

**JUPITER INLET COLONY  
SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING**

**LIVE AND VIA ZOOM**

Meeting ID 585 628 8134

**05.23.2023**

**3:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

1. Mayor Comerford Called the Meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

Roll call for the record:

Mayor Daniel J. Comerford III  
Vice-Mayor Milton Block  
Commissioner Richard Busto  
Commissioner Mark Ciarfella  
Commissioner Marie Rosner

Chief of Police John Pruitt  
Town Administrator Kevin Lucas  
Town Attorney William P. Doney  
Town Clerk Ivelisse Chico-Randazzo

Also present approximately 40 members of the Community via zoom and in person.

Vice Mayor Block began the meeting by making a statement saying that Town Attorney Doney has advised that at Special Commission Meetings, public comments can be restricted to motions before the Commission. Vice Mayor Block requested that public comments be limited to motions on the floor after each initial discussion by Commissioners. He also requested that each person speak one time and those comments be limited to 3 minutes. Anyone that has additional comments can email the Commissioners and emails will be posted on the website.

2. **Approval:** Consultant Agreement with John Pruitt:

Mayor Comerford stated it was discussed at the last meeting and Town Attorney Doney put together the agreement with the effective dates starting June 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023. It is a 4-month agreement at \$9,000.00 a month.

**Motion:** Vice Mayor Block made a motion to approve.

**Second:** Commissioner Busto seconded the motion.

**Motion passed 5-0**

3. **Update:** Chief of Police Search Committee Report

Vice Mayor Block reported that they received 131 resumes for the position of Chief of Police. Sheri Resnick would be finished by the end of the day with her preliminary review. She will then begin to reach out to the candidates to set up interviews. On the advice of counsel, Mike Piper, Ms. Resnick will be selecting who she would do a screen

interview with the candidates. The interviews would be in private and then Ms. Resnick would present them to the Committee at the next meeting. Screen interviews would take place during the week of 5/29 through 6/5.

The Committee members have access to all the resumes for their review. All Committee members are to evaluate all candidates independent of Ms. Resnick's recommendations based on the advice of counsel. Vice Mayor Block will attempt to set up a public meeting during the week of June 12<sup>th</sup> or as soon as possible thereafter, where the Committee will select finalists to publicly interview. The date depends on the availability of the Committee members.

4. **Commissioner Reports:** No report from Commissioners Busto, Rosner and Ciarfella.

Vice Mayor Block read a prepared special report because some of the most recent decisions by the Mayor have caused some controversy within the Town. Vice Mayor Block started out by mentioning some of the accomplishments by the Mayor during his tenure such as the cleaning up of the Town Government, Undergrounding of Utilities and the Neighborhood Rehabilitation project. Because of these projects, the Town is safer, more welcoming, and desirable.

Vice Mayor Block continued reading his statement, "Our Town Charter states that, "The Mayor shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the municipality and Chairman of the Commission and it shall be his duty to attend to the proper and effective enforcement of the laws and ordinances of the municipality, *under the over-all supervision of the Commission.*" The Mayor is the CEO of the Town, he operates with the advice of the Commission and the Commission sets policies for the Town to be respected by the Mayor and passes ordinances that the Mayor/CEO enforces with the police and other designated persons, such as code enforcement."

The Commission was surprised with the recent hirings within the Police Department without any discussion with the Commission. Due to these actions by the Mayor, Vice Mayor Block is making three recommendations to the Commission:

1. That the Mayor does not hire/fire any Town employee, including within the Police Department without a discussion and ratification to the Commission.
2. That all major decisions affecting the wellbeing of the Town be brought to the Commission for discussion and ratification.
3. That the Commission consider a referendum to the Town Charter to change from a Strong Mayor form of Government to a Town Manager form of Government.

Vice Mayor Block requested that the above recommendations/motions be placed on the agenda for the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting for discussion and vote.

5. **Wrap-up and adjourn.**

Motion: Vice Mayor Block made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:24 p.m.

Second: Commissioner Busto seconded the motion.

**Motion passed 5-0.**

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Daniel J. Comerford III

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk Ivelisse Chico-Randazzo

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**STATE MANDATED STATEMENT**

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or Commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he/she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Any person requiring special accommodation at this meeting because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the Town prior to the meeting. Please contact the Town Administration Office, Administration Building, 50 Colony Road, Jupiter Inlet Colony, and FL 33469, telephone 561-746-3787.