

MEETING MINUTES FOR THE
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2009 AT 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL BUILDING, 5120 HIGHWAY US1, GRANT VALKARIA, FL 32949

The Regular Town Council Meeting of October 28, 2009 was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Yonts, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member Faden, and roll call to the Council Members with the following present:

Mayor – Del Yonts

Town Administrator Richard Hood

Seat No. 1 – Joe Hackford

Town Clerk Susanne Krueger

Seat No. 2 – Lisette Kolar

Seat No. 3 – Pat Bryan

Seat No. 5 – Dan Faden

Seat No. 6 – Cathy DeMott

EXCUSE VICE MAYOR MAHANEY

Motions by Council Member Hackford, second by Council Member Faden, and vote unanimous to excuse Vice Mayor Mahaney due to being out of town.

PRESENTATION

Barbara Meyer, Brevard County Transportation Planning Organization - Greenways and Trails

Barbara Meyer, Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), gave a presentation on the Brevard Trail Program with the following highlights:

- Trails have an economic impact on communities
- East Coast Greenway is from the Florida Keys to Maine along the east coast of the United States
- State vision is to establish a statewide system of greenways
- Drainage and stormwater projects can be used for trail ways
- East Central Florida Rail Trail has received \$655,000 in transportation enhancement money
- In order to use funds for trails, equestrian trails can be a part of the component but cannot be funded by their source, it would have to be another source
- Malabar uses developers and grant monies for the trails
- Valkaria Road sidewalk/bike path funding stopped because of the town incorporation; it was designed to go to Weber Road and that the south side was for equestrians
- Grant Road had unsuccessful support from the community
- If the town decides to create a plan Ms. Meyer will help in sending out notifications, will bring in EELs, St. Johns River Water Management District representatives, and will help with out-reach workshops to build a consensus

Mr. John Hannah inquired how hard would it be for Grant-Valkaria to build a trail; Ms. Meyer responded that TPO will need to know where they wish to have the trail and the community will have to embrace it. Ms. Meyer stated that communities need to have a vision and include it into

a long range plan. Ms. Meyer suggested using the tracking station to Grant Road and an easement in Cypress Creek Subdivision. Ms. Sue Fischer stated that before getting funding for paved trails the town will need to check with residents to see if they approve of it. Allen Webb stated he was for equestrian trails but others want the same use of the area and do not want to be concerned about vehicles. Linda Mason suggested using half of the missile tracking station as paved and half for equestrian. Mayor Yonts suggested having community involvement through forums to obtain what the community wants for trails and look at Malabar and Palm Bay plans. Council Member Kolar agreed to work on setting this up with Ms. Meyer for community input meetings. Council Member Faden agreed that we need to move forward on this by getting on their master plan or we may miss the ball. Mayor Yonts opened discussion back to the public. Rita Nicosia thanked Council for recognizing the need. Joe Mullins stated that these things are nice but they cost money; they get grants to pay for it but someone has to pay to maintain it. It was Council consensus to have Council Member Kolar work with Ms. Meyer to setup meetings and Council Member Kolar will report back to Council.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no minutes for approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (non- agenda items)

There were no public comments on non-agenda items.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Discussion/Action Re Speeders on First Street (Yonts)

Mayor Yonts stated that the town addressed Dr. and Mrs. Apotheker's letters that were sent in complaining about speeders on First Street. Mayor Yonts stated that there are 25 miles per hour (mph) signs up and the flashing signs were up for five days. Sergeant Barringer, Brevard County Sheriff's Office, stated that the flashing signs were up for five days; he had personally been on First Street last week for about one hour and the top speed was 30 mph, which is five mph over the speed limit; residents can go online to special operations on their website to log complaints and they will respond; special operations Citizens on Patrol (COPs) did an evaluation that the maximum speed was 29 mph. Bonnie Allan with COPs stated that she monitored traffic at the stop sign at First Street and Old Dixie Highway and did not see speeding on First Street. Larry Apotheker stated that at 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. people were speeding, that people are using Brabrook Street and First Street as short cuts, and he sees speed bumps as an alternative. Shawn Apotheker stated that she spoke to Transportation Planning Organization and they said that a silent officer (speed bumps) is the best choice; she stated that the Grant Community Center sign obstructs their view pulling out of their driveway. Council Member Hackford confirmed that he would meet with Dr. Apotheker regarding moving the Grant Community Center sign back about

eight feet because it is currently obstructing their view pulling out of their driveway. Bonnie Allan (COPs) stated that she performed a survey at Old Dixie Highway and First Street which resulted in 490 vehicles completely stopped, 195 vehicles slowed but did not stop and 23 clearly ran the stop sign. Council was concerned about placing speed bumps in an area where residents and vendors for festivals have trailers and going over the bumps may damage their trailers. Denni Burr stated that she experienced speed bumps in Ft. Lauderdale and every single lawn trailer made a loud noise and eventually the town removed them. Dan Robino stated that Brabrook Street is a drag strip in mornings and evenings, and he requested a four-way stop sign at Brabrook Street and Grant Road. Allen Webb stated that Department of Transportation (DOT) will not be conducive to putting speed bumps because of liability issue but recommended rumble strips as the best thing to use. Mrs. Apotheker suggested making people aware i.e. Grant Community Center sign, Community Center newsletter, and Town newsletter. Lt. Cook, Brevard County Sheriff's Department, stated that he would have the afternoon shift patrol First Street and Brabrook Street. Mayor Yonts suggested putting information in the newsletter, having more enforcement in the area, and placing rumble strips. Mayor Yonts asked Mr. and Mrs. Apotheker if the "curve" signs or bushes are obstructing their view; they responded no to both questions. It was Council consensus to look into placing rumble strips on Grant Road at Brabrook Street and the placement of a four-way stop sign at that intersection. Town Administrator Hood stated that a traffic study will need to be performed before placing rumble strips and stop signs at that intersection, but he will double check with the county to verify.

