

# INDIAN SHORES

Ph 727.595.4020 Fax 727.596.0050  
19305 Gulf Boulevard, Indian Shores, FL 33785  
www.myindianshores.com

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023, BEGAN AT 5:01 P.M. INDIAN SHORES MUNICIPAL CENTER, 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR

---

### The Town Council Meeting convened at 5:01 P.M.

**Those present:** Mayor Patrick C. Soranno, Vice Mayor Diantha Schear, Councilor Mike Hackerson, Councilor Mike Petruccelli, Councilor Bill Smith, and Town Attorney Regina Kardash.

**Also present:** Town Administrator Bonnie Dhonau, Director of Finance and Personnel Susan Scrogam, Town Clerk Freddie Lozano, Police Chief Rick Swann, Police Major Glen Smith, Building Official Brian Rusu, Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District (PSFRD) District Chief Todd Grantham in for Fire Chief Jeff Davidson, PSFRD Fire Commissioner Larry Schear, and Newspaper Correspondent Jeannie Carlson.

**Those absent:** Fire Chief Jeff Davidson

---

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

#### ITEM # AGENDA ITEM

#### 1.0 Consideration of approving the Town Council Meeting agenda for January 10, 2023.

#### \*Agenda Amendments made by Mayor Soranno:

- Moved Agenda Item #6.0 Report from the Fire Chief to 2.0A.
- Added:
  - 6.0A Police Department request to purchase a Silverado truck.
  - 9.0A Public Hearing – Resolution 01-2023
  - 9.0B Public Hearing – Resolution 02-2023

Patrick C. Soranno  
Mayor

Diantha Schear  
Vice Mayor

Mike Hackerson  
Councilor

Michael (Mike) Petruccelli  
Councilor

William F. (Bill) Smith  
Councilor

Bonnie Dhonau  
Town Administrator

Richard (Rick) Swann  
Chief of Police

Susan L. Scrogam  
Director of Finance  
and Personnel

Freddie G. Lozano  
Town Clerk

Regina Kardash, Esq.  
Town Attorney

**Motion** by **Councilor Hackerson** – seconded by **Councilor Petruccelli** to approve the Town Council Meeting Agenda for January 10, 2023, as amended. **All Ayes. Motion carried 5-0.**

## **2.0 Comments from the public on any agenda item.**

**Dr. Candiss Rinker**, 19340 Gulf Blvd., made a comment on the minutes from the December 13, 2022, Town Council Workshop in the Consent Agenda for approval. In the Citizens' Comments section, she was mistakenly quoted as using the phrase "example of a compensation plan" during discussions regarding the Town Administrator's job performance at that meeting. She asked that the minutes be corrected to accurately reflect her intended meaning, which was "example of an educational plan."

**The Council** accepted the request. The Workshop minutes from December 13, 2022, will be corrected as discussed by the Town Clerk.

## **\*AGENDA AMENDMENT (2.0A)**

### **2.0A Report from the Fire Chief.**

**PSFRD District Chief Todd Grantham** presented the December report for Fire Chief Davidson.

He reported approximately 28 calls for service were received in December involving a combination of a gas leak, water rescue, and medical assistance. The average dispatch time was 1 minute and 19 seconds, with an average response time of 4 minutes and 2 seconds. On average, the on-scene involvement time was 32 minutes and 14 seconds. Compared to last year, there was a total of 485 calls with similar response times and an average on-scene involvement time of 30 minutes and 39 seconds.

## **3.0 Consideration of approving the "CONSENT AGENDA" as follows:**

### **A. MINUTES:**

- 1. Town Council Workshop, December 13, 2022.**
- 2. Town Council Meeting, December 13, 2022.**

### **B. RECURRING EXPENSES: for December 2022.**

**C. Consideration of disposal of the inoperative Community Room warming oven.**

**Motion** by **Councilor Hackerson** – seconded by **Councilor Smith** to approve the Consent Agenda.

The disposal of the warming oven sparked a brief discussion and raised the question of whether there is a statutory dollar amount threshold that determines whether the disposal of Town-owned equipment needs to be presented to the Town Council, or if it remains under the decision of the Town Administrator under the new charter.

