

# INDIAN SHORES

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## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2023, BEGAN AT 5:00 P.M. INDIAN SHORES MUNICIPAL CENTER, 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR

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**The Town Council Meeting convened at 5:00 P.M.**

**Those present:** Mayor Patrick C. Soranno, Councilor Mike Petruccelli, Councilor Bill Smith, and Associate Attorney Daniel Lewis.

**Also present:** Town Administrator Bonnie Dhonau, Finance and Personnel Director Susan Scrogam, Town Clerk Freddie Lozano, Police Major Glen Smith, Building Official Brian Rusu, Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District (PSFRD) Assistant Fire Chief Doug Higley, and Newspaper Correspondent Jeannie Carlson.

**Those absent:** Vice Mayor Diantha Schear, Councilor Ellen Bauer, and Police Chief Rick Swann, Town Attorney Regina Kardash, and PSFRD Fire Chief Jeff Davidson and Fire Commissioner Larry Schear.

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### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

#### ITEM # AGENDA ITEM

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

**Motion by Councilor Smith** – seconded by **Councilor Petruccelli** to approve the Town Council Meeting Agenda for July 11, 2023. **All Ayes.**  
**Motion carried 3-0.**

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

**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

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

**A. MINUTES:**

**1. Town Council Meeting, June 13, 2023.**

**B. RECURRING EXPENSES: for June 2023.**

**Motion by Councilor Smith – seconded by Councilor Petruccelli to approve the Consent Agenda. All Ayes. Motion carried 3-0.**

**4.0 Correspondence.**

- **Thank you emails regarding the amended parking resolution that addresses designated parking spaces and overnight parking in Town.**
- **Email response from Mayor Soranno to individuals opposing the new metered parking regulations.**
- **Email from a grandmother in Ohio thanking Mayor Soranno for his act of kindness towards her grandson.**

**5.0 Report from the Town Attorney.**

**Attorney Lewis** submitted the Town Attorney's report concerning the Request for Proposals (RFP) #2023-01 for Specialized Labor and Employment Lawyer Contract Services. The Town Attorney is a member of the RFP Selection Committee. Therefore, she cannot advise nor serve as conflict counsel to the Committee. The Town's current conflict counsel, Bryant Miller Olive, submitted their proposal for the RFP. Consequently, they cannot serve as the conflict counsel, and the Town must hire an alternative conflict counsel who can participate in the RFP discussions.

The **Police Major** strongly recommended having a conflict counsel be present during the RFP discussions.

**Motion by Councilor Petruccelli – seconded by Councilor Smith to approve the hiring of a conflict counsel for RFP #2023-01.**

**The Council was polled. All Ayes. Motion carried 3-0.**

## 6.0 Report from the Fire Chief.

### Asst. Fire Chief Higley:

- Shared statistics that included the total number of fire and medical training hours the Fire Department has completed.
- Thirty medical calls and fourteen fire-related calls for service were made in the month of June.
- He reported approximately fifty people attended the recent Hurricane and Water Safety Expo that the Department hosted and hoped to bring in a larger turnout next year.
- The Department has been reevaluating their pre-fire planning, with a lieutenant assigned to the task. New software replaced the old application, which is no longer supported, that they used to draw the plans with. They discovered that the plans made from the old application will need to be redrawn using the new application. This is proving to be time-consuming as each plan takes about one hour to redraw, and there are approximately 500 plans.

## 7.0 Report from the Police Chief.

The **Police Major** reported:

- The Town Attorney is in the process of drafting an ordinance prohibiting shark fishing in Town.
- A report regarding 4<sup>th</sup> of July Beach Week will be provided at the August meeting.
- Calls for police service has decreased compared to the previous week.

**Councilor Petruccelli** inquired about evacuation procedures for those with special needs.

**Asst. Fire Chief Higley** advised that those needing assistance during an evacuation should register on the County's website so they can be added to a list that helps identify the individual and their location. To effectively respond to emergencies, such as an evacuation, the County gives priority and directs emergency services towards individuals with special needs who require immediate transportation.

## 8.0 Consideration of recommendation from the Administrative and Finance Committee of proposed cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) based upon current Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) ending December 31, 2022, in preparation for the FY 2023/2024 budget.

During a recent meeting, the Administrative and Finance Committee put forward a recommendation of 5%-7.1% COLA percentage rate to the Council for consideration, and to reach a consensus on a specific percentage to approve. The approved percentage would then be utilized as a starting point for the development of the proposed budget.

**Mayor Soranno** mentioned that 5% would keep the Town competitive in today's labor market. He felt that the absent Council Members should be present and included in the discussions before approving a percentage.