Mayor Yonts called for a brief recess at 9:45 p.m.
Mayor Yonts called the meeting to order at 9:50 p.m.

2) Discussion/Action Re 5-Year Financial Plan (Hood)

Town Administrator Hood stated that the capital improvement plan would be for town hall and starting road resurfacing, but if the town does not receive state sharing revenue sharing it would be hard to allocate money for those.

Town Administrator Hood stated that he talked to Chuck Hungerford, Intergovernmental Affairs, who stated that the town has a good chance of getting back the lost revenues. Mr. Hungerford suggested having our Representative be involved in a local bill in a two part approach; first one waiving the 3 mill requirement for one additional year and hope the Representative can get money back from Department of Revenue; second one allowing the MSTUs for fire and police be utilized in calculating the 3 mill equivalency; this would be a bill to amend our charter by the Legislature. Mr. Hood requested assistance with leg-work to get this accomplished. It was Council consensus to have Mayor Yonts assist.

Motions by Council Member Bryan, second by Council Member Hackford, and vote unanimous to accept the 5-year financial plan.

3) Discussion/Action Re adopting a Statement of Support (SOS) to the Florida League of Cities for their resolution supporting our American soldiers serving in the National Guard and Reserve (Yonts)

It was Council consensus to support this item.

4) Discussion/Action Re Line item transfers (Hood)

Town Administrator Hood stated that due to the previous accountants that were being utilized the town had to incur additional expenses in accounting during the annual audit; the problem has been resolved and should not occur again in the future.

5) Discussion/Action Re Holiday tree lighting (Kolar)

Council Member Kolar stated she will be getting the holiday tree from Lady of Lords and the Grant Valkaria Preservation Committee (GVPC) will pay for it; the Town will pay for the drinks and she will receive cookie donations. It was Council consensus to have the Holiday tree lighting on Sunday, December 6th from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Council Member Kolar stated that Council Member Hackford volunteered to be Santa arriving on a fire truck. There was discussion about providing children games and activities. It was Council consensus to leave the choice to Council Member Kolar as to what games or activities there will be for children.

REPORTS

1) Town Administrator's Report

Town Administrator Hood gave his report as follows:

- (A) New Town Hall - he received approval from the Brevard County Building Department but not from the Fire Department; hopefully in a week or two he will know something further
- (B) Grant Lake Sanctuary - he is working with the attorney for Grant Lake Sanctuary to proceed to final plat and probably will have this project before Council shortly
- (C) Eagle's Nest - he authorized the extension of Eagle's Nest Subdivision as per Senate Bill 360; the County would like to get out from under this but Mr. Hood informed them that as long as we get inspection money back we will take it over.
- (D) Out of Office - he would be out of Town Hall on November 2nd for his wife's appointment and he would be out of Town Hall on November 5th for a hearing on the Grant Community Center septic system at the west coast of Florida

2) Council Reports and Comments

Council Member Bryan stated that he attended the Brevard Water Management meeting where they discussed how all the big cities want to take out of the St. Johns River, how they should quit breaching the watersheds and how it should be a regional effort and that he will be talking to USGS to get as much information as he can. Council Member Faden stated that the airport meeting scheduled for today has been rescheduled to November 18th; he received a lot of input from residents and will be working in an attempt to peacefully exist. Council Member Kolar stated that there are other cities that are in the same situation and maybe the town can consider contacting them; there will be several articles in the next newsletter like Mayor Yonts providing a holiday greeting, a straw poll from residents on the town seal entrants, toy drive for kids,

Historical House hours, volunteer feature on the Local Planning Agency, and requests photos of Tara Linnell's group. Town Administrator Hood stated that they would be installing a gate at the end of Sapling Road on Saturday. Council Member Hackford stated that George Geletko, Waste Management, will be using the Grant Community Center to pick up trash and will be bringing in big dumpsters; he also congratulated Vice Mayor Mahaney and his family for winning first, second, and third price in the inshore fishing tournament last weekend. Mayor Yonts asked if the town gave authority to place dirt/marl on the sides of the roads at Grant Road and Valkaria Road; Town Administrator Hood responded that he did authorize it. Council Member Hackford inquired about the I-95 overpass maintenance; Town Administrator Hood responded that Town Clerk Krueger has emailed a request to have the prisoners come out.

3) Board Reports and Comments

Dan Robino, Vice Chairperson of the Local Planning Agency, stated that they hope to be at the end of the Land Development Regulations at their next meeting. Town Administrator Hood stated that he will be giving the Local Planning Agency a simplified site plan code and the subdivision code.

ADJOURN

Motions by Council Member Hackford, second by Council Member Bryan, and vote unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 p.m.

(signature on file)

Del Yonts, Mayor

ATTEST:

(signature on file)

Susanne R. Krueger, Town Clerk