

Minutes
Town of Lake Park, Florida
Town Commission Meeting
September 17, 2003 7:30 p.m.
Town Commission Chambers, 535 Park Avenue

The Town Commission met for the purpose of a Regular Commission Meeting on Wednesday, September 17, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. Present were Mayor Paul Castro, Vice-Mayor G. Chuck Balius, Commissioners Garretson, Longtin and Otterson, Town Manager Doug Drymon, Town Attorney Thomas Baird, Recording Secretary Vivian Otero and Deputy Town Clerk Stephanie Thomas.

Mayor Castro called the Meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
 Pastor Griffin Davis Jr. led the Invocation.
 Vice Mayor Balius led the Pledge of Allegiance.
 Recording Secretary Vivian Otero performed the Roll Call.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

The Commission moved items L. 10 and L. 11 to the front of the agenda.

MOTION: A motion was made by Vice Mayor Balius to approve the September 17, 2003 Regular Commission Meeting Agenda as amended; Commissioner Otterson seconded the motion.

Vote on Motion:

Commission Member	Yes	No	Other
Commissioner Garretson	X		
Commissioner Otterson	X		
Commissioner Longtin	X		
Vice-Mayor Balius	X		
Mayor Castro	X		

Motion passed 5-0.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Item L. 11, Community Development Department

Town Manager Doug Drymon presented the four options available to run the Community Development Department for the next fiscal year. See Exhibit "A".

Mayor Castro stated that he visited the Community Development office and felt that it was in total shambles and he has received complaints about the disorganization of the department. A more professional organization of the department is needed. He also questioned how it would work to have an employee of Calvin Giordano supervising and evaluating a town employee.

Town Attorney, Tom Baird explained that any ultimate action concerning an employee would come from the Town Manager. The Manager would gather information from the supervisor and then would make the decision; and that would fall within the town protocol.

Commissioner Otterson would like to see option one put into place with a strong director.

Vice Mayor Balius asked if all of the services of Calvin Giordano would be available with option two. The Manager explained that their services would be available.

Commissioner Longtin expressed concern with the reluctance of contractors to work within the town. She has had many complaints concerning customer service in the Community Development Department. Commissioner Longtin stated that she felt that it should be outsourced.

Public comment on this item:

All of the public comment that was in favor of keeping the current staff in Community Development.

Anne Lynch, 349 Bayberry Drive, Lauri Mario Michalis, 827 Poplar Drive, Diane Weibert, 1000 Park Avenue, Robert Socolosky, Anthony Provo, 1231 Date Palm Drive, Linda Otto, 2649 SW Riviera Road, Will Serrano, 304 Foresteria Drive, Dionisia Sophinos, 338 Bayberry Drive, Mr. Pritchard, 957 Park Avenue, Todd Dry, 340 -A 10th Street.

Public comment that also specifically did not want the Community Development Department to be outsourced.

Diane Weibert, 1000 Park Avenue, Anne Lynch, 349 Bayberry Drive, Dionisia Sophinos, 338 Bayberry Drive, Anthony Provo, 1231 Date Palm Drive, Lauri Mario Michalis, 827 Poplar Drive, Linda Otto, 2649 SW Riviera Road, Todd Dry, 340 -A 10th Street, Diane Munroe Hawthorne Drive.

Commissioner Otterson stated that he felt that 20 hours a week was not enough time for Calvin Giordano to manage the Community Development Department properly.

Commissioner Garretson expressed concern with having the Finance Department taking back the issuance of Town licensee. He also is against outsourcing any more departments of the Town. He feels that the Community Development needs consistency. Commissioner Longtin stated that she feels that since the Finance Director, Cindy Sementelli feels that her department can handle the Occupational License function then the Commission should try it.

MOTION: Vice Mayor Balius made a motion to accept option two and Commissioner Garretson second the motion.

Mayor Castro stated that he was voting no because he feels that you either hire your own director who will supervise the staff or you go the other way.

Commissioner Longtin state that she agrees with the Mayor 100%. She would like to see it outsourced for a year and then assess the situation.

Vote on Motion:

Commission Member	Yes	No	Other
Commissioner Garretson	X		
Commissioner Otterson		X	
Commissioner Longtin		X	
Vice-Mayor Balius	X		
Mayor Castro		X	

Motion failed 3 to 2.

MOTION: Commissioner Longtin made a motion to look into option 4. Motion died due to a lack of a second.

MOTION: Commissioner Otterson made a motion to accept option one and Vice Mayor Balius seconded the motion.

Mayor Castro asked John Downes of Calvin Giordano about the supervision of Town Employees. He stated that at the current time his staff does not supervise the Town staff. The Town will always be able to call in Calvin Giordano under the cost recovery plan.

Mayor Castro explained that he would have to vote no tonight because he thinks the Commission should take more time.

Commissioner Longtin stated that she would be voting no because she does not think that it is the best thing for the Town.

Vote on Motion:

Commission Member	Yes	No	Other
Commissioner Garretson	X		
Commissioner Otterson	X		
Commissioner Longtin		X	
Vice-Mayor Balias	X		
Mayor Castro		X	

Motion passed 3 to 2.

L. 10 Insurance Benefits.

Chris Gehring, from the Gehring Group explained the plan. See Exhibit "B".

Commissioner Longtin stated that she was voting no because she feels that the Town should not be paying any portion of dependent coverage and that the employee should be picking up some of the cost increase.

Motion: Commissioner Garretson made a motion to accept the Blue Cross Blue Shield, Alternate 1, Plan 15 and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Otterson.

Vote on Motion:

Commission Member	Yes	No	Other
Commissioner Garretson	X		
Commissioner Otterson	X		
Commissioner Longtin		X	
Vice-Mayor Balias	X		