

Meeting Minutes
Town of Indialantic
Regular Meeting of the Town Council
Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Held via Communications Media Technology in accordance with State of Florida Executive Order No. 20-69 and Town of Indialantic Emergency Executive Order No. 2020-08.

A. Call to Order:

A regular meeting of the Indialantic Town Council was called to order via Zoom Webinar by Mayor Berkman on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Honorable Dave Berkman, Mayor
Honorable Stu Glass, Deputy Mayor
Honorable Simon Kemp, Councilmember
Honorable Julie McKnight, Councilmember
Honorable Doug Wright, Councilmember

Also present:

Michael Casey, Town Manager
Paul Gougelman, Town Attorney
Rebekah Raddon, Town Clerk
Michael Connor, Chief of Police

1. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Berkman
2. Changes to Agenda – None.
3. Presentations and Proclamations – None.
4. Public Comments, non-agenda items:

Dick Dunn, 330 Tampa Ave., expressed his appreciation for Town staff and elected officials' efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. He asked what the Town's position is with regard to beach parking in the event there is a spike in positive COVID-19 cases. He expressed concerns regarding an influx of people in particular during the next rocket launch, and felt that it could increase the risk of exposure by town staff, in particular for the police, fire, and public works employees. Mayor Berkman indicated beach parking could be closed again if necessary. Police Chief Connor noted an increase in out-of-county traffic and said he is meeting with other beachside law enforcement agencies to discuss ways to mitigate risk and ensure public safety.

5. Public Announcements: Mayor Berkman stated there are openings on the Code Enforcement Board and the Board of Adjustment.
6. Resolution No. 05-2020 Ratification of Town Emergency Orders implemented due to COVID-19. Mr. Gougelman read the resolution title:

A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Indialantic, Brevard County, Florida, Relating to Local Emergency Orders; Making Findings; Ratifying Certain Emergency Orders; Providing a Severability Clause; and Providing for an Effective Date.

MOTION by Mayor Berkman, seconded by Deputy Mayor Glass, and vote unanimous to adopt Resolution 05-2020. Motion carried 5-0.

Town Clerk Raddon read the following public comment submitted via email:

Jim Duncan, 410 Watson Drive:

I live at 410 Watson Drive and would like to suggest installing some speed bumps on Watson Drive. I have seen a big increase in speeders and stop sign running in front of my house and I think that with the opening of Publix it will increase even more. There's quite a few young kids that play in the yard across from me it's dangerous when these cars go flying by. Thanks to the Indialantic police they park in that yard and patrol regularly but when they're not there the speeding resumes. Thank you.

Mayor Berkman asked Mr. Casey to contact Publix to follow up with his request for a speed radar and speed cushions. Mr. Casey noted there has been an increase in traffic on Watson Drive due to the Riverside Drive construction and detours.

B. Consent Agenda:

1. Approve Council Meeting Minutes for March 11, 2020
2. Approve Board and Committee Appointments/Reappointments:
 - a) Budget and Finance Committee – Reappoint Vincent Benevente; Reappoint Michael Melhado
 - b) Civil Service Board – Reappoint Pam Dunn
 - c) Heritage Committee – Reappoint Carol Andren; Reappoint Jenifer Marx; Reappoint Anne Kaylor
 - d) Parks, Recreation, & Beautification Committee – Reappoint Lisa Esrock; Reappoint Beata Pezzeminti
 - e) Pension Board of Trustees, General Employees – Reappoint Danita Bell
 - f) Zoning and Planning Board – Reappoint Dan Sullivan
3. Approve FDEP Grant \$30,000 for Second Avenue Improvements
4. Approve Save Our Indian River Lagoon Grant

MOTION by Deputy Mayor Glass, seconded by Councilmember McKnight, and vote unanimous to approve the consent agenda as written. Motion carried 5-0.

C. Ordinances and Public Hearings:

1. Ordinance 2020-06 First Reading:

Mr. Gougelman read the ordinance title:

An Ordinance of the Town of Indialantic, Brevard County, Florida, Relating to the Qualifying Date to Run for Town Council; Making Findings; Amending Section 2.02(4), Town Charter; Changing the Dates Prior to the Town Election to Qualify to Run for Town Council; Providing for Severability/Interpretation; Providing for Repeal of Ordinances and Resolutions Inconsistent Herewith; and Providing an Effective Date.

There were no comments from the public.

MOTION by Councilmember Kemp, seconded by Councilmember McKnight, and vote unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2020-06 on first reading. Motion carried 5-0.