As a general rule, the **Town Attorney** replied that disposal of property by a municipality is usually done by a resolution. She is not aware of any dollar thresholds at this time.

**Councilor Hackerson** amended his first motion.

**Motion** by **Councilor Hackerson** – seconded by **Councilor Smith** to approve Consent Agenda Items A and B, and to table Item C to be brought back to a future Council meeting in the form of a resolution. **All Ayes. Motion carried 5-0.**

**4.0 Correspondence.**

- **Letter from Pinellas County Elections Advisor Kitty Grubb thanking the Town for allowing the use of Town Hall's Community Center to conduct the November 2022 General Election.**
- **Thank you email from Ready For Life, Inc. CEO, Kathy Mize, regarding the donation funds raised by the Indian Shores Police Department and the Town.**
- **Email webinar invitation to all Town condominium associations from State Representative Linda Chaney regarding the new Special Assessment law, aka: "Condo Safety" bill.**

**5.0 Town Attorney's report.**

- **MEMORANDUM: Legal Notices – Publication on Publicly Accessible Website**

- **MEMORANDUM: Milestone Inspections**

A conversation ensued about Senate Bill 4-D (SB 4-D) regarding milestone inspections. The Town Attorney, Building Official, and Town Administrator collaboratively provided a high-level outline of the tasks and processes involved with the statutory requirements of SB 4-D Phase 1 and Phase 2 inspections.

A \$500 fee for Phase 1 inspections was mentioned to recover administrative costs such as staff time, processing, cataloging, and tracking of all inspections. The Town Attorney will prepare a resolution for a future meeting to enact the fee.

- **MEMORANDUM: Legal Notices – Publication on Publicly Accessible Website**

**The Town Attorney** stated that she is waiting for Pinellas County's action regarding the current legislation on posting legal notices on a publicly accessible website in order to determine the Town's next steps. She mentioned that several administrative tasks would be necessary, including an annual newspaper advertisement announcing which legal notices will be posted on the website instead of in the newspaper, and maintaining a list of individuals who prefer to receive the notices via email or regular mail. The main question is determining which option is more cost-effective - advertising in the newspaper or posting on the website. Further updates on this subject will be provided in the future.

## **6.0 Report from the Fire Chief.**

This agenda item was moved up the agenda to 2.0A.

### **\*AGENDA AMENDMENT (6.0A)**

#### **6.0A Consideration of a Police Department request to purchase a Silverado Crew Cab Truck**

**The Police Chief** believed that the older vehicles that are being phased out, including the three initial Chevrolet Tahoes, would provide a good return that could be applied to the purchase of the Silverado. He requested to allocate \$47,750 capital funds from the general revenue or

any remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to purchase the Silverado truck from Duval Ford.

**Motion** by **Councilor Petruccelli** – seconded by **Councilor Hackerson** to approve the allocation of \$47,750 capital funds or utilize any remaining ARPA funds towards the purchase of the 2022 Silverado truck.

**The Town Council was polled. All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.**

**7.0 PUBLIC HEARING: Second Reading of ORDINANCE NO. 2022-08**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF INDIAN SHORES, FLORIDA, AMENDING SUBPART A – GENERAL ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 2 – ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE I. – IN GENERAL, BY CREATING A NEW DIVISION I. – TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT, REMOVAL, AND ACTING TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, PROVIDING FOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF INDIAN SHORES; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**The Town Attorney** read the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2022-08 by title only.

**Mayor Soranno** opened the floor for public comments and Council deliberation, which there were none.

**Motion** by **Vice Mayor Schear** – seconded by **Councilor Smith** to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2022-08.

