

TOWN OF GRANT-VALKARIA, FLORIDA  
TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
OF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2008  
GRANT COMMUNITY CENTER, 4580 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET, GRANT VALKARIA, FL 32949

The Special Meeting of the Town of Grant-Valkaria, Florida, Town Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice Mayor Hackford followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and roll call to the Council Members with the following present:

Seat No. 1 – Joe Hackford, Vice Mayor	Town Administrator Richard Hood
Seat No. 3 – Pat Bryan	Town Clerk Susanne Krueger
Seat No. 4 - Cathy DeMott	
Seat No. 5 – Dan Faden	
Seat No. 6 – Jason Mahaney	

EXCUSE MAYOR YONTS AND COUNCIL MEMBER MORGAN

For the record, Mayor Yonts was out of town due to his work and Council Member Morgan was not able to attend due to work schedule. Motions by Council Member Bryan, second by Council Member DeMott, and vote unanimous to excuse Mayor Yonts and Council Member Morgan.

AGENDA ITEM

1) Discuss/Action Re: Post Review of Valkaria Air Fest Special Event Permit (Faden)

Town Administrator Hood read a memo for the record from Mayor Yonts apologizing for not being present at this meeting and that this meeting is a follow-up discussion on how the event progressed, any areas of concerns and how to address them. Vice Mayor Hackford turned over discussion of this agenda item to Council Member Faden. Council Member Faden informed the public that he will allow a five minute maximum time period for each person to speak about their feelings, problems and their concerns about the Air Fest. Afterwards, Council will discuss their feelings, problems and concerns without making any decisions since there is no permit request tonight.

The following people spoke with their concerns:

- Janis Walters - representing self, friends and neighbors
  - For herself - Saturday had a great deal of unsafe overhead activity in a non-responsible manner; altitude about 150 feet with some circling till 9:30 a.m. over her house which is over 1 mile from airport; aerobatics from 6:00 p.m. until after sunset which stretched out to west and north of Corey and Malabar Roads; low flying 7:30 a.m. until 9:00 a.m.; helicopter tours were a violation of permit; suggested keeping activities close to airport, not neighborhood areas
  - For neighbor residing west of Ponderosa Road; lots of road traffic; no signs indicating there was an air show; not enough notice to the community; livestock got scared from the event and broke out of their enclosures
  - Lady off Leghorn stated she left the house at 9:00 a.m. but saw it started around 7:00 a.m.

It was Council consensus to allow Ms. Walters continue beyond her 5 minutes, not keep further time on her, and allow all further speakers no time limitation.

Janis Walters continuation

- Lady off Atz/Hunter told her the helicopter was swooping down all the way out by Publix
- Man off Leghorn kept away until 2:00 p.m., but heard the biggest airplane overhead around 6:00 p.m.
- 2 people stated they enjoyed the air show
- Barbara Bland - resides on Leghorn which is ¼ mile west of Valkaria Road; 1<sup>st</sup> year in 2007 the air fest was okay - they had a display exhibit; 2008 was nightmare; 8:05 a.m. Saturday at 15 minute intervals they were flying overhead barely over the treetops; aerobatics were over Valkaria Road, Henderson Road, and Leghorn instead of airport; potential danger to her home; requested no flying over residential property; it effects people that do not attend
- Curt Lorenc - most people that put on air fest are not residents of area and showed a total disrespect to residents; aerobatics were over 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues; space is needed for the aerobatics; there was no warning to residents that there was going to be this noise; started at 7:00 a.m. instead of 1:00 p.m.; was supposed to be within 1 mile of airport but went beyond that; if they violated permit they should be held accountable; should not be acrobatics; no street light in front of airport; no proper reflective suits on; on the airfield there were planes taxiing for fuel; people could walk near working propellers causing an safety issue; too noisy and recommended not giving permit
- Lisa McKasty - lives at east end of 927 runway; reckless planes flying directly over her home; big plane was flying directly towards her home; traffic during the evening needed better supervision because it was dark and dangerous for pedestrians
- Wally Bowles - agreed with others concerns; did attend air show this year and last year; violation of Federal Airport Authority (FAA) waiver; safety on taxi-way was not well in hand; traffic safety was not there; overall events on the ground were okay; control of airspace, etc. is not seen; concerned about noise, safety and runway responsibility

Council comments are as follows:

