

REGULAR TOWN COMMISSION MEETING HELD OCTOBER 3, 2011

Regular Town Commission Meeting of the Town of Ocean Ridge held on Tuesday, October 3, 2011, at 6:00PM 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 Brookes
Commissioner Hennigan Commissioner Pugh
Mayor Kaleel

Pledge of Allegiance

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, MODIFICATIONS, AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Clerk Hancsak requested to add Item 10A the Adoption of the Fund Balance Policy. Under the Consent Agenda she requested to add the authorizing of Liens for Unpaid Garbage & Trash and Alarm Monitoring Services. The Commission decided to add the FB Policy as presented to the Consent Agenda. Mayor Kaleel requested to add under the Town Commission Comments Item #12 Town Manager Review.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of Tentative Budget Adoption Public Hearing/Regular Town Commission Meeting of Sept. 12, 2011
2. Tentative Budget Adoption Meeting of Sept. 26, 2011

Comm. Allison motioned to approve the agenda and consent agenda as amended. Seconded by Comm. Pugh.

Motion Carried – yea (5).

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PROCLAMATIONS

3. The Administrative Offices will be closed on Monday, Oct. 10, 2011 for the official holiday
4. Proclamation in Appreciation of the Beach Clean Efforts by the Sea Angels
5. Proclamation Declaring October as “Domestic Violence Awareness Month”

The Sea Angels Team was in attendance, and Mayor Kaleel presented to them a Proclamation in Appreciation of the Beach Cleaning Efforts by the Sea Angels. Robyn Halasz, a representative of the Sea Angels, thanked Ocean Ridge for the Proclamation and gave a brief summary of their work at the Inlet Park. Their core group of 6 individuals along with other volunteers clean the Inlet Park area on the last Saturday of the month. She explained that they use buckets and grabbers, and not plastic garbage bags in order to be “Green” and leave less of a carbon footprint. They personally take the items to the recycling centers. They also try to teach kids to be responsible with their garbage. They are self-funded, and welcomed the residents to assist them. They feel that their volunteers put their heart into it.

Comm. Allison asked if they were associated with the Sand Sifters. They stated that they were a separate organization.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Terry Brown, 23 Harbour Drive South, asked if the Town was developing a commercial zone again. He knew there was one property at the south end of town, that was being phased out soon and he did not believe it could be done. He stated that he was not in favor of the Police Department being serviced by the Sheriff’s Office. He felt that it would hamper the feeling of Ocean Ridge being a small community. He thanked Officer Darville for his years of service, and stated that he would be missed.

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Joe Belmonte, N. Ocean Blvd, announced that the Sand Sifters were having a Harvest Beach Cleanup on November 5th, 2011. There would be a drawing with the prize being a meal provided for by Publix. There would also be cider and apples for the volunteers. He invited people to attend.

Mayor Kaleel requested that since the new employees were present, that Item #10 be moved to before Item #6.

Comm. Allison motioned to rearrange Item #10 to before Item #6. Seconded by Comm. Brookes.

Motion Carried – yea (5).

10. Confirm the Hiring of Police Officer Larry Payne (Start Date 10/4), Police Officer Gary Roy (Start Date 11/7), replacing both Dan Tinfina and Doc Darville, and also Dispatcher Michele Alfonso (Start Date 10/4), replacing Jeanne Zuidema.

Chief Yannuzzi announced the retirement of Officer Wavelle Darville or more commonly known as “Doc”. He stated that Officer Darville had been an employee at Ocean Ridge for over 20½ years, and that he had been in Public Service for over 40 years both as a police officer and fireman. Officer Darville was a reliable and dedicated officer, and his passionate service would be a loss to the residents and pets of Ocean Ridge.

Officer Darville thanked the Commission for allowing him to serve in Ocean Ridge. He stated that he had watched a lot of their children grow up, and had found his job very fulfilling. He stated his appreciation for Chief Yannuzzi for his honest and fair treatment even though they had not always agreed. He asked the Commission to keep Ocean Ridge a small town community as it seemed to be slipping away. He stated that there were a lot of good guys in the department, and it was nice to know that you could depend on the other officers. He again thanked the Commission for allowing him to serve in Ocean Ridge.

Comm. Allison thanked Officer Darville for his inspiration as a Tri-Athlete, and felt that more seniors should be involved. Comm. Hennigan stated that Officer Darville had raised the bar by his professionalism. He would be greatly missed.

Mayor Kaleel stated that Officer Darville was an epitome of service for a community police officer. He treated people of all ages fairly. The Mayor’s own children looked up to Officer Darville and said they would miss him. In past years, he was even Santa Claus at our Light the Lights. From handing out dog biscuits to our pets and candy to our children on Halloween, you have had a great impact to Ocean Ridge. He thanked him for his service.

Chief Yannuzzi announced and congratulated Officer Robert McAllister for being promoted to Sergeant. He successfully completed the Dept written examination followed by an oral interview panel consisting of three persons from outside ORPD. He had been an officer at Ocean Ridge for 9 years. Sergeant McAllister was sworn in by Clerk Hancsak and Chief Yannuzzi presented to him his gold badge.

Chief Yannuzzi requested the Commission to confirm the hiring of a new dispatcher – Michelle Alfonso came highly recommended by the Harvard Police Dept, and would be able to qualify for the new State Certification. Chief Yannuzzi also requested the confirmation to hire Larry Payne a retired Lieutenant from Riviera Beach and Gary Roy a retired Captain from Greenacres (who would start in November).

