



Town Commission Meeting
Tuesday March 26th, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

IN ATTENDANCE

TOWN COMMISSION	TOWN STAFF
John Deese, Mayor	Linda Stumpf, Town Manager
Simone Bonutti, Vice Mayor	Eric Marmer, Ass't. Town Manager
Elliot Bonner, Mayor Pro Tem	Carmen Mattox, Chief of Police
Orla Imbesi, Commissioner	Erika Petersen, Town Clerk
David Knobel, Commissioner	Keith Davis, Town Attorney
Dwight Kulwin, Commissioner	Trey Nazzaro, Ass't. Town Attorney
Cindy McMackin, Commissioner	Brent Watson, Water Plant Superintendent

PUBLIC: Kim Jones, Hugh Bruder, Jennifer Adams, Peter Bonutti (1680 SOB), Lisa Tropepe, Charles Coyle, Tara Cardosa, Geraldine Jaramillo, and Anne Geggis (Coastal Star)

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Town Commission meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

AGENDA ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR SUBSTITUTIONS

Mayor Deese announced Senator Bobby Powell’s legislative update was postponed as he did not make it to the meeting.

REORGANIZATION

The following commissioners were elected by virtue of no opposition: Orla Imbesi #2, Dwight Kulwin Seat #4, Elliot Bonner Seat #6. The following commissioners were appointed by virtue of no opposition: Cindy McMackin, Seat #1 and John Deese #7 (Mayor). Town Clerk Petersen swore them in.

Mayor Deese recommended that Simone Bonutti be appointed Vice Mayor and Elliot Bonner be appointed Mayor Pro Tem.

Mayor Deese introduced **Resolution 02-2024**.

Commissioner Knobel made a motion to **approve Res. 02-2024** naming Simone Bonutti as Vice Mayor and Elliot Bonner as Mayor Pro Tem. Commissioner Kulwin seconded the motion which prevailed by the following vote:

YES: Vice Mayor Bonutti, Mayor Pro Tem Bonner, Commissioner Imbesi, Commissioner Knobel, Commissioner Kulwin, and Commissioner McMackin

Mayor Deese **recommended** the following appointments to the Architectural Commission:

Architectural Commission:

- Seat 1- Stewart Satter (**Appoint**)
- Seat 2- Kristin Rosen (**No Change**)
- Seat 3- Hank Siemon (**No Change**)
- Seat 4- Ken Ray (**No Change**)
- Seat 5- Niki Peterson (**Appoint**)
- Alt. #1- Russel Bernard (**Re-Appoint**)
- Alt. #2- Steven Locante (**Appoint**)

Mayor Deese **recommended** the following appointments to the Building Board of Adjustments & Appeals:

Building Board of Adjustments and Appeals

- Seat 1- Vacant
- Seat 2- Gregory Bonner (**No Change**)
- Seat 3-Thomas Biggs (**Re-Appoint**)
- Seat 4- Vacant
- Seat 5- Stuart Lepera (**Re-Appoint**)

Vice Mayor Bonutti made a motion to **approve** the recommendations to the Architectural Commission. Commissioner Knobel seconded the motion which prevailed by the following vote:

YES: Vice Mayor Bonutti, Mayor Pro Tem Bonner, Commissioner Imbesi, Commissioner Knobel, Commissioner Kulwin, and Commissioner McMackin

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Minutes February 28th, 2024 Town Commission Meeting**
- 2. Police Department Report and Fire/Rescue Response Time Report for February**
- 3. Amendment to the Procurement & Purchasing Policy Setting New Thresholds**
- 4. RES 03-2024 Declaration of Opposition to Form 6**

Vice Mayor Bonutti made a motion to **approve** the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Imbesi seconded the motion which prevailed by the following vote:

YES: Vice Mayor Bonutti, Mayor Pro Tem Bonner, Commissioner Imbesi, Commissioner Knobel, Commissioner Kulwin, and Commissioner McMackin

REGULAR AGENDA

RA. 1 Discussion Regarding Fire Rescue Services

Town Manager Stumpf addressed the Commissioners and gave an overview of the process leading up to the two Fire Rescue contracts before them for discussion and review. She explained that Palm Beach County Fire provided as part of their contract credits for utilities which would come out to roughly \$25,000 annually that would be reimbursed.

Chief Hugh Bruder from Boynton Beach Fire Rescue made public comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Bonner made a motion to **approve** the Fire Rescue Contract with Palm Beach County Fire Rescue. Commissioner Kulwin seconded the motion which prevailed by the following vote:

YES: Vice Mayor Bonutti, Mayor Pro Tem Bonner, Commissioner Imbesi, Commissioner Knobel, Commissioner Kulwin, and Commissioner McMackin

RA. 2 Vice Mayor Bonutti's Request to Discuss Several Beach Issues

Town Manager Stumpf explained that Dr. Peter Bonutti, 1680 S. Ocean Blvd, had a short PowerPoint presentation to make under public comments for this agenda item.

