

**FINAL MINUTES AND AGENDA
TOWN OF JUPITER
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023**

Mayor Kuretski called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call: Mayor Jim Kuretski; Vice-Mayor Ron Delaney; Councilor Cameron May; Councilor Malise Sundstrom; Town Manager Frank Kitzerow; Town Attorney Thomas J. Baird and Town Clerk Laura Cahill.

1. Installation and Swearing-in of Council Member Andy Fore by the Honorable Judge G. Joseph Curley.

Mr. Baird introduced Honorable Judge G. Joseph Curley, who swore in Councilor Fore.

Councilor Fore stated he had been a long time resident and cared for the people of Jupiter.

Mayor Kuretski thanked Judge Curley.

PRESENTATION

2. FLWARN Certificate of Appreciation for Hurricane Ian Relief Efforts/Southeast Florida Utility Council Meeting Announcement.

Ms. Amanda Barnes, Director of Utilities, provided the history of FLWARN and discussed Hurricane Ian relief efforts. She stated Mr. Kevin Carter and Ms. Lisa Wilson-Davis with FLWARN, were there to recognize the Staff who assisted with the Hurricane Ian relief efforts, which included Mr. Chris Kraft, Mr. Chris Johnson, Mr. Charles McClelland, Mr. Paul Romero, Mr. Danny Adams, Ms. Jody Podbeusek, Mr. Rodney Carroll, and Ms. Alison Feisburg.

Mr. Carter thanked the Town and Staff for helping to restore water for the needed communities.

Ms. Wilson-Davis discussed the hurricane's aftermath and the hard work of all who assisted.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Anthony Iannitti, resident of Sims Creek Lane, suggested Council give the residents a chance to vote on terminating service with Palm Beach County Fire Rescue (PBCFR).

Mr. Eric Bressler, resident of Riverside Drive, expressed his concern regarding Council's decision to construct the Jupiter Fire Rescue.

Mr. Wayne Posner, resident of Carina Drive, congratulated Councilor Fore on his appointment. He also discussed a public records request and Dolphin Drive.

Ms. Linda McDermott, resident of Chadwick Drive, recognized Ms. Terri Grooms for her dedication to the Town. She noted her support for PBCFR and stated her concerns regarding the lack of public outreach.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ms. Emily Flynn, resident of Robinson Drive, asked Council to keep service with PBCFR.

Ms. Karen Vinson, resident of Sioux Street, requested Council put the decision to keep PBCFR on a ballot and stated her concerns regarding cost.

Mr. Mason Torres, resident of Mitchell Street, discussed the Town's Slow Down program and pedestrian safety.

Ms. Kristen Henry, resident of Majorca Way, mentioned her concerns regarding Jupiter Fire Rescue and asked Council to reconsider.

Ms. Michelle Krull, resident of Circle East, stated she did not support terminating service with PBCFR and noted they had excellent service and response times.

Mr. Andy Weston, resident of Dolphin Drive, believed Council made the correct decision regarding Jupiter Fire Rescue. He stated PBCFR cost could not be explained.

Ms. Lisa Vreeland, resident of Robinson Street, congratulated Councilor Fore and asked him to listen to residents. She also mentioned the financial cost concerns in creating a Town Fire department.

Mr. John Bartlott, resident of River Road, spoke about his experience with creating a fire department and PBCFR. He encouraged Council to stay with PBCFR.

Ms. Abbey Doren, resident of Circle East, stated her concerns with the unanswered questions regarding cost breakdown and mutual aid. She also mentioned the level of care and response time with PBCFR.

MINUTES

3. September 19, 2023 Town Council Meeting Minutes.

Vice-Mayor Delaney moved to approve September 19, 2023 Town Council Meeting Minutes, as amended; seconded by Councilor Sundstrom; motion passed.

Kuretski	Delaney	Fore	May	Sundstrom
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed in this portion of the agenda are considered routine by the Town Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Councilor or citizen so requests; in which event, the item will be removed and considered at the beginning of the regular agenda.

Councilor Sundstrom moved to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Vice-Mayor Delaney; motion passed.

Kuretski	Delaney	Fore	May	Sundstrom
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

CONSENT AGENDA

PUBLIC BUSINESS

4. **Resolution 93-23**, Approving a contract award to Miller Legg for the Development of a Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan in the amount of \$135,000.
5. Approving the 2024 Town Council Meeting Schedule.
6. Approving award to Accelerated Technologies, Inc. for the new Town Hall and Council Chambers Access Control System in the amount of \$91,114.

REGULAR AGENDA

PUBLIC BUSINESS

7. **Resolution 101-23**, Approving an amendment request to establish fiscal year 2023/2024 funding for the Town of Jupiter Fire Rescue Department and amend the Town's General Fund operating and Community Investment Plan.

