



Town Council Special Meeting

August 05, 2024 at 10:30 AM
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 10:30 a.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 (via Zoom) | Morgan Cates, Public Works Director | John Brock, Town Clerk

AGENDA APPROVAL/REVIEW

Motion made by Councilor Lehning to approve the meeting’s agenda; seconded by Councilor Lannamañ. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Voting

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

Nay: None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration and Approval: **Resolution 2024-004 - State Revolving Fund Wastewater Application**

Town Manager, Sean O’Keefe, read Resolution 2024-004 out loud. Mr. O’Keefe explained that this loan application was for a wastewater grant that the Town had submitted earlier in the year. The Town had been awarded a grant/loan forgiveness for \$3.185 million by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). The method by which the Town was awarded the grant was for the Town to take a State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan and FDEP would grant 100% principal forgiveness on the repayment of the SRF loan.

Councilor Miles and Councilor Lannamañ both asked about where it said that the Town would be granted 100% principal forgiveness

Justin deMello, with Woodard and Curran, explained to the Council that this was standard procedure with FDEP and that within 6 to 8 weeks after the Town passed the resolution, FDEP would send a loan agreement to the Town which would clearly state the principal forgiveness conditions.

Town Attorney, Tom Wilkes, stated that he had seen sample FDEP agreements and that, during a February 14, 2024, FDEP meeting, the Town was placed on a priority list showing the \$3.185 million dollar loan with 100% principal forgiveness.

Councilor Miles stated that he was concerned about a potential conflict of interest in the Town using Woodard and Curran to complete the Clean Water Study (wastewater study), since they are contracted by the City of Groveland to operate the City of Groveland's wastewater plants.

Motion made by Councilor Lannamañ to approve Resolution 2024-004; seconded by Councilor Lehning. Motion approved unanimously by roll-call vote.

Voting

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

Nay: None

Councilor Miles asked where the Town stood with the renegotiations with the Central Lake CDD. Mr. Wilkes stated that he would have something to bring before the Council at the August 26, 2024 Town Council Meeting

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.

Rick Thomas, Town Police Chief – Chief Thomas introduced the Town's new Police Lieutenant, Michael Giddens to the Town Council.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m. | **Attendees: 11**

Mayor Martha MacFarlane

ATTEST:

John Brock, Town Clerk