

INDIAN SHORES

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

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2021, BEGAN AT 5:00 P.M. INDIAN SHORES MUNICIPAL CENTER, 4TH FLOOR

The Workshop convened at 5:00 P.M.

Those present: Mayor Patrick C. Soranno, Vice Mayor Mike Hackerson, Councilor Mike Petruccelli, Councilor Diantha Schear, 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, Building Official Neal Mazzei, Interim Town Engineer Jerry Dabkowski, Police Chief Rick Swann, Police Captain Glen Smith, Fire Chief Mike Burton, Fire Commissioner Larry Schear, Danny Powell of West Central Signs (SignStar, DBA), Artist Geza Gaspar accompanied by Interpreter Attila Kulcsar, The Beach Markets Operation Manager Laura Garrison, Police Pension Board Member Lori Kauffman, Planning, Zoning and Building Committee Alternate Citizen Member Claudia Riva, and residents Barbara Soranno and Katrina Hale.

Those absent: None.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ITEM # AGENDA ITEM

1.0 Consideration of approving the Town Council Meeting agenda for August 10, 2021.

Patrick C. Soranno
Mayor

Mike Hackerson
Vice Mayor

Diantha Schear
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

AGENDA AMENDMENT:

Agenda item 15.0 assigned as 2.0A.

2.0A Consideration of artist selection for the Monument Project statue, Geza Gaspar or Steven Dickey.

Motion by **Councilor Smith** – seconded by **Councilor Petruccelli** to approve the Town Council Meeting Agenda for August 10, 2021 as amended. **All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.**

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

AGENDA AMENDMENT:

2.0A Consideration of artist selection for the Monument Project statue, Geza Gaspar or Steven Dickey.

Artist Gaspar and **Mr. Powell** presented a maquette of the monument statue to the Council for examination and comments. It is of a male, female, and a grandmother holding a baby. The statue will be made of bronze with a patina finish. The finishes will be brought to a future Council meeting for inspection. Artist Gaspar will skip the clay and directly sculpt the statue in wax for the creation of the mold. This will save a significant amount of time and even months to complete the statue.

Mr. Powell commented that Artist Dickey is a fantastic statue maker whose work can be seen in many places, but for the monument project, he prefers Artist Gaspar's statue.

The Council inspected the maquette and commented on its appearance and the amount of detail put into the sculpture in such a short period of time. They were pleased with the representation of the statue.

Motion by **Councilor Smith** – seconded by **Councilor Petruccelli** to approve the selection of Geza Gaspar as the artist for the Monument Project statue. **Council polled All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.**

Fire Commissioner Schear commented that the statue is appropriate for the James J. Lawrence Memorial.

Mayor Soranno clarified that the name has not been voted on.

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

A. MINUTES:

- 1. Emergency Town Council Meeting (Tropical Storm Elsa), July 5, 2021.**
- 2. Town Council Workshop, July 13, 2021.**
- 3. Town Council Meeting, July 13, 2021.**
- 4. Special Town Council Meeting, July 20, 2021.**
- 5. Town Council Workshop, July 27, 2021.**
- 6. Special Town Council Meeting, July 27, 2021.**

B. RE-OCCURRING EXPENSES: for July 2021.

Motion by **Councilor Schear** – seconded by **Councilor Smith** to approve the Consent Agenda. **All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.**

4.0 Correspondence. None.

5.0 Town Attorney's report.

Memorandums:

- **2021 Legislative Amendments Concerning the Building Department.**
- **Florida laws on building inspections.**
- **Florida laws on construction permits.**

Attorney Kardash entertained questions with regards to her memorandum and a question arose about the virtual inspection process.

Mr. Mazzei explained that there are several ways to do virtual inspections including a simple video or FaceTime on a mobile device. There are also programs and companies that provide this service. The process is being looked into at a state level to develop a standardized program for all jurisdictions. Many inspections can be done virtually with the exception of threshold inspections.

6.0 Report from the Fire Chief.

Fire Chief Burton, reported that they are currently monitoring one non-duty related COVID issue with one of their staff members. July was busy with Emergency Medical Services (EMS) calls and noted the number and type of calls. All emergency and fire calls met their target response times.

He reminded everyone that school begins tomorrow and to pay attention while on the road.

