

INDIAN SHORES

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



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022, BEGAN AT 5:15 P.M. INDIAN SHORES MUNICIPAL CENTER, 4TH FLOOR

The Town Council Meeting convened at 5:15 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, Town Clerk Freddie Lozano, Police Chief Rick Swann, Police Captain Glen Smith, Building Official Brian Rusu, Interim Town Engineer Jerry Dabkowski, PSFRD Fire Chief Jeff Davidson, Fire Commissioner Larry Schear, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Consultant Project Management Engineer Tracy Hood, Forward Pinellas Executive Director Whit Blanton, Labor Attorney Sacha Dyson of GrayRobinson, P.A., Dr. Candiss Rinker, John Caruso, and Newspaper Correspondent Jeannie Carlson.

Those absent: Director of Finance and Personnel Susan Scrogham

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ITEM # AGENDA ITEM

1.0 Consideration of approving the Town Council Meeting agenda for February 8, 2022.

Motion by Councilor Smith – seconded by Councilor Petruccelli to approve the Town Council Meeting Agenda for February 8, 2022. All Ayes. Motion carried 5-0.

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. Scrogham
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.

Dr. Rinker voiced her concerns on the salary study discussed at an earlier Workshop. She felt that best practices were not followed during the drafting of the survey and that the numbers should be reviewed more closely. She was most concerned over the Town staff being correctly paid or compensated.

Fire Commissioner Larry Schear commented on Agenda Item 18.0 regarding the Town's existing veterans park named after Mayor Bob McEwen. He requested to remove "Veterans" from the "James J. Lawrence Veterans Memorial Park" monument name.

John Caruso, 19616 Gulf Blvd., commented on Agenda Item 9.0 regarding a request for a \$3,000 increase for the Police Officers. He understood that recruiting and training the officers is expensive. He thought that Chief Swann's request is reasonable, and that Council should consider it.

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

A. MINUTES:

- 1. Town Council Meeting, December 14, 2021.**
- 2. Town Council Workshop, January 25, 2022.**
- 3. Town Council Meeting, January 25, 2022.**

B. RE-OCCURRING EXPENSES: for January 2022.

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

4.0 Correspondence.

- Pinellas County Public Works Director, Kelli Hammer Levy, with an email update regarding the Long Key and Treasure Island projects.**
- Letter from Dr. Candiss Rinker regarding the 2022 Salary Survey results.**

5.0 Consideration of revised typical section of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Sidewalk Feasibility Study.

Mr. Hood stated that FDOT's design engineers and safety staff recommended what was presented to the Council of a rendering with a 4.5-foot shoulder, 6-inch curb, and a 5-foot sidewalk. A discussion ensued on safety of bicyclists, ultimately ending with the recommendation of designating the 4.5-foot shoulder for bicyclists.

With guidance from FDOT, Mr. Blanton provided a timeline for the sidewalk project. The application deadline for the new Five-Year Work Program is March 4 to become eligible for consideration for FY2028.

Motion by Councilor Petruccelli – seconded by **Councilor Schear Petruccelli** to approve the 5-foot sidewalk with 4.5-foot shoulder for bicyclists as presented.

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

6.0 Executive Director Whit Blanton with Forward Pinellas updates.

Mr. Blanton updated the Council on the Town's sidewalk project stating that it is in the top 40% of the annual transportation projects priorities list that will be presented to the County in May.

Forward Pinellas is undertaking a countywide target employment and industrial land study related to a legislature bill that would allow residential or mixed use in an industrial or employment area.

The Forward Pinellas Board will be voting on a redevelopment plan for Alternate US 19, from Clearwater South to St. Pete Beach, in May.

7.0 "Service on the Rocks" presentation by Rotary Club of Indian Rocks Beach President David Kline.

Mr. Kline gave his presentation beginning with the Rotary Club's formation in 1905. He touched on areas they focus on within communities, such as economic development and protection, basic education, water and sanitation, disease prevention and treatment, etc. Provided in his presentation is a list of organizations that they support. He is looking to expand the Rotary's services to Indian Shores. He will look to the Town staff for guidance, possibly in the future.

8.0 Consideration of Salary Survey results presented by John Daly.

Motion by Vice Mayor Hackerson – seconded by **Councilor Petruccelli** to table the Salary Survey results for a future workshop.
All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.

