

INDIAN SHORES

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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023, BEGAN AT 5:05 P.M. INDIAN SHORES MUNICIPAL CENTER, 4TH FLOOR

The Town Council Meeting convened at 5:05 P.M.

Those present: Mayor Patrick C. Soranno, Vice Mayor Diantha Schear, Councilor Ellen Bauer, 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 Major Glen Smith, Building Official Brian Rusu, Former Town Councilor Michael Hackerson, Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District (PSFRD) Fire Chief Jeff Davidson, PSFRD Fire Commissioner Larry Schear, and Newspaper Correspondent Jeannie Carlson.

Those absent: Police Chief Rick Swann

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ITEM # AGENDA ITEM

1.0 Consideration of approving the Town Council Meeting agenda for April 11, 2023.

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

7.0A PUBLIC HEARING: Resolution No. 07-2023

Motion by Councilor Smith – seconded by Vice Mayor Schear to approve the Town Council Meeting Agenda for April 11, 2023, as amended. All Ayes. Motion carried 5-0.

Patrick C. Soranno
Mayor

Diantha Schear
Vice Mayor

Ellen A. Bauer
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.

Comments were made from a combination of residents from the Bay Mariner Condominiums, City of Indian Rocks Beach, and students that attend yoga classes at Town Hall, regarding metered parking on 197th Avenue East and at Town Hall.

The comments included:

- Opposition to the parking meters at 197th Avenue East because it would result in taking away parking spaces for overflow and overnight parking for guests and visitors.
- Some based their condo purchase with the understanding that guest parking was available.
- There was mention of what is now as McEwen Veterans Park being given to the Town, and/or there was an agreement made in exchange for the parking spaces.
- An instructor that conducts yoga classes at Town Hall and yoga students raised concern that metered parking may deter students from coming to class.

A Bay Mariner resident made a public records request for any documents or agreement associated with any transaction or sale of the park. The Town Clerk will be responding to the request.

The Town Attorney read Section 70-30 of the parking ordinance passed in 2022 to the audience for clarification of the metered parking. She emphasized that the no overnight parking regulation has not changed.

Mayor Soranno informed the meeting attendees that the parking regulations were under review, and the Town is working to find the most suitable solution that would benefit everyone. He further highlighted that the Town was one of the few cities that provided free parking to beachgoers, most of whom were not residents of the Town. He emphasized that metered parking was not just about generating revenue, but it was also about the burden placed on the Town to provide various free services to these visitors. These services include emergency and police services, sanitation services, beach management, red tide remediation, and cleaning public restroom facilities.

3.0 Award of Service and Certificate of Appreciation presented to former Council Member Michael Hackerson.

The Town Council presented Mr. Hackerson a Certificate of Appreciation and an award for his years of service to the Town of Indian Shores whose

roles included; Town Council Member, Planning, Zoning and Building Committee Chair, Gulf Boulevard Beautification Ad Hoc Committee Chair, and Community Garden and Beach Cleanup Coordinator.

4.0 PUBLIC HEARING:

First Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF INDIAN SHORES, FLORIDA, CREATING A TEMPORARY JUVENILE CURFEW ORDINANCE; ENACTING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION; INCORPORATING FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION AS AN APPENDIX TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROVIDING FOR EXPIRATION AT MIDNIGHT ON JULY 16, 2023.

The Town Attorney read Ordinance No. 2023-01 by title. She noted that this ordinance addresses juvenile activity during Beach Week. It has an expiration date but can be re-enacted next year if the curfew proves effective. Attorney Daniel Lewis prepared the ordinance and will be tasked to appear in court to handle these violations.

Councilor Petruccelli felt that the 10 P.M. curfew is too early and suggested 12 P.M. instead.

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

Motion by **Councilor Smith** – seconded by **Vice Mayor Schear** to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2023-01.

The Town Council was polled. Motion carried 4-1 (opposed by Councilor Petruccelli).

