



TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH TOWN COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM, 3618 S. OCEAN
BLVD., HIGHLAND BEACH, FL

Date: February 20, 2024
Time: 1:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Judith Goldberg
Commissioner Donald Peters
Commissioner Evalyn David
Vice Mayor David Stern
Mayor Natasha Moore
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

Town Staff requested Item 10.A. be moved after Item 6., Public Comments.

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

5. PRESENTATIONS / PROCLAMATIONS

None.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Moore opened Public Comments.

Ms. Janixx Parisi, provided comments about clean beaches and bottle caps.

Mr. Timothy Ruotolo provided comments.

Item 10.A. Application No. 23-2790 / Frank and Laura Troiano (Public Hearing)

Consideration of Application No. 23-2790 by Frank and Laura Troiano for a variance for Section 30-103(D) and Section 30-64 of the Town Code of Ordinances to create a lot with a minimum lot width of 68.06 feet in lieu of the required 80-foot minimum lot width for a single-family dwelling in the Residential Multiple Family Low Density (RML) Zoning District for the property located at 4611 South Ocean Boulevard (west side of State Road A1A).

Mayor Moore read the title of Item 10.A.

Town Clerk Gaskins performed the swearing-in of the witnesses. Mayor Moore inquired about any Ex Parte communications, to which Commissioner Goldberg, Commissioner Peters, Commissioner David, and Vice Mayor Stern confirmed they had none. Mayor Moore disclosed that she had spoken with and emailed Ms. Troiano in April 2023.

Mayor Moore opened the Public Hearing.

Town Planner Allen presented Application No. 23-2790 for a variance along with a PowerPoint presentation depicting images of the property located at 4611 South Boulevard. At the January 31, 2024 Board of Adjustment and Appeals Regular meeting, the Board recommended approval of the variance (Application No. 23-2790), which passed unanimously 5 to 0.

Applicant and property owner Laura Troiano provided comments about Application No. 23-2790.

Mr. Timothy Ruotola provided comments.

Mayor Moore closed the Public Hearing.

MOTION: David/Goldberg - Moved to approve Application No. 23-2790. Upon Roll Call: Commissioner David (Yes), Commissioner Goldberg (Yes), Commissioner Peters (Yes), Vice Mayor Stern (Yes), and Mayor Moore (Yes). The motion passed unanimously on a 5 to 0 vote.

7. **ORDINANCES** (Public Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker per item after Commission initial discussion.)

A. None.

8. **CONSENT AGENDA** (These are items that the Commission typically does not need to discuss individually, and which are voted on as a group.) Public Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker per item after Commission initial discussion.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2024 Town Commission Meeting Minutes

- B. Approve and authorize the Town Staff to purchase Tools and Equipment for \$91,140.95 from NAFECO of Florida according to the Lake County Contract (Contract No. 22-730I) for the Fire Rescue Department.**

MOTION: David/Goldberg - Moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, which passed unanimously 5 to 0.

- 9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS** (Public Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker per item after Town Commission initial discussion.)

- A. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) RRR Project Update**

Town Manager Labadie announced that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will be hosting public meetings on March 07, 2024, to discuss the upcoming RRR project. The meetings will include a Virtual Public Meeting from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., for which residents can register to participate online. Following this, an in-person Construction Open House meeting will take place from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Highland Beach Library Community Room, located at 3618 S. Ocean Boulevard, Highland Beach, Florida 33487. FDOT plans to commence construction in April 2024 and expects to complete the project in the summer of 2025.

- B. Fire Rescue Implementation Update**

Fire Chief Glen Joseph provided updates regarding the interior construction of the Fire Rescue building, the parking lot area, three open firefighter positions, purchase of equipment and the fire rescue vehicles. Lastly, he confirmed that the fire rescue personnel will participate in the soft opening ceremony scheduled for April 19.

- C. Building Department Recertification Program Update**

Building Official Jeff Remas provided updates regarding the Building Recertification Program as follows: three buildings have successfully received their certification, 42 buildings are in progress, and the paperwork of four buildings was reviewed. Also, four buildings have not submitted their report, which was originally due last year.

- D. Continued discussion of Milani Park.**

Town Manager Labadie will contact each Town Commissioner to schedule one-on-one meetings this week. Beginning this week Mayor Moore will be meeting with the Palm Beach Board of County Commissioners to communicate the Town Commission views about the future use of the Milani Park property.

Mayor Moore will be meeting with County Commissioner Woodward tomorrow and are scheduled to meet with some of the other County Commissioners next week to communicate the Town Commission's position on this subject. She

talked about the February 6 Board of County Commission public meeting as it relates to the public turnout at the February 1st meeting and the number of residents who were in opposition of the Milani Park project. There was conversation about the 43 conditions outlined in the 2010 settlement agreement.

Town Manager Labadie explained the history behind the extensive 42 conditions outlined in the 2010 settlement agreement which was under mitigating circumstances that lead to a forced settlement agreement between the two parties. During that time, the town commission and the residents were not in favor of a park.

Mayor Moore opened the item for public comments.

Mr. Jack Halpern provided comments.

Mr. Timothy Ruotolo provided comments.

Mr. David Newman provided comments.

The Town Commission had a comprehensive discussion about the County's option to sell the property instead of developing the park. Town staff will inform the Town Commission and the residents when Palm Beach County Commission places this matter on their public meeting agenda.

Mr. Ron Reame provided comments.

E. 2023-2024 Strategic Priorities Plan Update and Review

Town Manager Labadie provided updates to the Strategic Priorities Plan highlighting the ranked projects and initiatives discussed at the February 06, 2024 Town Commission meeting. The New Projects and Initiatives category includes the Old Fire Station project, evaluate Ordinance Development Process and the Code Enforcement Board/Special Magistrate. The next steps are to list the projects in the appropriate sections/categories and rank them accordingly as they will become the 2024 Strategic Priorities List of Projects.

The Town Commission discussed the projects and initiatives. Their recommendations are as follows: eliminate Labor Negotiations; rank Fire Rescue Department Implementation as Strategic Priority (SP) 1; rank Milani Park as SP 2; update the Charter Review/Amendments; eliminate Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Contract; consolidate Marine Accessory Structures Ordinance Amendment and Seawall Ordinance Review projects; place Zoning District - SP 13 on hold as a low priority; Intracoastal Waterway - SP 20 add annual reporting; and eliminate Water Tower Lease. In addition, there were discussions about town staff preparing a resolution related to bottle caps for a future agenda item, painting the buildings such as the old fire station and town hall, and future plans to renovation town hall to include parking.

Town Manger Labadie will revise the Strategic Priorities Plan as suggested and will include a systematic process related to purge/enhance electronic records stored on the town drives. This will be incorporated under SP 13, Public Records Digitization/Management Project. Town Manager Labadie will present the updated 2024 Strategic Priorities Plan at a future Town Commission meeting.

Mayor Moore opened the item for public comments.

Mr. Timothy Ruotolo provided comments.

10. NEW BUSINESS (Public Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker per item after Town Commission initial discussion.)

A. *This item was moved immediately after Item 6, Public Comments.*

B. **Approve the recommendation of the Selection Committee and authorize Town Staff to initiate negotiations with the top five (5) ranked firms in accordance with RFQ No. 24-001 for Continuing Professional Consulting Services (CCNA).**

Mayor Moore read the title of Item 10.B.

Skender Comma, Management Analyst presented this item.

Mayor Moore opened the item for public comments. Hearing none, Mayor Moore closed the public comments.

MOTION: David/Goldberg - Moved to authorize negotiations with the top five (5) ranked firms for RFQ No. 24-001. Upon Roll Call: Commissioner David (Yes), Commissioner Goldberg (Yes), Commissioner Peters (Yes), Vice Mayor Stern (Yes), and Mayor Moore (Yes). The motion passed unanimously on a 5 to 0 vote.

C. **Authorization to make a Best Interest Acquisition for Fire Station #116 Furnishings.**

Mayor Moore read the title of Item 10.C. followed by Town Manager Labadie presented the item.

MOTION: David/Goldberg – Moved to authorize the best interest acquisition for Fire Station No. 116, which passed unanimously 5 to 0.

D. Review FY 2025 Budget Calendar

There were discussions about the 2025 fiscal year budget calendar of events followed by a motion.

MOTION: David/Moore – Moved to accept Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Calendar with the amendment to move the regularly scheduled July 16, 2024 meeting to July 23, 2024. The motion passed unanimously 5 to 0.

11. TOWN COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Judith M. Goldberg commented on continuing the pressure and discussions regarding Milani Park.

Commissioner Donald Peters wished Mayor Moore good luck and he is looking forward to the April 19 ribbon cutting event at the new Fire Rescue Station.

Commissioner Evalyn David is looking forward to hearing the comments from Palm Beach County Commissioners regarding the Milani Park project.

Vice Mayor David Stern spoke about a BCA meeting that he attended today as it relates to Milani Park.

Mayor Natasha Moore had no comments.

12. TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Town Attorney Rubin had nothing to report.

13. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Labadie briefly spoke about the things the town is doing concerning Milani Park.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Moore read the announcements as follows:

Board Vacancies

Board of Adjustment and Appeals Board One (1) vacancy for an unexpired term ending September 21, 2024

Mayor Moore read the announcements as follows:

Meetings and Events

March 05, 2024 1:30 P.M. Town Commission Meeting

Board Action Report

None.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:28 P.M.

APPROVED: April 02, 2024, Town Commission Meeting.

ATTEST:

Natasha Moore, Mayor

Transcribed by
Lanelda Gaskins

04/02/2024

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 events 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/>.