

**TOWN COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
FEBRUARY 13, 2003**

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. Present were Senator Geller Councilmembers Paul, Starkey, and Truex. Also present were Town Administrator Willi and Town Clerk Muniz recording the meeting. Mayor Venis, Vice-Mayor Clark and Town Attorney Kiar were not present.

Senator Geller explained that the purpose of this meeting was to meet with his City Commissions to find out what their concerns were.

Senator Geller referred to the State's budget and the debts realized by the class size amendment and the bullet train. He stated that the bullet train was not being funded and was not included in the \$4 billion to \$5 billion shortfall. Senator Geller explained why the State's budget would not be able to support the smaller class size amendment and how Governor Bush was misleading the public by implying that he had increased public education spending, which was not the case. Senator Geller indicated that if the State did not raise revenue, the Governor's budget would eliminate the "Medically Needy Program," and reduce the "Affordable Housing" dollars by approximately 40%.

Councilmember Paul asked Senator Geller's opinion of the slot machine proposal. She understood that slot machines would make the difference. Senator Geller disagreed and stated that this was his bill. He explained why it was important and how it would work. Senator Geller explained that the machines would only be allowed in established gambling facilities such as racetracks and Jai Alai where security was already in place. He stated that the passing of this bill would have a large impact on the budget deficit, but it would not eliminate the deficit entirely. He also spoke of how passing this bill would allow the State to compete with other states.

Councilmember Paul asked about the annexation issue as it pertained to United Ranches. Senator Geller stated that he had received many letters from residents of United Ranches. He also received communication from the Cooper City Commission, who did not want the issue to be agendized. Senator Geller stated that this was a controversial issue and explained that a city could not classify something as non-controversial if a neighboring city disagreed.

Councilmember Starkey indicated that what the Town and the residents of United Ranches wanted was for the residents to vote on whether they wanted to be part of Davie or Cooper City. She felt that this was the controversial issue, but it did not meet the criteria for a controversial annexation. She felt that this item should be agendized. Senator Geller indicated his reasons for not agendizing this bill, which included requests from various committees to not pursue it were: 1) the issue with African-American legislators regarding bias because more affluent areas were being annexed than those with large African-American populations; and 2) the budget deficit. He wanted all "our" lobbyists to unite on preventing any budget cuts to Broward County. Senator Geller stated that he had been asked to "do" some of the non-controversial annexations, but he strongly felt that if one was done, all should be done.

Senator Geller stated that when the time came, he was committed to the residents of United Ranches having the right to vote on which city they wanted to be annexed into. Councilmember Paul felt that Cooper City was stalling the process because they felt United Ranches would want to be annexed into the Town. She added that Cooper City would do this again if the issue was reopened. Senator Geller felt that Cooper City's tactics were

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 13, 2003**

counterproductive because they “thoroughly enraged the residents of United Ranches.” He stated that he agreed with the Town on the merits of their issue. He clarified that he felt it was not in the best interest of the County to do annexation issues this year.

Councilmember Truex asked about the future of the Pine Island Ridge Community annexation and how the process would work. He explained that there was no consensus, neither on the part of Pine Island Ridge or the Town. Senator Geller indicated that he had met with one group representing Pine Island Ridge and they understood they were going to become part of the Town.

Councilmember Starkey indicated that there was another committee who wanted Pine Island Ridge to become its own city. Senator Geller assured that Pine Island Ridge would have to be annexed because the County would no longer be providing municipal services as of 2005.

Councilmember Starkey asked about the Broward County School’s interlocal agreement and the possibility of Senator Geller or Senator Ryan and their appropriate committees sponsoring an extension to the interlocal agreement. Senator Geller indicated that the deadline was May 1, 2003. He explained that he brought a resolution to the delegation to the Department of Community Affairs, which stated that the School Board and many cities were working aggressively towards reaching a resolution, but it was “impossible to do” by the deadline. Also he requested that the Legislative Oversight Committee explain why they were not able to grant the extension, if that were the case.

Senator Geller asked that Council send a letter to the County Commission and complain about the County trying to take land use power away from cities throughout the County. He had advised the County Commission to give more deference to local government.

Councilmember Starkey asked about Homeland Security budgets. Senator Geller indicated that he did not have enough information on this subject to discuss it.

Councilmember Starkey asked about the Florida Communities Trust. Senator Geller stated that Governor Bush had dramatically reduced funding for this issue. He felt the Governor’s budget was not passable.

Councilmember Starkey explained that the Town had a Wetland Grant for \$3.59 million and it was almost ready to be funded, if not this year then next. Senator Geller promised to do whatever he could to assist.

Councilmember Starkey asked Senator Geller if he could assist with the airport expansion controversy. She spoke of the history of the issue and explained that thousands of homes were going to have to be bought in order for this project to proceed. She expressed her concern for the future of these residents, who she opined would become homeless because of their low socio-economic status. Senator Geller stated that runway expansion was not a State issue, but of the federal government, the FAA, and the County. He stated that the issue regarding the potential for homelessness, which might result from the expansion, was

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 13, 2003**

something the State needed to deal with. Senator Geller promised he would fight any attempt to reduce affordable housing.

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 13, 2003**

Senator Geller invited Council to contact him any time.

Fire Chief Don DiPetrillo addressed the issue of fire safety in public schools and indicated that the local fire departments had no authority to enforce schools to comply. Senator Geller asked that documentation regarding this issue be gathered and sent to him for further research and action. He spoke of the possibility of a “redevelopment code” that would be an amendment to the South Florida Building Code.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting ended at 1:20 p.m.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor/Councilmember

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk