



TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH TOWN COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

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

Date: January 03, 2023
Time: 1:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioner David Stern
Commissioner John Shoemaker
Commissioner Evalyn David
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.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Hillman added "Discussion of Intracoastal Speeds" as Item 11.D. under New Business.

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

5. PRESENTATIONS / PROCLAMATIONS

None.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Hillman read the announcements as follows:

Board Vacancies

Board of Adjustment and Appeals:	Two (2) vacancies for three-year terms
Financial Advisory Board:	One (1) vacancy for an unexpired term ending April 30, 2023
	One (1) vacancy for an unexpired term ending April 30, 2024
Natural Resources Preservation Advisory Board:	Two (2) vacancies for unexpired terms ending April 30, 2024

Meetings and Events

January 10, 2023 -	1:00 P.M.	Code Enforcement Board Regular Meeting
January 16, 2023		Town Hall closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 17, 2023 -	1:30 P.M.	Town Commission Meeting
January 24, 2023	9:00 A.M.	Coffee with the Mayor
January 26, 2023 -	11:30 A.M.	Financial Advisory Board Regular Meeting

Board Action Report

None

8. ORDINANCES

A. None.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

A. None.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Fire Rescue Implementation Update

Town Manager Labadie provided an update on the Fire Rescue Implementation along with a PowerPoint presentation of the design. In addition, Fire Chief Joseph provided an update on the purchase of the apparatus, storage of the ladder truck, and ambulance. He has begun to receive the large EMS items and has submitted paperwork for the Advanced Life Support (ALS) licenses.

There was discussion about the Fire Rescue vehicles, storage of the vehicles, costs, and the old Fire Station.

Groundbreaking will not happen until a guaranteed maximum price contract is signed. April, 2024 - Hard completion of the new Fire Rescue Department.

B. 2022-2023 Strategic Priorities Plan Update and Review

Town Manager Labadie presented an updated 2022-2023 Strategic Priorities Plan. Followed by discussions about the Strategic Priorities Plan and rankings.

This will be discussed at a future meeting within the next month.

C. Discussion of Florida Senate Bill 4-D covering Condominium Reserves – Mayor Hillman

Mayor Hillman presented this item. He spoke about a meeting he attended. Based on Town Commission input he will write a letter to Florida House Representative Peggy Gossett-Seidman, District 91.

There was discussion about condominium reserves.

Mayor Hillman opened the item for public comments.

Judith Goldberg provided comments regarding this matter.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of battery-operated blowers. - Mayor Hillman

Mayor Hillman presented this item. He provided background information about his condominium board as it relates to the use of battery-operated blowers. He mentioned that other municipalities are looking at battery-operated blowers.

B. Discussion on the Funding Limitation (Sec. 2.01 (31))

Commissioner Stern presented this item. He proposed the following: 1) raising the funding limitation for expenditures over \$350,000.000 by referendum, 2) that the referendum ballot language be simple, clear, and understandable to the voter, and 3) raising the funding limit to \$800,000.00 at the consumer price index (CPI) rate each year.

Town Commission discussed increasing the fund limitation. Commissioner Stern made a motion proposing to put a charter limit on the next eligible election to raise the funding limitation to \$800,000.00 at the CPI rate each year (January). Commissioner David seconded the motion.

Commissioner Shoemaker concurred with Commissioner Stern.

Town Commission discussion continued about increasing the funding limitation to more than \$800,000.00, inflation, spending caps, upcoming maintenance type projects, and public awareness. In addition, the Town Commission discussed adding the funding limitation to the Strategic Priorities Plan and making it high priority on the plan.

Vice Mayor Moore suggested that there needs to be a higher priority on the Strategic Priorities Plan on how to engage the Highland Beach voters and residents. The Town Commission need to come up with the ballot question in advance, and a more create/effective way to engage the voters. She agreed that the funding limitation needs to increase more than \$800,000.00.

Mayor Hillman suggested increase should be fiscal year implementation instead of annual.

Town Attorney Torcivia explained that the Town Commission can post factual information on the website, but the Town is prohibited from spending taxpayer dollars to send out information directly to electors. There was discussion about a polling firm to gather information.

Commissioner Stern withdrew his motion. He then suggested to add the failed referendum questions from the March 2022 election ballot to a polling survey.

Mr. Ron Reame spoke about the previous failed referendum ballot questions.

Mayor Hillman suggested placing this item on the meeting agenda with the Strategic Priorities Plan as the last item.

C. Approval of Meeting Minutes

December 06, 2022 - Commission Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Stern/Moore - Moved to approve the December 06, 2022 Meeting Minutes, which passed unanimously 5 to 0.

D. Discussion of Intracoastal Speeds – Mayor Hillman (This item was added to the agenda)

Mayor Hillman introduced this item.

There was discussion about intracoastal speed and wake zones.

Mayor Hillman opened the item for public comments:

Mr. Rich Greenwald provided comments about the speed. He was opposed to decreasing the speeding limits. He suggested that there may be some compromising related to the speeding limits.

12. TOWN COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner David Stern had no comments.

Commissioner John Shoemaker commented about the Marina Facilities Meetings and the base flood elevation (BFE) for his condominium. He provided remarks about the feeling of community at the Food Truck Event, and the Hidden Heroes Program.

Commissioner Evalyn David wished everyone a Happy New Year. She asked if the Town could do fireworks on July 4th and New Year's Eve. Town Manager Labadie replied yes, it could be done.

Mayor Hillman suggested to add this to the strategic priorities plan and talk about it at the special meeting.

Mayor Hillman opened public comments.

Mr. David Newman of the Townhouses of Highland Beach, spoke about the benefit of battery-operated blowers versus the gas operated blowers.

Ms. Judith Goldberg of Seagate Condominium, commented about using the voter list to communicate with the residents.

Vice Mayor Natasha Moore reminded the public to submit their idea regarding the Town Entry Sign contest.

Mayor Douglas Hillman asked to get a report from Chief Hartmann about the Marina Patrol Boat activities. He spoke about condominium board security in Canada and Rome. He mentioned that the Condominium Boards needs to think about what the Town Commission can do to advise them on security. Mayor Hillman suggested including that information at the next Condo President meeting.

13. TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Town Attorney Glen Torcivia wished everyone a Happy New Year.

14. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Labadie reported the following:

Carol Holland, Building Department Office Manager, was awarded the Permit Technician of the Year.

The Florida Department of Transportation follow up meeting regarding the RRR Project is March 13 in the Library Community Room.

The Collective Bargaining kickoff is underway and will commence in January. Mayor Hillman will be the Town Commission representative for this process. Town Attorney Torcivia's Office will be assisting the Town with the collective bargaining process.

He provided an update on the website content and reminded the public that the Town will be rebuilding a website for ease of use.

He wished everyone a Happy New Year and said that it was going to be a busy year.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 P.M.

APPROVED January 17, 2023, Town Commission Meeting.

ATTEST:

Douglas Hillman, Mayor

Transcribed by
Lanelda Gaskins and Jaclyn DeHart

Lanelda Gaskins, MMC
Town Clerk

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/>.