9.0 Consideration of proposed \$3,000 equity adjustment for Police Personnel to include police officers, corporals, and sergeants.

Chief Swann presented the results of a recent law enforcement salary survey conducted in Pinellas County to show where the Town falls with its minimum and maximum salaries. He proposed the \$3,000 adjustment to competitively recruit and retain Police Personnel.

Motion by Vice Mayor Hackerson – seconded by **Councilor Petruccelli** to approve the \$3,000 equity adjustment for Police Personnel to include police officers, corporals, and sergeants.

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

10.0 Town Attorney's report.

Due to the earlier Workshop running over schedule, four additional workshop items including the Town Attorney Services Proposal were not addressed.

Attorney Kardash entertained a Council motion for Bryant Miller Olive, who currently has a contract with the Town, to review her attorney services proposal. They will be attending the March 8, 2022, Town Council Meeting serving as the conflict counsel.

Motion by Vice Mayor Hackerson – seconded by **Councilor Petruccelli** to approve the review of the Town Attorney Services Proposal by Bryant Miller Olive.

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

11.0 Report from the Fire Chief.

Fire Chief Davidson reported 42 emergency calls in January. The new fire truck was delivered and is in service for additional equipment installation. Once ready, the public is welcome to attend the official Fire Department Washdown Ceremony. Date to be determined. The Fire Department is still searching for a permanent fire station location.

The ideal location is at Town Hall. This location would optimize emergency response times. It will be brought to a public meeting for Council and public feedback once the location is determined.

Attorney Kardash advised that building requirements and a capital improvement plan to identify funding sources are items that the Council would like to see to help decide if they would like to move forward.

12.0 PUBLIC HEARING: First Reading of ORDINANCE 2022-01.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF INDIAN SHORES, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 54-4, ACCESS TO FACILITIES AND BEACHES, OF CHAPTER 54, PARKS AND RECREATION, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF INDIAN SHORES BY PROHIBITING ELECTRIC BICYCLES AND MOTORIZED DEVICES ON THE BEACH AND SIDEWALKS WITHIN THE TOWN; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY OF ACTIONS; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Attorney Kardash read ORDINANCE 2022-01 by title.

Mayor Soranno opened the hearing for public comments.

Mr. Dabkowski asked if the term motorized vehicles impact motorized wheelchairs.

Attorney Kardash replied that accessibility devices are exceptions pursuant to state statutes.

Motion by Councilor Smith – seconded by **Vice Mayor Hackerson** to approve the First Reading of ORDINANCE 2022-01.

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

13.0 PUBLIC HEARING: RESOLUTION 04-2022.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF INDIAN SHORES, FLORIDA, DESIGNATING A SPECIFIC TOWN OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING A POINT OF CONTACT FOR THE TOWN'S DAY TO DAY LEGAL SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF RESOLUTIONS OR PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS INCONSISTENT HEREWITH; PROVIDING

FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND EXPIRATION.

Attorney Kardash read RESOLUTION 04-2022 by title.

Mayor Soranno opened the hearing for public comments.

He commented on the exchange at the earlier Workshop where matters and different viewpoints were presented that resulted from this resolution. Through further discussions, he believed that the Council and Counsel could rectify any miscommunications that occurred in the past.

Councilor Petruccelli recommended a workshop for further discussion.

Councilor Schear and Councilor Smith did not find a need for a workshop.

Motion by **Councilor Petruccelli** – seconded by **Councilor Schear** to table RESOLUTION 04-2022 for a future workshop.

Council polled.

Councilor Petruccelli	- Aye
Councilor Smith	- Nay
Councilor Schear	- Nay
Vice Mayor Hackerson	- Aye
Mayor Soranno	- Aye

Motion carried 3-2.

14.0 Consideration of Auditor Selection Committee candidates.

- **Councilor Bill Smith as Committee Chair**
- **Erin Brooks – Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District Finance Director**
- **Candiss Rinker – PZB Citizen Member**
- **Claudia Riva – PZB Alternate Citizen Member**
- **Michael Howard**

Further discussions and a resolution are needed before the committee can be established. Candidate Mike Howard introduced himself and presented his qualifications to the Council.