**The Town Council was polled. All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.**

**8.0 PUBLIC HEARING: Second Reading of ORDINANCE NO. 2022-09**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF INDIAN SHORES, FLORIDA, AMENDING SUBPART A – GENERAL ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 2 – ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE I. – IN GENERAL, BY CREATING A NEW DIVISION 2. – CHIEF OF POLICE; PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT, REMOVAL, AND ACTING POLICE CHIEF;**

**PROVIDING FOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF INDIAN SHORES; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**The Town Attorney** read the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2022-09 by title only.

**Mayor Soranno** opened the floor for public comments and Council deliberation, which there were none.

**Motion** by **Councilor Hackerson** – seconded by **Councilor Petruccelli** to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2022-09.

**The Town Council was polled. All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.**

**9.0 Consideration of adoption of job descriptions for:**

- **Town Administrator**
- **Police Chief**
- **Town Clerk**

The job descriptions above were discussed at an earlier workshop.

**Motion** by **Councilor Hackerson** – seconded by **Councilor Petruccelli** to approve the job descriptions of the Police Chief and Town Clerk, and to table the Town Administrator’s job description for further updates and discussions.

**The Town Council was polled. All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.**

**\*AGENDA AMENDMENTS (9.0A and 9.0B)**

**9.0A PUBLIC HEARING: RESOLUTION NO. 01-2023**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF INDIAN SHORES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A DONATION FROM DUKE ENERGY OF THREE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY-EIGHT DOLLARS AND EIGHTY-EIGHT CENTS (\$3,888.88) FOR TWO BICYCLE RACKS FOR PUBLIC USE AT THE MAYOR JAMES J. LAWRENCE VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK LOCATED AT TIKI GARDENS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF FINDINGS AND**

**RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS INCONSISTENT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**The Town Attorney** read Resolution No. 01-2023 by title only.

**Mayor Soranno** opened the floor for public comments and Council deliberation, which there were none.

**Motion** by **Councilor Smith** – seconded by **Vice Mayor Schear** to approve Resolution No. 01-2023.

**The Town Council was polled. All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.**

**9.0B PUBLIC HEARING: RESOLUTION NO. 02-2023**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF INDIAN SHORES, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A FEE AMOUNT FOR PRELIMINARY PLAT REVIEW BY THE TOWN; ADOPTING FINDINGS WITH RESPECT TO THE REASONABLENESS OF SUCH FEES; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS INCONSISTENT HERewith; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**The Town Attorney** read Resolution No. 02-2023 by title only.

**Mayor Soranno** opened the floor for public comments and Council deliberation, which there were none.

**Motion** by **Vice Mayor Schear** – seconded by **Councilor Hackerson** to approve Resolution No. 02-2023.

**The Town Council was polled. All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.**

**10.0 Consideration of proposal from Otis Elevator Co., in the amount of \$26,250.00 to perform a 10-year hydraulic oil change to all three Municipal Building elevators.**

A question was asked to determine if budgeted items, such as elevator maintenance, need to go before the Council.

**The Town Attorney** replied that there is no need for budgeted expenses to come before the Council for approval.

No action or motion was required for this currently budgeted maintenance item.

**11.0 Consideration of rescheduling the regular Town meeting(s) of Tuesday, March 14, 2023 (Municipal Election Day), to Wednesday, March 15, 2023. A Special Town Council Meeting will be scheduled on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, to swear in the elected officials.**

**Motion** by **Councilor Smith** – seconded by **Vice Mayor Schear** to reschedule the March 14 meetings to March 15, 2023. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**12.0 Report and discussion of December 2022 Holiday Boat Parade.**

**Councilor Petruccelli** reported that the Boat Parade was a success, and very well received to the point that more hot chocolate had to be ordered. Salt Rock Grill provided warm clam chowder for the guests. There were approximately 150 people at the viewing party where over 19 boats paraded by. He thanked Councilor Hackerson who stepped up to assist with the refreshments.

