

TOWN OF OCEAN BREEZE
MINUTES REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, April 12, 2021, 10:30 a.m.
Ocean Breeze Resort Clubhouse, Pineapple Bay Room
700 NE Seabreeze Way, Ocean Breeze, FL

1. **Call to Order** – President De Angeles called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.
 - Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Ostrand led the Pledge of Allegiance
 - Roll Call – Present: Mayor Karen M. Ostrand, President Kenneth De Angeles, Council Members Bill Arnold, Kevin Docherty, Terry Locatis
Absent: Vice-President Gerold and Council Member David Wagner
 - Staff Present – Town Management Consultant, Terry O’Neil; Town Attorney, Rick Crary; Town Clerk, Pam Orr; and Bookkeeper/Clerical Assistant, Kim Stanton

2. **Approval of Minutes** – Council Member Arnold, seconded by Council Member Docherty, made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the March 8, 2021 regular meeting.

President De Angeles asked for public comments.

There were none.

All in Favor: Yes: De Angeles, Arnold, Docherty & Locatis; No: None; Motion Passed - 4 - 0

3. **Habitat for Humanity of Martin County** – Margot Graff, Executive Director, gave a presentation explaining the mission of Habitat for Humanity of Martin County. She introduced Debb Fertal, Volunteer Coordinator/Faith Relations Liaison. She took questions from the Mayor, Town Council Members, staff and the public.

President De Angeles asked for further public comments.

There were none.

4. **Request for a Proclamation by LifeLink Foundation recognizing “Donate Life Month”** – Mayor Ostrand read the Proclamation into the record and offered her support.

President De Angeles encouraged everyone to participate by registering online or when renewing their driver license or state identification card.

Council Member Arnold, seconded by Council Member Locatis, made a motion to approve the Proclamation.

President De Angeles asked for public comments.

There were none.

All in Favor Vote: Yes: De Angeles, Locatis, Docherty & Arnold; No: None; Motion Passed: 4 – 0

5. **Request for a Proclamation by The Inner Truth Project for “Sexual Awareness Month”** – Mindi Fetterman, Founder and CEO read the Proclamation into the record. She provided some background regarding the origins of The Inner Truth Project and provided a presentation. Council Member Docherty, seconded by Council Member Arnold, made a motion to approve the Proclamation.

President De Angeles asked for public comments.

Ms. Fetterman took questions from the Mayor, Town Council and the public.

President De Angeles asked for further comments.

There were none.

All in Favor Vote: Yes: De Angeles, Arnold, Docherty & Locatis; Absent: Gerold & Wagner; No: None; Motion Passed: 4 – 0

6. RESOLUTION #312-2021 – A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF OCEAN BREEZE, FLORIDA URGING ALL MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO OPPOSE UNWARRANTED OR OVERLY BROAD PREEMPTIONS OF MUNICIPAL HOME RULE POWERS; DIRECTING A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE TRANSMITTED TO MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE, THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

Pam Orr, Town Clerk, read Resolution #312-2021 into the record.

Council Member Locatis, seconded by Council Member Arnold , made a Motion to approve Resolution #312-2021.

President De Angeles asked for public comments.

There were none.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Docherty, Arnold, De Angeles, Locatis; No: None; Motion Passed: 4 – 0

7. Request to Extend the Federal Families First Corona Response Act (FFCRA) Paid COVID Sick Leave Policy – Mr. O’Neil explained the memorandum from the Town’s Financial Consultant, Holly Vath. He stated that staff was asking the Council to extend the FFCRA through the end of this current fiscal year, which was September 30, 2021.

Council Member Arnold, seconded by Council Member Docherty, made a Motion to approve an extension for the Covid-19 sick leave.

President De Angeles asked for public comments.

There were none.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Docherty, Locatis, Arnold, De Angeles; No: None; Absent: Wagner & Gerold; Motion Passed: 4 – 0

8. Comments from the public on topics not on the Agenda – Janet Galante, resident of Ocean Breeze, asked if the Town’s identification signs were in place.

President De Angeles answered “yes.”

She asked about the costs of the signs.

Kim Stanton, Bookkeeper, replied that the cost for two signs was \$1,400 plus installation of \$150.00. Ms. Galante asked if those dollars were already in the budget.

President De Angeles answered “yes” and that the restricted, fuel tax dollars were used to purchase the signs.

President De Angeles asked for further comments.

There were none.

9. Comments from the Council on topics not on the Agenda – Council Member Docherty asked if the Town could investigate methods to reduce the speed along Indian River Drive. He asked about cost of painting 25 mph reflective road striping or paint in between the two speed bumps. He also inquired about the possibility of installing speed rumbles in between the two speed bumps to slow down the speeding traffic. He discussed approaching Martin County to propose that the Town pay the cost of these speed deterrents.

Discussion ensued regarding dangerous traffic incidents along Indian River Drive, curbing projects to be done by Martin County, traffic patterns/speeds, speaking to the County about any consideration they might have to help alleviate the problem, the difficulties of entering and exiting Ocean Breeze Resort on Indian River Drive by the administration building, traffic lights, median signs, the growth of the community, safety issues and ways to ameliorate the problem.

