



Site Plan Approval for Groves Town Center PUD – B Road & SR 80

Modifications to the site plan for Ordinance 2019-08 passed 5-0 with council emphasis on water management and conservation. At earlier town hall meetings council insisted on knowing retention locations and how surface water run-off and containment would be handled before approving the site plan. Town engineer Randy Wertepny from Keshavarz complimented the efforts of everyone involved saying because this focus is a proactive measure by the town, it will be favorably looked upon by environmental agencies, especially the NPDES. It is also very possible a precedent will be set for future developers to incorporate and show in their plans how water will be managed before approvals are granted. Site plans and drawings are available at town hall.

Personnel and Policies Procedure Manual for Town Employees Comes to Life

A draft of the labor and personnel management practices manual, provided to by the Town's legal counsel Torcivia, Donlon, Goddeau and Assay came before council. After review and edits, the final version will be voted upon in February 2020. The document is available for review at Town Hall.

Compromise and Forward Motion for B Road Drainage Easements

The result of the December 2019 meeting, focused on restoring road-front easements to B Road (north) residents, yielded forward motion on drainage efforts. The owner of contiguous B Road addresses 3120, 3254 and 3276 has given easement permission to the town to install catch-basins and ballards. In an effort of compromise, the property owner has agreed to pay half of the \$17,580 cost to relocate their fence.

Lively discussion among council asked why should the Town bare costs to move a private fence, as well as the validity of needing entire property frontage vs isolated segments. Council agreed to create a written 'standard' of how unique site conditions should be handled vs random decisions. This will be a topic in up-coming workshops. Council passed the project described 3-2, with a cost of \$74,353 and includes the Town's cost of the fence, \$8,790. The project contractor is WBI of Loxahatchee Groves.

Next Steps for Council Based on Sept. 2019 Visioning Session Results

Moderator of the September 2019 Town Visioning Workshop, Kevin Knutson, returned to the Groves and presented to council the results gathered and compiled from resident input. "The chief objective for the Town to move forward is to produce a visible and prioritized list of goals. The priorities need to have dates, costs, and associated funding sources so residents can see the plan, how long it is going to take and from where the money comes. As items are completed and ticked-off the list, this builds trust among the community that leadership is doing what it says," Knutson explained.

The primary focus areas resulting from resident input:

- **Roads, Drainage and Canals**
- **Communication and Town Branding**
- **Relevant Commercial Development**

Within each of the three main priorities is a list of related projects, goals and ideas. "It is now up to council, management and availability of resources to pick two items from each list and plan how to get them done," Knutson explained. "You are not unlike other young or small towns having to figure-out how to get things done within realistic constraints."

"One thing I can't emphasize enough is to have a contingency plan for how 'unexpected events' and especially hurricanes will impact your plans," Knutson concluded. The PowerPoint presentation is available at Town Hall.

Final UMSG Payout Done without Litigation

The Town's legal counsel Torcivia, Donlon Goddeau and Assay saved town over \$12,000 by negotiating with legal counsel for the former contracted town management firm, UMSG. In September 2018 prior council approved a renewal with UMSG that provided 14 weeks of paid vacation over the two-year extension. The vote was 3-2. Even though UMSG officially finished its relationship with the Town, May 19, 2019, contract language ensured the firm would receive compensation for any unused vacation, which totaled \$109,375. The vote to proceed with the final payout of \$97,200 passed 4-1 and will be executed by the end of January 2020. The agreement is available for review at Town Hall.