

INDIAN SHORES

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

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023, BEGAN AT 5:01 P.M. INDIAN SHORES MUNICIPAL CENTER, 4TH 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, Detective Alex Holt, Building Official Brian Rusu, Town Engineer Paul Miselis, Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District (PSFRD) District Chief Best in for Fire Chief Jeff Davidson, Fire Commissioner Larry Schear, and Dominic Bisone and Roger Peace of Lubke Construction, and Newspaper Correspondent Jeannie Carlson.

Those absent: None.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ITEM # AGENDA ITEM

1.0 Consideration of approving the Town Council Meeting agenda for March 15, 2023.

***Agenda Amendment made by Mayor Soranno:**

14.0A Election process for the Office of Vice Mayor.

Motion by Councilor Smith – seconded by Councilor Hackerson to approve the Town Council Meeting Agenda for March 15, 2023, as amended. All Ayes. Motion carried 5-0.

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

2.0 Comments from the public on any agenda item. None.

3.0 PUBLIC HEARING: Quasi-Judicial

Consideration of a request for a Site Plan Review from owners The Ramptons, to construct a single-family home with 2-stories over parking, on the property located at 19800 Gulf Boulevard, Indian Shores, FL 33785, Parcel ID # 24-30-14-42912-002-0650.

The Town Attorney read the Quasi-Judicial announcement.

The Town Clerk Administered the Oath to Building Official Brian Rusu, Town Engineer Paul Miselis, and Dominic Bisone and Roger Peace of Lubke Construction.

Mayor Soranno read the consideration's details to the public and gave the floor to the Building Official for his testimony.

The Building Official stated that he, along with the Town Engineer, reviewed the site plan and recommended its approval.

The Town Engineer provided details including lot dimensions, setbacks, open area requirements, base flood elevations, including a rooftop observation platform, which all meet and/or exceed the Town's building code requirements. He recommended the site plan's approval.

The Building Official and **Mr. Peace** addressed Councilor Petruccelli's concern about parking on city easements. Additionally, they confirmed that the observation platform is not considered a habitable space and will not be converted for that purpose.

Mr. Peace read a letter from the Ramptons asking the Town Council to accept the letter as their formal request to consider approving their site plan request. The family is excited to live in Indian Shores and look forward to being engaged with the community.

The Building Official offered the site plan file as presented for consideration and for the Town's records.

The Planning, Zoning and Building Committee, at an earlier hearing, recommended this site plan for consideration for approval by the Town Council.

Motion by **Vice Mayor Schear** – seconded by **Councilor Hackerson** to approve the site plan request for 19800 Gulf Blvd., on the condition that the top floor observation platform remains as such and cannot be converted into a habitable space.

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

4.0 PUBLIC HEARING: RESOLUTION 05-2023

Disposal of the inoperative Community Room warming oven.

The Town Attorney read the Resolution by title only.

She clarified that the Town Council can add additional properties or policies by resolution. This means that any property that falls below a certain financial threshold would not require Council approval. She is not aware of any current policy in place that allows this. A policy can be established that would enable the Town Administrator and Police Chief to dispose of any items at a certain to be determined dollar value threshold.

Mayor Soranno opened the floor for public comments, which there were none.

A consensus was reached for the Town Attorney to draft a resolution for approval at a future meeting that allows the Town Administrator and Police Chief to dispose of Town property that meets a certain dollar value threshold without Town Council approval.

Motion by **Vice Mayor Schear** – seconded by **Councilor Hackerson** to approve Resolution 05-2023. **Motion carried 5-0.**

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

5.0 PROCLAMATION:

Proclamation designating the week of March 20-24, 2023, as “Government Finance Professionals Week”.

Mayor Soranno read the Proclamation.

6.0 Consideration of approving the "CONSENT AGENDA" as follows:

A. MINUTES:

1. Town Council Meeting, February 14, 2023.

B. RECURRING EXPENSES: for February 2023.

Motion by Vice Mayor Schear – seconded by Councilor Hackerson to approve the Consent Agenda. All Ayes. Motion carried 5-0.

