

REGULAR TOWN COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 5, 2018

Minutes of the Regular Town Commission Meeting of the Town of Ocean Ridge held on Monday,
March 5, 2018, at 6:00 PM in the Town Hall Commission Chambers.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pugh at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Town Clerk Stevens led the roll call, which was answered by the following:

	<u>Present:</u>	<u>Absent:</u>	<u>Tardy:</u>
Commissioner Aaskov	x		
Vice Mayor Bonfiglio	x		
Commissioner Coz	x		
Commissioner MaGruder	x		
Mayor Pugh	x		

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pugh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mayor Pugh led the Moment of Silence for the Victims of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Shooting.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, MODIFICATIONS, AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pugh asked to move Item #5 to the end of the agenda.

Commissioner Aaskov moved to approve the agenda as amended, moving Item #5 to the end of the agenda; seconded by Vice Mayor Bonfiglio. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ted Ritota, 4 Hudson Ave, asked about the “No Parking Anytime” signs and at what range they are effective. Chief Hutchins explained that under the Florida manual of uniform traffic control devices, they go by the range of visibility, not a specific footage. Mr. Ritota stated that he reported an improperly parked vehicle twice this weekend to Dispatch, and the Dispatcher told him it was ok to park on the street during the day. He stated that if the Town is going to be prepared for the population growth, we need to maximize the visibility on our signs. He stated that Beachway Drive has six signs and speed bumps, and Hudson Ave only has two signs, and one that is barely readable as it is faded. He noted that the vehicle in question was parked about 200 feet west of the existing signs. He stated that we need to prepare ourselves more. We cannot restrict access to the beach, but we can restrict the allowable parking in Town.

Terry Brown, HDS, gave his well wishes to Mayor Pugh and noted that he has done a fine job dealing with the public over the years.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Adopt Minutes of Regular Town Commission Meeting of February 12, 2018.
2. Adopt Minutes of Special Town Commission Meeting of February 12, 2018.

Vice Mayor Bonfiglio moved to approve the consent agenda as submitted; seconded by Commissioner Coz. Motion carried 5-0.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PROCLAMATIONS

3. The Municipal Election will be held on March 13, 2018. There are two Town Commission Seats Open for a Three Year Term. Qualified Candidates Are: Gail Aaskov, Philip Besler, and Kristine de Haseth. / La eleccion municipal se celebrará el 13 de Marzo del 2018. Hay dos asientos disponible, con un period de tres años, para la Comisión de la Cuidad. Los candidatos calificados son: Gail Aaskov, Philip Besler y Kristine de Haseth.
4. The Town Commission will consider appointments to the following Board positions at the April 2, 2018 Town Commission meeting: Board of Adjustment, 1 regular member for a three year term and 2 alternates for a one year term; Planning & Zoning Commission, 1 regular member for a three year term and 2 alternates for a one year term. Interested residents must be registered to vote in Ocean Ridge and submit a resume and letter of interest to the Town Clerk by March 23, 2018. Incumbents are exempted from the resume and letter of interest requirement.
5. (Moved to the End of the Agenda)

Commissioner Coz noted that voters may vote for two candidates for Town Commissioner in the upcoming election on March 13th. We have two seats open and three candidates running.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

REPORTS

6. **Town Manager**

Town Manager Titcomb advised that his report is included in the meeting package. He reported that site surveying is complete for two south-end projects, an inline catch basin for the Northeast corner of Beachway Drive and Osprey Court, and right of way drainage areas adjacent from 101-111 Dolphin Bend. The Town Engineers are circulating quote requests for design/build vendors for these locations.

In January/February we held in-person interviews with candidates that applied for proposed in-house CBO (Certified Building Official) position. Subsequently, our first offer was countered with a negotiation higher than our advertised range. We have since circled back looking at all the interested candidates again, running initial backgrounds and will seek to negotiate a final hire to bring to the April meeting.

We bid farewell to Mayor Geoff Pugh tonight at his last official Regular Town Commission Meeting and say thank you with complete gratitude and appreciation for over 15+ years of selfless and dedicated service to the Town of Ocean Ridge and its residents. I want to personally thank Mayor Pugh for his involvement, wisdom, stability and sage advice in my short tenure here, in good and tough times alike.