Dr. Peter Bonutti discussed various issues regarding beach erosion, the sand transfer plant, mechanical beach raking and the disruption of sea turtle nests along the Town's beaches.

Mayor Deese commented that he knew Town staff had been researching some of the issues. Town Manager Stumpf explained that there was no longer a permit that dictated how much sand could be pumped out through the Plant as Dr. Bonutti had stated. She went on to say that there is no longer an agreement between Palm Beach County (the sand transfer plant owners) and the Town of Manalapan. Commissioner Kulwin asked for an explanation of the sand transfer plant. Town Manager Stumpf responded that the sand travels north to south and causes a build-up of sand at the inlet. The sand transfer plant pumps the sand to keep the inlet clear for boat traffic. She also told the Commissioners that the Town had reached out to DEP and was provided some information on landscaping that could protect dunes against beach erosion. Chief Mattox discussed ways to keep trespassers off of private beaches. Assistant Town Manager Marmer explained that DEP had advised that mechanical beach raking does not cause erosion. Vice Mayor Bonutti asked if there were any companies that could do a beach vulnerability study. Town Manager Stumpf responded that since it is on private property, it would be difficult to use public funds for that type of a study. Commissioner McMackin asked if there was ever the consideration for the sand taken at the sand transfer plant to go back to the Manalapan beach. Assistant Town Manager Marmer responded that the sand flowing north to south would cause a sandbar to develop which is the reason why the sand transfer pump exists at that location.

Mayor Deese invited members of the public to comment.

Dr. Peter Bonutti announced he wanted to rebut some of the comments made. He stated that the sand transfer plant does not suction sand to keep the inlet open. Additionally, he stated that it was the only sand transfer plant on the east coast of the United States. He went on to say he believes it is causing erosion to Manalapan beaches

and that he believes there are regulations as to the amount of sand that can be removed. Dr. Bonutti stated that the sand transfer plant only benefits the Town of Ocean Ridge. He also made comments regarding the Town's permitting of mechanical beach raking.

Kim Jones, resident of Ocean Ridge, urged the Commission to ban mechanical beach raking during turtle nesting season. She stated there were detrimental effects to the nest due to beach raking.

Dave Rowland, owner of Beach Keeper Inc., spoke to the Commission disputing some of the comments made by other members of the public. He stated he has clients in the Town of Manalapan that want their beaches cleaned. Commissioner Imbesi had questions about the mean water line and where he was legally allowed to clean and cross.

Mayor Deese thanked the people that spoke during public comments and added that he and the other Commissioners were taking their concerns and comments seriously and would review all of the available data.

Commissioner McMackin stated she was interested in seeing the data and regulations pertaining to the plant that were discussed.

Town Attorney Davis made comments about the appropriate steps forward and commented that other communities he has worked in have discussed beach erosion issues as well. Mayor Deese asked if it would be appropriate for them to hold a workshop. Town Attorney Davis responded in the affirmative.

RA. 3 Town Manager Stumpf's Report

Lands End Road Cul de Sac Update: Town Manager Stumpf directed the Commissioners to the landscape plans that were provided for the three cul de sacs by landscape architect, Lynn Bender. She noted the Town was still awaiting pricing.

Code Enforcement: Town Manager Stumpf told the Commissioners that our code enforcement officer would be in Town more often and doing thorough checks of construction sites to ensure proper permitting.

Election: She announced we had 41 people voted in the Town, which was a large turnout for us especially for a primary.

Iguanas: Town Manager Stumpf stated that the iguana removal was still taking place, but it wasn't as busy as earlier in the year.

Library: Town Manager Stumpf notified the Commissioners that Town Clerk Petersen with the assistance of library volunteers, had a book sale that brought in \$541. She also noted that 29 people had attended the last lecture. She announced the last lecture of the season was scheduled for April 4th and it would be a resident and author, Chris Peterson. Lastly, she informed the Commissioners that Yoga classes were still going strong and there was an average of 10 people attending each day.

Assistant Town Manager Marmer commented that staff would be looking into studies of the beach that have been provided.

Mayor Deese acknowledged the Palm Beach County Fire Rescue (PBCFR) representatives that were in attendance. Chief Kennedy from PBCFR thanked the Commission and staff for the opportunity to continue to provide services to the Town.

Vice Mayor Bonutti asked if the Town could look into the issues with the Lantana Bridge. Chief Mattox responded that it is owned by Palm Beach County but that he has reached out to them to discuss how often the bridge is closing and how long it is taking to reopen.

Town Manager Stumpf directed the Commission to the proposed meeting calendar in front of them. She asked the Commissioners for their availability for the upcoming meeting dates.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

OTHER BUSINESS

There were none.

The Town Commission meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

**These minutes were presented to the Town Commission
on Tuesday April 23rd, 2024 for approval.**

John Deese, Mayor

Date Signed

Erika Petersen, Town Clerk

Date Signed