



# TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Town Clerk's Office

## REPORT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2019

### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The Public Works Committee meeting was called to order on October 11, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. in the Town Council Chambers. On roll call, all committee members were found to be present.

### **II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Lindsay led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**It was the consensus of the committee to approve the agenda, as presented.**

### **IV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS** - *None*

### **V. REVIEW OF INCENTIVE FOR REMOVAL OF FICUS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY**

Committee Member Zeidman provided an overview of the free ficus removal incentive program. She explained that this program was suggested by a former council member as a way to encourage the residents to remove ficus benjamina hedge material from their properties.

Assistant Director of Public Works, Eric Brown presented the estimated collection and disposal costs. He added that the actual costs would depend on the service demand.

He provided the estimated cost impact to the Town for this seasonal service which was based on the cost of the crew, equipment and disposal charges, amount of hours and days to perform the work during the summer season. He explained that this amount is

currently not included in the Public Works budget and should the demand become overwhelming, the Public Works department would have to contract out the work.

Discussion ensued regarding collection times, impact to traffic, and blocking of storm drainage by the debris.

In response to questions, Public Works Director Paul Brazil suggested that any residents who wish to have their ficus benjamina removed, contact the Services Division of Public Works to make this request.

In response to questions, Assistant Director Brown provided the summer season as defined in the Town's Code of Ordinances as May 1<sup>st</sup> through December 1<sup>st</sup> and that there is a three-day set-out rule for vegetation.

Chair Lindsay suggested the timeframe for this special collection service be offered May 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>. She also suggested that residents replace the ficus hedge with Florida-friendly or native plants in order to qualify for this service.

Director Brazil pointed out that if the need for this collection service becomes overwhelming for the Town, he will seek Council approval for extra funding.

#### **VI. REVIEW OF PLAN FOR FICUS REMOVAL ON TOWN PROPERTY**

Paul Colby, Facilities Division Manager, provided an update on the Town's removal and replacement of ficus hedges from Town property. He reported that 1300 linear ft. of ficus hedge has been removed and replaced with native plants.

Discussion ensued regarding the various ways information can be disseminated to the residents on the Town's removal of ficus benjamina and the list of native plant species that can be installed as replacement hedges.

Richard Maxwell, Town Arborist, provided details on the type of canker appearing on ficus hedges.

#### **VII. REVIEW OF UPDATED GREEN INITIATIVE SPREADSHEET**

Chair Lindsay commented on the different departments involved in the green initiative program. She suggested releasing the matrix with the organic application locations to the public to be used as a guide for anyone who wishes to go pesticide-free.

Director Brazil suggested placing a link on the Town's website to the green initiative program with the updated matrix and other reference materials.

**VIII. CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS UPDATE**

Jason Debrincat, Project Engineer, presented an overview of the various construction projects as follows:

- \* Onondaga North – Paving completed
- \* Bradley Place/Sunrise – Completed
- \* Clarke Ave/Cocanut Row – Completed
- \* E-1 Pump Station (Mediterranean – Completed
- \* E-2 (N. Lake Way) Pump Station – Completed
- \* E-3 (Garden Rd) – 75% completed with a Nov 1<sup>st</sup> completion
- \* E-4 Pump Station – 95% completed
- \* G-9 (Midtown Beach) Pump Stations – 95% completed
- \* Worth Avenue Drainage – 50% completed

Patricia Strayer, Town Engineer, reported that a repavement project at Sunrise Ave/N. Lake Way to Everglade Avenue will begin shortly and will be completed by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**IX. ANY OTHER MATTERS**

Committee Member Zeidman requested an update on the repairs of potholes at N. Ocean Blvd. and Orange Grove Road. Ms. Strayer reported that repairs were being carried out and should be completed by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Richard Maxwell, Town Arborist, explained the process for treating the Royal Palms for the royal palm bug. He mentioned that Bartlett was doing research on these pests and had collected samples from the trees and sent them for testing.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Public Works Committee meeting of October 11, 2019 was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

APPROVED:

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Bobbie Lindsay, Chair

PREPARED BY:

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Patricia Gayle-Gordon, Deputy Town Clerk

ATTEST:

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Kathleen Dominguez, CMC  
Town Clerk

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Date