

TOWN OF GRANT-VALKARIA, FLORIDA
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 17, 2007
GRANT COMMUNITY CENTER, 4580 1ST STREET, GRANT, FL 32949

The Workshop Meeting of the Town of Grant-Valkaria, Florida, Town Council was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Mayor Del Yonts followed by the Pledge led by Council Member DeMott, and roll call to the Council Members, with the following present:

Mayor – Del Yonts	Town Manager Matthew Brock
Seat No. 1 – Joe Hackford, Vice Mayor	Town Clerk Susanne Krueger
Seat No. 2 – Danielle Morgan	
Seat No. 4 – Cathy DeMott	
Seat No. 5 – Dan Faden	
Seat No. 6 – Jason Mahaney	

EXCUSE COUNCIL MEMBER BRYAN

Motions by Council Member Morgan, second by Vice Mayor Hackford, and vote unanimous to excuse Council Member Bryan.

WORKSHOP ITEM

1. Discussion identifying where residents live, what helicopter activity they see, and how it affects them (Faden)

Council Member Faden stated this meeting is held to allow the Council the opportunity to hear residents side regarding helicopters. Council requests residents to state what they see and hear, and how it affects your lifestyle. This is an information gathering meeting with a 5 minute time limitation for everyone so as everyone in audience will have the opportunity to speak. Council Member Faden noted that Mr. Borowski and Commissioner Voltz are in attendance.

The following people spoke:

1. Linda Walter, 3700 Leghorn Road
 - Blue helicopter with stripes flying low with one pilot has increased their activity - all day long, loud, annoying, occurring all day and all weekend
2. Bonnie Allan, Old Dixie Highway
 - During the week it has gotten better; this past Sunday they got closer to her house; why can't they go over the lagoon
3. Mark Pagliarulo, 3755 Ponderosa Road
 - His house is under the flight pattern; they have a set procedure on weekends
4. Dawn Danielson, 1690 Hall Road, Malabar
 - October 9th, October 10th, and October 15th a helicopter flew over her house in various flight patterns at various times during day/evenings; concerned about continued noise when her windows will be open during the fall season
5. Chris Pozgar, 3680 Leghorn Road
 - Living in a war-zone; unacceptable noise; there are solutions; affecting the wildlife in area

6. Alan Bland, 3490 Leghorn Road
 - Helicopters should not be below 500 feet; has photos of helicopters and tail numbers of them flying about 200 feet
7. Wally Bowles, 7680 Gradick Drive
 - When he purchased his property he was not on the flight path, now he is; 2 helicopters on 4-minute intervals were flying over his house; noticed sand hill cranes in the area after the helicopters stopped flying overhead
8. Bunnie Knudson, 2480 Hunter Lane, Malabar
 - Helicopter spooked her steer and it was loose for 8 days before it got back; helicopter is so low it waved the water; Dr. Levy and the Branoff's are also affected by the noise
9. O. H. Nations, Jr., 2935 Pomello Road
 - Not near the landing pattern but they are performing 7:30-7:45 pm through after dark, sometimes till 10:00 pm; concerned about security and safety issues; constant irritation by noise flying well below the 500 feet
10. Tom Buterbaugh, 2915 Pomello Road
 - Doesn't matter what time the fly; he called County Commissioners, County Manager, Steve Borowski and FAA – only 2 Commissioners who don't represent him called him back; concerned they will kill someone
11. Richard Zemkoski, 3450 Leghorn Road
 - Ever since the Master Plan, helicopters go to Leghorn and straight down; has been living here for 20 years
12. Linda Mason, 5647 Cypress Creek Drive
 - Helicopters making a counter-clockwise circle, intermittent with a plane; they flew overhead one Sunday 19 times over her property; nothing lives on her nature preserve anymore; house shakes when they fly overhead; on Saturday and Sunday her quality of life is gone; they fly 100-250 feet overhead and have no place to land – they are supposed to be 500 feet
13. Chris Novak, 2695 Gadick Drive
 - Flying overhead constantly in 3 minute intervals; last Tuesday it was 17 times in 40 minutes going from Valkaria to Leghorn; saw first bald eagle and when helicopter came by it left; they fly so low you can tell what they are wearing; cannot hear or carry on a conversation outside because of the noise – it is even inside
14. Lisa Gover, 2800 Pomello Road
 - Concerned about night flying around 10:00-10:30 pm over her house; lights and noise bothersome
15. Jo Faden, 3750 Ponderosa Road
 - Flying very low, repetitive – 9 passes in 50 minutes; was relaxing in pool and they flew so low she found it offensive
16. Janis Walter
 - They don't fly over her house, but she can hear it; the animals go crazy
17. Curt Lorenc
 - Asked if the helicopter school is conducive/compatible with the area; filed a complaint with FAA; Silver State needs to choose a different airport; people

need to be informed how to file an effective report; need County Commission to stand up and work for us

