

**JUPITER INLET COLONY
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

**LIVE AND VIA ZOOM
Meeting ID 585 628 8134**

03.13.2023

7:00 PM

MINUTES

1. Mayor Comerford Called the Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Roll call for the record:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mayor Daniel J. Comerford III | Chief of Police John Pruitt |
| Vice-Mayor Milton Block | Town Administrator Kevin Lucas |
| Commissioner Richard Busto (absent) | Town Attorney William P. Doney |
| Commissioner Lisa Hines | Town Clerk Ivelisse Chico-Randazzo |
| Commissioner Marie Rosner | |

Also present 40 members of the Community via zoom and in person.

2. **Public Comments:** Gorman Cook introduced his girlfriend, Carol, who was asked to do some research on battery operated landscaping tools and the effects that excessive noise has versus the electric models. Mr. Prosser asked about non-conforming hedges, specifically at 51 Colony, and asked if anything is going to be done about it. Mayor Comerford stated he did not recall such a conversation but that the hedge is within code. Vice Mayor Block suggested that the ordinance be looked at to make sure there is nothing in the ordinance about the size. Mr. Landro brought up the new walkover and he stated that it took him an additional 10-15 seconds to get to the water and his eyes were off the water for some time. Mayor Comerford stated that his letter is on record. Another resident brought up the topic of speeding and people going through stop signs. He stated he has witnessed vehicles driving at 40mph. He has offered the Police officers to park on his driveway to see people speeding. Other residents who live near stop signs also agreed that people do speed, and someone will get hurt. Town Administrator Kevin Lucas stated that the radar guns will be taken to Tequesta to be calibrated and the stop sign issue will be addressed, there will be tickets issued. Cindy Keim thanked the Commission and the Mayor for having the meeting at night and appreciated the new alert system by having the agenda attached to it. Residents complained about the parking on Lighthouse Dr. Commissioner Hines and Mayor Comerford both stated that it is a police and code enforcement matter. Mr. Howell suggested that they be shuttled in, find a location where they can park and rent or buy a shuttle to bring them into the Town. Commissioner Hines stated that it is not the Town's responsibility but rather the individual homeowner. She stated she has observed contractors putting in driveways and landscaping before the homes are completed and the dumpsters are put sideways, limiting the parking spaces on the property. Tracy Siani asked when the house on the corner of Colony and Beacon will

be completed. Mayor Comerford stated yes, the house is projected to be done in May. Another resident asked what the penalty is for someone who is not following the ordinance. Vice Mayor Block stated they should be ticketed, or they can go to small claims. Mayor Comerford stated that the Town has a special arrangement with the Village of Tequesta where they use the Special Master. It is a process, and it usually takes about 30 days to get to the Special Master. The Special Master usually does not take any action the first time but gives the person 10 days to mitigate the problem and if they do not comply, they will be fined \$500 a day.

3. **Vote:** to approve Consent Agenda

- a. February 2023 General Operating Fund Budget Report and Financial Statements
- b. Minutes from February 13, 2023, Regular Commission Meeting.

Motion: Vice Mayor Block made a motion to approve.

Second: Commissioner Rosner seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0.

4. **Commission/Staff Reports:**

- a. **Town Administrator-** No report
- b. **Town Clerk –** No report
- c. **Chief of Police-** Chief Pruitt stated that he will be having crime prevention meetings, regular monthly crime prevention tips, to help curtail the crime that is going on in the area. Chief Pruitt addressed a comment that was said in the last meeting regarding a message that was sent out in Martin County stating that a vehicle was stolen from Jupiter Inlet Colony. Chief Pruitt contacted Martin County Sheriff's Office and spoke to 3 JIC officers who reside in Martin County, and they all said that they only provide general announcements that there are burglaries in the area informing residents to keep valuables out of the vehicles. The Chief also reported that the camera system in Town has been upgraded.
- d. **Code Enforcement-** Mayor Comerford reported 5 incidents regarding whether people have permits. Issues have been resolved.
- e. **Town Attorney –**No Report
- f. **Commissioner Reports-** Commissioner Hines spoke about a proposal that the Chief sent out regarding adding more security in Town. The proposal was to either add a security guard at night or hire another police officer. She stated that she always felt that one police officer at night is not enough. She feels that having another police officer at night is something that the Commission can look at. Vice Mayor Block stated he is against having more police officers. He stated that in the last five years they have had about 5 felonies in Town, and they have been stolen cars, no violent crimes, no burglaries. He stated that crime is down, and violent crime is down. He does not see a security problem in Town. Tony Prosser suggested having Neighborhood Watch just to raise the level of awareness in the Town. It would be a proactive way to get the residents involved. Commissioner Rosner stated that she suggested to the Chief that they have 3 phases, Crime Prevention, Concealed Weapons and Self Defense. She believes that they do need

another police officer at night, especially if they cannot get assistance right away from our neighboring police departments.