We've identified several public beach crossover infrastructures as potentially unsafe due to storms, excessive usage wear & tear, and our caustic marine environment. I seek Town Commission input and direction to remove these older era "Bridge-style" steps/walkways to consider replacing them with ground-level paver-ways, or board walkways tied at the ends to anchor them, meandering the pathway through our natural dune right-of-way cuts in the vegetation. Currently, the structures at Anna Street and Beachway Drive fall in this category. Examples of alternatives include: Corinne Street has a ground-level, anchored boardwalk path style, and Edith Street has a paved pathway leading to a landing with steps on the higher dune. These alternatives are contemplated as less intrusive dune crossings, more accessible to people with mobility challenges, less costly to maintain and groom, and are more in keeping with the passive public crossovers as related to beach issues, maintenance and environmentally friendly as confirmed in collaboration with the area FDEP field representatives. Our public works personnel can perform much of any removal work, while we will seek quotes for the installation of ground-level path solutions to replace the current bridge structures in place, if confirmed. Town Manager Titcomb asked for direction from the

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Commissioner and noted that the Anna Street crossover is most critical at the moment. He noted that staff can remove the problem areas of the crossover, and then proposals will need to be solicited for reconstruction.

Commissioner MaGruder asked if there are any ADA requirement considerations, and Town Manager Titcomb responded that the dune level pathways would be more handicapped accessible, however, we will not pursue full ADA accessibility because all of the crossovers cannot accommodate that and we would need to go through a different permitting process through DEP, as we would need to address both the road side access and the beach side access. Generally, our right of ways are not wide enough to accommodate ramps or inclines that would be conducive to wheelchairs.

Commissioner Coz stated that the tethered boards are more handicapped friendly, and Town Manager Titcomb responded that the paved path would be the best, as the tethered boards do move slightly as they are placed on top of the sand dune, however, the tethered boards would be easier than the step infrastructure that is there today. Town Manager Titcomb stated that there are several steps we need to go through before a decision is made at each site, such as surveying and engineering, and the Commission will need to decide on aesthetics. He noted that the current structures are very dated and deteriorate faster than they can be maintained and we have had incidents with splinters and nails popping up. Commissioner Coz noted that one of the steps fell off at the Beachway crossover and someone fell, and Town Manager Titcomb stated that with the moisture of the ocean environment things constantly expand and contract. He stated that DEP will not permit building the Beachway crossover again because it was built on telephone poles, and it would be an expensive proposition to keep it as it is.

Mayor Pugh noted his concern regarding the safety at the crossovers, and stated that if there is a way to fix the Beachway crossover and call it a repair instead of re-engineering the whole thing, then we should do that, and then keep up on the maintenance of it. He would like to see paving done at the Anna Street crossover, keeping the steps to the beach. He asked if there is a way to do this and keep it under a repair instead of a replacement. He would like to see repair costs included in the budget, and then the money would be used for each crossover every two to three months for repairs, not replacement. He noted that the Edith Street crossover was repaired recently due to storm damage. He does not want to see the crossover closed for six months for repairs or replacement.

Commissioner Coz stated that he disagrees with Mayor Pugh. He stated we have created a bridge over the dune, and DEP told us we should not be doing that, and we need to use proper materials, and they suggested doing a low profile option that is more user friendly to the citizens so you don't have to go up and over the dune. Mayor Pugh responded that it depends on which crossover you are talking about because the dune is at a different level at Anna, Edith, and Beachway, and one size does not fit all. He noted that we should do each one separately and noted that the DEP approval process takes a lot of time.

Commissioner Aaskov suggested that Town Manager Titcomb solicit for proposals for each crossover and bring them back to the Commission. Mayor Pugh stated he would like to see what the budget will be for each.

Commissioner Coz stated that it should be up to the residents near Anna Street what they would like to do with that crossover, but he mentioned that the area is stunning, so he doesn't think the whole area should be paved, but perhaps just the ramp up, and the rest will remain as-is. Town Manager Titcomb noted that the Anna Street crossover is the most critical due to the condition of the bridge that was there, and stated it will most likely resemble the Edith Street crossover.

Attorney Shutt clarified that the consensus of the Commission is to direct Town Manager Titcomb to get proposals for the crossover repairs and comply with all state and county rules and ordinances of the Town, and the Commission agreed.

Town Manager Titcomb noted that the projector in the Commission Chambers is broken and we are currently waiting for proposals to replace the unit. He noted that we had the AV replacement in the budget last year, but the Commission cut it from the budget due to other priorities. He stated that it was unfortunate that we had problems with it during our recent lecture series. Commissioner MaGruder stated that it is important that we replace the projector, as the speakers at the lecture series could only do half of their presentations, and the program was shortened due to that which is not conducive to the Ocean Ridge reputation. Town Manager Titcomb stated he recommends replacing it out, and he can do that under his signatory authority.

