

VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 8, 2015

The Village of Estero Council Regular Meeting was held on this date at the Estero Fire Rescue District Meeting Room, 21500 Three Oaks Parkway, Estero, Florida, with the following Council members present:

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

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 10:00 am, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was offered by Father Hans Jacobse, St. Peter Orthodox Church

ROLL CALL

Interim Village Manager Peter Lombardi called the roll; all members were present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Ribble moved approval, seconded by Mr. Brown, called and carried unanimously.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

6(A) Approval of April 10, 2015 Workshop Minutes; April 17, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes; April 17, 2015 Workshop Minutes

Mr. Ribble moved approval, seconded by Ms. Errington, called and carried unanimously.

Mayor Batos commented that the agendas for today's Meeting and Workshop include items that were reviewed during the last workshop; noted that other items would be added to upcoming agendas; and requested that members provide any additional items to Mr. Lombardi for inclusion in future agendas.

6(B) DISCUSSION – Council Liaison Assignments

Interim Village Manager Peter Lombardi remarked that he had worked with Mayor Batos to create a list of organizations for liaison assignments; and asked members to recommend other organizations for future agendas. Mayor Batos explained his reasons for liaison assignments as shown below:

1. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – Mayor Batos, Mr. Boesch as alternate
2. Lee Memorial Health System (LMHS) – Mr. Brown
3. South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) – Mr. Ribble
4. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) – Mr. Boesch
5. Lee County Department of Transportation (LDOT) – Mr. Boesch
6. Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) – Mayor Batos
7. Horizon Council – Mr. Wilson
8. Lee County Department of Community Development (LDCD) – Vice-Mayor Levitan
9. Conservancy of Southwest Florida – Ms. Errington

Following brief discussion, Mayor Batos mentioned that a list of Advisory Committee liaison appointments would probably be discussed at next week's meeting. The Mayor called for public comment, and the following individual came forward:

Conservancy of Southwest Florida representative, April Olson welcomed Ms. Errington Mayor Batos mentioned that he could make introductions for members who are not familiar with the group to which they were assigned.

Mr. Boesch moved approval of the assignments as presented, seconded by Mr. Brown, called and carried unanimously.

6(C) DISCUSSION – Selection Process for Permanent Village Manager

Mayor Batos stated that a determination should be made to either initiate a search or make the change from interim to permanent position. Mr. Levitan opined that it would be appropriate to start now with the search for a permanent Village Manager. Following general discussion, there was consensus that a document from the Florida City and County Managers Association, dealing with the selection process, would be provided to Council members for review prior to next week's Workshop.

6(D) DISCUSSION – Selection Process for Permanent Village Attorney

Interim Village Attorney Burt Saunders briefly described the usual selection process. After brief discussion, Mr. Ribble moved to designate Attorney Saunders and Gray Robinson as permanent Village Attorney, seconded by Mr. Brown. Attorney Saunders reviewed the fee schedule for normal and additional activities, followed by discussion of the need for lobbyists. The Mayor called for public comment, and the following individual came forward:

Old Estero resident, Patti Whitehead - potential conflict of interest

After Attorney Saunders responded that the services provided to Lee County were entirely different from those provided to the Village, the motion was called and carried unanimously.

6(E) DISCUSSION – Village Municipal Center

Mayor Batos clarified that this item involved discussion of a process to determine specific needs for a future facility with more office and parking space for the Council. Discussion ensued regarding financial resources, time required for acquisition and preparation, assignment of a Council member to research the issue, experiences of other municipalities, and the scope of an inter-local agreement with Lee County. Interim Village Manager Peter Lombardi described limitations of the current facility, noted that the acquisition and design process would take at least six months, stated that personnel requirements would depend on services provided, and estimated a space requirement between 7,500 and 10,000 square feet. Mr. Levitan moved to direct Mr. Lombardi to work with a Council liaison to develop recommendations for a process, with input from other Council members, seconded by Mr. Brown. The Mayor called for public input, and the following individual came forward:

Bella Terra resident, Mark Novitski - suggestions about furniture and design

The motion was called and carried unanimously. Mr. Ribble volunteered to serve as Council liaison.

6(F) DISCUSSION – Sign Code Violations

Mayor Batos mentioned past problems with violations of Estero-specific Sign Codes; and asked that any member of the public who notices a possible violation report it to Interim Village Manager Peter Lombardi. Discussion followed regarding the County's responsibility to remove illegal signs, the fact that most such signs are put up on weekends, the possible need for a Village process to adjudicate violations, and the limitations in dealing with inappropriate sign content. Following comments from Attorney Saunders about available alternatives, Mr. Levitan moved to direct the Village Attorney to develop a Special Magistrate Ordinance; seconded by Mr. Boesch. The Mayor called for public input, and the following individuals came forward:

Old Estero resident, Patty Whitehead - billboards

Stoneybrook resident, Gary Israel – communication with business owners

After Council members and Attorney Saunders addressed the speakers' concerns, the motion was called and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The Mayor called for public input; and the following individuals came forward:

Estero Council of Community Leaders (ECCL) Interim Chair, Don Eslick – Cooperation between the Village and ECCL, committee dealing with Density Reduction/Groundwater Resource (DR/GR), summary of community concerns from recent ECCL meeting

Villages at Country Creek resident, George Molnar – printing both sides of pages, parliamentary procedures

Bella Terra resident, Mark Novitski – Village representation on Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Village Transportation Committee, and future municipal facility

Attorney Saunders responded to questions from Council members regarding attendance at the DR/GR Committee meetings; and Council members responded to Mr. Molnar and Mr. Novitski.

COUNCIL / MANAGER/ATTORNEY COMMUNICATIONS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Council Members' Comments:

Vice-Mayor Levitan mentioned a letter to Council members soliciting donations to the Estero Historic Society. He suggested, and Council members concurred, that a policy and a budget for charitable contributions from the Village should be future workshop topics.

Mr. Brown mentioned that the Project Director for the proposed Estero facility would be on the agenda for next Thursday's Lee Memorial Health System (LMHS) Board of Directors meeting.

Ms. Errington suggested a Memorial Day proclamation for next week's meeting for veterans from the community. There was consensus that the proclamation would be put on the website after the May 20 Council meeting.

Mr. Wilson reported on the ECCL meeting that he attended, and noted that Corkscrew Farms would have a major impact in the DR/GR. Discussion ensued regarding a cumulative impact traffic study for future developments on Corkscrew Road. The Mayor called on ECCL Interim Chair Don Eslick, who reported that ECCL is contemplating such a study and would share the findings with the Council. Bella Terra resident, Mark Novitski commented on the shortcomings of current study methods. Conservancy of Southwest Florida representative, April Olson reported that the Local Planning Agency (LPA) hearings on Corkscrew Farms would be on Monday.

Village Attorney's Comments:

Village Attorney Burt Saunders had no comments.

Interim Village Manager's Comments:

Interim Village Manager Peter Lombardi had no comments.

ADJOURN

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 11:44 am.

ATTEST:

By: 

Interim Village Clerk

VILLAGE OF ESTERO, FLORIDA

By: 

Mayor