

MAYOR
THOMAS F. SLATER

VICE MAYOR
ROBERT F. AUWAERTER

COUNCIL:
JESSE L. "SAM" CARROLL, JR.
BRIAN T. FOLEY
DEBORAH H. PENISTON



TOWN MANAGER
JOE GRIFFIN

TOWN CLERK
LAURA ALDRICH

TOWN ATTORNEY:
CHESTER CLEM

MINUTES

Regular Town Council Meeting

Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

TOWN OF INDIAN RIVER SHORES

6001 N. STATE ROAD A1A INDIAN RIVER SHORES, FL 32963

1. **Call to Order** 9:01 AM

- a. Invocation
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Roll Call

Mayor Slater called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with the invocation being given by Councilman Carroll, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance recited by all. Those in attendance were as follows: Mayor **Slater**, Vice Mayor **Auwaerter**, Councilman **Carroll**, Councilman **Foley**, and Councilmember **Peniston**. Also present were STAFF: Town Manager **Griffin**, Town Clerk **Aldrich**, Town Attorney **Clem**, Town Treasurer **Christmas**, Assistant to the Town Clerk **Pallo**, Public Safety Chief **Rosell**; RESIDENTS: Nancy **Auwaerter** (Ocean Colony - CCAC), Bob **Geeseman** (John's Island), Dave **Crawford** (The Estuary), Joanne **Sardella** (Surf Lane), John **Brady** (River Club) ; GUESTS: Mike **Korpar** (John's Island), Rebecca **Grohall** (MBV), Janet **Begley** (Press Journal).

2. **Agenda Reordering, Deletions, or Emergency Additions**

3. **Presentations/Proclamations**

- a. George Sharpe, MPO Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC), 2-24-2011 through 1-28-2020
- b. Bob Geeseman, Code Enforcement Board, 7-25-13 through 2-27-2020

Town Clerk Aldrich stated that Mr. Sharpe was not able to attend the meeting today, and asked if this could be postponed until April. The Mayor and Council did not object, and a Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Bob Geeseman by Mayor Slater for serving for 7 years on the Code Enforcement Board for the Town. He thanked him for his service to the residents.

4. **Consent Agenda**

- a. Acceptance of Planning, Zoning & Variance Board Minutes dated January 14, 2020
- b. Approval of Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes dated January 23, 2020
- c. Approval of Special Called Town Council Meeting Minutes dated January 30, 2020

With no discussion, **a motion was made** by Councilmember Auwaerter with support from Councilman Carroll **to approve the consent agenda as presented, which passed 5-0.**

5. **Town Attorney**

- a. Resolution 20-01, Amending FY 19-20 Annual Budget (Treasurer Christmas)

Mayor Slater recognized the Treasurer, who stated that this is the first of the quarterly Budget Amendments covering through January 31, 2020. It includes all the activity with the pension as well as the Union contract.

Mr. Clem read the Resolution by title and then in its entirety. **A motion to adopt Resolution 20-01, First Amendment to the FY19-20 Budget**, was made by Councilman Foley, which was seconded by Councilmember Peniston and **passed unanimously.**

6. **Mayor or Council Items**

- a. Town Manager Performance Evaluation

Mayor Slater said the Town Council performs annual evaluations of key personnel in the Town on the anniversary of the employee's hire date. Each member of Council completes their own

This is a public meeting. The Town of Indian River Shores does not transcribe verbatim minutes. Should any interested party seek to appeal any decision made by the Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose he or she may need to ensure that a record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

evaluation, which are then scored by the Town Clerk and compiled to achieve an average. The maximum score is a 5 and Mr. Griffin scored a 4.945. Mayor Slater stated they felt the Town was being well-managed prior to Mr. Griffin's arrival, but it is clear he has elevated the Manager's position considerably over where we were. The thoroughness and anticipation in looking forward to determine Town needs is greatly appreciated.