**13.0 Report from the Building Official for December 2022. (The report will be provided at the meeting.)**

**The Building Official** reported that:

- 37 permits were issued, and 147 inspections were conducted at a total valuation of \$844,225. \$15,166.70 in fees were collected.
- The new building permitting software is live and was used to process and generate its first building permit today. The new software will be useful with SB 4-D.

**14.0 Report from the Town Administrator.**

**The Town Administrator** let her report stand as submitted.



**Councilor Hackerson** showed appreciation to the Town Administrator for the good feedback received from the Public Services staff on their new work shirts.

**Councilor Petruccelli** complimented and thanked the Town Administrator on a job well done on the flow chart she provided that illustrates the anticipated tasks for SB 4-D.

With regards to the Monument at Tiki Gardens, **Mayor Soranno** saw pictures of the Monument lit up at night and felt that no additional lighting is needed.

**The Town Administrator** reported that the delivery of the donated benches was delayed. Another attempt to meet the delivery time window will be made. An airbrush artist is being sought to airbrush the spheres that will be the bases for the benches.

**15.0 Consideration of approving the Financial Statement for period ending November 2022.**

**The Finance Director** provided an update regarding the damaged gateway sign. The money from the insurance company was received, less the deductible and depreciation amounts. Once repaired, the final invoice will be submitted to recover the depreciation amount that the insurance company deducted.

**Motion** by **Vice Mayor Schear** – seconded by **Councilor Petruccelli** to approve the Financial Statement for period ending November 2022.

**The Town Council was polled. All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.**

**16.0 Report from the Fire Commissioner.**

**Fire Commissioner Schear** reported that, with the new funding source, the Fire Department is looking for a fire station location in the Town. They are seeking architects, builders, sources of construction and construction schedules for three fire stations at one time. The ideal locations should provide for quick emergency response times. Fire Chief Davidson would like to schedule a public meeting with the Town Council to discuss plans for the Town.

**17.0 Police activity report for December 2022.**

**The Police Chief** reported an increase in Police activity, including violent encounters against officers. He also announced that a job offer has been made to fill the replacement for former Officer Natasha Hindman. Currently, another potential candidate from Michigan is undergoing the screening process. The Chief mentioned that it is taking 8-10 months to recruit officers, which is challenging due to the younger generation's lack of interest in continuing their careers in law enforcement. Lastly, the department has received the new Emergency Management trailer.

### **18.0 Citizens' comments on any subject.**

**John Caruso**, 19616 Gulf Blvd., made a comment regarding SB 4-D and the Building Department's proposed \$500 fee for Phase 1 milestone inspections. If the fee has not been established yet, he recommended developing a graduated fee structure that is proportionate to the size of the building.

**Dr. Candiss Rinker**, 19340 Gulf Blvd., agreed with Mr. Caruso's comments. She had concerns with applying a flat fee rate for different sized units.

### **19.0 Council members' comments on any subject.**

**Councilor Hackerson** wished everyone a Happy New Year.

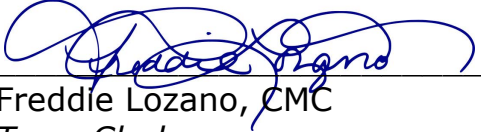
**Councilor Petruccelli** thanked the Town staff for their hard work in 2022 and extended his wishes for a Happy New Year. He also suggested that holding quarterly workshops would be a great opportunity for everyone to come together and share their thoughts to work better as a team.

**Councilor Smith** thought a workshop regarding SB 4-D could be a productive discussion.

**Vice Mayor Schear** announced that the Town Library is now open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. There will be a Library Book Sale in conjunction with the Sunday Morning Market on January 15. A Happy Hour meeting with New York Times best-selling author and Indian Shores resident Lisa Unger is scheduled for January 18. Lastly, a Library Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is scheduled on February 1.

**Mayor Soranno** wished everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year, and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**20.0 The Meeting adjourned at 6:12 P.M.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Freddie Lozano", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Freddie Lozano, CMC  
*Town Clerk*