7.0 PUBLIC HEARING: RESOLUTION NO. 06-2021

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF INDIAN SHORES, FLORIDA AMENDING THE TOWN'S FY2020-2021 BUDGET FOR A TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND BALANCE FOR THE REFUNDING AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE MUNICIPAL CENTER AND UTILITY UNDERGROUNDING DEBTS.

Attorney Kardash read Resolution No. 06-2021 by title.

Ms. Scrogam explained that a total payment of \$646,219 was made and is the result of the additional principal payment of \$250,000 to bring down the refund debt combined with a budgeted total of \$536,203 for the original loans. This is the difference that is under budgeted, and this amendment is to balance out the expense account.

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

Motion by **Councilor Smith** – seconded by **Councilor Schear** to approve Resolution No. 06-2021.

Council polled. All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.

8.0 PUBLIC HEARING: RESOLUTION NO. 07-2021

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF INDIAN SHORES, FLORIDA AMENDING THE TOWN'S FY 2020-2021 BUDGET FOR A TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND BALANCE.

Attorney Kardash read Resolution No. 06-2021 by title.

Ms. Scrogam explained that this amendment is for the Incode software upgrades, Police Department purchases approved earlier in this fiscal year, and for the new parking meter at Nature Park.

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

Motion by **Councilor Smith** – seconded by **Councilor Petruccelli** to approve Resolution No. 07-2021.

Council polled. All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.

9.0 Recognition of Appreciation from the Town of Indian Shores for Interior Decorating Services presented to Lori Kauffman.

Ms. Kauffman was presented a Certificate of Appreciation, gift card, Indian Shores hat, pin and sticker for her assistance and research with selecting and recommending pattern designs for the tile installed on the 3rd and 4th Floors of Town Hall. In addition, she helped select the pattern and colors of the carpeting on the 3rd Floor and Council Chambers. She agreed to help with carpet selection for the 2nd Floor in the future.

10.0 Consideration of ratifying the July 15, 2021, Police Pension Board's reappointment of Lori Kauffman for a 4-year term expiring in October 2025.

Motion by **Councilor Schear** – seconded by **Councilor Smith** to approve the reappointment of Lori Kauffman to the Police Pension Board for a 4-year term expiring in October 2025. **All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.**

11.0 Consideration of agreement with Operations Manager Laura Garrison to open the Indian Shores Sunday Morning Market beginning November 7, 2021, through April 24, 2022, 9:00 A.M – 1:00 P.M.

Motion by **Councilor Schear** – seconded by **Councilor Smith** to approve the Fifth Amendment of the Indian Shores Morning Market agreement with Laura Garrison for the November 7, 2021, through April 24, 2022, morning market season.

12.0 Consideration of authorization to hire Ms. Alexandra Fidler for the position of Police Officer with a start date of September 13, 2021, with a starting annual salary of \$47,806.

Chief Swann mentioned that Ms. Fidler has been vetted and passed her background check and interviews. She will be a very good addition to the Police Department.

Officer Tom Goettel was put on a full-time status to expedite his field training. He was hired as a part-time detective, which may evolve into a full-time position as his duties and responsibilities may expand to include code enforcement and assistance with the Department's accreditation that involves reporting and documenting duties.

Motion by **Councilor Smith** – seconded by **Councilor Petruccelli** to authorize the hiring of Ms. Alexandra Fidler for the position of Police Officer with a start date of September 13, 2021, with a starting annual salary of \$47,806. **All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.**

13.0 Consideration to authorize the Police Department to extend the maximum vacation accrual cap to 320 hours beyond the end of the 2021 calendar year and throughout the 2021-2022 fiscal year, and to authorize the Police Chief to approve additional pay-outs of accrued vacation time as needed during this time period in order to lower the accruals.

Mayor Soranno commented that with the recent pandemic, red tide, and hurricane events, there will be future discussions on possibly increasing the vacation accrual cap for the Police Department.

Motion by **Vice Mayor Hackerson** – seconded by **Councilor Petruccelli** to authorize the Police Department to extend the maximum vacation accrual cap to 320 hours beyond the end of the 2021 calendar year and throughout the 2021-2022 fiscal year, and to authorize the Police Chief to approve additional pay-outs of accrued vacation time as needed during this time period in order to lower the accruals. **All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.**

14.0 Consideration of October 2nd Town Garage Sale with a backup date of October 9th.

Vice Mayor Hackerson mentioned there will be a meeting this Thursday with the Women's Club and Indian Shores Property Owners Association (ISPOA) to discuss. He will send a message in the Mayor's Message to call for volunteers.

