

SPECIAL MEETING HELD BY THE TOWN COMMISSION FOR THE TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE, FLORIDA, IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2016, AT 5:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. and roll call was answered by the following:

Commissioner Aaskov
Commissioner Bonfiglio
Mayor Pugh
Vice Mayor Allison
Commissioner Lucibella

1. Resolution No. 2016-01; A Resolution of the Town Commission of Ocean Ridge, Florida, Declaring January 29, 2016, as Karen Hancsak Day in the Town of Ocean Ridge; Authorizing an Invitation Only Employee Recognition Luncheon on that Day in Recognition of the Outstanding Service Provided to the Town by its Retiring Town Clerk, Karen Hancsak; Declaring that the Expenditure of Town Funds to Hold Said Luncheon for Town Staff and Designated Invitees Serves a Public Purpose Within the Town's Home Rule Authority as Provided for by the Florida Constitution and Florida Statutes; and Providing for an Effective Date.

Town Manager Titcomb read Resolution 2016-01 by title only. Mr. Titcomb noted that the Town is celebrating Ms. Hancsak's 35 years with the Town by holding an employee luncheon and open house, and naming January 29, 2016 as Karen Hancsak Day in the Town of Ocean Ridge.

Commissioner Bonfiglio moved to pass Resolution 2016-01; seconded by Commissioner Lucibella.

Public Comment: Terry Brown, Harbor Drive South, stated he has lived in town for 25 years and has had a lot of interaction with Ms. Hancsak who has been an outstanding employee. However, he questions the expenditure of public funds for the lunch function at a restricted private club. He stated he objects to funding the private luncheon with taxpayer dollars. He further stated he doesn't know of any agency that has paid for a retirement party with public funds, and feels this is not an appropriate use of public funds. He questioned whether the resolution makes the expenditure a public purpose just because the Town Commission declares it.

Mayor Pugh responded that public funds will not be expended, and he is grateful for the anonymous donor who is paying for the event.

Attorney Spillias stated the function is an employee recognition event, and there is no prohibition on having a function at a private club. He further explained that it is appropriate to hold the function in the Town of Ocean Ridge, and there is only one place that could handle the event, which happens to be a private club. He noted that Mr. Brown is incorrect when he says that just because the town calls the event a public purpose, does not make it a public purpose. The Town Commission has home rule authority to make a determination on what is a proper public purpose for expending town funds. The

SPECIAL MEETING OF TOWN COMMISSION ON JANUARY 26, 2016

Attorney General has opined in this specific instance that a recognition event for a long time town employee is a public purpose if the Town determines it will be beneficial to employee morale and recognition of that employee. Attorney Spillias mentioned that he understands Mr. Brown was referencing State government which operates under different rules than municipal government does. The Town operates under home rule authority. The Commission can do anything deemed for a public purpose, so long as it's not specifically prohibited by the Constitution or state law. Although public funds will not be expended for this specific event, Attorney Spillias suggested passing the resolution due to the provision of declaring January 29th Karen Hancsak Day.

Commissioner Lucibella stated he does not want to see a black cloud cast over this event. If the Town Commission decided to expend public funds for this event, it would've only cost \$1 per residence. He stated that Mr. Brown's objection was the most mean-spirited action by a resident against Town staff that he has seen.

Motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Minutes adopted by a vote of the Town Commission on March 7, 2016.

Geoffrey A. Pugh, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tracey L. Stevens, Town Clerk