

Springs Commissioner Says He'll Take Part, But Only Briefly

April 25, 1992 | By KIM MARGOLIS, Staff Writer

CORAL SPRINGS -- City Commissioner Alan Polin said on Thursday that he will continue to discuss controversial items at public meetings, but not at length.

On Wednesday, Polin announced that he no longer would discuss controversial issues at public meetings. He said fellow commissioners shout him down and do not allow him to speak. He said city staff members are not responsive to his requests for information.

City Manager Edwin "Buz" Eddy and City Attorney John Wynn said Polin does not understand what he can and cannot request from the city staff.

They said that under the city charter, commissioners cannot individually ask a city employee to complete a task.

Polin, however, said he thinks that requirement applies only to members of the city manager's staff and that the city changed the rules to isolate him.

Meanwhile, community leaders and residents think Polin should continue to voice his opinions at commission meetings.

Polin, a strong critic of the spending in the city attorney's office, said he will begin holding news conferences with selected publications to air his concerns.

City resident Bruce Lang said Polin's plan to call news conferences after commission meetings is divisive and will do nothing but gain personal attention for Polin.

"How do the city commissioners and staff and citizens deal with that?" Lang said. "It's just not the way the system is set up."

Mayor Jeanne Mills said she was concerned that Polin's decision would affect city business such as the upcoming budget and economic development meetings.

"We are working hard to project a positive image in the city," Mills said. "I think this undermines the confidence that the citizens have placed in the commission."

Polin was supported in last month's city election by the Fraternal Order of Police.

FOP spokesman Jim Milford said he was going to call Polin on Thursday afternoon to encourage him to keep trying to work with the commission at meetings.

Milford said he hopes a May 26 code of conduct meeting helps iron out problems between Polin and commissioners and staff.

"He's saying what the people want to say," Milford said. "I think he needs to keep doing that. But he can only take so much abuse."

Vicky Lyden, president of the Coral Springs Chamber of Commerce, said she will discuss the issue with Polin at a May 20 meeting.

"I would rather have a commission meeting operating where all the entities participate, and otherwise I don't know how anything can just get done through the newspapers," she said.