

**TOWN OF DAVIE  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
NOVEMBER 20, 2003**

Moderator Donald Stone called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m. from Broward County Planning Services Division. Mr. Stone outlined the rules for addressing the panel.

President from the Town were: Mayor Truex, Vice-Mayor Starkey (arrived later in the meeting), Councilmembers Paul, Crowley and Hubert, and Town Attorney Kiar. Present from staff were: Assistant Town Administrator Ken Cohen, Police Chief John George, Fire Chief Don DiPetrillo, Public Works/Capital Projects Director Bruce Bernard, Budget and Finance Director Bill Underwood, Parks and Recreation Director Dennis Andresky and Town Clerk Russell Muniz recording the meeting.

Mayor Truex advised that Council's position historically was that it preferred to hear what the Pine Island Ridge (PIR) residents wished and he did not believe it was final that PIR would annex into Town if the residents did not wish. Mayor Truex felt the problem with waiting to make a decision on this issue was that the Town did not know what all the rules from local and State legislations would be. He believed that it was desirable for PIR to have an idea of where it would go on this issue so that whenever the legislature requested a decision, one was ready. Mayor Truex stated that one option for PIR was annexation, while another proposed option was incorporation. He advised that if the community wanted to incorporate, he believed the legislature and local delegation would find it difficult to tell residents that they could not do it. Mayor Truex stated that doing nothing was a short-term option but did not think this was a valid option. He advised that if PIR annexed into Davie, Council would welcome the residents on the same terms that every other community had been accepted, including sharing the benefits and burdens of the Town equally. Mayor Truex addressed the issue of water and advised that the Town would not intrude on the existing water system.

Regarding questions he had received on how the Town's districts worked, Mayor Truex explained that there were four single member districts and that a resident had to live in the district and vote for the representative in that district; however, the Mayor was elected at large. He also advised that the Town's Charter had a provision that if the population grew by a certain percentage, the Town had to re-district. Mayor Truex explained that if PIR annexed into Davie, a re-districting committee would be formed, which would then make a proposal to Council. Council would then decide where the district lines would be drawn. He stated that he did not know if PIR would be in more than one district but offered a guess that with the large number of residents who would come into the town, PIR would probably be incorporated into two separate districts. Mayor Truex discussed the incorporation option and explained that several legislators had asked him if it would be economically feasible to run government in PIR if it was incorporated. He advised that he did not know the answer but was under the impression that the leadership of the community felt it would be economically possible. Mayor Truex stated that this would be better discussed among residents with regard to whether a police department, fire department and city hall would be needed. He advised that the Town currently provided such services under contract.

Mayor Truex stated he was willing to answer any question from the audience and opened the meeting up to the public.

Errol Sussman, president of the Pine Island Ridge Civic Organization (PIRICO), that PIRICO had explored the advantages and disadvantages of annexation for several years. He

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advised that PIRCO had joined with the Pine Island Ridge Country Club to form a joint committee on annexation. Mr. Sussman hoped that the questions and answers given would finally put some of the residents' questions to rest.

A resident of PIR asked how their private golf club and benefits would be affected by the annexation. Assistant Town Administrator Ken Cohen responded that there would be no impact to the community.

Marvin Simon asked for a yes or no answer about whether Council wanted PIR in Davie. He stated that since PIR was an enclave, the Town had to put the bill in for the residents to vote.

Mayor Truex declined to give a yes or no answer and stated that he had already given his answer to the best of his ability. Councilmember Paul indicated she wanted PIR in Davie and advised that the position of Council had always been to let residents choose where they wanted to go. Councilmember Hubert indicated she wanted PIR in Davie and advised that if the residents did not wish to join Davie, Council would not force them to. Councilmember Crowley indicated he wanted PIR in Davie if that was the decision of the majority of the community.

A resident of PIR asked if the taxes paid to Davie would be less or more than taxes paid to the county. Mr. Cohen indicated that with regard to the millage rate, taxes would probably increase but with regard to total taxes, they would decrease.

Art Lazear wanted to see that PIR remain in one district.

Bob Esther asked if a comparison could be made between taxes paid to the County versus what residents would pay to the Town. Mr. Cohen indicated the comparison could be done on an individual basis. He suggested that residents leave their information and they would be contacted with an answer.

Micki Jarrett asked if there would be a difference in fire service and garbage collection. Chief DiPetrillo indicated that the flat residential rate for fire service was \$58.

Mr. Cohen advised that concerning garbage collection, if PIR had a contract with a specific hauler, it would depend on whether it could get out of the contract. He stated that if the residents wished to keep a specific hauler, this could be written into the annexation documents.

Ms. Jarrett also asked if the Town took the senior exemption. Mr. Cohen indicated in the affirmative.

Ms. Jarrett asked what social services the Town offered for seniors. Mr. Cohen explained that many programs were based on income level and that residents would qualify for various programs on an individual basis. Mayor Truex felt that most of the programs were currently open to the PIR residents. Mr. Andresky outlined several programs available for senior residents including educational and recreational activities.

