

SPECIAL TOWN COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 23, 2017

Minutes of the Special Town Commission Meeting of the Town of Ocean Ridge held on Monday,
October 23, 2017, at 3:00 PM in the Town Hall Commission Chambers.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pugh at 3:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Town Clerk Stevens led the roll call, which was answered by the following:

	<u>Present:</u>	<u>Absent:</u>	<u>Tardy:</u>
Commissioner Aaskov	x		
Vice Mayor Bonfiglio	x		
Commissioner Coz	x		
Commissioner MaGruder	x		
Mayor Pugh	x		

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pugh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, MODIFICATIONS, AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Mayor Bonfiglio requested to add three items to the agenda: 1) Appoint James Bonfiglio as a Representative to Palm Beach Cares; 2) Add a link to the website for Palm Beach Cares; and 3) Discussion Regarding Gay Conversion Therapy.

Vice Mayor Bonfiglio moved to approve the agenda as amended; second by Commissioner Coz. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT – (15 minute maximum with 3 minute individual limit)

Betty Bingham, 1 E. Ocean Ave, urged people to make sure they know where their money is going when making donations to relief efforts such as Puerto Rico. She stated that monies that just go in a general pot seem to disappear. Vice Mayor Bonfiglio stated that the money donated on the Palm Beach Cares website goes straight to United Way and will be directed to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands relief efforts. Ms. Bingham stated she hopes it does not go into the politicians hands.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Appoint James Bonfiglio as a Representative to Palm Beach Cares

Vice Mayor Bonfiglio requested that the Commission appoint him as a Representative to Palm Beach Cares. He stated that the committee puts together contributions for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and he would be a representative in a non-binding position. Mayor Pugh stated a non-binding position will not give him power to donate or volunteer to do things on behalf of the Town. Vice Mayor Bonfiglio stated he is on the committee already and if he is not appointed as a Representative for the Town, he would need to give a disclaimer each time he is introduced as Vice Mayor of Ocean Ridge, that he is not there in his official capacity as Vice Mayor, which gets cumbersome. He reiterated that he would not be able to bind the Town in any way, he is just there as a Representative and will come back to the Town for approval of any requests.

Commission MaGruder moved to approve James Bonfiglio as a Town Representative on the Palm Beach Cares committee with no obligation to the Town without prior Commission approval; second by Commissioner Coz. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Palm Beach Cares link on Town Website

Vice Mayor Bonfiglio requested that we place a link on the town website for Palm Beach Cares. Town Manager Titcomb stated it is easy to place a link on the website if the Commission wishes to do so. Mayor

SPECIAL TOWN COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 23, 2017

Pugh stated that we don't want to create a precedent for allowing links on our website, however, Palm Beach Cares is an official Palm Beach County agency that does official County business. Attorney Shutt followed up that the Town's justification is that it is an official Palm Beach County organization. Commissioner MaGruder stated that he went online to sign up to volunteer a week ago and he has not heard anything back yet.

Commissioner Coz moved to place a link on the Town's website to the Palm Beach Cares website; second by Commissioner MaGruder. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Discussion Regarding Gay Conversion Therapy

Vice Mayor Bonfiglio stated that he wants to give direction to the Town Attorney to research and develop an ordinance for future discussion prohibiting gay conversion therapy, and he noted that several towns in Palm Beach County have recently passed ordinances to prevent this treatment. Mayor Pugh stated that we have no commercial use in Ocean Ridge, so we shouldn't need this ordinance. Vice Mayor Bonfiglio stated that some citizens indicated to him on the campaign trail that they want to open parts of the Town up to commercial use. Mayor Pugh stated that it is not the time for Ocean Ridge to do this. He stated that this Commission should be more concerned with the infrastructure, beautification and quality of life in Ocean Ridge and he does not want to bring state and national politics into Ocean Ridge because those topics are for the officials in other capacities. Vice Mayor Bonfiglio stated that we may have sober homes in the future which may try to bring in therapists for gay conversion therapy, and he thinks it is a discredited treatment and a bad policy. Mayor Pugh noted that the towns that passed ordinances recently have commercial and we don't, and we don't want Ocean Ridge to become a target for protesters. He noted that similar issues could be brought up in the future, creating a precedent and then the Town would become obliged. He stated we shouldn't be spending Ocean Ridge residents' money on this; we should be taking care of the Town and spending it on infrastructure, quality of life, and beautification. Commissioner Coz suggested tabling this item in order for Commissioners to do more research on it, and then take it back up in three or four months. Commissioner Aaskov stated that she agrees with the Mayor on this issue.

There was no direction given on this item.

TOWN ATTORNEY ANNOUNCEMENT

Town Attorney Shutt announced the following:

1. Pursuant to Section 286.011(8), Florida Statutes, the Town Attorney desires advice concerning pending litigation in the case of Wohlfiel v. Town of Ocean Ridge, Case No. 502017CA006109XXXXMB in the Circuit Court of the 15th Judicial Court, in and for Palm Beach County, Florida.
2. The following individuals will be in attendance: Mayor Geoffrey Pugh; Vice Mayor James Bonfiglio; Town Commissioners Gail Aaskov, Steve Coz, and Don MaGruder; Town Manager James Titcomb; Town Attorney Brian Shutt; Attorney Andrea Amigo; and Court Reporter.

MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Pugh announced the following:

1. Pursuant to Section 286.011(8), Florida Statutes, the Town Commission is commencing a closed door Attorney-Client session for the purpose of discussing the pending litigation aforementioned.
2. The estimated length of the session is approximately one hour.

The Commission recessed into closed session at 3:22 p.m. The following individuals were in attendance: Mayor Geoffrey Pugh; Vice Mayor James Bonfiglio; Town Commissioners Gail Aaskov, Steve Coz, and Don MaGruder; Town Manager James Titcomb; Town Attorney Brian Shutt; Attorney Andrea Amigo; and Court Reporter.


The Commission reconvened into regular session at 4:26 p.m.

SPECIAL TOWN COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 23, 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Town Clerk Stevens, and adopted by the Town Commission on November 6, 2017.



Mayor Geoffrey A. Pugh

ATTEST:



Tracey L. Stevens, CMC, Town Clerk