- g. **Vice Mayor Block-** Vice Mayor Block reported that he and Kevin attended the first meeting of the Strategic Planning Task Force on the Jupiter Inlet dredging by the Jupiter Inlet District. They will be working on that to make sure the dredging gets done properly. He attended the Jupiter Historical Task Force meeting where they unanimously turned down the developer who wanted to dig up Sunny Sands for archeological reasons. He met with three County Commissioners in the past month pressing on the need to maintain green space in the county and to push for water project and water quality. Vice Mayor Block stated that the Town is in excellent financial shape.
- h. **Mayor Comerford-**Mayor Comerford announced that the Directories are in, they were delivered to homes but if any residents did not get one, to come to Town Hall for their copy. He thanked Leanna Landsman and Lisa Hines for putting it together. He reported that the US 1 Bridge is now closed. He also announced that Turtle Fest will be coming up at the Loggerhead Marine Center and he will be there with the Chief fingerprinting children. The Stackers report that comes out annually listing the 30 most expensive Towns by value of homes, placed Jupiter Inlet Colony at #5 on their list, with a typical home value of \$3,407,000.00, an 18% increase over last year. Mayor Comerford announced that the Organizational meeting would be held on March 27th.

5. **Vote:** Resolution No. 01-2023

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF JUPITER INLET COLONY, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR THE SOLICITATION, COLLECTION AND DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES; PROVIDING A CONFLICTS CLAUSE, A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE, AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Motion: Vice Mayor Block made a motion to approve.

Second: Commissioner Rosner seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0.

6. **Vote:** Resolution No. 02-2023

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF JUPITER INLET COLONY, FLORIDA, REQUESTING A LEGISLATIVE EXEMPTION FROM THE PREEMPTION LAWS GOVERNING THE REGULATION OF PESTICIDES WITHIN THE TOWN; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Motion: Vice Mayor Block made a motion to approve.

Second: Commissioner Rosner seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0.

7. **Discussion:** Location of equipment adjacent to homes

The Town Commission had a discussion regarding the placement of equipment adjacent to homes. It was brought to the Mayor's attention by a resident and the Mayor thought it was a good idea to discuss it at the meeting. Usually equipment such as pool equipment, air conditioning equipment, and generators are placed on the side of the house away from bedrooms but instead by the garage. Putting the equipment on the side of the garage can be putting it on the side of the neighbor's bedroom. This is applying to new construction and or major remodels, not existing homes. Another thing to consider is the alignment of driveways. It was decided that it is something that the Building and Zoning Committee should look at.

8. **Discussion:** Saturday work

The Town Commission had a discussion regarding continuation of allowing work on Saturdays. In regard to new construction, by eliminating work on Saturdays, it is 75 days less that a contractor has to finish work on an 18-month permit, or do they get a 21-month permit. Commissioner Rosner stated she was the one that brought this topic up and it was regarding lawn maintenance. She said that it is very loud on Saturdays, and it takes all day. Vice Mayor Block stated he whole heartedly agrees with the idea of battery powered leaf blowers but as far as the work on Saturdays, he does not want work to stop on Saturdays. The Mayor stated he will have a discussion with Ocean Breeze to see if they would adjust their schedule to do the big cuttings during the week instead of on Saturday.

9. **Discussion:** Observation deck on North Walkway at the Intercoastal.

The Town Commission had a lengthy discussion regarding an Observation deck on the North Walkway at the Intercoastal. The Mayor was approached at the last meeting by residents requesting an observation deck on the Intercoastal. They do not want a kayak launch or paddle board launch, just an observation deck. Mayor Comerford stated he spoke to the residents that reside near where the observation deck would be located, and they were vehemently against having a deck by their residence. They stated that the deck would wind up being used by "young" people who will do things that they should not do. The Mayor stated he countered by saying they would put up very tall sea grapes to buffer the sound and not allow them to see the deck. The neighboring residents stated no. Matt Carrara spoke about this because he was the one who brought this issue to the Mayor. He stated that as a member of the Town, he should have access to the waterway. He stated that based on what the two neighbors say, it should be the right of the neighbors not of the two people. Vice Mayor Block stated that he is very sympathetic to residents' concerns. He stated he does not like doing anything there, it is a particularly isolated area, and he understands why the two neighbors do not want anything there. He also stated that they already have a huge problem with the misbehavior of the boaters on the other and it is an invitation for people to jump onto the deck. Kathie Comerford stated that she swims the entire inlet, and she has caught many people tying up boats and trying to get on people's property, she said she has reported it to the police. Mayor Comerford added that they have had thefts of expensive equipment stolen from residents' docks. It is another access point into the Town. Vice Mayor Block suggested that if 15% of the Town's registered voters agree that they want an observation deck, it can be done by referendum.

10. **Vote:** To Approve F/Y 2021/2022 Audit

Motion: Vice Mayor Block made a motion to approve the F/Y 2021/2022 Audit.

Second: Commissioner Hines seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0.

11. **Wrap-up and adjourn.**

Motion: Commissioner Rosner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Second: Commissioner Hines seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0.

Approved by:

Mayor Daniel J. Comerford III

Date

Town Clerk Ivelisse Chico-Randazzo

Date

STATE MANDATED STATEMENT

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or Commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he/she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Any person requiring special accommodation at this meeting because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the Town prior to the meeting. Please contact the Town Administration Office, Administration Building, 50 Colony Road, Jupiter Inlet Colony, and FL 33469 - telephone 746-3787.