Comm. Pugh made a motion to confirm the hiring of Michele Alfonso as dispatch, and Larry Payne and Gary Roy as police officers to Ocean Ridge. Seconded by Comm. Allison.

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Motion Carried – yea (5).

Clerk Hancsak swore the new employees into office: Michele Alfonso as dispatch, Larry Payne as an officer and Gary Roy as an officer.

REPORTS

6. Town Manager

Manager Schenck reported the following: 1) Coconut Lane Drainage – Once we get the contracts signed by the contractor we can authorize them to start construction. We're trying to work with Tenex, the lowest bidder. Our other option is to go the second bidder, who was Chaz Equipment or re-advertise. The generator contractor is fabricating the fuel tank prior to its installation. The factory is constructing the generator and there have been a few delays for the parts. 2) Old Ocean Blvd Dune - The Garden Club Dune Committee has installed the wooden bench and the project is now complete. We thank them for the work they've done to improve the dunes. 3) Old Ocean Blvd. – Due the increased rains, we will start developing the cost of removing the scavoela and replanting the area with native vegetation. They were still resolving the replanting - one resident wants just grass, and the others want to address the privacy issue. 4) Inlet Cay and Sabal Island Bridge Repairs – Bridge Design is working on the plans to bid the repairs. 5) The Energy Grants – The State has finally approved the grant, and we were allocated about \$180,000 to help homeowners retrofit for energy savings. This amount may change when the final projects are approved. We will work with FPL and will provide rebates to the residents for energy savings improvements. The details for the rebates are being developed. There were 2 responders to the RFP to run the rebate program. They will be interviewed in October and the grant will pay for consultant. EMC Engineers has completed the energy survey of the Town Hall and lighting on Ocean Ave. We propose to undertake all of the improvements except Ocean Ave. as the Ocean Avenue improvements are too expensive with a long payback time, making them not cost effective. 5) Entrance Signs – FDOT has finally approved the variance for the sign at the south end of Town, and we have submitted the construction permit to FDOT for approval. 6) Capri Apts. – The Health Dept should be issuing the permit shortly for the laundry discharge. 7) Police Union Discussions – We're in the process of scheduling the next meeting and discussing all aspects of the contract. The adopted budget will be our guide. 8) Woolbright Rd Pedestrian Crossing – We've requested FDOT to look at constructing proper pedestrian crossing at Woolbright Blvd and US1. They emailed last week saying that they are evaluating our request, and he would keep the Commission updated.

Clerk Hancsak requested direction from the Commission to host Light the Lights on December 2nd, 2011. (The first Friday after the Thanksgiving weekend.) It was in the budget, and she wanted to proceed with the same preparations as last year. There was a consensus for Clerk Hancsak to make same preparations for the Light the Lights as she had done last year. Clerk Hancsak also noted that there would be no Code Enforcement Hearing on Tuesday, October 4, 2011.

7. Town Attorney

Atty. Capko stated that he had nothing to report.

8. Police Chief

Chief Yannuzzi presented his monthly report and the Boynton Beach Fire/EMS Activity Report. He stated that he had met with Boynton Beach and was making arrangements with them to discuss our concerns in the possible closing of Fire Station#1. Ocean Ridge's Contract and Briny Breezes' Contract totaled almost \$1million in revenue to Boynton Beach for their services. If Fire Station #1 was closed, there were concerns of delays in response time especially at the north end of town. He would keep the Commission updated.

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Chief Yannuzzi reported that Officer Massimino and Sergeant Wohlfiel participated at the 911 Memorial in Wellington. Chief Yannuzzi then summarized the events of the suspicious package that was found in a resident’s mailbox. It was a coordinated effort with the FBI, Boynton Beach Fire Dept, and the Sheriff’s Office Bomb Squad in responding and handling the situation.

Comm. Allison thanked the Ocean Ridge officers for their action and assistance in the hit/run of her mailbox.

9. Town Engineer
Engineer Tropepe was absent with notice.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

11. Ordinance No. 595; Amending Its Code of Ordinances to Comply with Chapter 2011-109, Laws of Florida, Which Confers Exclusive Authority of Regulate the Field of Firearms and Ammunition on the State Legislature

Mayor Kaleel read Ordinance No. 595.

Comm. Pugh motioned to approve Ordinance No. 595; Amending Its Code of Ordinances to Comply with Chapter 2011-109, Laws of Florida, Which Confers Exclusive Authority of Regulate the Field of Firearms and Ammunition on the State Legislature. Seconded by Comm. Brookes.

Chief Yannuzzi read the list of restrictions for handguns at public meetings and courthouse. Clerk Hancsak clarified that they could bring guns into Townhall but not into the meetings. Mayor Kaleel suggested signage be posted in both the Town Hall and Police Department stating that no guns were allowed into meetings.

Motion Carried – yea (5).

TOWN COMMISSION COMMENTS

12. Town Manager Review

Mayor Kaleel requested that a Special Meeting be scheduled this month to review the Town Manager Position.

Mayor Kaleel stated that he also liked Ocean Ridge having a “small town atmosphere”, but felt it didn’t mean we couldn’t look at other alternatives or opportunities that are available.

Comm. Hennigan thanked the staff for including an Annual Summary in the Garbage & Trash invoices.

Meeting adjourned at 6:48pm.

Attest By:

Town Clerk

Mayor Kaleel

Commissioner Allison

Commissioner Brookes

Commissioner Hennigan

Commissioner Pugh