7.0 Correspondence.

- **Email correspondence from the Town Attorney related to the Testa vs. Town of Jupiter Island case presented to the Town Council at the February 14, 2023, Town Council meeting.**

The Town Attorney reported that there is proposed legislation that would be retroactive for five years regarding the continuation to a date certain of advertised readings to adopt ordinances. The current statute requires a date of adoption. The report notes that the current practice of continuing ordinances to a date certain without re-advertising has been standard for at least the past ten years. However, this practice may be at risk. The legislation has not been approved yet, so there is uncertainty until it is passed.

8.0 Town Attorney's report.

The Town Attorney presented her report on the Town's Concurrency Management ordinance, juvenile and secure facilities ordinances (Council consensus was reached to draft both into ordinances at an earlier workshop), and amendment to the Sunday Morning Market Agreement. She needed action on two of the items on her report:

1. Approval for Forward Pinellas, Pinellas County's and the Town's Planning Agency, to assist in updating the Town's Concurrency Management ordinance.

Motion by Vice Mayor Schear – seconded by Councilor Hackerson to approve Forward Pinellas' assistance with the Town's Concurrency Management ordinance. Motion carried 5-0.

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

2. Amendment to the Sunday Morning Market Agreement.

A discussion ensued on recent occurrences during the Sunday Morning Market where Police Officers were being disrespected for enforcing parking violations to market vendors who parked in certain designated parking spaces for the handicapped and Police Officers.

An amendment to the agreement is made every year to announce the new season's dates. A future amendment may include a section on prohibited parking at designated parking spaces.

The Police Chief and **Town Administrator** would like to meet with the Market's manager to amicably resolve the issue before taking any further action.

9.0 Report from the Fire Chief.

District Chief Best reported approximately thirty emergency calls for medical emergencies, vehicle crashes, and one gas leak for the month of February. The average response time was 5 minutes and 12 seconds, with 95.83% response times under 7 minutes and 30 seconds. Chief Davidson is working on managing Station 26 better and looking for property to build a fire station in Town as well.

10.0 Report from the Police Chief.

The Police Chief reported that the Police Department is preparing for a mock accreditation beginning next week, which is a big week for them as it indicates where they are with regards to the final accreditation walkthrough scheduled for July. They are also working with the Town Attorney on ordinances and working with neighboring communities to possibly expand interlocal agreements to hire additional staffing in preparation for the Fourth of July holiday.

11.0 Pinellas County Sheriff's Office "Respond with Care" sticker program presented by Detective/Corporal Alex Holt.

Detective Holt shared news about a program adopted by the Police Department in partnership with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office to serve vulnerable populations with special needs. The program is called "Respond with Care" and provides stickers for people with special needs

to place on their cars or residences to alert first responders. The stickers prompt law enforcement, fire, and EMS to provide appropriate accommodations when necessary. The program expands the scope of crisis intervention and is being advertised on the Beach Beacon and on the Town's website. Interested individuals can contact Detective Holt instead of the Sheriff's Office.

12.0 Consideration of rate adjustment request for Labor and Employment Law Services.

Mayor Soranno advised the Town's current Labor Attorney that a Request for Proposal (RFP) for labor attorney services would be appropriate at this time. He mentioned to the Town Attorney, who will be drafting the RFP, to include a union element with regards to the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) in the draft.

Motion by Vice Mayor Schear – seconded by **Councilor Hackerson** approving the Town Attorney to draft an RFP for Labor and Employment Law Services for consideration at the April 11, 2023, meeting.

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

13.0 Consideration of mitigation measures for succession planning.

This consideration stemmed from a Certified Public Manager training assignment that the Town Administrator wrote and submitted to and was subsequently approved by Florida State. The paper outlined items including documentation of procedures for each job position, continuity folders, and incentives for those who provide ample notice of their retirement or resignation to properly fill and train their new replacements. The incentives, which are not mandatory, are: \$500 for non-exempt employees who give a 90-day notice, and the same dollar amount incentive for exempt employees who give a 120-day notice.

The Town Attorney recommended that if the Council approves the mitigation measures and the monetary incentives as a Town policy, then it should be written into and approved by Resolution.