5.0 PROCLAMATION:

A Proclamation of the Town of Indian Shores, Designating April 30 – May 6, 2023, as Professional Municipal Clerks Week.

Mayor Soranno read the proclamation.

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

A. MINUTES:

- 1. Town Council Meeting, March 15, 2023.**
- 2. Special Town Council Meeting, March 28, 2023.**

B. RECURRING EXPENSES: for March 2023.

The Town Clerk stated that the Vice Mayor election results in the Special Town Council meeting minutes incorrectly show in favor of Councilor Petruccelli. The results will be corrected to indicate that Vice Mayor Schear won the vice mayor seat by a 4-1 majority vote.

Motion by **Vice Mayor Schear** – seconded by **Councilor Smith** to approve the Consent Agenda with the revision to the Special Town Council Meeting minutes as stated by the Town Clerk. **All Ayes. Motion carried 5-0.**

7.0 Correspondence.

- **Email from Tracy Hood of the Florida Department of Transportation regarding status update on easements for the Gulf Boulevard Sidewalk Project.**
- **Thank you letter to the Town Staff from the Indian Shores Women's Club.**
- **Email from a resident regarding parking concerns near 197th Avenue.**

***Agenda Amendment (7.0A):**

7.0A PUBLIC HEARING: Resolution No. 07-2023

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF INDIAN SHORES, FLORIDA, RECOMMENDING APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER TO THE PINELLAS PLANNING COUNCIL/ METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION, HEREAFTER KNOWN AS "FORWARD PINELLAS", AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Town Attorney read Resolution No. 07-2023 by title.

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

Adoption of this resolution would appoint Mayor David Will of the Town of Redington Beach, Florida, to represent Indian Shores and neighboring cities on the Forward Pinellas Board.

Motion by Vice Mayor Schear – seconded by **Councilor Bauer** to approve Resolution No. 07-2023. **All Ayes. Motion carried 5-0.**

8.0 Report from the Town Attorney.

The Town Attorney provided a summary of completed and in progress Town business items:

- Juvenile curfew ordinance had its first reading earlier.
- A copy of the secure facilities ordinance has been received and will be scheduled for its first reading at the May meeting.
- Other pending tasks for the next meeting include a committee dissolution resolution, purchasing policy, and decorum rules resolution.

She listed the revisions discussed at an earlier Workshop to Request for Proposal (RFP) #2023-01 for Specialized Labor and Employment Lawyer Contract. If approved with the revisions, the RFP will be announced on April 17, 2023, and responses to the RFP are due by May 26, 2023, by 3:00 P.M.

Motion by Vice Mayor Schear – seconded by **Councilor Bauer** to approve RFP #2023-01 as revised.

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

9.0 Report from the Fire Chief.

Fire Commissioner Schear provided the report for Fire Chief Davidson who left early to attend another meeting.

He reported:

- For the month of April, 33 emergency calls were received with an average response time of 4 minutes.
- PSFRD is requesting funding from the County for a transport capable vehicle that can transport sick or injured individuals without having to wait for a private ambulance service. This vehicle would be made available to the public at no extra cost since the taxpayers are already contributing to the County Emergency

Medical Services (EMS) fund. PSFRD is urging people to show their support for acquiring this vehicle by writing to the County.

10.0 Report from the Police Major.

The Police Major reported:

- This Sunday will conclude the Police Department's (PD) annual training.
- Turtle patrol begins in two weeks.
- The new PD trucks have arrived.
- Preparations are under way for the July accreditation.
- Speakers and solar power for the early warning siren system will be installed within the next few weeks.

11.0 Consideration of Target Police Budget for FY 2023/2024.

Motion by **Councilor Smith** – seconded by **Councilor Petrucelli** the FY 2023/2024 Target Police Budget.

