

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-03

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA ADOPTING CHAPTER 2 “ADMINISTRATION”, ARTICLE VII “TOWN ADVISORY BOARDS” TO PROVIDE FOR APPLICABILITY, COMPOSITION, QUORUM, ELIGIBILITY, QUALIFICATIONS, APPOINTMENT, TERMS, REMOVAL, VACANCIES, OFFICERS, COMPENSATION, AND PROCEDURES REGARDING TOWN ADVISORY BOARDS; REORGANIZATION AND REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 34 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH NEW TOWN ADVISORY BOARD ARTICLE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves wishes to adopt an ordinance to address its advisory boards, including but not limited to their composition, qualifications, appointment, terms, removal, and vacancies; and,

WHEREAS, the Town wishes to ensure that all Town advisory boards comply with the new ordinance and that advisory board provisions throughout the Town’s Code of Ordinances and Unified Land Development Regulations are consistent with the same; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds it is in the best interest of the Town to adopt this Ordinance and that said Ordinance serves a public purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA:

Section 1: That the foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Ordinance.

Section 2. The Town Council for the Town of Loxahatchee Groves hereby adopts Chapter 2 “Administration”, Article VII “Town Advisory Boards” as follows:

ARTICLE VII. – TOWN ADVISORY BOARDS

Sec. 2-180. - Applicability.

(a) Unless otherwise provided for in this Code, all town advisory boards, committees and commissions (collectively, hereinafter “advisory board” or “board”) shall comply with the provisions set forth in this Article. To the extent permitted by law, this Article shall also apply to the planning and zoning board.

(b) All meetings, records, and files of advisory boards shall be open and available to the public, as required by Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, Chapter 286, Florida Statutes, and any other applicable law.

(c) Pursuant to section 120-005 of the town’s Unified Land Development Code, Article 120 “Quasi-Judicial Hearings” shall apply to all town advisory boards which hold quasi-judicial hearings.

(d) All advisory board members shall be subject to applicable sections of Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, Palm Beach County Code of Ethics, and Town of Loxahatchee Groves Code of Ethics for Public Officers set forth in Chapter 2 “Administration,” Article III “Officers and Employees,” Division 2 “Code of Ethics.”

Sec. 2-181. - Composition; quorum.

(a) Town advisory boards shall be comprised of five members. All members shall be appointed in accordance with the procedures set forth in section 2-183.

(b) Three members in attendance at a meeting shall constitute a quorum of the advisory board, and official action shall be taken by the board by a majority vote of the members present.

(c) In its discretion, the town council may provide, by resolution or ordinance, that a particular advisory board will be composed of fewer than five members. A quorum for such a board shall be equal to the majority of the members of the board.

Sec. 2-182. - Eligibility and qualifications of town advisory board members.

Unless otherwise provided for in this Code or the Florida Statutes, as may be amended from time to time, all members of the advisory boards shall be residents and registered voters of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves. The town council may, by resolution or ordinance, adopt qualifications specific to the particular board. The town council shall be the sole judge of the qualifications of its advisory board members and may delegate to staff the verification of each proposed appointee’s qualifications.

Sec. 2-183. - Appointment process.

Each member of the town council shall nominate a qualified individual to each advisory board, and staff shall prepare a resolution to appoint all such nominees as required by Section 4, subsection (7) of the charter.

Sec. 2-184. - Terms of appointees; removal; vacancy.

(a) Each member appointed to an advisory board shall serve an unspecified term but no longer than concurrent with the term of the appointing member of the town council.

(b) Advisory board members shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing member of town council and the town council. Advisory board members may be removed without cause by the appointing member of town council. Advisory board members may also be removed with cause by a majority vote of the members of the town council present at any publicly noticed meeting for inefficiency, neglect of duty or misconduct in office only after a hearing before town council and only if the advisory board member has been given a copy of the charges at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing and has had an opportunity to be heard in person or by counsel. Staff will notify applicable town council members regarding their respective appointee's absence from any advisory board meetings.

(c) An advisory board member will automatically forfeit his or her position: (i) if convicted of a felony while a member of the board; (ii) if he or she has three consecutive absences; or (iii) he or she is no longer a resident of the town.

(d) In the event of a vacancy on an advisory board, the member of town council whose appointment is vacant shall appoint a replacement for the unexpired term in the same manner as provided in section 2-183.

Sec. 2-185. - Officers.

Each advisory board shall have a chairperson and vice-chairperson and such other officers as the board shall deem necessary. Unless otherwise provided for herein, officers of the board shall be elected by a majority vote of the membership of the board at its first meeting after the members' initial appointments, and annually thereafter. A member of the board may be elected to serve as an officer without restriction as to the number of terms served.

Sec. 2-186. - Compensation.

Advisory board members shall serve without compensation. If authorized by the town council, reasonable expenses which are incurred in the performance of their duties may be reimbursed to the members. The payment of such expenses shall be in accordance with Chapter 112, Florida Statutes and any applicable town policy.

Section 2-187. - Procedures; meetings; agendas; decisions; staff; attorney.