Motion by Councilor Petruccelli – seconded by **Vice Mayor Schear** to write the mitigation measures for succession planning into a Resolution for Council approval at a future meeting. **Motion carried 5-0.**

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

14.0 Report from the Building Official for February 2023.

The Building Official reported 39 permits were issued with a total valuation of \$2,522,228.15 and total fees collected were \$39,644.62. It was discovered that the Building Department's new permitting software had a minor rounding issue, which was reported to the software vendor and resolved immediately. The issue affected only 47 permits and resulted in an overall total of \$280.00 refunded to the permit applicants.

The Building Official mentioned that there is a new bill in the Senate regarding milestone inspections. They are changing the language to allow for a waiting list, which will serve as proof, for those who have contracted with an engineering or architectural firm to do the inspection. They are also trying to make the language clearer and easier to understand. Some jurisdictions are built by the coast, and they are trying to monitor inspections every 25 to 30 years to make it easier to monitor the situation.

***Agenda Amendment (14.0A):**

14.0A Election process for the Office of Vice Mayor.

Mayor Soranno asked the Town Council members if any were interested in assuming the position of Vice Mayor.

Councilor Petruccelli and **Vice Mayor Schear** would like to run for the Office. Councilor Smith is not running.

The Town Clerk will prepare written ballots listing the names of the two candidates. The ballots will be handed to each Council member at the March 28, 2023, Special Town Council meeting where they will vote for one of the candidates to assume the Office of the Vice Mayor.

15.0 Report from the Town Administrator.

The Town Administrator provided updates on:

- Installation of the donated benches at the Monument at Tiki Gardens.
- Repairs to the gateway sign and camera project are ongoing.
- Signs have been ordered to give a 30-day grace period before parking meter enforcement begins on May 1, 2023.
- Parking meters will be delivered tomorrow, and their installation must be scheduled with the meter company. The Town plans to

push out a message about the changes through various means, including the Mayor's Message, electronic sign, and flyers at Town Hall.

- The future planning session for long and short-term goals for the Town will be scheduled on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, beginning at 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

16.0 Consideration of approving the Financial Statement for period ending *January 2023.

**The January 2023 financial statement was moved to the March 28, 2023, Special Town Council Meeting for consideration due to the incorrect statement from December 2022 being included in the agenda packet.*

The Finance Director reported \$7,424.00 in revenue received from the St. Patrick's Day Festival. A net amount of \$74 went to the Town after the event's expenses and a donation of \$2,360.00 in alcohol sales proceeds to the Indian Shores Property Owner's Association (ISPOA) per State statutes, were deducted. She noted that this is not the final total as she is still waiting on additional expenses to be turned in, as well as overtime costs for the Police Department. She will provide the full and final report at a future meeting.

17.0 Report from the Fire Commissioner.

Fire Commissioner Schear reported that the vintage fire truck, driven by PSFRD Fire Inspector Robert Hill, attracted a lot of attention at the recent St. Patrick's Day Festival. PSFRD hopes to continue supporting the event in the future with more equipment and a fully functional first aid station. They also encourage people to stay updated on the fire department's activities through publications like the Beach Beacon. The Fire Department is actively searching for a new site for Station 26.

18.0 Citizens' comments on any subject. None

19.0 Council members' comments on any subject.

Councilor Hackerson commented that it has been a fun five years serving on the Town Council and that someone needs to be assigned to

coordinate the April 15 Beach Cleanup. He recognized Dr. Candiss Rinker who stood outside for 12 hours campaigning for him.

Mayor Soranno congratulated the winners of the recent Municipal Elections. He thanked Councilor Hackerson who will be honored for his services at a future meeting.

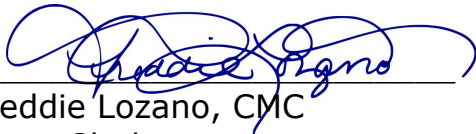
Councilor Petruccelli thanked everyone who voted and felt that, overall, the election went well.

Councilor Smith asked when the newly elected officials would be sworn in. The swearing in ceremony is scheduled on Tuesday, March 28, 2023.

Vice Mayor Schear announced the March 16 Read & Feed featuring the book "Last Train to Paradise," by author Les Standiford.

Mayor Soranno thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.

20.0 Meeting adjournment. 6:27 P.M.



Freddie Lozano, CMC
Town Clerk