Councilmember Peniston said she agreed with Mayor Slater and added that Joe was very helpful in resolving the contract negotiations with the Union amicably. Councilman Foley said he also agrees completely and added that Mr. Griffin is fiscally responsible and anticipates problems rather than just solving them. Councilman Carroll added that he views Joe as being truly customer-service oriented. He is incredibly responsive, not only to members of the Town Council, but to members of the Community. Vice Mayor Auwaerter said his fellow Council members' views of Mr. Griffin are consistent with his, and reiterated the Mayor's point that Mr. Griffin is forward-thinking on things.

Mayor Slater said they had a responsibility to perform a salary review as the Council individually had recommended an increase ranging from 5% to 6.5%. Councilmember Peniston suggested a compromise of 5.5%. Vice Mayor Auwaerter made **a motion to increase the Town Manager's annual salary by 5.5% effective on his anniversary date of February 11, 2020**. This motion was seconded by Councilmember Peniston and **passed 5-0**. Mayor Slater thanked Mr. Griffin and said that he is an asset to the Town, and everybody enjoys working with him.

Also, Mayor Slater said, after almost 18 months, the contract with the Public Safety Department was finalized last month. He believes it was a very good resolution and its good for the Town. He believes the officers are quite satisfied. Mr. Griffin and Mrs. Christmas were both extremely helpful in getting this completed. Chief Rosell said it was a very fair agreement.

6. Discussion with Possible or Probable Action

a. John's Island Cemetery, Continued (Town Manager) 9:15 AM

Mr. Griffin said that at our last meeting he introduced a proposal from Tropical Property Management (TPM) to perform some physical improvements at the John's Island Cemetery this summer. He was also tasked by Council to look into survey and identify items that may be deficient. He contacted one of the Town's engineering consulting firms, MBV Engineering, as they have experience with this type of survey. He received a proposal from them and is submitting Work Authorization #16 to the Town Council for approval. It is a multifaceted work authorization to record all headstones, prepare a map and complete the plot delineation. They will be utilizing ground-penetrating radar for accuracy.

He also wanted to report on the cemetery financials. The September 30, 2020 balance estimate is \$47,731. He believes after Mrs. Christmas produced the document there was another contribution made to the Cemetery Trust Fund in the amount of \$5,000, which Mrs. Christmas confirmed. The contributions received thus far to this fund total \$22,000.

Mr. Griffin stated he has created a plan, and the schedule is ambitious. Assuming Council approves this work authorization, he will get with MBV immediately to get the project moving expeditiously. Number 2 in his plan is the purchase of cemetery software for the Town Clerk's use. We have not yet decided and therefore do not know the amount, but if it is above his limit of \$10,000, he will of course be bringing that item before Council for approval. Vice Mayor Auwaerter asked what cemetery software brings to the table, and Mr. Griffin said that once the survey is completed the information will be uploaded to the software, giving the Town Clerk a map of where each individual is currently buried and the exact location of all the plots. Town Clerk Aldrich added that it also allows for a historical view of what has happened with each plot. Some of them are bought, then sold, then resold. We need to be able to assist those individuals researching and to tell those who own the plots exactly where they are.

Mayor Slater said he thinks the cemetery is an example of a project that was either taken for granted or been benignly neglected. Now, with the help of citizens of the Town we are trying to get it back into good order. Vice Mayor Auwaerter stated they would be remiss in not mentioning Councilman Carroll's guidance regarding this issue, as he has done a lot of work on it. Councilmember Peniston made **a motion to approve Work Authorization #16**, which was seconded by Councilman Carroll and **passed unanimously**.

b. Town Pavement Evaluation (Town Manager) (9:19)

