

**FINAL AGENDA AND MINUTES
TOWN OF JUPITER
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021**

Mayor Wodraska called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

Roll Call: Mayor Todd R. Wodraska; Vice-Mayor Ilan G. Kaufer; Councilor Jim Kuretski; Councilor Cameron May; Town Manager Matt Benoit; Town Attorney Thomas J. Baird and Town Clerk Laura E. Cahill. Councilor Ron Delaney arrived at 6:04 P.M.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Blaine Burgess, resident of Tequesta, discussed climate change and how one fifth of countries are at risk for ecosystem collapse. He noted he volunteered with Citizens Climate Lobby to help pass the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act and urged Council to pass a resolution to provide a livable future.

1. Review and discussion of 2020/2021 Strategic Plan status.

Mr. Benoit gave an overview of the presentation which included items completed in 2020. He said Council would need to make a decision on how many items the Town should pursue in 2021, due to some enduring Strategic Initiatives. He noted some of the items were essential and cautioned against too many new action items.

Mr. Benoit discussed enduring items which included enhancing and updating traffic mitigation plans for roads not meeting the Town's level of service. Councilor Kuretski stated he was very pleased with the status updates. He said the weekly and quarterly reports allowed Council to review the process and were well documented.

Mr. Benoit recommended not concentrating on Island Way and noted Staff would take a supportive roll if Council wished to pursue other means to accomplish it. He noted Island Way was an enduring item.

Mr. Benoit discussed the U.S. Highway One Bridge; strategies to reduce the number of vehicle/pedestrian/cyclist conflicts; the introduction of high speed rails; and opportunities to install street lights along collector and arterial roadways.

Councilor Delaney asked if street lights on Toney Penna Drive by the high school were included. Mr. Benoit stated yes.

1. Review and discussion of 2020/2021 Strategic Plan status.

Mr. Benoit reviewed the East Indiantown Road improvements; major gateways to the Town; access and use of green space opportunities; enhancing the natural vegetation and promotion of our blueway systems; and Indiantown Road improvements between Interstate 95 and Central Boulevard in collaboration with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). He noted there were some projects which needed updating and public feedback. He asked council to discuss and consider the framework for 2021.

Ms. Cheryl Schneider, resident of Big Cypress Drive and Planning and Zoning Board Member, asked Council to consider height and density concerns for mixed use projects in certain areas allowed by the Comprehensive Plan. She also felt the Town needed a way to interact with small business by possibly having a small business liaison or advocate to help.

Ms. MB Hague, resident of Bourne Drive, Planning and Zoning Board Member and speaking for Jupiter Inlet Foundation, commended Council on adding a seagrass initiative. She provided some updates regarding signage and public education for protection of seagrass. She noted there was a need to work on human impacts to avoid losses.

2. Discussion of new, proposed Initiatives for 2021/2022 Strategic Plan.

Councilor Kuretski stated the Strategic Plan process had gotten better in recent years and mentioned the two items he would like to add to the Strategic Plan, including proceeding with the Town Hall replacement study and something for the Town to encourage people to explore the treasures in the community. He showed an example of a nature preserve passport he received from a resident and mentioned the Town could have it as a hardcopy or electronic via an app.

Mayor Wodraska stated he also had ideas regarding a new Town Hall. He mentioned Staff could come back with more information about cost and the next step would be a referendum. He added the Town had a successful experience with the PD/Data center.

Councilor May agreed to looking into a new Town Hall and suggested covering the roof with solar panels and making it greener.

Mayor Wodraska stated the passport sounded fun and he had seen similar ideas from other municipalities. He suggested including the Lighthouse as one of the Jupiter treasures.

2. Discussion of new, proposed Initiatives for 2021/2022 Strategic Plan.

Councilor Delaney had two items including an informational call-in system or website for the public to contact in regards to cleaning floating debris around the intracoastal and in the mangroves. His second item involved adding a Staff Liaison to help new business owners.

Councilor May suggested talking to 4Ocean Foundation regarding cleaning the debris.

Mayor Wodraska mentioned expanding someone's role within the Town to help business owners.

Vice-Mayor Kaufer proposed having a roundtable on creating an advisory board regarding local business issues.

Mayor Wodraska suggested a roundtable to discuss a business outreach program.

Vice-Mayor Kaufer mentioned a green initiative or sustainability plan, to include seagrass, solar panels, and electric vehicles. He suggested Staff could make recommendations and the Environmental Task Force could also provide information.

Mr. Benoit stated every organization could take steps to be more sustainable or green and the Town had room for improvement. He mentioned he knew some things that other organizations did that could be incorporated.

Vice-Mayor Kaufer stated it would be helpful to Staff if Council had a plan or vision and suggested getting public input.