- Vice Mayor Hackford - attended both the first and second air fest; make it better and right
- Council Member Mahaney - safety main concern; someone should be in charge on the ground at all times
- Council Member DeMott - went to first air show; suggested pre-notice to residents regarding livestock, minimize impact on residents, and start time not as early as last time; when checking Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) website she noticed that there will be two air shows - daytime and twilight
- Council Member Bryan - went to air show but watched from outside of airport; concerned about where they were flying; maneuvers were well beyond where approved; traffic is a real concern in that they were not prepared for traffic, people were stopping on Valkaria Road and Valkaria Road cannot be used as parking area; people pulling off anywhere on Valkaria Road; needs to have better traffic control and parking;

- Town Administrator Hood read Mayor Yonts' concerns - not sufficient staff on hand for traffic and pedestrian control and safety; traffic control became lax later in day and without safety attire; at conclusion of event there appeared that no one was in charge of exiting traffic or the pedestrians; vehicles being driven around the flight line on occasion by organizers and others created hazardous situation; aircraft departed without proper escorts and wing walkers; planes moving under own power in display area when guests are present is a safety concern and must be improved for future events; Valkaria airport is unlit and has no taxiway lighting and not appropriate or safe to have aerobatic flights after sunset; aviation activities must be clearly spelled out on the FAA waiver and organizer must adhere to it; there needs to be someone clearly "in charge"; recommends a command center established with a person in charge at all times with the ability to radio others as needed
- Council Member Faden - appointed by Council as the town's representative regarding Air Fest; Air Fest has a lot of good, however, aerobatics needs to be looked at; parachute and aerobatics were in violation of the waiver not the starting of the event; need to look at the flight patterns over residential areas; spoke to 3 Brevard County Sheriffs, of the four involved. Their concerns were: no one was directly in charge, no control center, model airplanes were too close, ultra-lights were too close to helicopters; FAA was concerned with fuel area violations and access to and from the fuel area; non-safety item was the helicopter ride was using the same pattern every 10 minutes and should not go over residential area but over the EELs land or river; some safety items: fueling, model airplane location, ground movement of planes, come in early so town can work with applicant about issues, traffic regarding parking of cars, people crossing roads, buses were making u-turn on Valkaria Road, what is benefit of having the night activity, pedestrian safety; need to coordinate with the Sheriff Department to control vehicle and pedestrian traffic; understands that there was a larger than expected crowd; announcement to neighborhood ahead of time; notems and permits

The following people spoke with their concerns:

- Janis Walters - FAA allowed low flying effective at 1:00 p.m.; the fly-ins were flying in as if low fly was in effect; arriving and leaving aircraft should be 1,000 feet; planes were flying beyond 1 nautical mile and too low
- Vince Wilson - in favor of pilots; agrees with safety factors
- Curt Lorenc - residents are concerned about reckless disregard of rules, and do not think that Air Fest was safe and they did not follow rules
- Wally Bowles - inquired if they provided insurance - Council Member Faden stated that they have to provide a certificate of insurance prior to the event
- Curt Lorenc - suggested that they post a bond and the town may want to check with town attorney
- Council Member Bryan - suggested that the application be submitted as a site plan showing all activities, visitor area, etc.; pick out points around the airport to monitor activities like in Leghorn; recommended command in charge - designate a person in charge who is responsible; better traffic control; suggested that as they send out invites

that they mention that if they do not follow rules according to the permit then we will have a problem

- LeRoy Rotgers - President of local EEA and heads the Air Fest; there were 5 FAA present with 3 at all times; aerobatics have to do their thing in a designated box at the airport; the only violation FAA found was the fuel; around the airport is class G; altitude entering the airport is 1,000 feet; willing to sit down with Council and go over a list
- Curt Lorenc - took exception to what Mr. Rotgers said in that aerobatics were over his house and other residents many miles from airport
- Linn Walters - invited any neighbors that had a low plane over their house to get their fin number and report it to FAA
- Allan Bland - need to look at how many of the people enjoying the fest were residents; we need to make some money off this or any special event

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Harold Angelbeck stated that he witnessed an abduction and it was good to have the police in 10 minutes; he stated that for non-emergencies call the Sheriff Department.

Motions by Council Member DeMott, second by Council Member Mahaney, and vote unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

(signature on file)

ATTEST:

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Del Yonts, Mayor

(signature on file)

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Susanne Krueger, Town Clerk