Norma Tannenbaum asked about the Town's tram service and if the bus routes would include several stops within PIR. Mr. Cohen explained that the tram traveled on certain routes but did not specify that residents should be at any specific place. He advised that the Town was adding a bus route which would go through the development.

Ms. Tannenbaum voiced her concern that PIR residents paid 25% more for water. With regard to the Sunrise water plant, she asked if it were purchased by Davie, would the rates for PIR residents be equalized with other residents of Davie. Mr. Cohen indicated that the costs of acquiring the facility would be passed on to the users of the facility.

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Marvin Isaac asked what the process involved would be to bring the annexation issue to a vote. Mr. Stone indicated that the residents could file a bill for annexation to be considered or that the Town could also file a bill. He indicated that the other bills had to go through the legislature in Tallahassee. Mr. Stone advised that the 171 process was a local process and that the bill had to be issued by a municipality with the County's assistance. He explained that the cut off date was October 31, 2003 for the 2004 legislative session.

A resident asked roughly what kind of timetable was involved once the process began. Mr. Stone explained that the bills filed this year would go through the 2004 session and it would take another two years. He advised that if the residents chose the 171 process, it could be filed by a municipality throughout the year but that prior notice was necessary. Mr. Stone stated that bills filed this year would become effective as early as September 15, 2005. He clarified that the residents had to let the delegation know by October. Mayor Truex stated that the rules were whatever the legislature outlined and advised residents not to count 100% on any timeframe.

A resident asked what PIR could get from the Police Department if annexed into Davie. Chief George stated that at a minimum, the Police Department would put an officer in the community full-time, seven days a week. He described programs available for seniors and spoke about other initiatives geared at helping the residents with safety issues. Chief George advised that PIR residents would benefit from other overlapping services, as they were located near to the Police Department.

A resident spoke about the environmentally sensitive ridge and he wished to see the area receive as much sensitivity as possible. He asked how the Town would affect the ridge. Councilmember Paul responded that the Town was known to be very sensitive to open space concerns. She stated that staff dealt with environmental issues and the Town would help protect the ridge and work to keep it beautiful.

The resident also asked that the equestrian activity and the trail system be protected. Councilmember Paul responded that the Town maintained its trail and public area systems, especially in sensitive areas.

A resident and member of the Pine Island Ridge Board of Governors asked if PIR did vote on a bill to annex into Davie, would the Town also have to make a simultaneous request. Mayor Truex advised that if the PIR wished to annex into Davie, PIR would not have to have a vote by the Town.

Jeff Cartwright asked why he received mail with a Davie address with a 33324 zip code. Mayor Truex indicated that this was a USPS issue.

John Mangione stated that the ridge was private property and that PIR did not allow horses up there. He also stated that PIR generated over \$3 million, of which PIR paid for police and fire and taxes. Mr. Mangione stated that Davie did not take care of any of the community phases. He asked what kind of service the residents could expect from the Town on certain public roads. Mr. Bernard indicated that the Town would service streets, sidewalks, wells and other concerns in the rights-of-way.

Maury Levine asked if the population increase from annexation would affect the classification of Davie as a Town, resulting in it being classified as a city. Mayor Truex responded that there would be no difference in the name. He explained that Davie considered itself a town due to its small, family-friendly state of mind.

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Mr. Kiar agreed and advised that the Town was the eighth largest city in Broward County. He advised that there was no formal distinction but the choice of Davie residents to maintain the name "Town". Vice-Mayor Starkey stated that the Town residents wished to think of itself as a hometown.

Ms. Tannenbaum asked about rumors that the Town wanted the PIR Country Club and some other facilities. Mr. Cohen indicated that the Town did not intend to take any of PIR facilities. Mayor Truex agreed.

Ms. Tannenbaum discussed the financial cost involved with maintaining the ridge. She asked if the Town would request federal assistance to take care of the ridge or handle it independently. Mr. Cohen advised that if the ridge portion was to be deeded to the Town then the Town would take care of that portion. Mayor Truex advised that if it were a private facility, then the owner could control who had access, but if it were a Town facility, then it would be open to all Town residents.

Al Sussman asked Chief DiPetrillo and Mr. Cohen what kind of equipment the Fire Department had to help the golf course during the summer. Chief DiPetrillo advised that the Town's Fire Rescue responded to roughly 14,000 calls per year and had a benchmark response of six minutes. He stated that in an emergency, the Town would dispatch the nearest available unit. Chief DiPetrillo advised that in an instance of heat exhaustion or other medical emergency, Fire Rescue was dispatched through Broward County's 911 system. He described locators within the Fire Rescue system which could track callers' locations. Chief DiPetrillo advised that a system was being developed to identify where all callers were calling from, based on exact geographical location even if they called from cell phones.

Nick Padilla asked if the ill will between the Town and PIR which he had observed over the years would continue if they annexed into Davie. Mayor Truex indicated that he felt the current Council was cooperative with issues related to PIR.