Councilor Kuretski stated he would be interested in having a roundtable regarding green sustainability initiatives.

Vice-Mayor Kaufer mentioned the Town was included in the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact (the Compact) and could look at what the Compact was doing and direct funds to other items that were not being addressed by them. He also asked about scheduling another discussion regarding medical marijuana to see if there were any changes in Council's opinion.

Mayor Wodraska mentioned the Town previously approved a ban regarding medical marijuana dispensaries and that he had not changed his position on the topic.

2. Discussion of new, proposed Initiatives for 2021/2022 Strategic Plan.

Councilor Kuretski stated he had not changed his mind on the topic and mentioned the dispensaries were permitted anywhere drugstores were and he did not want them next to neighborhoods.

Councilor Delaney stated he was in favor of letting dispensaries in the Town and would be open to talk about it.

Councilor May stated he would like information on which surrounding municipalities had them, how they were doing, and any crime concerns, before Council deliberated on the topic.

Vice-Mayor Kaufer suggested a roundtable on paid benefits for employees, including parental leave or military/active duty leave and stated his company had a four week paid parental leave policy.

Mayor Wodraska stated he would prefer the request for family leave to come from Staff rather than Council and that Council had discussed the topic previously. Councilor Kuretski agreed.

Vice-Mayor Kaufer also mentioned a roundtable discussion with Staff for recommendations regarding historical preservations.

Mayor Wodraska agreed that a periodic roundtable review of the policy would be beneficial. Councilor Kuretski also agreed and felt a brainstorming session would give Staff more direction. Councilor Delaney said Staff input regarding stumbling blocks would be helpful.

Vice-Mayor Kaufer mentioned addressing known problem areas for flooding and runoff and discussing opportunities for future projects. Councilor Kuretski said the water utility 5-year master stormwater plan may address those areas. Councilor Kaufer felt, in addition, there may be chances for private owners to upgrade their properties.

Councilor May said he would like to see water bottle refill stations at Town parks and beach walk-overs. He also said he would be interested in exploring the possibility of using Town owned Piatt Place for boat parking or storage which would be a revenue generator and offer a public benefit.

Councilor Kuretski noted the condition of the property and was unsure if it could be utilized. He said there had been a study done many years ago. Mayor Wodraska noted there may be potential options and suggested evaluating the condition.

2. Discussion of new, proposed Initiatives for 2021/2022 Strategic Plan.

Councilor May also recommended a business liaison position in the town to help local potential businesses navigate the permitting and approval process. He went on to discuss a new design to the interchange at I-95 and Indiantown Road. Councilor Kuretski confirmed a plan was approved and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) would be implementing it within the next couple of years.

As a last item, Councilor May mentioned re-wording the comprehensive plan to keep developers from assuming they could build high rise buildings. Councilor Kaufer noted a good starting point would be to determine what the target areas were.

Councilor Kuretski continued to discuss Piatt Place. He noted he would like to know the cost of the infrastructure improvements and Staff's opinion on how it could be used before the idea moved forward.

Mayor Wodraska's first initiative was to have Staff study the feasibility of a web cam at the dog park and possibly some of the local youth sports venues. He felt it would be a great quality of life and public benefit enhancement.

Next Mayor Wodraska discussed Cypress Drive. He said the area was an interesting corridor and was ripe for encouraging redevelopment, especially for much needed industrial space. Council then discussed several other Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) Right of Way corridor improvements needed.

Mayor Wodraska brought up the Jupiter Elementary School Auditorium. He said he didn't really want the Town to take it on but he wished someone would raise money to restore the historic structure. Council discussed options and obstacles.

Vice-Mayor Kaufer mentioned possibly giving direction to the Art Committee in an upcoming meeting regarding Council's goals and wishes.

Mr. Baird requested an Attorney Client Session regarding the Jupiter Tequesta Athletic Association (JTAA) Soccer Case. Council unanimously agreed to schedule one as soon as possible.

Mr. Baird noted, in the Federal class action suit regarding the Orchids of Asia Spa investigation (John Doe vs. TOJ), a resolution had been proposed resulting in the Town not having to pay damages. The Town would need to not object to the motion to destroy video tapes associated with surveillance. He said the Federal order would trump any state records retention law. He asked for Council's approval for the Mayor to sign the settlement agreement on behalf of the Town. Council unanimously agreed.

2. Discussion of new, proposed Initiatives for 2021/2022 Strategic Plan.

Mr. Benoit thanked Council for their thoughtfulness and input towards the strategic plan process.

ADJOURNMENT - 8:00 P.M.

Laura E. Cahill, Town Clerk

Todd R. Wodraska, Mayor