President De Angeles asked Mr. O’Neil if the Town could start a dialogue with Martin County engineering regarding this issue.

Mr. O’Neil answered “yes” and that he believed Martin County had been cooperative in attempting to help the Town with this problem. He stated that the Town could obtain an analysis of the area and weigh it against the County’s standard and then advise the Town. He added that the Town could ask for a traffic analysis to slow down traffic even more and commented that this stretch of road already had a number of features to it.

Discussion ensued regarding the traffic patterns and traffic signals.

Mr. O’Neil remarked that Staff could start a dialogue with Martin County engineers to discuss Council Member Docherty’s ideas to further slow the traffic.

Council Member Docherty spoke about the cost to pay for these initiatives and funds would come from the special revenue fund (fuel tax dollars) which restricts the use to roads and streets.

Discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of a traffic signal.

President De Angeles asked Mr. O’Neil if he would follow-up on this issue.

Mr. O’Neil answered “yes.”

Janet Galante, resident of Ocean Breeze, spoke about the main entrance into the Resort, the difficulty making a left-hand turn out of the Resort onto Indian River Drive at the Administration Building and RVs. She spoke about the season versus off season and how the traffic patterns change.

Mayor Ostrand added that if someone had difficulty exiting at the main exit, they would use West End Boulevard as an alternative and she suggested it be considered in the analysis.

President De Angeles asked if the residents of the Resort should get involved in the discussion in order to get everyone's feedback.

Mr. O'Neil answered that first Staff would need a chance to find a local engineer and begin some preliminary discussions. He added that he felt confident that Staff understood the concerns. He added that as Staff formulated the details, an Agenda item could be created with a cover letter from the Council and the Mayor inviting residents to participate.

Council Member Arnold spoke about the traffic difficulties at West End Boulevard and that he would like to see this issue addressed. He stated that the problem was on Sun's property as you enter and exit at West End Boulevard. He added that because it was problematic, something should be done in that area, maybe cones or signs.

Mr. O'Neil answered that the analysis could be extended to the West End gate area.

Discussion ensued regarding the area of West End Boulevard owned by Sun Communities and two-way traffic currently in and out of the Resort, the possibility of making the gate and street on West End exit only, future design at West End Boulevard to Jensen Beach Boulevard, Marcela Camblor's email and possible future meetings with Commissioner Doug Smith.

Council Member Locatis asked about the information in the Agenda packet regarding the extension of time for RVs to be allowed through-out the Resort. He reminded the Council about the meeting he had with Sun representatives regarding hurricane preparedness and the RVs. He expressed his dismay that Sun Communities would not force RVs to prepare and tie-down before a hurricane.

Mr. O'Neil asked the Mayor and Town Council to review Attorney Crary's memo in their Agenda packet in which he explained development extensions. Mr. O'Neil continued that the Town had no authority regarding the decisions made by the Florida Legislature or the Governor on states of emergency.

Mr. Crary added that the only pre-requisite on the part of the developer or permit holder was that they must send the Town a notice, within 90 days after the end of the emergency, and ask specifically for the extension. He commented that the Town did not have to give the extension to anybody who did not ask for it and stated that the Town had discretion if a developer did not ask. He stated that in this case, there were a couple of letters that had already been sent asking for this extension. He spoke about the complexities of overlapping emergencies.

Janet Galante, resident of Ocean Breeze, asked for clarification of Council Member Locatis' initial question.

Council Member Locatis clarified that his concern was regarding RVs and mandatory evacuation orders with a hurricane approaching.

Ms. Galante stated that it was unsightly to see RVs mixed within a block of homes, and that there were probably long-term leases involved.

Council Member Locatis remarked that no matter where these RVs were located within the Resort, there should be rules requiring owners of the RVs to follow hurricane preparedness guideline, including tying down their RVs and stowing loose items.

Discussion ensued regarding the RVs scattered throughout the Resort, the PUD timetable and PUD extension dates.

Attorney Crary explained that the Covid emergency would extend the PUD timetable out a year and a half from January, 2022, and then, the overlapping hurricane, would add an additional six months. He confirmed that the Covid emergency remained in place, so the toll was still ongoing.

Discussion ensued regarding Sun Communities build-out and the ongoing toll.

President De Angeles asked for further comments from the Council or the public.

There were none.

10. Comments from the Town Management Consultant Terry O'Neil –He had none.

11. Comments from Mayor Ostrand – Mayor Ostrand gave an update on the issue of preemption and the Florida Legislature. She spoke about the importance of contacting state legislators to make their voice heard regarding preemption. She gave a short synopsis on local representatives' views on preemption and other issues.

12. Announcements – President De Angeles announced that the regular Town Council meeting would be held on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 10:30 am at Ocean Breeze Resort Clubhouse, Pineapple Bay Room, 700 NE Seabreeze Way, Ocean Breeze, Florida.

13. Adjourn – Council Member Arnold, seconded by Council Member Locatis, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:56 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Orr
Town Clerk

Minutes approved: Pam Orr - May 10, 2021