

VILLAGE COUNCIL WORKSHOP OF NOVEMBER 16, 2015

The Village of Estero Council Workshop was held on this date at the Estero Fire Rescue District Meeting Room, 21500 Three Oaks Parkway, Estero, Florida.

Present: Mayor Nick Batos - District 6, Vice Mayor Howard Levitan - District 2, Councilmember Bill Ribble - District 1, Councilmember Donald Brown - District 3, Councilmember Katy Errington - District 4, Councilmember Jim Boesch - District 5, and Councilmember Jim Wilson - District 7.

Also present: Village Manager Steve Sarkozy, Village Attorney Burt Saunders, Nancy Stroud, Esq., Community Development Director Mary Gibbs, and Village Clerk Kathy Hall.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Batos called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Batos led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Village Clerk Kathy Hall called the roll; all members were present.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Ribble moved approval of the agenda, seconded by Councilmember Brown, called and carried unanimously.

5. COUNCIL BUSINESS

- (A) Council Responsibilities and Authority Related to Community Development Activity (Nancy Stroud, Esq. and Mary Gibbs, Community Development Department Director)

Community Development Director Mary Gibbs introduced the new Planning and Zoning staff. Through a PowerPoint presentation, Community Development Director Gibbs provided information related to: the differences between the Planning and Zoning Board and the Design Review Board; how the process works; how Council public hearings are conducted; the role of the Council, Boards, and staff. Council questions and responses from the Community Development Director followed the presentation.

Nancy Stroud, Esq., through a PowerPoint presentation, discussed the legal issues pertaining to Comprehensive Planning; rezoning and site specific amendments to the Land Development Code; and the Burt J. Harris Act.

The presentation was followed by a question and answer session between the Councilmembers, Ms. Stroud and Community Development Director Gibbs. The topics under discussion included: changing the Comprehensive Plan; ex parte conversations;

record keeping and tracking who was involved; attending Planning and Zoning or Design Review Board meetings, including participation and/or just listening to the facts; expert witnesses; continuing hearings; staff reports; cross examinations by interested parties; and Burt Harris Act claims.

Public Comment:

Don Eslick, ECCL, inquired regarding zoning in progress.

Brief discussion followed.

(B) Florida League of Cities Pension Plans

Paul Shamoun, Financial Services Associate Director, Florida League of Cities, provided information regarding services and programs available through the League, including defined contribution and deferred compensation services. Discussion followed related to vesting; contribution rates; portfolios; and restrictions on mutual funds.

(C) Estero Community Improvement Foundation Needs Study (FGCU)

Wayne Smith, President, Estero Community Improvement Foundation, provided an explanation of the steps taken in the study.

Tom Falke, Syntony Research & Consulting, described the methodology of the study, including primary analytical topics: environment, arts and entertainment, transportation, economic development, and health care. He also spoke to the four phases of the study: demographic and community profile, key informant interviews, focus group sessions, and online survey.

Council discussion followed.

Public Comment:

Don Eslick, ECCL, spoke regarding surveys and responses.

Beverly MacNellis, Secretary, Estero Historical Preservation Citizens Committee, commented on the Estero River having walking and biking paths, as well as being a community area.

Patty Whitehead, Old Estero resident, addressed concern that the environmental element was not included in the report. Mr. Falke explained that the questions were broad and open ended, the thematic analysis pulled out specific words and phrases, and environmental issues were not one of the top concerns of the citizens.

(D) Annexation Procedures (Councilmember Wilson)

Councilmember Wilson stated that he met with Village Attorney Saunders regarding the annexation process.

Village Attorney Saunders referenced Florida statutes Chapter 171 and provided the information to the Council, along with information from City of Naples Comprehensive Plan related to annexation. Council discussion and questions followed.

Mayor Batos called for public comment and no one came forward.

6. PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Beverly MacNellis, Marsh Landing resident, announced the February 18, 2016 gala premier showing of a film regarding Mount Key, which would be followed by two days of educational opportunities.

7. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Councilmember Ribble stated that he would like the pension topic to continue and recommended that Council explore other vendors. He also mentioned the employee handbook that was previously distributed, and briefly discussed the Council meetings and workshops calendar.

Councilmember Brown noted that, from Estero Parkway to the entrance of the Tidewater Development, there were several external signs.

Councilmember Errington inquired regarding the absence of a Deputy Sheriff at the meeting. She also spoke regarding quarantines for malicious files found on her computer.

Councilmember Boesch stated that he believed Councilmembers should have projects to work on and that some of the assignments should be realigned. He asked that Councilmember Ribble work with the Village Manager for reassigning workload.

Brief discussion followed regarding Council policies and procedures and that the topic should be rescheduled for an upcoming Council workshop. Attorney Saunders stated that he would provide samples of rules and procedures for Council review.

8. VILLAGE MANAGER'S COMMENTS

None.

9. VILLAGE ATTORNEY'S COMMENTS

None.

10. ADJOURN

Councilmember Brown moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Ribble, called and carried unanimously.

Mayor Batos adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

VILLAGE OF ESTERO, FLORIDA

By: _____

By: _____

Kathy Hall, MMC
Village Clerk

Nicholas Batos
Mayor