(a) Each board shall conduct its business in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order and any applicable rules of procedure adopted by resolution of the town council. The actions, decisions, and recommendations of each board shall be advisory only.

(b) Each board shall meet on an as-needed basis, as determined by the town council or the town manager.

(c) Each board shall have an official agenda for its regular meetings which shall determine the matters of business to be considered at each meeting and the order in which such items shall be presented. Preparation of the agenda shall be the responsibility of the town manager.

(d) Decisions of the board shall be determined by motions duly made and seconded and carried by a majority vote of the members present. Minutes shall be kept of all meetings and proceedings and shall include and state the vote of each member on each question. The motion shall state the reason upon which it is made, and such reason shall be based upon the prescribed guides and standards applicable to the subject matter and/or the particular advisory board. Copies of the agenda, together with copies of documents and papers relative thereto, shall be made available for review by board members in the town hall as far in advance of the meeting as time for preparation will permit.

(e) The town council or the town manager shall determine on a case-by-case basis whether a board requires the services of a secretary to perform such tasks as recording the meeting, taking minutes, and preparing the agenda. Otherwise, the board will select one of its members to perform such duties.

(f) The town attorney will provide legal representation to an advisory board at the request of the town manager.

Section 2-188. - Advisory board resolutions, ordinances.

Resolutions regarding advisory boards that remain in effect as of the date of the adoption of this ordinance shall remain valid but only as to those provisions not in conflict with this article. The town council may adopt resolutions or ordinances from time to time to address specific qualifications, duties, or other desired provisions for individual town advisory boards as long as such resolutions do not conflict with this article.

Section 3. The Town Council for the Town of Loxahatchee Groves hereby reorganizes, and amends Chapter 34 “Planning and Development” as follows:

Chapter 34 – PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ARTICLE I. – IN GENERAL

Sec. 34-1. – ~~Reserved. Designation of the planning and zoning board the as local planning agency and the town council as the land development regulation commission.~~

~~(a) — The Town Council of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves hereby designates the planning and zoning board as the local planning agency for the Town of Loxahatchee Groves pursuant to F.S. § 163.3174(1). A nonvoting representative of the School District of Palm Beach County shall also be included in the town's land planning agency for the purpose of reviewing applications that would increase the residential density of the subject property pursuant to F.S. § 163.3174(1).~~

~~(b) — The town council will continue to serve as the land development regulation commission, as defined in F.S. § 163.3164, for the town.~~

~~(c) — The planning and zoning board shall have the authority to hear and make recommendations on rezoning applications.~~

~~(d) — The planning and zoning board shall have the authority to hear and make recommendations on Unified Land Development Code amendments but, as of the effective date of this ordinance, only upon referral of such proposed amendments by the town council.~~

* * *

ARTICLE II. – LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY; LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATION COMMISSION; AND PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD

Sec. 34-25. – Designations and general authority.

~~(a) — As of October 13, 2019, the Town Council of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves designated the planning and zoning board as the local planning agency for the Town of Loxahatchee Groves pursuant to F.S. § 163.3174(1). A nonvoting representative of the School District of Palm Beach County shall also be included in the town's local planning agency for the purpose of reviewing applications that would increase the residential density of the subject property pursuant to F.S. § 163.3174(1). Failure of the School District to make such appointment after notice from the Town and/or the failure of the appointed School District representative to~~

attend agency meetings shall not be deemed a failure of the Town to comply with this requirement nor shall it delay the agency's authority to take official action. Pursuant to F.S. § 163.3174(1), the Town will provide opportunities for involvement by applicable community college boards by inviting each board to send a representative to attend agency meetings and make comments on appropriate items.

(b) The town council will continue to serve as the land development regulation commission, as defined in F.S. § 163.3164.

~~Sec. 34-25. Composition and term of office.~~

- ~~(a) — The planning and zoning board shall be composed of five members, and two alternate members placed in office in accordance with the following procedure:~~
- ~~(1) Each member of the town council shall nominate a qualified person for appointment to the planning and zoning board by the town council, to serve one-year terms.~~
 - ~~(2) Two alternate members, designated as Alternate No. 1 and Alternate No. 2, shall be appointed by the town council each year to serve one year terms. Alternate members may participate in all matters that come before the board at meetings at which they attend. However, alternate members may only vote as members of the board, in their designated order, whenever any regular member of the board is absent.~~
- ~~(b) — Members of the planning and zoning board shall be appointed from the residents of the town who shall be knowledgeable concerning the functions of municipal government, planning and zoning matters and municipal development, as well as, from professions associated with development, including, without limitation, architects, planners, attorneys, engineers, and contractors, however, the town council may appoint one member, including alternates, who is a non-resident landowner. Board members shall hold no other town office or position.~~
- ~~(c) — Three members of the planning and zoning board who are in attendance shall constitute a quorum for purposes of convening a meeting and transacting the business at hand.~~
- ~~(d) — Vacancies on the planning and zoning board shall be filled by appointment by the town council for the unexpired term of the membership vacated. Nomination for~~