The proposed budget is under a strict timeline. The **Town Administrator** recommended that the present Council Members approve a percentage at this meeting to begin building the budget for presentation at a future budget workshop. Deliberation or changes to the approved COLA and proposed budget, if any, could be discussed then.

**Councilor Smith** recommended nothing less than 6.3%, the current CPI rate, as the starting point.

**Motion by Councilor Petruccelli** to approve a 6% COLA. The motion did not receive a second and was therefore denied.

**Motion by Councilor Smith** – seconded by **Councilor Petruccelli** to approve a 6.3% COLA.

**The Council was polled. Motion carried 2-1 (Opposed by Mayor Soranno).**

**9.0 Consideration of Amendment Four to the M.T. Causley, LLC Professional Services Agreement for a 4% rate increase for Building Department services.**

The **Town Administrator** commented that the Town's Building Official is very dependable and has done a world of good for the Town. She recommended the 4% increase for Council approval.

**Motion by Councilor Smith** – seconded by **Councilor Petruccelli** to approve Amendment Four of the M.T. Causley, LLC Professional Services Agreement for a 4% rate increase for Building Department services.

**The Council was polled. All Ayes. Motion carried 3-0.**

**10.0 Consideration of proposed amendment to the Tiki Gardens agreement for Pinellas County to allow the Town to deduct proceeds from the parking revenue for the installation of peanut Grass.**

**Motion by Councilor Petruccelli** – seconded by **Councilor Smith** to approve the amendment to the Tiki Gardens agreement for Pinellas County to allow the Town to deduct proceeds from the parking revenue for the installation of peanut Grass.

**The Council was polled. All Ayes. Motion carried 3-0.**

**11.0 Report from the Building Official for June 2023.**

The **Building Official** reported forty-five building permits were issued and seventy-six inspections were conducted, with a total valuation of \$2,679,037.18 and \$41,249.12 in fees collected. Additionally, a project at 19610 Gulf Blvd., generated permit fees of \$23,183.46 with a valuation of \$1,736,026.00.

**12.0 Report from the Town Administrator.**

The **Town Administrator** will be attending a meeting in Pasco County regarding Hurricane Ian logistics provided by the state will be reviewed to gain a better understanding of the overall process. Recently, the Town Administrator participated in a debris management meeting with Pinellas County. During that meeting, she learned that Lee County dealt with debris from 18,000 boat vessels. Additionally, she learned that Pinellas County ranked second in the state for the highest number of registered vessels. She shared this information with the Council to ensure that they were aware of the potential challenges that debris management could bring after a storm event. Lastly, work is underway on the proposed budget.

**13.0 Consideration of approving the Financial Statement for period ending May 2023.**

**Motion by Councilor Smith** – seconded by **Councilor Petruccelli** to approve the Financial Statement for period ending May 2023.

**The Council was polled. All Ayes. Motion carried 3-0.**

**14.0 Report from the Fire Commissioner.**

The **Fire Commissioner** was absent from this meeting.

**15.0 Citizens' comments on any subject.**

**Katrina Hale**, 19316 Gulf Blvd., commented that this 4<sup>th</sup> of July was the best and easiest holiday that she has seen in 23 years with regards to people trespassing at her establishment. She thanked the Police and Fire Departments and Town Hall for their great work and strategy.

**16.0 Council members' comments on any subject.**

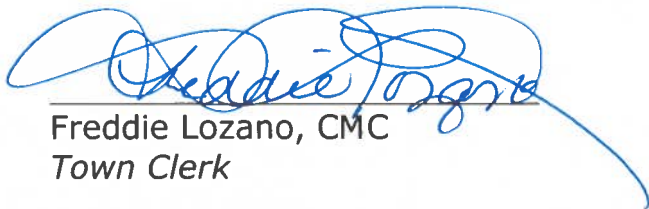
**Councilor Petruccelli** thanked those who attended the meeting. He took a moment to offer a public apology for occasionally coming across as aggressive during interactions. He is actively working on improving his approach.

**Councilor Smith** observed less activity and fewer fireworks during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday.

**Mayor Soranno** concurred with Councilor Smith's comment. He thanked the Public Services staff for keeping the beach clean throughout the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. He thanked the Police Department for a job well done on working with the condominiums in preparation for the holiday.

The **Police Major** took a moment to recognize Attorney Lewis for assisting with crafting the temporary juvenile curfew ordinance.

**17.0 Meeting adjournment. 5:42 P.M.**



Freddie Lozano, CMC  
Town Clerk