



TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH TOWN COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Town Hall / Commission Chambers
3614 South Ocean Boulevard
Highland Beach, Florida 33487

Date: October 04, 2022
Time: 1:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hillman called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Commissioner John Shoemaker

Commissioner Evalyn David

Commissioner Peggy Gossett-Seidman

Vice Mayor Natasha Moore

Mayor Douglas Hillman

Town Manager Marshall Labadie

Town Attorney Glen Torcivia

Town Clerk Lanelda Gaskins

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Town Commission led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America, followed by a moment of silence for the communities on the west coast of Florida affected by Hurricane Ian.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Gossett-Seidman added "Discussion on Barrier Island Hurricane Preparation" as Item 11.C. under New Business.

MOTION: David/Moore - Moved to approve the agenda as amended, which passed unanimously 5 to 0.

5. PRESENTATIONS / PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Hillman advised that the presentation was postponed to a future meeting date.

Rubin, Turnbull & Associates, Inc. Presentation Update by Matthew Sacco

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Hillman read the announcements as follows:

Board Vacancies

Board of Adjustment and Appeals - One vacancy for a three-year term

Meetings and Events

October 06, 2022 – 9:30 A.M. Natural Resources Preservation Advisory Board
Special Meeting

October 10, 2022 - Town Hall Closed in Observance of Columbus Day

October 11, 2022 - 1:00 P.M. Code Enforcement Board Regular Meeting

October 13, 2022 - 9:30 A.M. Planning Board Regular Meeting

October 18, 2022 - 1:30 P.M. Town Commission Meeting

Board Action Report

None.

8. ORDINANCES

None.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

None.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Police Department Accreditation Certification by Chief of Police Hartmann

Mayor Hillman read the title of Item 11.A.

Chief of Police Craig Hartmann elaborated on the comprehensive accreditation process. The Police Department received a flawless assessment and is an accredited law enforcement agency.

Chief Hartmann commended and presented Accreditation Manager/Training Officer Eric Aronowitz and IT Consultant Mark Rutledge with certificates of recognition for their involvement in the accreditation process.

Following the presentation, the Town Commission asked Chief Hartmann to provide a summary of the crime or problems in the Town, the safest Town designation, and an update on what is happening on the Intracoastal waterways and the ocean. Chief Hartmann mentioned that the most prominent focus is prevention. Which consists of the ongoing educational campaign, visibility, patrolling the communities, and monitoring State Road A1A using the license plate recognition cameras. He also talked about the marina patrol enforcement along the Intracoastal waterways.

Additionally, the Town Commission asked Chief Hartmann if there were any upcoming improvements. Chief Hartmann spoke about enhancing the technology related to monitoring systems, growing public safety and fire services, communicating with agencies on the southwest coast of Florida about lessons learned from Hurricane Ian, and the hiring process for law enforcement officers.

The Town Commission congratulated Chief Hartmann and his staff for an outstanding job with the accreditation process.

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes

September 06, 2022 - Commission Meeting Minutes

September 06, 2022 - Commission Special First Public Hearing Budget Meeting

September 21, 2022 - Commission Special Second Public Hearing Budget Meeting

MOTION: David/Gossett-Seidman – Moved to accept all three Minutes, which passed unanimously 5 to 0.

C. Discussion on Barrier Island Hurricane Preparation - Commissioner Gossett-Seidman (This item was added to the agenda)

Commissioner Gossett-Seidman commented about the weather forecast for Hurricane Ian, reminding her of the weather forecasts for Hurricanes Andrew and Floyd. She mentioned that the barrier island / coastal communities might need a higher level of hurricane preparation and tips to make the evacuation process easier. Examples of the tips may include having a packed bag of

clothing, essential documents in a zipped lock bag, an extra supply of pet food, parking a vehicle on the second level in a parking garage, having a safe room in an interior bathroom or closet, or on a second floor, and go bag with chargers or zip drive. She suggested Fire Chief Joseph and Chief of Police Hartmann could follow up on the higher level of hurricane preparation and tips for the Town. Commissioner Gossett-Seidman encouraged the Town Commission to rethink the difference between coastal and inland areas. Mayor Hillman mentioned that the hurricane preparation information could be distributed to the community each year at the beginning of hurricane season.

The Town Commission talked about dunes and seawall erosion related to the impact hurricanes have on the beach and Intracoastal areas. The Natural Resources Preservation Advisory Board is considering dune management at their October 6, 2022, special meeting. Mayor Hillman advised the Town Commission to support the Board with more help, support them financially, and put more weight on educating and helping the property owners to protect their dunes. He also suggested that the Town Commission needs to address the seawall height issue when a seawall is not being repaired or replaced. Mayor Hillman advised the Town staff to prepare agenda items related 1) the dunes, seawalls, and mangroves and 2) seawall heights for further discussion at a future Town Commission meeting.

Furthermore, there were conversations about inviting the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to a future Town Commission meeting to discuss mangroves.

Commissioner John Shoemaker asked where the fire rescue and police vehicles would be located and if there is an identified location for those vehicles in the event of a major hurricane. Fire Chief Joseph advised that the vehicles would be evacuated from the Town. He and Chief of Police Hartmann are rewriting the comprehensive emergency management operations plan, including staging the vehicles above the ground level.

Commissioner Shoemaker asked about the costs of multiple failed inspections during the building recertification/restoration permit process. Building Official Remas explained the reinspection process and the progressive re-inspection fee for each time the inspector goes out.

Commissioner Shoemaker talked about the state changing the rules related to individual condominium owners or condominium associations' responsibility for replacing the windows and sliders. The Town Commission commented and discussed the complexity of the issue. Commissioner Shoemaker then spoke about the reserve issues concerning condominiums.

