

RESOLUTION NO. 14-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF INDIAN RIVER SHORES, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON BY OFFERING SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT TO SECTION 381.0065, FLORIDA STATUTES, THAT WOULD AUTHORIZE STATE AND AFFECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT THE USE OF A MODIFIED/COMBINED SEPTIC TANK EFFLUENT PUMP (STEP) SYSTEM, ALLOWING FOR AN AFFORDABLE MODIFICATION TO SEPTIC TANKS THEREBY REDUCING SEPTIC TANK EFFLUENT REACHING THE GROUNDWATER AND REDUCING NUTRIENT LOADINGS TO THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON; PROVIDING CONSISTENCY AND CLARIFICATION BETWEEN EXISTING SEPTIC TANK REGULATIONS PROMULGATED BY THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH; URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT SUCH LEGISLATION AND GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT TO SUPPORT AND APPROVE SUCH LEGISLATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town Council continues to support efforts to protect the Indian River Lagoon and to support reasonable and appropriate action to improve the Lagoon; and

WHEREAS, although there are very few septic tanks in the Town's jurisdictional limits, the Town Council desires to express support for a legislative initiative regarding septic tanks for the potential benefit of other local municipalities who are more directly affected by existing septic tanks and for the potential benefit the long term health of the Indian River Lagoon; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council understands that high nutrient inputs to the waters of the Indian River Lagoon ecosystem result, in part, from storm water releases and runoff, sewage treatment plant overflow events, and seeping septic and drain field systems along the 156 miles of the ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, such pollutants have been and continue to degrade the Indian River Lagoon ecosystem, detrimentally affecting seagrass beds and adversely affecting the viability of both lagoon and ocean fisheries, leading to declining habitat quality for fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council recognizes that the City of Vero Beach has been exploring a more cost effective septic system approach in order to help reduce nutrient loadings to the Indian River Lagoon; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vero Beach has identified one such system that is apparently approximately half the cost of a conventional gravity sewer system and works to reduce septic system effluent reaching the groundwater is a modified Septic Tank Effluent Pump (STEP) System, or Combined System; and

WHEREAS, by installing a Combined System, affected local governments may be able to affordably capture and treat over 99% of the effluent at local wastewater treatment plants, with the remaining less than 1% disposed of through an authorized drain field that would remain in place for a backup effluent disposal; and

WHEREAS, a Combined System has never been utilized in Florida; and

WHEREAS, minor modifications to Section 381.0065, Florida Statutes will be requiree in order to allow local governments to put a Combined System into place; and

WHEREAS, the proposed modifications to Section 381.0065 would provide consistency and clarification between existing septic system regulations promulgated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Department of Health, and allow local governments more flexibility in handling local septic tank: issues for the benefit of the local communities; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the public and local communities throughout the state that the Florida Legislature adopt amendments to Section 381.0065, Florida Statutes in order to allow state and local governments to implement Combined System.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF INDIAN RIVER SHORES, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1. Support for Legislative Changes to Section 381.0065, Florida Statutes.

The Town Council hereby expresses its support for legislative changes to Section 381.0065, Florida Statutes, Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems regulation, to facilitate a modified/combined septic tank effluent pump (STEP) system ("Combined System") in those communities affected by septic tanks.

The Town Council urges the Florida Legislature to adopt and Governor Rick Scott to support and approve such amendments to Section 381.0065 to allow state and affected local governments to use this more affordable and effective Combined System to modify existing septic systems, thereby helping to reduce nutrient loadings to the Indian River Lagoon ecosystem.


Section 2. Distribution.

The Town Clerk is directed to distribute copies of this Resolution to Governor Rick Scott, the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, the President of the Florida Senate, the Indian River County Legislative Delegation, the Florida League of Cities, the Florida Association of Counties, the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners, the Treasure Coast Council of Governments, the Treasure Coast Regional League of Cities, and the governing bodies each municipality in Indian River County.

Section 3. Effective Date.


This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption by the Town Council.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a Regular Meeting of the Town Council this 24th day of April, 2014



Brian M. Barefoot, Mayor

ATTEST:



Laura Aldrich, Town Clerk