Mr. Griffin said during the budget work-up session for this fiscal year he was faced with the decision as to whether to initiate a road improvement project or to concentrate on the building improvements that we will talk about in a subsequent agenda transmittal. He made the tactical decision to go ahead with the building

improvement project and defer the road maintenance project based on an inspection of the roads with our asphalt and concrete provider, Tim Rose Construction. He asked Mr. Rose for his evaluation of the roads based on a study completed by MBV Engineering in 2017. Mr. Rose indicated that the conditions were not that bad, there were a few potholes on the Town-controlled roads which our maintenance personnel have fixed with cold-patch. He recommended that we reevaluate later and to put the project off for another fiscal year. Mr. Griffin asked MBV to conduct another study and asked that they provide an updated schedule. He just wanted to make Council aware of what is going on and to let them know that he is aware of the road conditions and he is looking into it. Amy Ann Lane, which is less than 100 yards long, is budgeted to be repaired this fiscal year. The new schedule calls for Surf and Reef Lanes to be redone next, and he hopes to have this accomplished as soon into the next fiscal year as possible. The reason he is bringing it forward now is just a preview of things to come.

Mayor Slater asked what Tim Rose's quotation is for, specifically. Mr. Griffin answered it is to mill and resurface Surf Lane and Reef Lane. He asked that Mr. Rose include the addition of a Miami-curb and gutter system to the roads, which helps with conveyance of stormwater to a drainage structure so it can exit the Town. These systems also help prevent the grass from infringing on the road and creating a bowl effect, holding the water on them which messes up the asphalt and creates alligator cracking and diminishment of the base leading to road failure. He believes the new standard in Town should be to have Miami curb and gutter systems installed on those Town-controlled roads that do not already have them.

c. Building Official Services (Town Manager) (9:23)

The Town Building Official submitted his resignation at the end of January. Mr. Griffin published a solicitation for a new Town Building Official on the Town website, the Building Official Association of Florida's website and on the Florida League of Cities Job Resource Board on their website. He did receive applications and started conducting interviews.

In the interim, we still need a building official and building inspection services in the Building Department. He reached out to two organizations who provide these services, SafeBuilt and GFA. SafeBuilt was not as responsive as he thought necessary, so he interviewed a management representative from GFA and entered into a Letter of Engagement with them to provide building official services through a person here inhouse until we could arrange for a more formal piggyback agreement from Council. We have had a licensed building official inhouse from GFA since a week or so after the formal Building Official resigned, and are up to date on our inspections and plan reviews.

Mr. Griffin concluded that he has conducted interviews with prospective building officials and has made an offer to someone who has verbally accepted with a start date of April 15th. Mayor Slater wished to clarify that GFA is already assisting us, and Mr. Griffin confirmed. Councilman Foley made a **motion to approve the agreement between the Town of Indian River Shores and GFA**, which was seconded by Vice Mayor Auwaerter and **passed unanimously**.

d. Boards & Committee Openings/Reappointments (Town Clerk) (9:27)

1) Code Enforcement Board (CEB) – Beverly Ford & Bill Beardslee (3-year term)

Town Clerk Aldrich stated she heard back from both Beverly Ford & Bill Beardslee regarding their positions on the Code Enforcement Board as full members, and both are willing and able to be of service whenever the need does arise. If Council is agreeable, we need a motion to confirm their reappointment. **A motion** was made by Councilman Carroll and seconded by Vice Mayor Auwaerter **to approve the reappointment of Bill Beardslee and Beverly Ford to the Code Enforcement Board**. This motion **passed 5-0**.

2) Openings for Appointment (PZ & V Board & CEB Alternates, CEB Member)

Mrs. Aldrich went on to say there is still an opening on the Code Enforcement Board (CEB) for one full-time member and two alternate members, as well as an opening on the Planning Zoning and Variance (PZ&V) Board for an alternate member. We have actively been soliciting on the website and through our News Alerts for these positions. Mayor Slater asked if Bill Beardslee was allowed to go back on the PZ&V Board, and Mrs. Aldrich answered that he could if he wished, but he preferred to stay on the CEB.

e. Town Hall Remodel Proposal (Town Manager) (9:29)

Mr. Griffin stated his initial thought was to construct a new building for the Building Department, which was brought to Council for consideration two or three meetings ago. He has since rethought that and believes we should make the existing space more efficient by remodeling. He does not see the Town hiring a lot more people outside of maybe an IT employee, who would be securely housed at Public Safety. He wants to maintain positive

and friendly access for residents and visitors while still making Town Hall a more hardened, safer place for its employees.

