

**JUPITER INLET COLONY  
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING  
244 Ocean Drive -Jupiter Inlet Colony Beach Club**

**10.13.2021**

**7:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

1. Call to Order 7:00 PM, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call.

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	Town Attorney William P. Doney
Commissioner Lisa Hines (via telephone)	Town Clerk Ivelisse Chico-Randazzo
Commissioner Cindy Keim	

Others in attendance: Approximately 10 members of the community.

2. Public Comments: Mrs. Tracy Siani congratulated the Commissioners and the Garden Club on the Park. She stated it looks gorgeous, it's a wonderful asset to the community. She also addressed the lighting in the park, lighting for safety is one thing but lighting for vanity is something the town does not want to promulgate.

3. Vote: to approve Consent Agenda
  - a. September 2021 General Operating Fund Budget Report and Financial Statements
  - b. Minutes from September 13, 2021, First Public Hearing on Budget, and Taxes.
  - c. Minutes from September 13, 2021, Regular Commission Meeting.
  - d. Minutes from September 27, 2021, Final Hearing on Budget, and Taxes.
  - e. Minutes from September 27, 2021, Special Commission Meeting.

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

Second: Commissioner Busto seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

4. Commission/Staff Reports
  - a. Town Administrator – The American Rescue Act Plan, the \$113,000.00 is already in the bank.
  - b. Town Clerk – Municipal Election is March 8<sup>th</sup> and the qualifying period for the election is noon, November 9<sup>th</sup> through noon, November 30<sup>th</sup> for Group 2 and Group 4.

- c. Chief of Police – We dodged another hurricane season. The Town is listed at number 3 for safety out of 308 municipalities.
- d. Code Enforcement – No report
- e. Town Attorney – No report
- f. Commissioner Reports – Commissioner Keim gave a shout out to Marie Etherington who steered the Town in the right direction and Kristen Blackmon also needs a huge thank you for putting together all the components, the pergola, landscaping lights, electricity, and underground sprinklers.

Commissioner Hines stated she is looking forward to coming back and that it has been encouraging from afar to see the corona virus cases coming down after a horrific summer. She also asked if there will be a beach clean-up and/or town picnic. Mayor Comerford responded that there will be a beach clean-up in about a month coordinated by Debbie Landro, an announcement will be made in the coming week. There will also be a Town party on Saturday January 15<sup>th</sup> which will be catered by the Food Shack, it will be open to everyone free of charge. Mayor Comerford met with the Social Committee, and they are planning it. There will be multiple announcements made.

- g. Vice-Mayor- Jupiter has an election coming up and looks like it will be rough. Hope to see good people elected in Jupiter, the Mayor and Vice Mayor will be supporting people they think will do the best job. Harbourside is considering a settlement negotiated with the lawyers, it allows for less parking, fewer retail spaces, more office space and more restaurants, outdoor seating. It was supposed to be about noise but has turned into other things. Vice Mayor Block was hoping it would have been tabled until after the election, but it was still on the agenda for the next Jupiter meeting. They are allowed 10 outdoor events with no monitoring of sound as part of the settlement. Vice Mayor Block also stated that at the end of the year the Town came in with a very substantial budget surplus, well above what was expected. The reserves were built up substantially and we planned for further increase of the reserves this year since we do not have to tap operating funds to touch some things that can be paid for by penny sales tax and recovery funds from the federal government. Vice Mayor Blocks believes that the Town has never been in such good shape like it is now.
- h. Mayor Comerford- In addition to what Vice Mayor Block stated about the outdoor events at Harbourside, part of the plan is not only the 10 concerts but 16 more and seating for 13,000 people with overflow parking at the church east on Indiantown Rd. and at the theater. We expect the street signs to be in in about a month. The Chief and Mayor were with the traffic engineer putting flags up in different places, especially on Shelter. Mayor Comerford wants to specifically thank Vice Mayor Block for running the last 2 meetings while in quarantine.

- 5. Garden Club Presentation – Steve Parker, landscape architect, Marie Etherington, Beautification Chairperson and Sharon Seegren, President of the Garden Club. Sharon Seegren introduced the Beautification Committee Chair Marie Etherington to discuss the Garden Club Presentation. A lengthy and informative presentation on Como Park was presented to the Commission and residents showing what has been done and what is needed to complete the project.

6. Vote: Resolution 2021-15

A RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF JUPITER INLET COLONY, FLORIDA RATIFYING AND APPROVING ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE TOWN COMMISSION AT MEETINGS HELD VIA COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC; PROVIDING A CONFLICTS CLAUSE, A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Second: Commissioner Busto seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

7. Discussion: Potential Additional Homestead Exemption –

Town Attorney William Doney stated that the Florida Constitution and Statute that was adopted provides that a town may provide additional homestead exemptions which would give tax relief to certain individuals who meet the criteria. To do this, the Town must adopt an ordinance. The question is would the Town want to do this? The first exemption would be for up to \$50,000 for a person who has attained the age of 65, lives in a homestead property and the household annual income does not exceed \$31,000. The Town can adopt one version or both, it is up to the Town. The second exemption would be for the full amount of the assessed value of the property as long as the assessed value is less than \$250,000, the owner must be over 65, must have resided at the property as homestead 25 years or more and same income guidelines of \$31,000 apply. If the Town adopts such an ordinance, the exemption only applies to town taxes not county or school board taxes.

Mayor Comerford recommended the first exemption saying it does not hurt if the Town adopts this and it may help someone in town.

Motion: Commissioner Busto made a motion to adopt the first exemption. Second: Vice Mayor Block seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0

8. Discussion: Purchase of Town Pick-up Truck- Vice Mayor Block stated that since the Town has the \$200,000 plus from the American Rescue Plan and it has to be used, one of the best ways to use it is for vehicles. The Mayor and the Chief are going to come up with a plan to replace the police vehicles and use the funds to do it. In addition, it would be useful for the Town to have a utility truck that is a town vehicle. When the Town needs something hauled, we have to ask around for someone who has a truck to haul stuff around. Since we have this money, it does not cost the Town anything and it is a very worthwhile place to spend it. A truck has been priced out that goes for about \$34,000 with the additions to make it an official Town truck, comes to about \$40,000. We have \$226,000 from the ARPA money that must be spent in the next two years. Commissioner Busto stated that purchasing a truck is a good idea, however, he suggested that he would like to see a plan for 1 year or 2 years to replace all the police vehicles. Chief Pruitt stated that the two Ford Explorers are getting close to needing to be replaced due to rusting. He has a plan in place and has received two quotes to replace the

vehicles and then they can sell the vehicles and replace \$35,000 to \$40,000 back into the general fund.

Motion: Vice Mayor Block made a motion to purchase the truck and modify it to Town specs. Second: Commissioner Hines seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0

9. Wrap-up and adjourn.

Motion: Vice Mayor Block made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:17pm.  
Second: Commissioner Busto seconded the motion.  
Motion passed 5-0.

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 a 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.