18. Linn Walters, 3885 Reynolds Road
 - Has sand hill cranes and they don't seem to be effected by the helicopters
19. Don Whitehouse, 3790 1st Avenue
 - Helicopters need to stay away from heavily populated area
20. Lisa McKasty, 3730 Third Avenue
 - Wants noise stopped; not supposed to use same pattern as airplane; irritating; wants help from Council to live here in peace and quiet
21. Don Darby, 3700 Ponderosa Road
 - Repetitive nature of flights and noise; not safe; significant safety concern
22. Michael Grant, 3755 1st Avenue
 - No problems with helicopters
23. Don Facciobene, 3530 Leghorn Road
 - He had to leave however, Attorney Joseph Colombo stated that he was retained by him to take action and is looking for additional plaintiffs on a lawsuit regarding private nuisance and seeking enforcement to stop activity
24. Kurt Stafflinger, 5649 Cypress Creek Road
 - He is 2 miles south of the airport; on Sunday at 7:15 am 2 helicopters were flying about 200 feet off ground in 4 minute intervals; the use is not conducive with land in area
25. Melanie Grant, 3850 Burton Road
 - Has no problem with airport; personally doesn't see problem
26. Stephanie Hayes, 1440 Ramblebrook Street
 - She knows a residents that lives off of Valley Road and has incurred a lot of stress from the helicopter noise; over 20 years ago 2 helicopters crashed in her sister's backyard on Atz
27. Rick Sheppard
 - Inspector for FAA for this area
28. David Foltz, 2520 Valkaria Road
 - Traffic pattern from random to a certain runway; increase in the number of helicopter using approach and runway; about 2-3 weeks ago on Sunday something flew overhead very low several times in 3-4 minute interval; flying directly over a cluster of houses on Pomello
29. Julie Webster, 3550 Leghorn Road
 - Her house is in the direct flight pattern for helicopters; had a garage sale last Saturday that the helicopters were flying so low and were so loud that she couldn't hear anyone talking to her, even indoors with windows closed she could hear it, horse got upset, was occurring every 4-5 minutes
30. Danielle Morgan, 3900 Captain Morgan Lane
 - She calls every time they come overhead

Council Member Faden read a letter from a resident on Toby Avenue complaining about the effects on scrub jays, chickens stopped laying eggs, and Monday night the helicopters flying low.

Mayor Yonts stated that he attended a meeting this morning at the Melbourne Airport for a Melbourne Airport Authority.

FAA Safety Inspector Rick Sheppard explained the process of his investigations could consist of obtaining photographs and written statements from witnesses, compile information, and investigate. If substantiated, it would be sent to the Atlanta office and they will determine an action. A letter could be sent to the pilot revoking/suspending their license up to 12 months.

It was mutually agreed by Mr. Sheppard and Council to have Council Member Faden as the point of contact with Mr. Sheppard. People are encouraged to contact the Town, Commissioner Voltz, Mr. Borowski, and Mr. Mel Scott with as much information as possible. The Town's contact is the Town Administrator at townadmin@grantvalkaria.org which will in turn go to Council Member Faden. A status report will be given at each Council meeting.

Leroy Rotgers suggested the audience be aware of making false statements.

Mr. Steve Borowski stated that if anyone witnesses low flying aircraft, they call him so he can witness the violation to help make it stick.

After discussion, Mr. Borowski stated that the airport only taken FDOT money, not FAA money, and it was agreed by Council to provide a status report at each Council meeting and to have photos available showing the different helicopter models.

Larry Hopkins, Valkaria Road stated that the complaints need to state their name and addresses and for the town not to count anonymous calls.

Motions by Council Member Morgan, second by Vice Mayor Hackford, and vote unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

(Signature on file)

ATTEST:

Del Yonts, Mayor

(Signature on file)

Susanne Krueger, MMC, Town Clerk