He reached out to both of the Town's engineering consultants and the best response he received was from MBV Engineering. They have interior architects on staff as well as a close association with a security expert. He requested a proposal from them, and presented the resulting Work Authorization #17 for Council's approval. This multi-phased operation will first come to Council in conceptual space organization on paper for approval, and then we will enter the construction phase, with MBV involved as construction administrators. The amount is \$33,500 and we have budgeted \$340,000 this year. The Building Department will pay for their share of the renovations out of their budget, which has \$400,000 budgeted this year toward the project. We expect the Building Department's portion to be 25%-30% of the total project. Councilman Foley said he presumes that the end work product of this work authorization will be a visual representation of the plans for the remodeling. He said most governments are anticipating increased technology demands and he wants to ensure that we are engaging a company who can assist us in that area. Mr. Griffin said that is on his radar. We will come back with a floor plan, and it will show where the walls, furniture and workspaces would be. Mr. Griffin stated this will not solve the workplace problems completely, but he believes it will be adequate for the next 20-30 years. After this project is completed, he intends to turn his attention to the Public Safety building, which also needs an upgrade, and the budget for next fiscal year will reflect that. If we need a secure server room, or a safe place to monitor Town Hall security, what better place than Public Safety?

Mayor Slater said we have a consultant who has been helping us with IT security for about a year, and asked if his services would be used during this planning stage. Mr. Griffin said that Mr. Aldrich has been instrumental in helping us with MIS/IT security. Mayor Slater commented that he believes this is vitally important. He was in Paducah, KY last week, and the City was attacked by ransomware. Their computers were locked. They were desperate and ended up paying the ransom, but it was a real challenge for them for a couple of days.

A motion to approve Work Authorization #17 was made by Councilman Carroll, was seconded by Councilman Foley, and **passed unanimously**.

7. **Town Manager Updates** 9:38 AM

a. Town Manager Updates

Mr. Griffin mentioned the improvements that were done at the **employee parking lot**, which have relieved some of the parking issue in front of Council Chambers. There was also some clearing done to the north which opens things up and provides a better visual for our residents. Regarding the **cell tower**, Mr. Griffin stated that we do not receive many complaints from AT&T customers, but we do receive complaints about Verizon's service. He started a conversation with Mike Korpar, General Manager of John's Island Property Owners Association (JIPOA), about a meeting with Datapath approximately one year ago where installing another tower in John's Island was discussed. Curt Jones of Datapath was onsite yesterday, and Mr. Griffin introduced him to Mr. Korpar so they can begin the conversation about the possibility of installing this "mini" tower somewhere in the Old Winter Beach Road area, with hopes it will help our residents with Verizon reception. Vice Mayor Auwaerter asked if anyone has reached out to Verizon, because there is a tuning process that goes on that may have been done incorrectly. Mr. Griffin said he spoke to Mr. Jones about the issues with Verizon and those contacts have been made. Mayor Slater added that in dealing with both Verizon and AT&T, Verizon was so unresponsive for so long. Even though they were paying rent for space on the tower, they had no equipment installed for quite some time. Now that they are operational, he gets very consistent complaints about dropped calls and no service, and some are saying if anything the service is worse now than before the tower. Vice Mayor Auwaerter noted there is a dead zone along A1A south of the John's Island traffic light. Mayor Slater asked that Mr. Griffin keep Council informed of the progress that Mr. Jones makes with Verizon, as we in effect made backdoor contacts with people in Washington who can put pressure on Verizon to fix whatever the issue may be. We would prefer not to have to contact them, but can if we have to.

The **drainage on Old Winter Beach Road** has been worked on by Mancil's Tractor Service, who replaced the sand with the correct type. He believes the swales are now in proper working order, although we really won't know until the rainy season. The next part of that project was the replacement of the sidewalk on the western portion of the project and that is ongoing. Rebecca Grohall of MBV has provided a status report every other day. Mr. Griffin visited the site yesterday and the sidewalk was formed up, but he is unsure when they are going to pour due to the rain we had overnight. Once complete, Ms. Grohall will close out the project for us.