7. Town Attorney

No Report. Town Attorney Shutt mentioned that it has been a pleasure working with Mayor Pugh.

8. Police Chief

Chief Hutchins advised that the Police Department report is included in the meeting package and includes monthly police department statistics. There were no questions from the Commission. Chief Hutchins extended his thanks to Mayor Pugh for his service to the town.

Glen Joseph, Boynton Beach Fire Chief, gave the Commission an update on the fire call statistics from 2017. He noted that there were 292 calls to the Town during the last calendar year which is a 42% increase from the previous year, and the response times were an average of 4.5 minutes. They will continue to monitor the response times with the new Bright Line train in service. He stated that the new Town square infrastructure will give us a new fire station downtown, and three new medic units are being purchased. Mayor Pugh asked if that will increase the contract price for Ocean Ridge, and Town Manager Titcomb stated that there is a 4% increase on the contract each year.

ACTION ITEMS

None

RESOLUTIONS

None

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

9. Ordinance No. 629 – An Ordinance of the Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida, Amending Its Code of Ordinances by Amending Chapter 2 “Administration”, Article 6 VI “Finance”, Division 2 “Fees”, By Enacting Section 2-237 “Schedule of Fees, Fines and Costs Established by Resolution” to Provide for and Clarify Certain Fees, Fines and Costs May Be Established By a Resolution of the Town; Providing for Codification, Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances, Severability, and an Effective Date. (By: Town Attorney Shutt)

Town Attorney Shutt advised that this ordinance would give the Town the ability to set fines, fees and costs by resolution instead of having them listed in ordinances. He stated that currently when we want to change a fee that is in our code of ordinances, we need to go through two readings of the ordinance and then have it codified. He noted that with this alternative, the Commission would still be approving the fees under a simpler administrative process.

Commissioner Aaskov moved to adopt Ordinance No. 629 on first reading; seconded by Commissioner Coz. Motion carried 5-0.

SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

None

TOWN COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None

5. Plaque Presentation Recognizing Mayor Pugh for His Years of Service to the Town. Commissioner MaGruder stated that when Mayor Pugh replaced Mayor Kaleel, the comment was that it should be easy from this point forward, so he jokingly stated he thinks Mayor Pugh was lacking a little bit of judgment at that point. He stated he has been proud to work with him this past year.

Vice Mayor Bonfiglio stated it has been an honor and privilege to serve alongside Mayor Pugh on the P&Z and Town Commission. He stated Mayor Pugh has been a great Mayor and Commissioner, and thanked him for his service to the Town.

Commissioner Coz stated that he came in as a newbie 18 months ago, and it has been a pleasure working with Mayor Pugh, and he appreciates his common sense and love for Ocean Ridge. He stated he has merged those two in his decisions for the Town and he does not know how we will replace him.

Commissioner Aaskov stated she remembers when Mayor Pugh first started serving the Town 15 years ago, and he has done a wonderful job and will be missed.

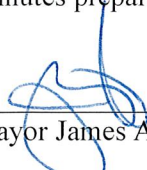
Mayor Pugh thanked the residents of Ocean Ridge, and noted that it has been a privilege serving the public all this time. He stated that when you see you can make changes that benefit everyone, it makes you feel good. He thanked the staff who put up with his weekly meetings. He noted that the staff keeps him informed about what is happening in the town, and that helps when he's trying to make good decisions for the Town. He thanked Chief Hutchins, and noted that he can sometimes be long winded, but conversing about policing, and enforcing the Town Code has been a big help because it gives him the other side on policing and what the Officers are thinking when they are doing their job. He thanked his wife, and noted that she has put up with a total recap of every meeting for 15 years and has been his best sounding board. He stated it has been a pleasure serving the Town. He mentioned that there have been hard times with tough decisions, but we made them as a Town and that is the most important thing.

Town Manager Titcomb presented a plaque to Mayor Pugh that reads "In appreciation to Mayor Geoffrey A. Pugh for your years of outstanding service, concern, and support to the Town of Ocean Ridge." He invited everyone to the recognition reception immediately following the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Town Clerk Stevens, and adopted by the Town Commission on April 2, 2018.



Mayor James A. Bonfiglio

ATTEST:


Tracey L. Stevens, CMC, Town Clerk