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

12.0 Designation of Elected Officers as Town Representatives for:

- **Administrative and Finance Committee**
- **Board of Adjustment and Appeals**
- **Library Board**
- **Planning, Zoning and Building Committee**
- **Police Pension Board**
- **2023-2024 Canvassing Board**
- **BIG-C Voting Delegates and Alternate**
- **Holiday Boat Parade Director**
- **Brick Paver Committee Representative**
- **Coastal Cleanup Directors**
- **Liaison to Indian Shores Property Owners Association (ISPOA)**
- **Mayors' Council**
- **Recreation Ad Hoc Committee Director**
- **Suncoast League of Cities Voting Representative and Alternate**

Mayor Soranno announced the names of the appointed (*see Attachment 1 – Reference pages 17-19*), noting that two new potential Planning,

Zoning and Building (PZB) Committee Citizen Alternate members have yet to confirm their interest in joining the Committee.

The Town Attorney will bring to a future meeting a resolution for adoption that lists the names of the appointed members of the Administrative and Finance Committee, Board of Adjustments and Appeals, Library Board, and PZB Committee.

Motion by **Vice Mayor Schear** – seconded by **Councilor Smith** to approve the proposed list of Board and Committee assignments (see *Attachment 1*) for 2023-2024. **All Ayes. Motion carried 5-0.**

13.0 Consensus on a date to schedule the Sunshine Law presentation by the Town Attorney for all Town Council, Board, and Committee members to attend.

The Town Council reached a consensus to schedule the presentation for May 16, 2023, at 1:00 P.M.

14.0 Report from the Building Official for March 2023.

The Building Official provided his permitting and inspections report for March. He gathered from a published article that flood insurance rates will be increasing for flood risk areas. He is actively exploring ways to improve and achieve a Community System Rating (CRS) of 5 for the Town, which currently has a rating of 6. A CRS 5 rating would provide a 25% discount on flood insurance for the Town.

15.0 Report from the Town Administrator.

The Town Administrator reported:

- The results of the future planning workshop held earlier (see *Attachment 2 – Reference pages 20-22*), which outlines the Town Council's priorities for the Town in preparation for the upcoming budget.
- Plans for installation of peanut grass at Tiki Gardens.
- The Finance Director is working on a post action report for the St. Patrick's Day Festival financials.
- Meteorologist Brian McClure will be the keynote speaker at the May 3, 2023, Hurricane Awareness Party.
- Staff have begun working on succession mitigation.

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

The Finance Director reported a payment in the amount of \$434,959 was made in February towards the refunded debt, bringing the principal down to \$2,513,275. The next payment is scheduled in August, which will be for the interest only in the amount of \$15,205.

Motion by **Vice Mayor Schear** – seconded by **Councilor Smith** to approve the February 2023 Financial Statement.

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

17.0 Report from the Fire Commissioner.

Fire Commissioner Schear announced the Fire Operations 101 event scheduled on May 13, from 7 A.M. – 1 P.M. Those who attend are provided with the opportunity to experience or watch what firefighters go through during a fire emergency. There will be an extraction from a vehicle using the Jaws of Life, as well as first aid and CPR demonstrations.

18.0 Citizens' comments on any subject. None.

19.0 Council members' comments on any subject.

Councilor Bauer commended everyone on the good job done today.

Councilor Petruccelli thanked everyone who attended the meeting and openly expressed their diverse views.

Councilor Smith commented on how impressed he was with the decorum during the public comments portion of the meeting regarding metered parking.

Vice Mayor Schear announced the April 15 Beach Cleanup directed by Councilor Bauer and April 20 Read & Feed featuring the book "Lessons in Chemistry" by author Bonnie Garmus. She also mentioned watching the HGTV channel show "100 Day Dream Home" on May 12 and May 19 where she will be seen at the ribbon cutting at the Sunburst Inn in Town.

Mayor Soranno thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

20.0 Meeting adjournment. 6:36 P.M.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Freddie Lozano", written over a horizontal line.

Freddie Lozano, CMC
Town Clerk