We still have another \$100,000 grant that we have been given over and above the project that Ms. Grohall is going to be closing out. He is hopeful that once the sidewalk is finished Ms. Grohall can obtain the As-Built

plans from the County and we can close the project out with FDEM. Mayor Slater said he hopes that Old Winter Beach Road is nearing final completion; there have been great improvements, it is just unfortunate that this final phase has slowed down.

b. Departmental Reports (1. Building; 2. Finance; 3. Town Clerk; 4. Public Safety) (9:44)

Town Treasurer Christmas said we are currently waiting on the General Employee's Defined Benefit Plan actuarial study, which will be followed by a Finance Committee Meeting. Vice Mayor Auwaerter asked about the \$40,000 budget increase under Public Safety Payroll and Related Benefits for an employee who has been out on long-term worker's compensation, with the Treasurer stating that it is not annualized, so the Town could potentially end up paying \$120,000.

Town Clerk Aldrich reminded Council of the annual ethics course requirement and has a date for the local class but no time or location. Those who are terming out or choose not to run again need not take the course. Councilman Foley said for those who need to complete the course and have not already done so, there is a free 4-hour course online that is revised every year and satisfies the ethics course requirement.

Chief Rosell said the Public Safety Department had a record 13.8% sick leave for the month of January. Officers F, G, J & N all called in sick on the same day from the flu. On that day, his department made a total of 8 visits, 2 visits to each officer, once in the late morning and once in the late afternoon, just to ensure they were still home. They were still in their pajamas coughing and sneezing. These 4 officers accounted for more than 250 hours of sick leave that month, which is what skewed their statistics. Vice Mayor Auwaerter said he assumed the Public Safety Department has a normal schedule of vaccination requirements for all officers and Chief Rosell confirmed.

Mr. Griffin added that he and Chief Rosell spoke about the plan for the Public Safety Department regarding the Coronavirus should there be some sort of epidemic. Mr. Griffin is very satisfied with the plan and he thanked Chief Rosell for being so forward thinking. Councilman Carroll asked if they might have a brief explanation of what the plan entails. Chief Rosell said that Coronavirus has not yet reached the pandemic stage. If it does, the County Health Department basically takes over the whole area. Since there is no vaccination for this, there is no plan for mass prophylaxis, meaning that the Public Safety officers cannot be inoculated, and they could get sick. So, for example, if it gets to the point where there are only two officers available per shift who are not sick, those two officers will be on police patrol and they will call for mutual aid from the County for any fire and rescue calls. If he can get three officers per shift who are not sick, they will cover police and rescue and call on mutual aid from the County for any fire calls. They need a minimum of five men on shift to cover fire calls. That is the plan going forward. He does not foresee it getting that bad, but one never knows, so they had to have a plan in place.

Vice Mayor Auwaerter said that the nation of Japan has shut down all its schools for four weeks as of this morning. This has eerily similar trends to Spanish flu. He hopes Chief Rosell is right and that is not the case, but this appears to be gaining a serious amount of momentum. Mr. Griffin said he has reached out to Indian River County Administrator Jason Brown to request a meeting with all of the local municipal managers and Cheryl Dunn of the Health Department to get a briefing from her as to what they are going to do, and he is awaiting a response from Mr. Brown.

c. Other Town Matters

8. **Council/Committee Reports or Non-Action Items**

(MPO, EDC, TCCLG, TCRPC, IRC PSC Citizen's Oversight Committee, CoVB Utilities Commission)

a. Committee Reports (9:52)

Beach & Shore Preservation Committee. Councilman Carroll reported that the County Commissioners approved a study of erosion in Sector 4 to determine whether this area is critically eroded. Vice Mayor Auwaerter said the consultant already recommended that they seek that designation and asked what the Commission approved. Councilman Carroll answered a \$25,000 expenditure to further study the area.