~~such appointment shall be made by the council member who nominated the vacating board member; except that if an alternate member should vacate his position, any member of the town council may nominate a qualified person for appointment to such position, which must be approved by the town council.~~

~~(e) — The town council shall have the authority to remove any member of the planning and zoning board from his office for cause whenever, after due notice of hearing at a regular or special meeting of the town council, a majority of the council votes for such removal. Causes for removal shall include absence from two consecutive board meetings without valid excuse as determined by the planning and zoning board.~~

~~(f) — Compensation. The members of the planning board shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for any expenses authorized by the town council, which may be incurred in the performance of their duties.~~

~~(g) — Organizational meeting. The initial organizational meeting of the board shall occur at the first meeting of the board following the appointment of board members by the town council. Thereafter, the board meeting in May of each year shall be designated an organizational meeting for the purpose of electing a chairman and vice chair, who shall be elected for terms of one year by the board from its membership.~~

Sec. 34-26. — Provisions particular to the planning and zoning board. Business meetings and procedures.

(a) ~~The conduct of planning and zoning board business and holding of hearings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order and such other rules of procedure as the town council may determine to be necessary. Qualifications. Members of the planning and zoning board shall be knowledgeable concerning the functions of municipal government, planning and zoning matters and municipal development, as well as have professions associated with development, including, without limitation, architects, planners, attorneys, engineers, and contractors. Board members shall hold no other town office or position; however, this does not preclude the board member from participating on another Town advisory board.~~

(b) Meetings. The board shall meet once each month for the transaction of its business, provided that a meeting may be cancelled by the town manager when no business is pending.

Special meetings may be called by the town manager when, in the opinion of the town manager, there are conditions of such urgency as to justify a special meeting, provided that at least 48 hours' notice shall be given each member prior to the time set for such special meeting and that any statutory or town code notice timeframes are met. The board may schedule additional meetings as it deems necessary to conduct its business, training and other related matters.

(c) Staff. The town's planner shall advise and assist the board in all of its presentations, hearings, and deliberations on matters pertinent and relative thereto. The board, through its chairman, may call upon any department, agency, or officer of the town for information or advice in the promotion of its work.

Sec. 34-27. - Administrative assistance.

~~(a) The town manager shall provide such staff and clerical assistance as the planning and zoning board may require for the reasonable performance of its duties, including a recording secretary. The town's planner shall advise and assist the board in all of its presentations, hearings, and deliberations on matters pertinent and relative thereto.~~

~~(b) The board, through its chairman, may call upon any department, agency, or officer of the town for information or advice in the promotion of its work.~~

~~(c) The town attorney shall provide legal representation to the board at the request of the town manager.~~

Sec. 34-278. - Powers and duties.

(a) The planning and zoning board shall hear and make recommendations to the town council as to findings of fact on applications for:

- (1) Rezoning applicants.
- (2) Zoning ordinance amendments.
- (3) Site plans.
- (4) Conditional uses.
- (5) Special exceptions permitted within each zoning district.
- (6) Variances.
- (7) Administrative appeals.
- (8) Special permits and nonconforming uses.

- (9) Any other planning or zoning related matter referred to it by the town council.
- (b) After hearing any of the above applications, the board may recommend appropriate conditions, restrictions, limitations and safeguards it deems necessary, consistent with applicable law.
- (c) The planning and zoning board shall have the authority to hear and make recommendations on Unified Land Development Code amendments but, as of October 13, 2019, only upon referral of such proposed amendments by the town council.
- ~~(e)~~(d) The board shall perform such other duties and special assignments as may be directed by the town council.

Sec. 34-29. - Planning and zoning board advisory only.

The actions, decisions and recommendations of the planning and zoning board shall not be final or binding on the town council but shall be advisory only.

Section 4: Conflicts. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances, Resolutions or parts of Resolutions in conflict herewith, be and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 5: Severability. If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Ordinance is for any reason held by the Court to be unconstitutional, inoperative, or void, such holding shall not affect the remainder of this Ordinance.

Section 6: Codification. It is the intention of the Town Council of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves, Florida, and that the Sections of this ordinance may be re-numbered, re-lettered, and the word "Ordinance" may be changed to "Section", "Article" or such other word or phrase in order to accomplish such intention.

Section 7: Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Councilmember _____ offered the foregoing ordinance on first reading.

Councilmember _____ seconded the motion, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>
_____, MAYOR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____, VICE MAYOR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

_____	, COUNCILMEMBER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	, COUNCILMEMBER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	, COUNCILMEMBER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, ON FIRST READING, THIS ___ DAY OF _____ 2024.

Councilmember _____ offered the foregoing ordinance on second reading.

Councilmember _____ seconded the motion, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>	
_____	, MAYOR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	, VICE MAYOR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	, COUNCILMEMBER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	, COUNCILMEMBER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	, COUNCILMEMBER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, ON SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING, THIS ___ DAY OF _____ 2024.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES,
FLORIDA**

ATTEST: _____
Mayor

Town Clerk

Vice Mayor

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM: _____
Councilmember

Office of the Town Attorney

Councilmember

Councilmember