

**TOWN COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING
JANUARY 24, 2002**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. Present were: Mayor Venis, Vice-Mayor Paul, Councilmembers Clark, Starkey, and Truex. Also present were Town Administrator Willi, Town Attorney Kiar, and Town Clerk Muniz recording the meeting.

Legislative Issues

Mayor Venis stated that each Councilmember had issues they would like David Sigerson, the Town's lobbyist, to address in Tallahassee.

Mayor Venis spoke about the need for sound barrier walls both on the east and west sides of Town and the coordinated effort with residents from Silver Lakes, Ivanhoe, and Congressman Deutsch. Mayor Venis indicated that it seemed like an impossibility to get these projects funded, adding that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) had admitted that the highway corridors were over-capacity. He stated that Council had taken the position that FDOT should provide some relief for the residents. Mayor Venis requested that Mr. Sigerson address this issue while in Tallahassee and recommended he coordinate with Congressman Deutsch, who was well aware of this problem.

Mr. Sigerson asked if this was requested through the local Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Mayor Venis stated that he had spoken directly with Rick Chesser with Vice-Mayor Paul adding that she had brought it up with the MPO on two occasions and was told by Mr. Seeburger that FDOT was dealing with the matter. Mayor Venis stated that had Mr. Chesser indicated that monies were not available; however, Mayor Venis felt that this issue should be addressed as monies may become available in the future. Mr. Sigerson stated that this should not be an issue with FDOT because it was not general revenue money. Mayor Venis stated that a study had been done and the result was that a sound barrier would not make a difference. He felt this study was invalid because he could not imagine that a 20 foot tree density would not reflect sound. Mr. Sigerson advised that he would be meeting with some Councilmembers as part of Broward Days and he would further pursue this issue in Tallahassee, especially with Secretary Barry.

Mayor Venis asked Mr. Sigerson to investigate available grant monies, especially for traffic calming devices and drainage improvements. He reminded that the Town had already committed \$3.3 million and if there were grants available that needed matching funds, the Town was prepared to commit. Mayor Venis also asked for grants for parks, the Young at Art museum, and public safety. Mr. Sigerson indicated that grant money would be devoted to homeland safety and he would investigate this along with Mayor Venis recommendations.

Mayor Venis referred to the annexation of United Ranches and asked that Mr. Sigerson report his findings to Council. Mr. Sigerson cautioned Council that some other annexations were controversial and might affect good fits such as United Ranches and the Town or Cooper City. He also explained that the delegation was originally going to put all annexation bills into one bill, but had ultimately decided to file the bills individually and as one, the latter being called the Omnibus Bill.

Vice-Mayor Paul indicated her concern that Mr. Sigerson was working on one of the controversial annexations and she was hopeful that he could separate his issues so that there would be no negative affect on the Town's annexations. Mr. Sigerson indicated that he would not be working closely on the Pembroke Park annexation, which was controversial. He added that there were other controversial annexations throughout Broward County.

Councilmember Truex asked what the timeline was for Davie's annexation. Mr. Sigerson explained that if the bill was adopted this year, voters would be able to choose in November 2002. By September 15, 2003, United Ranches would become part of whichever municipality won the election.

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES JANUARY 24, 2002

Councilmember Truex asked about the timeline for Pine Island Ridge. Mr. Sigerson explained that the delegation had readopted its annexation policy from 2010 and advised that all areas were expected to be annexed by 2005. It was clarified that an annexation bill might come from Pine Island Ridge in 2003.

Mayor Venis stated that there were several different opinions coming from Pine Island Ridge. The Board of Directors wanted to become their own city, the homeowner's association wanted to become part of the Town, and others wanted to become part of Plantation. He suggested that a vote be taken before they pursued any of these avenues to see what the majority of residents wanted. Mr. Sigerson explained that the delegation did not encourage this as they preferred to have homeowner's associations come to a consensus. Mayor Venis explained that the homeowner's association had members from all groups and the Town did not want to get in the middle of their conflict. Mr. Sigerson advised that the delegation had not historically been in favor of putting more than two choices on a ballot.

Councilmember Truex asked if there was a chance that the legislature would allow Pine Island Ridge to incorporate. Mr. Sigerson stated that the delegation had been discouraging cities to incorporate, but it was not impossible. Councilmember Truex agreed that this community needed to make their own decision and the Town should not get involved. Mr. Sigerson stated that Pine Island Ridge's tax base would have to be considered to determine whether they could support services. It was stated that Pine Island Ridge did not have any commercial property and there was discussion of instances where attempts were made to take away commercial properties from various cities. Mr. Sigerson explained that this "was an unsuccessful attempt to use the annexation as a tool of annexation." It was clarified that these attempts were made by the delegation and not by the County.

Mayor Venis spoke of the Town's discussion regarding charter schools and available State monies. He questioned what grants were available if the Town chose to take this route and if there would be a problem as the number of approved sites may have been met. Mr. Sigerson indicated that the State was considering removing the cap on approved sites.

