

TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES

155 F Road Loxahatchee Groves, FL 33470



AGENDA MEMO

TO: TOWN COUNCIL

FROM: FRANCINE L. RAMAGLIA, CPA, AICP, ICMA-CM, TOWN MANAGER

DATE: SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. 2024-82 – AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO DECLARE A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES

Background:

The Town of Loxahatchee Groves faces periodic threats from various emergencies, including natural disasters, pandemics, and other unforeseen events that endanger the health, safety, and welfare of residents, businesses, and visitors. Swift decision-making is essential during such emergencies to mitigate potential harm and safeguard the community.

Section 252.38 of the Florida Statutes outlines the responsibility of local governing bodies to protect life and property. Recognizing the need for immediate action, it can be impractical to convene the Town Council during urgent situations. Therefore, the proposed resolution aims to delegate authority to the Town Manager to declare a local state of emergency. This delegation allows for timely responses and ensures the Town can continue its operations effectively during emergencies.

The proposed resolution provides the Town Manager with the authority to declare a local state of emergency for an initial seven-day period, which can be extended as needed. It also grants the Town Manager the power to implement necessary measures to protect the Town's operations, residents, businesses, and visitors.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Town Council approve this resolution, which will:

1. **Authorize the Town Manager** to declare a local state of emergency when necessary and extend it in seven-day increments until the emergency is resolved or the Town Council votes to terminate it.
2. **Empower the Town Manager** to take all necessary and lawful measures to manage Town operations, ensure public safety, and mitigate the impacts of emergencies during the declared period.
3. **Maintain Council Oversight**, allowing the Council to rescind the local state of emergency at any time by a majority vote or limit the Town Manager's authority during specific emergency situations.

Approving this resolution ensures that the Town of Loxahatchee Groves can respond efficiently to urgent situations and fulfill its statutory obligations under Florida law.