

**JUPITER INLET COLONY
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

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

06.12.2023

3:00 PM

MINUTES

1. Mayor Comerford Called the Meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

Roll call for the record:

Mayor Daniel J. Comerford III
Vice-Mayor Milton Block
Commissioner Richard Busto
Commissioner Mark Ciarfella
Commissioner Marie Rosner

Chief of Police Robert Schultz
Town Administrator Kevin Lucas
Town Attorney William P. Doney
Town Clerk Ivelisse Chico-Randazzo

2. **Mayor's Address to the Town:** Mayor Dan Comerford announced that he would be resigning/retiring as Mayor/Town Commissioner after dedicating 20 years of volunteering to the Town. His retirement would be effective Friday, June 16, 2023.
3. **Public Comments:** Many residents thanked Mayor Dan for his years of service and the work he did for the Town. Other residents had comments regarding Town Attorney William Doney needing to be replaced. Gina Levesque, Intake and Compliance Manager for the PBC Commission on Ethics spoke about ethics.
4. **Vote:** to approve Consent Agenda
- a. May 2023 General Operating Fund Budget Report and Financial Statements
 - b. Minutes from May 8, 2023, Regular Commission Meeting.
 - c. Minutes from May 23, 2023, Special Organizational Meeting

Motion: Vice Mayor Block made a motion to approve an amend the budget and instruct Town Accountant to restore the budget and financials monthly for reconciliation.

Second: Commissioner Busto seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0.

5. Commission/Staff Reports:

- a. **Town Administrator-** Kevin Lucas reported that he had some concerns regarding pets. He advised residents after walking their dogs to wash their paws because there is hook worm and other viruses and several dogs in Town have gotten sick.

- b. **Town Clerk** – No report
- c. **Chief of Police**- Chief Schultz reported that on the new website, there is more information regarding what the Town Administrator stated.
- d. **Code Enforcement**- Mayor Comerford reported that there were 4 reports by neighbors asking about the status of work being done on properties.
- e. **Town Attorney** – No report
- f. **Commissioner Reports**- Commissioner Busto introduced a very special guest, his grandson Nate who was in Town visiting. Commissioner Rosner reported that she is still working with Attorney Doney on the ordinance she suggested to change regarding weekend work.
- g. **Vice Mayor Block**- Vice Mayor Block took the opportunity to update residents on the Chief Police Selection Committee. He read a prepared statement with updates. The report is posted on the Town's website.
- h. **Mayor Comerford**- Mayor Comerford reported that he had received the preliminary taxable value of the Town which was up 16% since last year at a value of \$551,535,639.00. He stated it may go up when they get the final number in July once they set the milage. The milage is currently set at 5.56 mils. To put it in perspective, the milage when he moved in 2000, was 5.59 mils and the taxable value was \$122,074,249.00 which was an increase of 452% over the years. He stated that the way they measure the taxable value of a Town is by taxable value per capita and the Town usually has a steady population of 396 which is \$1.4 million per person, which makes the Town one of the top 10 wealthiest Towns to live in.

6. **Vote: Town Policy**

No Town Employee, including Town Police Officers, shall be hired or fired except upon approval of the Town Commission upon recommendation of the Mayor.

Vice Mayor Block wanted to amend the motion to exclude being fired because if the Mayor or Chief of Police wanted to fire someone, they would have to have a public meeting. For At-Will employees, you don't necessarily have to give a cause but if there are causes and the causes are stipulated in the Town Charter, they have a right to come before the Town Commission. Vice Mayor Block does not believe the word fired should be in the motion and it should read: No Town Employee, including Police Officers, shall be hired except upon approval of the Town Commission upon recommendation of the Mayor. Commissioner Ciarfella seconded the motion for discussion. Commissioner Ciarfella asked why they have to single out Police Officers when they are Town employees. Commissioner Rosner asked Attorney Doney if this motion is a change to the Town Charter? Town Attorney Doney stated he does not think this is changing the Charter, he stated that the Mayor is the CEO under the supervision of the Town Commission and this brings it back to the supervision of the Town Commission.

Amended Motion: No Town Employee shall be hired except upon approval of the Town Commission upon recommendation of the Mayor.

Motion: Commissioner Busto made a motion to approve the amended motion.

Second: Commissioner Ciarfella seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-1 (Commissioner Rosner voted no.)

7. **Vote: Town Policy:** All major decisions affecting the Town's welfare, including but not limited to, contracts, use of Town vehicles, reserve fund expenditures and personnel policies and procedures shall be brought to the Town Commission for discussion and approval.

Commissioner Rosner again stated that regarding this decision to change the Town policy, will this be null and void because in order to change the Town Charter you must have a referendum. She also believes that the Commission meeting is not the correct format to discuss these changes. They need to conduct workshops to discuss these changes. Vice Mayor Block stated this is not changing the Town Charter, this would be in effect only until the Town decides they need a new Town Charter.

Motion: Vice Mayor Block made a motion to approve the motion.

Second: Commissioner Busto seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-1 (Commissioner Rosner voted no.)

8. **Discussion:** To charge Town Attorney Bill Doney to present to the Commission the procedures for amending the Town Charter to adopt an Amendment to the Town Charter to adopt a Town Manager form of government for consideration at the July 10th meeting. In addition, one Commissioner should be charged with the responsibility of working with Mr. Doney and his legal team to research and recommend amendments to the Charter for consideration by residents and the Commission with a goal of discussing these at the August meeting.

Vice Mayor Block discussed what the steps would be to research the steps that could be taken to change the Town Charter. Commissioner Rosner stated that she believes that having a Town Manager form of government should be investigated and she agreed that workshops are needed. She also suggested that they talk to other council to see what they suggest as to the best form of government for the Town.

9. **Discussion and Vote:** Take Home Cars – Commissioner Busto asked that this discussion be moved to the July meeting.

Motion: Commissioner Busto made a motion to approve.

Second: Vice Mayor Block seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0.

10. **Wrap-up and adjourn.** The meeting was adjourned at 4:28pm.

Motion: Vice Mayor Block made a motion to approve.

Second: Commissioner Ciarfella seconded the motion

Motion passed 5-0.

Approved by:

Mayor Milton "Chip" Block

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 561-746-3787.