OF FY 2024-2025; AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; APPROVING A WAIVER OF COMPETITIVE BIDDING; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

- D.** Resolution Ratifying a Proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Village and IAFF Local 4374 **TAB 9** Jamie Terry, Human Resources Director

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, RATIFYING THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS AND THE ISLAMORADA PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 4374; AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE VILLAGE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

IX. **END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

X. RESOLUTIONS

- A.** Approve Minutes of the March 18, 2025, Regular Village Council Meeting **TAB 5**

Vice Mayor Don Horton asked Council Member Steve Friedman to clarify possible inconsistencies in the March 18 minutes.

He asked if the term 'finalist' should be changed to 'applicant.' Council Member Friedman indicated he didn't see the need to change the minutes. Vice Mayor Horton referenced Page 4 of the minutes, where it was stated that Council agreed to in-person interviews with Florida applicants. Council Member Friedman did clarify that he disagreed with the process. Vice Mayor Horton asked the minutes be amended to reflect Council Member Friedman's position.

ACTION: Motion to Approve - amend last sentence on Page 4 to state the SF disagreed with the process item X.A. by Don Horton second by Anna Richards;

Motion Passed with a 5:0 vote

AYES: Sharon Mahoney, Don Horton, Steve Friedman, Deb Gillis, Anna Richards

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

- B.** Resolution Repealing Resolution No. 25-02-13 and Approving LPS Contracting to Complete the Lower Matecumbe Culverts Canal Restoration Project **TAB 10** (Peter Frezza, Environmental Resources Manager)

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 25-02-13 AND APPROVING THE SECOND RANKED FIRM OF THE RFP 24-19 EVALUATION COMMITTEE FOR SELECTION OF A CONTRACTOR FOR THE LOWER MATECUMBE CANALS CULVERT RESTORATION PROJECT; AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER AND VILLAGE ATTORNEY TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT(S) FOR THE PROJECT; AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT(S); AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Environmental Resources Manager Pete Frezza introduced the request, noting that Resolution 25-02-13 approved Adventure Environmental's bid to complete the Lower Matecumbe Culverts Canal Project. He indicated that during the contract negotiations, it came to staff's attention that Adventure was unable to do the work for the amount they bid. He noted that the situation required the Village to reject their bid and move on to the second ranked firm.

Mr. Frezza noted the Village would move into contract negotiations after a resolution was considered at a future meeting. He indicated that LPS Contracting was highly qualified for this particular project.

ACTION: Motion to Approve item X.B. by Deb Gillis second by Don Horton; Motion Passed with a 5:0 vote

AYES: Sharon Mahoney, Don Horton, Steve Friedman, Deb Gillis, Anna Richards

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

- C. Resolution Repealing Charitable Giving Policy **TAB 11** (John Quick, Interim Village Attorney)

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, REPEALING THE CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION POLICY ADOPTED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL IN RESOLUTIONS 04-06-29, 05-04-15, 06-05-35, AND 23-02-13, ET AL.; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Mayor Sharon Mahoney opened public comment.

Speakers included:
Van Cadenhead

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

ACTION: Motion to Approve item X.C. by Don Horton second by Anna Richards;
Motion Passed with a 4:1 vote
AYES: Sharon Mahoney, Don Horton, Steve Friedman, Anna Richards
NAYS: Deb Gillis
ABSTAIN: None

XI. ORDINANCES

- A. Ordinance Relating to Animals and Animal Owners **Second Reading TAB 12** (John Quick, Interim Village Attorney)

AN ORDINANCE OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, CREATING CHAPTER 4, "ANIMALS," OF THE VILLAGE CODE TO ADOPT REGULATIONS RELATING TO ANIMALS AND ANIMAL OWNERS; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL CODE PROVISIONS AND ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT WITH THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Interim Village Attorney John Quick noted that Monroe County was amenable to the chicken carve out requested at the last meeting.

Mayor Sharon Mahoney opened public comment.

Speakers included:
Van Cadenhead

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

ACTION: Motion to Approve item XI.A. by Don Horton second by Anna Richards;
Motion Passed with a 5:0 vote

AYES: Sharon Mahoney, Don Horton, Steve Friedman, Deb Gillis, Anna Richards

NAYS: None

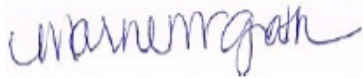
ABSTAIN: None

XII. AFTER ACTION REPORT

A. After Action Report

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Don Horton moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.



Marne McGrath
Village Clerk