Mr. Scott Reynolds, Director of Finance gave a brief presentation regarding the budget amendment, including the rationale for the amendment, the amount of funding required for the first year of operations of the Jupiter Fire Rescue Department, and the proposed funding sources.

Councilor May asked if there had been any engagement with companies to determine costs on apparatuses and if so which ones.

Mr. Reynolds stated the Consultant had been gathering the information to provide to the Town and there had been discussion with an apparatus dealer.

Councilor May asked if there was any funding being proposed for the hiring of heavy diesel mechanics to work on the trucks.

Mr. Reynolds said it was not for year one but it had been discussed. He noted one of the apparatus dealers had a maintenance facility relatively close to Jupiter but those were future costs which Staff would need to bring back to Council.

Vice-Mayor Delaney asked what was the projected delivery time for some of the trucks.

Mr. Reynolds stated this was one of the questions asked of the dealers and was confident with the 36-month time frame. He said it would allow for training on those vehicles; for vehicles to be stocked; and work with the vehicles to get familiar.

Councilor Fore asked if all the apparatuses were new.

Mr. Reynolds stated there would be no used vehicles, plus the vehicles are built specifically for the fire departments.

Councilor Fore shared that there were comparable options for the vehicles. He asked if the vehicles were equivalent to what was in the Town currently and would there be a learning curve for Staff.

Mr. Reynolds said yes, they were equivalent and were the standard equipment for apparatus used by firefighters.

REGULAR AGENDA

PUBLIC BUSINESS

7. Resolution 101-23

Councilor Fore stated the Town would have a ladder truck which it did not have previously.

Mr. Reynolds said that was correct, it had been a recommendation from the original study.

Mr. Wayne Posner, resident of Carina Drive discussed and supported the Jupiter Fire Department.

Ms. Linda McDermott, resident of Chadwick, Drive discussed the cost of various equipment and Florida Statute 166.041. She asked if the Town had already spent the funds, noted the Resolution language was vague, and stated it had only been three days into the new fiscal year.

Ms. Karen Vinson, resident of Sioux Street, stated Council approved the budget two weeks ago and was now changing it to start a Fire department. She felt she would be paying for fire rescue services twice for the next three years to both the Town and Palm Beach County (PBC). She believed the Town was not being transparent and asked the Town to install a Charter Committee.

Ms. Lisa Vreeland, resident of Robinson Street, asked if the Town knew where the fire stations would be located and shared her thoughts regarding a Town fire department and associated costs.

Mr. Craig Mowrey, resident of Blanca Isles Lane, noted there had been 10 Town Council meetings where the fire department had been discussed and in March there had been talk regarding a new interlocal agreement with PBC for fire rescue services for five or ten years. He spoke about overhead costs and the uncertainty of undisclosed costs from PBC in the next three years.

Councilor Fore acknowledged how passionate the citizens were and explained he saw three areas of concern over starting a Town fire rescue department which were a degradation of service, fire apparatus, and locations and cost. He stated he researched the cost of fire stations built within the past few years in Florida and the average cost was 10 million and said the numbers presented are comparable. Councilor Fore mentioned he was concerned how the item would affect the Public and will continue to research the topic to become more familiar.

Vice-Mayor Delaney explained Council has had Town Council meetings open to the Public and had met with representatives for PBCFR countless times. He went on to explain that the contract presented to Council from PBCFR was not financially sustainable and felt that PBCFR was looking for Jupiter to subsidize other parts of the County. Vice-Mayor Delaney explained this was not anything personal and explained the decision was made for the residents that elected them to make fiscally responsible decisions.

REGULAR AGENDA

PUBLIC BUSINESS

7. Resolution 101-23

Councilor Sundstrom agreed with Councilor Fore and Vice-Mayor Delaney, and explained she had numerous meetings with PBCFR, the fire union, senior fire administration, and union leadership. She also spent a whole day with PBCFR and has so much respect for the work they did. Councilor Sundstrom also spent a day with Palm Beach Gardens Fire Department to better understand their business model. She further explained the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) had a deadline to decide prior to the end of the fiscal year. Council had made the decision and was now going forward with that decision by starting a Town Fire Rescue Department.

Councilor Sundstrom said she wanted to negotiate the agreement and when she asked to negotiate PBCFR was not willing. She explained an issue in the updated ILA was a new station to be built in unincorporated Palm Beach County with a line item cost as, to be determined (TBD) and overhead costs which when asked for, PBCFR would not give the costs. She also *read from the audit of PBCFR's Jupiter Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU), which stated that original data could not be located by PBCFR*—due to software changes and previous leadership not updating the system. LC 10/17/23

Councilor May said his main concern with the budget amendment was during the August 15th meeting the operating costs were at zero and now the Town is asking for a budget amendment and was concerned residents would be paying double. He said residents as well as himself have to many unanswered questions and brought up concerns over locations of fire houses and added costs of buying land.

