



March 10, 2015

**STATEMENT FROM**

**MAYOR BRIAN BAREFOOT**

**FOLLOWING CONSUMER PROTECTION WORKSHOP**

**INDIAN RIVER SHORES, FLA.** – On March 9 our Town Council convened a public workshop to discuss consumer protection measures available to our Town after our Franchise Agreement with the City of Vero Beach expires in November 2016. Mr. Terry Deason, our utility consultant and former Chairman of the Florida Public Service Commission ( FPSC ) , led the workshop discussion which focused on the rudiments of an ordinance that would guide the Council in regulating the rates of electric utilities serving within the Town. On behalf of my fellow Council members and Town staff, I want to thank the members of the public who participated in the productive session.

As background, the Town Council has the duty under our existing ordinances to regulate the rates of utilities operating within our corporate limits. Our Town agreed to temporarily refrain from exercising that authority as part of the bargained-for exchange in our Franchise Agreement with Vero Beach. However, after the Franchise expires in November of 2016, the Town will not be restricted from exercising its rate regulation authority if it so chooses.

The proposed ordinance that was discussed at the workshop, along with an outline of Mr. Deason's presentation, are posted on our web site. As you can see, the proposed ordinance is drafted to provide a structure and process for the Council to regulate the rates of electric utilities that are not regulated by the FPSC. Our Council will continue to discuss the proposed ordinance at our next regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, March 26, beginning at 9 a.m.

If you have any comments or questions about the proposed ordinance, please contact our Town Manager, Robert Stabe, at [townmanager@irshores.com](mailto:townmanager@irshores.com).

Thank you.