No action taken for this consideration as it was voted on at an earlier meeting.

15.0 Consideration of artist selection for the Monument Project statue, Geza Gaspar or Steven Dickey.

Addressed under agenda item 2.0A

16.0 Report from the Building Official for July 2021.

Mr. Mazzei reported a busy month for the Building Department. He would like to review the Town's permit fee schedule that he thinks should be redone to bring the fees in line with many areas in the county. He touched on the virtual inspections process. Finally, he has trained and authorized Building Clerk Bill Jones to review and hold applications that do not require a plan review. This new service offered to customers will help minimize paperwork, save time, and to eliminate unnecessary plan reviews.

17.0 Report from the Town Administrator.

Ms. Dhonau recognized Mr. Mazzei on all the time, effort and work he did to maintain the Town's Community Rating System (CRS) rating of 6, which was also due in part to the Town's flood ordinance. A CRS rating of 5 is the goal for the next cycle visit. Mr. Mazzei is also working on maintaining the Town's Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) grade of 2/2. Credit will be received from SAFEbuilt for the amount of time and duplicate CRS and BCEGS work Mr. Mazzei has done.

She reported:

- The Library counter has been installed and the glass partition may be delivered this week.
- The last end date provided for the road projects was September 14. More information to come on the location of the skidabrading test patch scheduled for August 23.
- Notices have been received from the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) and the Florida Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that the Town's flood ordinance passed their review. The ordinance complies with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
- The Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) is reviewing the proposed Comprehensive Plan changes.
- Mayor Soranno, Interim Town Engineer Jerry Dabkowski, and Ms. Dhonau met with Tracy Hood from FDOT regarding the feasibility study for the curb and gutter that is due to begin in about six to eight weeks.

- She and Mayor Soranno will be meeting with FDOT landscape architects to discuss the landscape drawings for the landscaping project that FDOT agreed to do.

18.0 Consideration of approving the Financial Statement for period ending June 2021.

Mrs. Scrogam reported that the Nature Park parking meter has been installed with a sign that informs of a grace period until September 1. The audit is almost complete and will be presented at the second budget meeting.

Ms. Dhonau commented that the auditor was pleased that there were no issues with the software conversion.

Motion by **Councilor Schear** – seconded by **Councilor Smith** to approve the Financial Statement for period ending June 2021. **All ayes.**
Motion carried 5-0.

19.0 Report from the Fire Commissioner.

Fire Commissioner Schear stated that Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District (PSFRD) and the Indian Shores Police Department worked cooperatively to address service demands brought by Hurricane Elsa. The storm served as a good exercise as it exposed areas in their emergency plans that need improvement.

20.0 Police activity report for July 2021.

Chief Swann reported that they have been working with PSFRD, Seminole Fire Department, and Redington Shores who has re-partnered with the Town, on emergency evacuation plans. We are on the list for the emergency siren and anticipates they will be up and functioning by the next storm season. Their vault has been converted into an emergency management storage facility where emergency equipment purchased by the Town and partner Redington Shores will be stored. He appreciated the Council's support on the providing the Police Department the means to obtain updated police equipment.

21.0 Citizen's comments on any subject. None.

22.0 Council members' comments on any subject.

Councilor Schear mentioned that she cancelled the band Sequel who was originally planned to play at the December 4 holiday party. The band has already returned the deposit check. The first Read & Feed since COVID is scheduled for August 18, 6:00 P.M., featuring the book "Anxious People" by Fredrik Backman.

Councilor Petruccelli commented that getting vaccinated may slow down the COVID variant. He will be attending the August 2021 Florida League of Cities Conference in Orlando.


Councilor Smith has observed no flooding in areas where the road drainage problem has been addressed. He is hopeful that this drainage system will work. He echoed Councilor Petruccelli's comment on getting vaccinated.

Vice Mayor Hackerson is glad that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will be doing the Gulf Boulevard plantings.

Mayor Soranno announced a Brick ceremony to honor Daniel Bauer scheduled for September 1, at Town Hall. Friends of Mr. Bauer purchased a brick engraved with "Daniel Bauer, Our Music Man". The time will be announced in the Mayor's Message once it is determined.

23.0 Meeting adjournment.

6:21 P.M.



Freddie Lozano
Town Clerk