Economic Development Council (EDC). Councilman Carroll attended this meeting, and they learned that the County Commission voted 5-0 to appeal the decision regarding Brightline with the Court of Appeals. They have received \$200,000 in private funds to be used for this appeal. If they win, they will have to consider spending an additional \$400,000 to take the issue to the Supreme Court. A lot of the private funds came from Indian River Shores, Mayor Slater added. The County has \$400,000 in their budget to continue the legal battle, but they voted last month support Senator Mayfield's bill on safety instead. Vice Mayor Auwaerter stated they are trying to get a Writ of Certiorari, and if they get that they will spend the additional \$400,000. Unfortunately, a revised search of potential conflicts was just performed on the law firm they were going to use and some issues

popped up, creating a search for another firm. With regard to Senator Mayfield's bill, it appears to be on life support. He and Susan Mehiel attended and presented at a Florida Transportation Committee meeting held at the Intergenerational Center, and Mrs. Mehiel had found a piece of legislation previously passed that stated FDOT is supposed to regulate it, but they have fought tooth and nail to try not to be involved.

Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC). Mayor Slater said the Committee is working very hard at the County level, and includes people here in Indian River Shores who are working very hard trying to help come up with ways to begin to alleviate the problem. You cannot just solve the affordable housing problem. It is a major problem in our County. The work continues every week on the part of a lot of citizens.

Treasure Coast Council of Local Government (TCCLG) (9:57). Councilman Foley attended the TCCLG meeting where they discussed the unemployment rates, which are: Martin County – 2.6%, Indian River County – 3.1%, St. Lucie County – 3.3.% and Okeechobee County – 2.7%. The highest job gains were in the Leisure & Hospitality sector. Of course, this was before the recent activity in the stock market. It was reiterated that there continues to be bills that would adversely affect home rule, in our particular case, the short-term rental bill. Governor DeSantis recently expressed his opinion that he is not necessarily in favor of this bill. He intends to send a letter against the bill to the Governor as a voter and urges others to do the same. The affordable housing issue also came up, and one comment was made at the meeting that the phrase 'affordable housing' is confusing to some people. What we are really talking about is affordable workforce housing. They are considering whether or not they are going to rebrand the whole approach, so people do not have a negative reaction toward the issue. Councilman Foley says he now has a greater understanding of what the issue really is.

Vero Beach Utilities Commission (9:59). Vice Mayor Auwaerter said he attended a Vero Beach City Council workshop on February 25 where they discussed the wastewater treatment plant, and potentially moving it off the river and over to the airport. They are continuing to have discussions with the County to see if it makes sense to combine with them. He intends to reach out to Indian River County Utilities Director Vincent Burke to get his perspective on how the discussions are going.

Police-Fire Pension Board (The Vice Mayor continued that he and Councilman Carroll had attended this meeting this week, sitting on opposite sides of the room so they wouldn't have any Sunshine Law issues. He spoke to the Board, reiterating the pension fund rate of return is up 50 basis points and pointed out that yields are at an all-time low as far as the bond market is concerned. He also mentioned that using long-term valuation methods for stocks, they are near all-time highs since 1986 with the exception of the dot com boom around 2000, which did not turn out particularly well. His point to the Board was to make their pension consultant do some work and provide them with an analysis to see whether a 9% return before expenses on the equity in real estate portions of the fund, which is necessary to achieve that 6.75% rate of return for the fund overall, makes sense. The Board was unwilling to make a motion to do that, although there was some discussion by a couple of the members that Council appointed to the Board. He invited Councilman Carroll to share his perspective of the meeting.

Councilman Carroll said he advocated that the Board not compare the 200 clients that Foster and Foster serves to the internal rate of return section of Indian River Shores versus other communities on with the principle of the importance of home rule. The minutes of the July 30th meeting reflect the point (made by the Public Safety Officer who made the motion to increase the rate from 6.25% to 6.75%) that Indian River Shores ranked as 4th most conservative of Foster & Foster's clients. Increasing the rate of return would put the Town around 10th. Councilman Carroll did not agree that what goes on in other municipalities is germane to what should happen here. The other Public Safety Officer, who seconded the motion, asked why they should continue to put more money into an over-funded plan? Councilman Carroll's point was that by raising the discount rate from 6.25% to 6.75%, it increases the funding from 101.6% to 106%. If they were concerned about the plan being over funded, they should have reduced the discount rate to 6%. Councilman Carroll said the reason they did it was they wanted the Town, but more importantly Public Safety Officers, to contribute less funds. There was very little discussion about the investment case, and he believed they ignored the comments that he, the Vice Mayor, and those made by visitors to the meeting.

