

Special Town Commission Meeting of the Town of Ocean Ridge held on Monday, May 23, 2005 at 6:00 PM in the Town Hall Meeting Chambers

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kaleel and roll call was answered by the following:

Commissioner Allison
Commissioner Hogan

Commissioner Bingham
Comm Pugh

Mayor Kaleel

Open Town Hall Meeting to Discuss Constructive Ideas and Concerns

Public Comment

Patricia Kropp, 16 Tropical Dr., stated that there were rental units on the SE corner of A1A and Tropical Drive that may have an ongoing drug problem. She advised that the property was recently sold and felt the new owners should be aware of the problem with the renters. Mayor Kaleel mentioned that he knew the new property owners and would pass on the message on to them.

Herb Stolzky, 47 Spanish River Dr., expressed his concern of the Abercrombie/Cantor Code Enforcement case. He stated that he was informed a deal was made that would extend the current use of the property at 46 Bimini Cove Dr. and also that the police monitoring ceased. Mr. Stolzky felt the current use was a violation and also a safety concern. Mayor Kaleel answered that an agreement has not yet been made and that staff would have the Town Attorney call Mr. Stolzky and explain the details of case.

Chief Hillery advised that police monitoring was originally done in order to build the code enforcement case and also that he was not aware of an agreement being made. Comm Hogan added that the Attorney had given a detailed report at the last Regular Commission Meeting to which Chief Hillery advised that he was not present at the April meeting.

Mr. Stolzky also mentioned that his neighbor requested an update of the storm sewer flooding problem on Spanish River Dr. Manager Mathis explained that Barnacle Busters had installed a red valve on the outfall but it had come off and was at the bottom of the canal. He stated that the valve would be retrieved and reinstalled.

Robert Happ, 8 Inlet Cay Dr., questioned what project was happening near Corrine Street where the mangroves are being cleared out and also what project was being done with the property north of Town Hall. Mayor Kaleel answered that the Town is working in conjunction with Palm Beach County on a mangrove restoration project. He stated that the exotic vegetation is being cleared out and repopulated with Florida native plants and also that the waterway is being dredged to allow a better flushing system and access for small boats and kayaks to gain access. Mayor Kaleel advised that the project north of

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Town Hall is a 12-unit development being developed by resident Ernie Varvorikos who was present at the meeting and could explain the project to Mr. Happ after the meeting.

Joseph Belmonte, 5572 N Ocean Blvd., mentioned that hurricane season was approaching and he wanted to discuss a policy for accessing the island after a storm. He advised that some of the residents felt there was too much control over them and that the police department should advise them of the conditions and let the residents decide what they want to do. Mr. Belmonte also questioned why the vegetation was allowed to grow into the lines and cause so much damage during the storms last year.

Chief Hillery advised that the Town has only been evacuated approximately 3 times in the past 13 years and that last years storms caused terrible line damage. He stated that there were downed lines throughout Town and public safety was a major concern. Chief Hillery also commented that there are no guarantees on what will happen when a storm approaches or when the Town will need to evacuate. He advised that he will do his best to get residents back on the island as quickly and safely as possible. Mayor Kaleel added that some of the power problems caused by the storms occurred outside of the Town which cannot be controlled.

Jerry Magruder, 9 Ridge Blvd., asked if a reverse 911 system had been installed and also if a landline to obtain updates or reports was created. Mayor Kaleel answered that a reverse system has not been established yet. Manager Mathis added that the police and town hall telephone system has been upgraded but during severe storms phone systems can go out as well as cellular services. He mentioned that staff is looking into the possibilities of local AM Broadcasting and a reverse 911 system.

Donald Magruder, 9 Ridge Blvd., stated that his employer has a phone line with a recorded message available anytime for updates or reports and that he would give information to Manager Mathis.

George Bierlin, 26 Hudson Ave., stated that Juno Beach has flashing yellow lights at several crosswalks that help with traffic calming and requested that the Town look into the possibility of installing the same type of lights.

Donald Magruder, 9 Ridge Blvd., felt that making Old Ocean Blvd a one-way street would be beneficial for traffic calming. Mayor Kaleel commented that if the residents want a change on Old Ocean Blvd the Town could look into the possibilities. He also stated that some residents are in favor of Old Ocean being a one-way street and some are opposed.

Ellen Bierlin, 26 Hudson Ave., advised that property values have gone up in Ocean Ridge and that there should be a larger pot of money for Town projects. She also mentioned that there are other creative ways of raising money for projects.

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Patricia Giardalas, 11 Tropical Dr., stated that she would not like to see Old Ocean Blvd. changed to a one-way street.

Patricia DiStefano, 14 Tropical Dr., felt that the Town should take into consideration that changing Old Ocean Blvd. to a one-way street would increase traffic on other streets and have a significant impact on Tropical Dr.

Robert Happ, 8 Inlet Cay Dr., questioned the status of the house under construction at 9 Inlet Cay Dr. Town Clerk Hancsak stated that the permit is currently active and explained the ordinance pertaining to time constraints for building permits.

Joseph Nitti, 18 Hersey Dr., advised that there are several duplexes on Hersey Drive that are renting rooms illegally and causing safety concerns on the street. Mayor Kaleel advised that he should file a complaint with the Police Department. Mr. Nitti also questioned the possibility of reducing the speed limit on the side streets to help calm traffic even though he is aware it could not be enforced.

Herb Stoltzky, 47 Spanish River Dr., thought the open Town Hall meeting was a good idea and the Commission should have more of them.

Donald Magruder, 9 Ridge Blvd., questioned if the Corrine St. water access was the only location a kayak could be launched. Mayor Kaleel advised that the Yacht Club is creating a launching area for small vessels that must be carried to the site.

Ellen Bierlin, 26 Hudson Ave., also agreed that the open meeting was good and suggested that the next meeting be held when the winter residents are in Town and able to attend.

George Bierlin, 26 Hudson Ave., stated that he knew construction and housing in Boynton Beach is going to have an impact on Ocean Ridge and felt revisiting the idea of strategic planning would be a reaffirmation of faith to the residents.

Mayor Kaleel commented that the Beach Bash is scheduled for June 11th and Town Clerk Hancsak distributed fliers to residents.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM