



Town Council Meeting
July 08, 2024, at 6:00 PM
Howey-in-the-Hills Town Hall
101 N. Palm Ave.,
Howey-in-the-Hills, FL 34737

MINUTES

Mayor MacFarlane called the Town Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor MacFarlane led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilor Reneé Lannamañ delivered an invocation.

ROLL CALL

Acknowledgement of Quorum

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councilor Reneé Lannamañ | Councilor David Miles | Councilor George Lehning | Mayor Pro Tem Marie V. Gallelli | Mayor Martha MacFarlane

STAFF PRESENT:

Sean O’Keefe, Town Manager | Tom Wilkes, Town Attorney | Rick Thomas, Police Chief | John Brock, Deputy Town Manager / Town Clerk

AGENDA APPROVAL/REVIEW

Motion made by Councilor Lannamañ to approve the meeting’s agenda, while removing item #3 (Whispering Heights Final Subdivision Plan) from the meeting’s agenda; seconded by Councilor Miles. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Voting

Yea: Councilor Lannamañ, Councilor Miles, Councilor Lehning, Mayor Pro Tem Gallelli, Mayor MacFarlane

Nay: None

CONSENT AGENDA

Routine items are placed on the Consent Agenda to expedite the meeting. If Town Council/Staff wish to discuss any item, the procedure is as follows: (1) Pull the item(s) from the Consent Agenda; (2) Vote on the remaining item(s); and (3) Discuss each pulled item and vote.

1. The approval of the minutes and ratification and confirmation of all Town Council actions at the May 13, 2024 Town Council Meeting.

Motion made by Councilor Lannamañ to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Councilor Lehning. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Voting

Yea: Councilor Lannamañ, Councilor Miles, Councilor Lehning, Mayor Pro Tem Gallelli, Mayor MacFarlane

Nay: None

PUBLIC HEARING

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

2. Consideration and Approval: **Municipal Election Proclamation**

Mayor MacFarlane read the Municipal Election Proclamation out loud.

Motion made by Councilor Lannamañ to approve of the Proclamation; seconded by Councilor Lehning. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Voting

Yea: Councilor Lannamañ, Councilor Miles, Councilor Lehning, Mayor Pro Tem Gallelli, Mayor MacFarlane

Nay: None

3. Consideration and Approval: **Whispering Heights Final Subdivision Plan**

This item was removed from the meeting's agenda during the Agenda Approval section of the meeting.

4. Consideration and Approval: **Selection of TRIM Meeting Dates**

Town Manager, Sean O'Keefe, recommended dates for the Millage and Budget Tentative and Final Hearings. There was a consensus from the Town Council that the Tentative Public Hearing should be scheduled for September 4th at 5:05 pm. and the Final Public Hearing should be scheduled for September 23rd at 5:05 pm.

5. Consideration and Approval: **FY2025 School Resource Officer (SRO) Contract Approval**

Police Chief, Rick Thomas, reviewed the FY2025 SRO contract with the Town Council.

Councilor Lehning was concerned that SRO contract did not fully pay for the SRO officers, and he did not think that the Town was in a position to be subsidizing the costs for the Lake County School Board.

Mayor MacFarlane opened Public Comment for this item only.

Peter Tuite, 300 E Croton Way – Mr. Tuite was concerned about the liability of hiring the SROs and he wanted to know what the School Board gets paid by the State to hire the SROs.

Tim Everline, 1012 N Lakeshore Blvd. – Mr. Everline had questions about the SRO contract and its timing.

Mayor MacFarlane closed Public Comment for this item.

Motion made by Councilor Miles to approve the FY2025 SRO Contract; seconded by Mayor MacFarlane. Motion approved by roll call vote.

Voting

Yea: Councilor Lannamañ, Councilor Miles, Mayor Pro Tem Gallelli, Mayor MacFarlane

Nay: Councilor Lehning

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

6. Town Hall

This report was included in the meeting's packet.

7. Police Department

Police Chief, Rick Thomas, spoke about the two new police vehicles that were being purchased with grant funds.

Councilor Miles wanted to know why the two Police vehicles would be purchased in Georgia. Police Chief Thomas stated that this was where he could find the vehicles in stock and at the best price.

Motion made by Councilor Miles to approve the PD vehicle purchase; seconded by Mayor MacFarlane. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Voting

Yea: Councilor Lannamañ, Councilor Miles, Councilor Lehning, Mayor Pro Tem Gallelli, Mayor MacFarlane

Nay: None

8. Code Enforcement

This report was included in the meeting's packet.

9. Public Works

This report was included in the meeting's packet.

10. Library

This report was included in the meeting's packet.

11. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board / Special Events

None

12. Town Attorney

None

13. Finance Supervisor

This report was included in the meeting's packet.

14. Town Manager

Town Manager, Sean O'Keefe, gave an update on the Water Treatment Plant #3's design and construction. Councilor Miles asked what alternative items would have to be utilized in the design. Mr.

O’Keefe stated that this was still yet to be determined and was based off of the water quality tests being conducted on the two new wells.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

15. Mayor Pro Tem Gallelli

Mayor Pro Tem Gallelli asked about the next steps with the agreement discussion with the Central Lake CDD. Mr. O’Keefe stated that he would be having separate conversations with all Town Councilors individually to discuss the proposed agreement.

16. Councilor Lehning

Councilor Lehning asked about the status of the proposed library expansion. Mr. O’Keefe stated that the County Library Board would have to review any submission from the Town next spring.

17. Councilor Miles

Councilor Miles asked when the Citrus Ave project would begin construction. Mr. O’Keefe stated that he would get a possible timetable for the project to start and end from Paquette.

Councilor Miles asked about the status of the FDEM grant application for the backup generator/pump for the Venezia lift stations. Mr. O’Keefe stated that the Town was still waiting for a decision from FDEM.

Councilor Miles stated that he believed that the Town should take over the Talichet Lift Station.

18. Councilor Lannamañ

Councilor Lannamañ asked about where the Town is with procuring a loan to fund the Sara Maude Mason Nature Preserve Boardwalk Project. Mr. O’Keefe stated that this item would be coming before the Town Council during the next meeting.

19. Mayor MacFarlane

Mayor MacFarlane asked about the status of the Pine Park sign. Mr. O’Keefe stated that the Town would be posting a “coming soon” sign for the park within the week.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any person wishing to address the Mayor and Town Council and who is not on the agenda is asked to speak their name and address. Three (3) minutes is allocated per speaker.

Tim Everline, 1012 N Lakeshore Blvd. – Mr. Everline stated that he thought that the Public Works Director, Morgan Cates, should be in attendance at all Town Council meetings. Mr. Everline stated that he would like the Town to look into procuring a fogging machine so that the Town could fog for midges.

Andi Everline, 1012 N Lakeshore Blvd. – Mrs. Everline stated that she believes that all the survey stakes were removed at a retention pond.

Alan Hayes, 111 Island Dr. – Mr. Hayes wanted to know when the public would find out the results of the Town Council’s shade meeting. Town Attorney, Tom Wilkes, stated that the transcript from the shade meeting would only be released after litigation had concluded.

Peter Tuite, 300 E Croton Way – Mr. Tuite stated that he wanted a more comprehensive Water Quality Report than what the Town had released.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Councilor Lannamañ to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Miles seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. | **Attendees: 24**

Mayor Martha MacFarlane

ATTEST:

John Brock, Town Clerk