Mayor Slater said it seems counterproductive, but the Town actually puts considerably less money into the fund with this higher rate, and Council is arguing that they would rather put in more in hopes of protecting the officer's retirement funds. Hopefully a lightbulb will go on somewhere because it is not moving in the right direction. In the past 5 days, the volatility of the market is unpredictable. Councilman Carroll added that the timing of a decision could come as late as their July 2020 meeting, because it is at that July meeting that the assumed rate of return is transmitted to the actuary, so we have six more months to persuade them. Mr. Slater said he has always found in business that it is better to look at reality than the hypothetical. They are using

theoretical instead of historical rates of return, and he believes that history is a much better judge, and that is the opinion of this Council and has been since they changed the rate.

b. Informational Updates or Comments

9. **Call to Audience** 10:09 AM

Dave Crawford, 305 Estuary Drive, addressed the Council regarding dredging the channel west of The Estuary to the intracoastal waterway. He volunteers for Public Safety as a beach patrol, and occasionally on the new boat that has firefighting capabilities. He is appreciative of the boat, and thinks it is good to show the flag to people travelling up and down the intracoastal waterway as its presence makes Indian River Shores known as a very safe community.

However, there is a very shallow 1,800' section to get out to the intracoastal waterway from The Estuary, with a depth of about 1 ½ -3 feet. That boat is worth about \$130,000, and has a 200-horsepower motor and a deep-v aluminum hull; it is a great boat. If you can't get it to the waterway, it doesn't do us much good. In the last three weeks it probably could not have been used on a lot of days because the tides have been very, very low. He lives on the canal and he sees the Police go by for emergency response, which is great. Can you imagine if they go out at night and they are in the channel when all of a sudden, they run aground? The Town could have a messed-up boat, a potentially injured officer and a ruined motor, all because you didn't dredge.

Mr. Crawford did some research and found that FIND, the Florida Inland Navigation District, has grant funds available for 2020. Their website states that grant applications are due by March 27th. He is asking for Council to recognize that it is very shallow and have the Town staff look into writing a FIND funding application to dredge out there. Mr. Crawford volunteered to help write it, although he has never written one. He said you can also stack other agency's money on top of the funds from FIND, should we obtain multiple grants.

Mr. Crawford also had talked to two dredging companies. Years ago, they didn't need to have a permit, they just dredged. Right now, what the EPA and the Army Corps do is look at Google maps and if the area looks as though it has been dredged historically, it would be considered as a maintenance permit, which can be obtained in 90 days, versus potentially denied if the area looks as though it has never been dredged.

Mayor Slater thought the Town should consider this. Mr. Griffin responded that he is on it, having already met with Mr. Crawford yesterday to discuss this issue and made a couple phone calls. **A motion to proceed with exploring dredging the Estuary channel** was made by Councilman Foley, which was seconded by Councilmember Peniston and **passed unanimously**. Mayor Slater asked Chief Rosell if we have another location to launch from, and Chief Rosell responded affirmatively.

Nancy Auwaerter, Ocean Colony, **thanked the Council for the installation of television screens** in Council Chambers. Two meetings ago there was a presentation by someone who was discussing the sewer system and it was so much easier to follow what was going on by looking straight ahead than by craning your neck trying to see it on the side wall like we used to do. She thanks the Council for making that investment.

10. **Adjournment** 10:15 AM

There being no further business or comment, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Approved by the Town Council at the March 21, 2020
Regular Town Council Meeting.*

/s

Laura Aldrich, Town Clerk