Commissioner Shoemaker commented about the bridge on Sanibel Island due to Hurricane Ian. He encouraged the Town to embrace the Florida Department of Transportation RRR project to strengthen A1A and the dunes.

He asked Building Official Remas to note those buildings that are doing nothing with glass or hurricane shutters during their restoration project.

Lastly, he commented about Palm Beach County Mayor Weinroth and Commissioners providing aid to the Southwest Florida area.

Commissioner David asked if there were something the Town could sponsor to help bring supplies to the west coast of Florida. Commissioner Gossett-Seidman mentioned the Red Cross, Governor Ron DeSantis, and other organizations are asking for cash or credit card donations.

Commissioner Gossett-Seidman spoke about past rehab projects to the Spanish River Boulevard and the Linton Boulevard bridges, and that they were built to withstand a category five hurricane. She also spoke to the structure and strength of A1A roadway in the Town. She spoke with Florida Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis, about the legislative drafts of the insurance proposals, property tax proposals, and business rental proposals.

Vice Mayor Moore agreed with the high-level hurricane preparation and tips. She favors helping the property owners with the dunes and mangroves. She suggested bringing in other professionals or models from another municipality.

Mayor Hillman indicated he liked the idea of each Commissioner presenting a resolution at a meeting similar to the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County. He also likes the encased frames.

12. TOWN COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner John Shoemaker scheduled the Lightening Protection presentation with Town Clerk Gaskins for the October 18, 2022 Town Commission agenda. He also commented on Venn diagrams involving the Police and Fire, Building Department, Water and Sewer, and Town Management, with Town Commission in the center of the diagram. He stated, "as a whole team, we are using financial prudence to establish an effective town team and stable government and then make the necessary improvements to ensure the citizens' safety."

Commissioner Evalyn David had no comments.

Commissioner Peggy Gossett-Seidman mentioned it would be helpful for those individuals who plan to evacuate before a hurricane to leave a written plan in a zip lock bag at home.

Vice Mayor Natasha Moore suggested adding an agenda item related to "Lessons Learned from the west coast of Florida related to Hurricane Ian" and adding them to the Manager's Minutes. She provided an update on finalizing the reading of the water meters and will have 12 months of billing information. She plans to prepare and

present an agenda item at the October 18,2022 Town Commission meeting concerning the water and sewer rate billing information. Lastly, she mentioned that the Manager's Minutes were highly informative, including the article on Building Official Jeff Remas.

Mayor Douglas Hillman mentioned that the Manager's Minutes were very well done. He noted that the Town Commission should consider the zoning matters and the different segments related to density, the type of residential properties, and possible districts. He suggested that the Town Commission think about how the Town should look long term, and what approach should be taken to address the zoning matters. Such as sending it to the Planning Board and having them form subcommittees with residents to work in groups.

Town Manager Labadie explained that Town Planner Allen has background research information from adjacent communities. Mayor Hillman suggested that the Town Planner model what other communities have done, pull out some specific information, and prepare an agenda item for the October 18,2022. Town Commission meeting to discuss a plan to approach the zoning matter.

Vice Mayor Moore advised the Town Commission to review the Strategic Priorities Plan for tasks that have a higher priority and need to be addressed.

Commissioner Gossett-Seidman suggested that a report be available regarding the Town's infrastructure related to new residents, traffic patterns, and buildings.

13. TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None.

14. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager provided a report as follows:

Strategic Priorities Plan:

Assistant Town Manager Cuebas will update and add the new projects to the plan and list the accomplishments on the plan. Town Manager Labadie will share the updated Strategic Priorities Plan with the Town Commission in advance and will prepare an agenda item for a future Town Commission meeting.

Fire Rescue Department Project:

Meetings were held with Kaufman Lynn and PGAL concerning the building design. PGAL will present an agenda item regarding the conceptual design (the elevations, schematics, and layouts) at the October 18,2022 Town Commission meeting.

The Town will soon take delivery of the fire rescue ambulance/transport vehicle, and the final details are in progress. Fire Chief Joseph is working toward getting the fire

rescue logo and numbers on the unit. The Town is also working to obtain a second ladder apparatus and has informed the City of Delray Beach that the Town would be taking back its equipment.

On September 13, 2022, the Palm Beach County Board of Commission approved the Town's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COCNP) license. Effective May of 2024, the Town will be able to operate by providing advanced life support (ALS) and basic life support (BLS) transports. Chief Joseph is also working to obtain state approval regarding the fire side. Chief Joseph explained the state approval process and the insurance service organization (ISO) rating requirements.

Mayor Hillman asked the Town staff to contact the Chairperson of the Natural Resources Preservation Board and ask her to provide an update on the dune management at the October 18, 2022, Town Commission meeting.

Mayor Hillman also asked Building Official Remas for an update on the Town of Gulf Stream building services program. Building Official Remas explained that the program has been working exceptionally well.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:07 P.M.

APPROVED at the October 18, 2022, Town Commission Meeting.

ATTEST:

Douglas Hillman, Mayor

Transcribed by
Lanelda Gaskins and Jaclyn DeHart

Lanelda Gaskins, MMC
Town Clerk

October 18, 2022

Date

Disclaimer: Effective May 19, 2020, per Resolution No. 20-008, all meeting minutes are transcribed as a brief summary reflecting the event of this meeting. Verbatim audio/video recordings are permanent records and are available on the Town's Media Archives & Minutes webpage: <https://highlandbeach-fl.municodemeetings.com/>.