D. Unfinished Business: None.

E. New Business:

1. Lobbyist Services

Mayor Berkman asked lobbyist Jason Steele to speak regarding services he could provide to the Town. Mr. Steele spoke regarding his skills and work experience and gave examples of projects he worked on for other local municipalities, in particular getting funding for muck dredging projects and working on short-term vacation rental issues. As a resident of Indialantic, he would like to provide his services to the Town at a reduced rate of \$1,000/month for a period of twelve months. He offered to help raise funds for items such as holiday decorations and a playground, coordinate meetings with state and federal agencies and elected officials as needed, get leads on grant money, and any other tasks the Town may need assistance with.

MOTION by Mayor Berkman, seconded by Deputy Mayor Glass to utilize Mr. Steele's services at a cost of \$1,000/month for a term of one year to commence October 1, 2020.

Councilmember McKnight asked about outcomes from the Town's previous use of a lobbyist; if it was possible to retain Mr. Steele on an as-need basis instead of by annual contract; and what the parameters of the agreement would be. Councilmember Wright

expressed interest in seeing a proposal or scope of work and mentioned the importance of having clear objectives; he asked if Mr. Steele would attend council meetings and if there was a set number of hours he would dedicate to the Town. Mr. Steele indicated he could attend on an as-needed basis and noted that lobbying entails lengthy hours.

Deputy Mayor Glass commented that the Town hasn't had a lobbyist in recent years, and a previous lobbyist wasn't effective because no direction provided. He added that lobbyists can help municipalities with unique issues that the Florida League of Cities cannot. Mr. Gougelman said he has worked with Mr. Steele and is confident he can deliver what is needed.

Mayor Berkman asked for public comments; the following people spoke:

Brett Miller, 220 Cocoa Ave, spoke in support of hiring the lobbyist and asked what spurred interest in the idea.

After further discussion, Mayor Berkman called for a vote on the motion.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 5-0.

2. Relief for Local Businesses

There was discussion regarding ways to help local business impacted by the pandemic. Suggestions included allowing businesses to have additional signage, and outdoor dining. There was brief discussion regarding outdoor shopping. Mr. Casey indicated he is looking into the Cares Act to see what relief, if any, may become available and how the Town could use it. Deputy Mayor Glass spoke regarding the We Live Local campaign.

MOTION by Mayor Berkman, seconded by Councilmember McKnight to authorize the Town Manager to provide relief from the Town's sign code and outdoor dining code through October 1st, 2020, barring any fire or safety issues that may arise, and waiving permitting fees.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, 5-0.

MOTION by Mayor Berkman, seconded by Councilmember Wright to authorize the placement of a banner, to be designed by Councilmember McKnight and approved by Town Manager Casey, above Fifth Avenue for a period of 6 months.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.

Brett Miller, 220 Cocoa Avenue, asked if there would be an issue with local businesses holding an outdoor market; brief discussion followed regarding insurance requirements and the Town's lease.

There was further discussion regarding how to help businesses, suggestions included adding information to the Town's website or creating a Facebook page for businesses to advertise on. Mayor Berkman encouraged everyone to look for ways to support local businesses.

F. Administrative Reports:

1. Town Manager Report – In summary, Mr. Casey spoke briefly about the Cares Act and the Policy Group update; Corporeal Ryan Dovel was awarded Employee of the Quarter; Town Hall will reopen on May 20 with social distancing precautions in place; Building Department software has been purchased; Repairs to the boardwalk are complete; the Town will have a loss of revenue estimated at 7-10% due to COVID-19, issues with Flood Plain Management from 2015 are resolved; Publix will open for business on June 11.
2. Town Attorney Report – None.

G. Council Reports:

Mayor Berkman thanked Vinnie Taranto for his assistance and instruction with utilizing the Zoom platform for tonight's meeting.

Mayor Berkman asked for prayers for a local family whose son was hospitalized due to drowning; police and fire responded and resuscitated the victim but his prognosis is poor.

Councilmember Wright said kudos to Mr. Casey and the Town staff for their work.

Councilmember McKnight thanked Mr. Casey for his frequent communication and keeping the Council informed; she thanked Mayor Berkman for his efforts in communicating with the public.

Councilmember Kemp gave an update regarding the South Beaches Coalition meeting he attended.

Deputy Mayor Glass complimented staff in all departments and thanked all for their work.

H. Adjourn:

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Dave Berkman, Mayor. Signature on file.

ATTESTED BY: Rebekah Raddon, Town Clerk. Signature on file.