

**MINUTES**  
**TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF INDIAN RIVER SHORES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING – RESIDENT COMMUNICATION**  
**Friday, July 18, 2008**  
**10:00 a.m.**

PRESENT: Thomas W. Cadden, Mayor  
E. William Kenyon, Vice Mayor  
Frances F. Atchison, Councilmember  
William H. Ahrens, Councilman  
David J. Becker Councilman

STAFF PRESENT: Robert J. Bradshaw, Town Manager  
Laura Aldrich, Town Clerk

OTHERS: Honorable Representative Ralph Poppel

1. **Call to Order**

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Invocation – Councilman Becker
- c. Roll Call

Mayor Cadden called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The Town Clerk called the roll as reflected above.

2. **Discussion On Resident Communication**

Mayor Cadden asked Mr. Bradshaw to describe why this meeting was called, and who the representing attorney would be for the meeting. Mr. Bradshaw said this meeting is to review the letter that the Council had discussed at the last regular meeting. He had spoken with Attorney Anthony Garganese that morning, who had reviewed and approved the planned letter and would be available for a telephone conference if needed.

Councilmember Atchison asked about putting personal phone numbers for the Council, and Mr. Bradshaw advised against that, offering to have the calls come to Town Hall and then we will relay the message to the Council to return them. She said that there were a few grammatical corrections in the third paragraph: make “can not” one word, preceded by “generally” rather than followed by it. Also, Councilman Becker suggested removing the beginning word “Thus” of the same sentence. Hyphenating “decision-making” was discussed, with the conclusion to leave hyphens in.

Councilmember Becker asked about adding: “The ostensible purpose of charter was for growth management in the County. This can be more reasonably accomplished by an interlocal agreement among the County and municipalities without changing governmental structure. Your council recommends that.” The Mayor and Councilmember Atchison disagreed with adding this to the current letter, saying another letter after this would be better.

Vice Mayor Kenyon interjected that the general rule about this type of communication is to have a goal and stick to it, and make the letter as plain and as personal as possible. Councilman Becker argued that simply being opposed to something is far less attractive than to be opposed for a reason, and we never explain that reason. Councilmember Atchison asked about stating that the Council supports Home Rule, which is what Mr. Garganese recommended earlier. Councilman Becker said the words “Home Rule” were linked to the County Charter discussion, and would confuse the voters even more. Mayor Cadden agreed.

Councilman Ahrens asked about the last sentence in paragraph 2, which points out that Democrats are not running in District 3, and then tell them everyone votes for that District. Councilmember Atchison agreed. Mayor Cadden said it is an open primary for District 3 only. It was decided to leave it as it is.

Representative Poppel urged care when using the terms Hometown Democracy and Home Rule, which cause confusion. It was determined to remove the three references to Home Rule.

Councilman Becker asked for an opinion about adding the additional verbiage that he suggested as to why the Town was against Charter. The Mayor replied that it complicates the letter too much, adding that simply saying that it could usurp our decision-making authority was sufficient. Vice Mayor Kenyon made a **motion to approve the letter to the residents as modified**, which was seconded by Councilman Ahrens.

The Town Clerk was asked to read the letter. She said that nothing had changed in paragraphs one or two, and she asked what to insert in place of “home rule” following “municipal” in the third paragraph. “Government” was the reply by Councilmember Atchison and Councilman Becker simultaneously. She then read the third paragraph as follows:

“You need to know that your vote for County Commission could have a major impact on the manner in which the Town functions independently, operates and provides services under municipal government. During the past year or so, the County has studied the possibility of forming a charter government as a method of solving growth problems. Whatever the initial form, County charter government, if approved, would interpose a layer of County control over our Town’s decision-making power and have the potential to usurp our autonomy and municipal ~~government~~ \*authority. For example, our Town ordinances currently prevail over any conflicting County ordinances. The County Commission generally cannot impose laws on the Town without the Town Council’s consent. The Town Council desires to maintain this independence and local decision-making authority, which was established when the founding fathers incorporated our Town, for the benefit of the citizens of Indian River Shores.” \* (The Council decided to remove the second “government” when it was read aloud)

Councilman Ahrens noted that in paragraph 4, Home Rule was used again, and suggested removing it to say “...independent authority...” Mrs. Aldrich agreed and thanked him for catching the error, and asked Councilmember Atchison if she would like to see the Town phone number listed at the bottom of the letter as well. It was agreed to just have it in the letterhead.

3. **Conclusion and Motion**

Councilman Becker and the Mayor discussed how and why the letter would make a difference to our residents. Mayor Cadden then called for the **motion, which passed unanimously**. The Town Clerk was instructed to make the changes immediately so that each councilmember could affix their signature to the letter. She departed and returned three minutes later.

4. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

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/s  
Laura Aldrich, Town Clerk

(Approved by the Town Council at the 8-28-08 meeting)