A resident of Oak Knoll asked if the lakes could be used by any Davie resident. Mr. Cohen indicated that the lakes were not open to any person from any community and added that such issues should be handled by the PIR association.

Chief George indicated that if PIR annexed into Davie, the Town's Police Department would establish an Authority To Enter Premises Agreement and a traffic enforcement group to help patrol or enforce trespassing laws.

Terry Larter asked if the Town would keep up the aesthetic appearance of PIR or possibly improve it. Mayor Truex indicated that the community demonstrated a lot of pride in its appearance. Mr. Bernard indicated that Public Works attempted to maintain all areas of the Town as best as possible within its funding allowance. He described general repairs to public areas and rights-of-way which the Town consistently provided. Mr. Bernard advised that items that needed to be addressed would be put on a schedule.

Ms. Larter asked about the Country Club area. Mr. Bernard stated that this issue would be up to the PIR residents.

A resident asked if the insurance rates would be increased. Mr. Cohen advised that annexing into Davie would not change insurance rates.

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A resident asked how schooling of PIR children would be affected. Mayor Truex stated annexation would have no effect. Mr. Cohen advised that schooling issues were handled by the School Board.

Mike Schneider spoke about ongoing problems with speeders and asked what the Police Department could do about this problem. Chief George indicated that traffic enforcement was unique to each community. He advised that the Police Department would enforce traffic laws.

Mr. Schneider asked if the dormant Citizens On Patrol Program would receive support from the Police Department, if it were to become active again. Chief George responded in the affirmative and advised that the Police Department was proud of partnering such programs.

Vice-Mayor Starkey spoke about the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs), and advised that Council had recently approved funding to pay a trainer of such a program. She advised that PIR residents could create such community response teams as much as they wished.

Bridget C. asked since so many residents were present, would the panel mind taking an unofficial straw poll.

Mr. Mangione stated that PIR maintained its community on less than \$2 million. He asked if PIR annexed into Davie, would they get more "bang for their buck". Mayor Truex stated that if PIR annexed into Davie, its residents would not get any lesser or better treatment than other Town residents. He stated that if PIR incorporated and later felt this was a mistake, it always had the option to annex into Davie in the future.

A resident asked if the speeders on Nob Hill Road could be controlled. She also asked if rowdy children and golf balls in her back yard could be addressed. Chief George felt that there was constant traffic control on Nob Hill Road which he felt was sufficient.

Trevor Markley asked if traffic calming devices would be considered to reduce cut-through traffic in his community. Mr. Bernard advised that prior to installing such devices, studies would be performed to review their usage.

Mr. Markley asked if Council would go ahead and direct staff to put forward the effort needed to file the bill for annexation.

Pat Haygood asked if there would be grants available to help PIR incorporate. Mr. Cohen indicated that the Town had a grant specialist and would consider assisting with grants as with other communities.

Helene Cooper asked if there would be any negatives with regard to annexation. Mr. Cohen indicated that any perceived negatives were in the eye of the beholder.

Len DePaolo spoke about other residents' concerns with regard to keeping PIR within the same voting district. He asked if any re-districting upon annexation would affect the voting district. Mr. Cohen stated there would be no guarantee that PIR could stay as one voting district, but advised that this decision would come from the District Boundary Review Committee, which would make a recommendation to Council. Mayor Truex felt that discussing this concern was putting the cart before the horse. Vice-Mayor Starkey advised that there was always a risk involved when an outside consultant was used on re-apportionment issues. She felt that establishing fair criteria ahead of time was the best way to go. Vice-Mayor Starkey explained that based on demographic criteria, residents may not know how they would be apportioned.

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A resident asked if Mr. Underwood would take advantage of surplus funding to provide PIR with additional services. He also asked what the Town's position would be on gating the community. Mr. Cohen felt that if the community wished to be gated, they could consider becoming a special tax district within the Town. Mayor Truex indicated that he would not be in favor of this matter.

A resident mentioned the \$2 million surplus and asked what the Town planned to offer PIR residents. Mayor Truex stated he and other Council members would be willing to meet with residents. Vice-Mayor Starkey advised that the Town provided several existing facilities that were open access to PIR residents. She stated that future improvements to medical services would also be open to PIR residents.

A resident asked about whether parks, summer programs and other facilities would be open to PIR residents if they incorporated. Mr. Andresky described sports and summer programs that the Town offered. He indicated that summer programs were currently isolated to Davie residents but that upon annexation, these programs would be open to PIR residents based on the current lottery system.

Mr. Simon asked that a 171 hearing be held to move the annexation issue along quickly.

A resident asked if the Town had given any thought to the distribution of money that would be coming in. Mr. Cohen explained that the flow of money that came in was distributed on an equal basis for each municipality.

Mr. Sussman asked if the Town would be able to break down tax amounts that residents of different phases would pay. Mr. Cohen indicated that a schedule would be created per \$1,000 and stated that each individual situation would be calculated.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

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Mayor/Councilmember

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Town Clerk