Motion by **Councilor Smith** – seconded by **Councilor Schear** to table the approval of the Auditor Selection Committee candidates pending a resolution. **All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.**

- 15.0 Consideration of a request to waive the requirement of three proposals for the purchase and installation of six beach access signs from SignStar in the amount of \$7,429.50.**

Motion by Councilor Smith – seconded by **Councilor Schear** to approve the request to waive the requirement of three proposals for the purchase and installation of six beach access signs from SignStar in the amount of \$7,429.50. **All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.**

- 16.0 Consideration of proposal from Infrastructure Consulting and Engineering for MS4 and NPDES Consulting not to exceed \$10,500.**

Motion by Councilor Smith – seconded by **Councilor Schear** to approve the proposal from Infrastructure Consulting and Engineering for MS4 and NPDES Consulting not to exceed \$10,500.

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

- 17.0 Consideration of proposal from Spectra Contract Flooring to replace the 2nd Floor carpeting and tiling in the amount of \$28,276.03.**

Motion by Councilor Schear – seconded by **Councilor Smith** to approve the proposal from Spectra Contract Flooring to replace the 2nd Floor carpeting and tiling in the amount of \$28,276.03.

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

- 18.0 Mayor James J. Lawrence Veterans Memorial Park.**

To honor Mayor Lawrence, a suggestion was made by the Town Administrator to add "Mayor" to the previously approved monument name of "James J. Lawrence Veterans Memorial Park".

Motion by Vice Mayor Hackerson – seconded by **Councilor Schear** to rename the Monument at Tiki Gardens the "Mayor James J. Lawrence Veterans Memorial Park."

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

19.0 Report from the Building Official for January 2022.

Mr. Rusu presented his report listing the amount of building permitting fees collected.

20.0 Report from the Town Administrator.

Ms. Dhonau reported that the Duke Energy amber streetlights near Sandcastles have been installed. She provided updates on the Town Hall parking lot upgrade. The new Public Services building garage door has been installed.

A discussion on reopening Town Hall to the public ensued. The Council reached a consensus to reopen on Monday, February 14, for Town business, Civic Organizations and condominium association meetings. Recreational classes and social gatherings still suspended until further notice.

Mayor Soranno mentioned there was a suggestion to move the Holiday Boat Parade viewing from Indian Shores to Indian Rocks Beach. Councilor Petruccelli will take the lead on this matter.

21.0 Consideration of approving the Financial Statement for period ending December 2021.

Motion by Vice Mayor Hackerson – seconded by **Councilor Smith** to approve the Financial Statement for period ending December 2021.
All Ayes. Motion carried 5-0.

22.0 Report from the Fire Commissioner.

Fire Commissioner Schear shared photographs of the new fire engine, which is currently being fitted with additional equipment. There will be an inaugural ceremony in Town once it is released.

23.0 Police activity report for January 2022.

Chief Swann reported:

- that they are moving forward with the Police Department's accreditation process. They applied for and received scholarships and grants that resulted in a refund of their initial accreditation fees.

- The siren system is expected to be operational in April 2022.
- Due to vehicles being on backorder, and to secure a vehicle between now and 2023, their vehicle vendor recommended sending a letter of commitment to purchase, which will be brought to a future Council meeting for consideration.
- Police Officer training continues.

24.0 Citizen's comments on any subject.

John Caruso, 19616 Gulf Blvd., asked if there will be a Memorial Day Picnic, to which Mayor Soranno replied it is in the planning stages. Mr. Caruso has noticed dogs on the beach, especially on Mondays and Tuesdays, and suggested possibly having more visible patrol on those days.

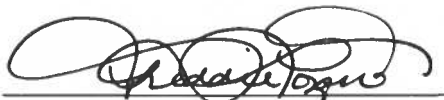
25.0 Council members' comments on any subject.

Councilor Schear mentioned that the crosswalk beacons have been installed at 186th Avenue and 199th Avenue. They will be covered up until the crosswalk buttons become operational. She mentioned that Legacy Vacation Resorts received awards for being a green hotel at the Keep Pinellas Beautiful awards ceremony that she recently attended.

Councilor Petruccelli commented that the community should be able to communicate freely with confidence through healthy interaction without sensitivity.

Mayor Soranno mentioned that his 2021 State of the Town Address will be posted on the Town's website soon.

26.0 Meeting adjournment. 7:12 P.M.



Freddie Lozano
Town Clerk