Mayor Kuretski asked to show a video excerpt from the June 15, 2021 Palm Beach County Commissioners Budget Workshop which asked about PBCFR's millage rate for Jupiter, which is one half of the entire County.

Mayor Kuretski reiterated what the County Commissioner stated that the Town was paying half of the rest of the County served by PBCFR. He explained the Town's previous contract included a fair millage rate, however with the new contract and the doubling of the millage rate Council wanted to negotiate the contract.

Mayor Kuretski said the Council was split on the issue with some members wanting to stay with PBCFR and the others wanting to negotiate because they felt Jupiter residents and taxpayers should not have to subsidize the cost of PBCFR services to rural areas. He said Council tried to negotiate a contract but was met with hesitancy, he had asked PBCFR for historical future costs and what was happening with the extra funds that were collected and never received a reply. He said the decision to cancel the ILA was made and then Council finally received the Audit documents and now feels money is being swept to the larger PBCFR district.

Mayor Kuretski also noted in August the Council voted to start the Jupiter Fire Rescue which will start servicing the Jupiter community on October 1st, 2026. He mentioned 80% of Palm Beach County's coastal communities are serviced by municipal fire departments currently with the main exception being the Town of Jupiter and in 2026 more than 90% of coastal communities will be serviced by municipal fire departments. LC 10/17/23

REGULAR AGENDA

PUBLIC BUSINESS

7. Resolution 101-23

Mayor Kuretski stated the Council would be voting to fully fund year one start-up costs for the Jupiter Fire Rescue. He explained the Town was able to do so with savings readily available in the general fund in a reserve balance account. He commended PBCFR for their service to the Town and explained he has never had an issue with them and the Town had always been happy with their service. He noted that year 2027 and beyond would save millions of dollars for the Town residents and businesses.

Councilor Fore said he would welcome the input and ideas from current PBCFR employees to assist with the creation of the Jupiter Fire Rescue Department.

Vice-Mayor Delaney moved to approve Resolution 101-23; seconded by Councilor Sundstrom; motion passed.

Kuretski
Yes

Delaney
Yes

Fore
Yes

May
No

Sundstrom
Yes

REPORTS

TOWN ATTORNEY- NONE

TOWN MANAGER

- Utilities team Hurricane Ian relief efforts – Mr. Kitzerow thanked the Utilities team for helping and was truly proud of their efforts.
- Veteran's Memorial bricks – Mr. Kitzerow stated the initial order had been placed and the bricks were scheduled to be installed for this year's Veteran's Day event on November 11th. The Town would reopen orders again on Monday, October 16th.
- Citizen Survey – Mr. Kitzerow mentioned the survey would be sent out to Jupiter households within the next month and there would be an online survey linked to the Town's website.
- Rescheduling the November 7, 2023 Town Council Meeting – Mr. Kitzerow stated it was the same day as the Abacoa POA meeting where the Mayor would be giving a presentation and asked if there was an interest in moving the Council meeting.

Mayor Kuretski agreed the Council meeting should be moved and asked about the size of the Veteran's bricks.

Mr. Kitzerow stated he would check on the brick size.

Mayor Kuretski asked Staff to poll Council for an alternate date for the first Council meeting in November.

COUNCILOR FORE

- Utilities team – Councilor Fore thanked the Utilities team for their efforts.

TOWN COUNCIL – LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

VICE-MAYOR DELANEY

- Planning and Zoning Commission appointee – Vice-Mayor Delaney stated his previous appointee, Ms. Teri Grooms had resigned and mentioned she had been a great advocate for the Town. He also stated he would like to appoint Mr. David Thompson as his new appointee to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

COUNCILOR SUNDSTROM

- Connect with Council – Councilor Sundstrom mentioned the recent Connect with Council event and thought the atmosphere was very positive. She also hoped people would consider attending the events in the future.
- Municipal Fire departments – Councilor Sundstrom spoke regarding the level of service for Municipal Fire departments and that there were several that were ISO One rated, accredited, or duly accredited.
- Political Committee – Councilor Sundstrom stated a Political committee had registered with the Town related to County fire and the agent was based in Gainesville. She also mentioned the first report would be due October 10th.

MAYOR KURETSKI

- Utilities team Hurricane Ian relief efforts – Mayor Kuretski stated he was grateful for Staff to participate in the hurricane response work.
- Planning and Zoning Commission membership – Mayor Kuretski mentioned the membership and the annual appointments. He stated Councilor Schneider's appointment could continue to serve or Councilor Fore could appoint someone.

Councilor Fore stated he had no intention of making an appointment decision at the moment.

ADJOURNMENT- 8:53 P.M.

Laura Cahill, Town Clerk