Vice-Mayor Paul felt that the charter school would foster a feeling of "elitism," and the Broward County School District was responsible for providing curriculum assistance to charter schools. Councilmember Starkey felt that the County was not providing sufficient facilities for schools and charter schools seemed to be the best alternative. She explained that the capital outlay benefit could assist the Town in addressing schools that needed attention. Vice-Mayor Paul stated that charter schools were draining the public school system with Councilmember Starkey disagreeing.

Mayor Venis asked if anything could be done regarding the surcharge issue as it pertained to the City of Sunrise as he felt this issued needed to be addressed because the contract expired in five years. Councilmember Starkey stated that a coalition needed to be built for cities with surcharges so that they could approach the Senate. Mr. Sigerson explained that some of the major cities influenced the League of Cities to not support removing of the surcharge. He advised that the Senate deadline to file a bill had passed, but it was possible to add to another bill that was related to this issue. Mr. Sigerson asked if the Town wanted to abolish, limit, or regulate the surcharge. Councilmember Truex felt it would be more reasonable to regulate it, with most of Council agreeing with this strategy.

Mr. Sigerson felt that it would be a major battle if the surcharge issue was attempted to be abolished. He reiterated that a coalition of cities needed to be created and he was in the process of compiling a list. Mr. Sigerson suggested that the Town pass a local bill that limited the surcharge to 10% or 15 % and if an increase was warranted, it would have to be cost justified. He also suggested that "their bill" could be modified to work and address the Town's concerns.

Councilmember Truex felt that the agricultural areas, especially those with equestrian issues, needed assistance to get their designations from the property appraiser's office. Mr. Sigerson explained why this had been a problem in the past and advised why it should be achievable this session. He stated

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 24, 2002**

that he was meeting with Alan Johansson to correct erroneous information received last year, which killed the attempt to create these exemptions statewide. He added that Broward County Property Appraiser William Markham was the only property appraiser in the State who refused to give this exemption; therefore, the County was the only county affected. He added that County policy makers were in support of exemptions and were willing to forego these taxes.

Vice-Mayor Paul stated that Mr. Willi was creating a map of the Town, which included the I-75 and Florida Turnpike corridors so that the sound wall proposal could be addressed in Tallahassee.

Mr. Sigerson recommended that Councilmembers attempt to meet with Mr. Geller regarding citrus canker issues, as Mr. Geller was “adamantly opposed to this.” Councilmember Truex asked about blanket warrants relative to citrus canker eradication. Vice-Mayor Paul explained that this was a warrant that allowed the Department of Agriculture access to an entire area, such as the Town or all of Broward County, to search for infected trees, rather than getting a court order for individual properties. Vice-Mayor Paul felt that this was unconstitutional.

Vice-Mayor Paul asked if concurrency was being considered this year. Mr. Sigerson replied in the affirmative and recommended that Councilmembers also speak to Senator Constantine regarding this issue. He advised that nothing had passed in the last two years in the growth management area and this year would be limited to the school concurrency issue. The consensus of Council was that this was still a priority.

Vice-Mayor Paul wanted additional assistance with wildlife and land preservation and asked that grants or other monies be pursued.

Mr. Sigerson asked about the Town’s attempt to hire a grant writer. Mr. Willi advised that interviews were being conducted.

Councilmember Clark asked about attempts to limit the use of Community Redevelopment Agencies by local municipalities. Mr. Sigerson advised that the bill was not successful as the bill was withdrawn when Broward County realized it had no support. He explained the history of Community Redevelopment Agencies around the State and confirmed that the issue was money.

Councilmember Clark spoke of the need to retain a municipality's right to regulate billboards. Mr. Sigerson advised that lobbyists for the billboard industry might try to push this issue forward. He added that the municipalities and lobbyists had to monitor this issue.

Councilmember Starkey asked Mr. Sigerson to monitor the Florida Forever Trust Fund grant. Mr. Sigerson spoke of the Town’s past attempt to earn approval for this grant and felt that the maps that the Town provided with their application did not display a tie-in to equestrian trails. He recommended increasing the match portion of the proposal and advised that the affordable housing fund had been cut by \$175 million.

Councilmember Starkey spoke of the Arsenic/Treated Wood Bill and the need to closely monitor this bill. She advised that the Homeland Security Bills should be addressed as municipalities had to shoulder a larger burden as a result of anthrax related concerns. Councilmember Starkey discussed the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) being on the same day as municipal elections and felt that the State should be more flexible when scheduling these two events. She asked Mr. Sigerson to address this as well. Councilmember Starkey spoke of school concurrency and their fiscal impacts to municipalities.

Councilmember Clark asked that issues relative to affordable housing be closely monitored. She asked Mr. Sigerson to meet with Housing and Community Development Programs Director Shirley Taylor-Prakelt to discuss further affordable housing initiatives. Councilmember Clark asked about legislation recently passed regarding mobile home parks and owners of mobile homes and spoke of federal assistance that was not offered to mobile home owners. Mr. Sigerson advised that he would meet with Ms. Taylor-Prakelt.

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 24, 2002**

There being no further business to discuss, without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

APPROVED _____

Mayor/Councilmember

Town Clerk