



**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES  
TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES OF FINAL BUDGET HEARING AND REGULAR  
MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2022**

*Meeting audio available in Town Clerk's Office*

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Shorr called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Shorr led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mayor Shorr led a prayer.

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Robert Shorr, Vice Mayor Laura Danowski, Councilmembers Margaret Herzog, Phillis Maniglia (absent) and Marianne Miles, Town Manager Francine L. Ramaglia, Town Attorney Elizabeth Lenihan, Public Works Director Larry Peters, and Town Clerk Lakisha Burch.

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/MODIFICATIONS OF AGENDA**

**Motion was made by Vice Mayor Danowski seconded by Councilmember Miles to approve the agenda as is it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Shorr, Vice Mayor Danowski, Councilmembers Herzog and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.**

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:**

There were no public comments.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes.
  - a. May 5, 2020, Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Consideration of **Resolution No. 2022-60** accepting of easements.
3. Consideration of **Resolution No. 2022-65** amending the 4<sup>th</sup> addendum to the Coastal Recycling and Waste Contract.

Councilmember Miles asked if item # 4 (Consideration of **Resolution No. 2022-66** appointing Tracy Rflowitz and Cassie Suchy to the Finance Audit and Advisory Committee (FAAC) could be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

**Motion was made by Councilmember Miles seconded by Vice Mayor Danowski to approve the Consent Agenda items 1, 2 and 3; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Shorr, Vice Mayor Danowski, Councilmembers Herzog and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.**

4. Consideration of **Resolution No. 2022-66** appointing Tracy Raflowitz and Cassie Suchy to the Finance Audit and Advisory Committee (FAAC). **PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Shorr stated that this is the Finance Committee and the members that are currently on the committee he is aware of their financial background, he asked Vice Mayor Danowski and Councilmember Herzog what is the financial qualification of your appointees and asked Vice Mayor Danowski would she like to go first. Vice Mayor Danowski stated that Ms. Raflowitz is married to Brett Raflowitz. They both own and operate Equestrian Service International (ESI) and they have multiple accounts all over the country. Tracy is the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) is does accounts payable, accounts receivable, she is the collector of receipts, she has to deal with outside vendors with permitting, flood plans, EPA, municipalities, and their regulations, with trucking and any kind of regulations and regulatory efforts that comes with that, the projects that they work on are multiple millions of dollars projects with equestrian footings and have been doing this for about 15 years that she can vouch for, she continued to state that they are survivors of persecutory code from two management companies ago here in Town, so they are pretty savvy with code and knowing how to work within the law and survived two IRS tax audits, so she feels that they are more than qualified to be helpful to this Town in a financial capacity. Councilmember Herzog stated that Cassie is a PBSO officer, she has worked in our Town and is currently working in North County. Councilmember Herzog continued by stating that she has had equestrian involvement for many years, she was involved in charge of the barrel racing when it was at Belvedere and State Road 7 and manly run by those who participated, they had officers and so forth, Cassie and her mother and the whole family has been involved for years and years and feels that she is more than qualified.

Mayor Shorr asked could two motions be made.

**Motion was made by Councilmember Miles seconded by Mayor Shorr to modify Resolution No. 2022-66 to appoint Tracy Raflowitz to the Finance Audit and Advisory Committee (FAAC); it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Shorr, Vice Mayor Danowski, and Councilmember Miles. Nay: Councilmember Herzog. Motion passed 3-1.**

**Motion was made by Councilmember Herzog seconded by Vice Mayor Danowski to appoint Cassie Suchy to the Finance Audit and Advisory Committee (FAAC) as part as Resolution No. 2022-66; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Vice Mayor Danowski and Councilmember Herzog. Nays: Mayor Shorr and Councilmember Miles. Motion failed 2-2.**

#### REGULAR AGENDA

5. Consideration of **Contracts**.
  - a. Consideration of **Resolution No. 2022-55** for Land Research Management, Inc. (Jim Fleishmann) for Planning Consulting.

Town Attorney Lenihan presented the item to Town Council regarding an agreement for professional services with Land Research Management, Inc. for planning and zoning and related services, The term of the proposed agreement is for three (3) years, commencing October 1,

2022, with the option of two (2) additional one (1) year terms. She also stated that the contract is very similar to the contract that the Town currently have with this vendor, for services the services provided for things that are directed by Town Council for code revisions, reviewing code changes and things like that also the comprehensive plan air-based amendments and maybe other comprehensive amendments plans that come forward and things that come forward by landowners that come forward through cost recovery. There are set fee items that the planner does like planning confirmation letters, and certain permit reviews and the planner also offers on call services where staff and property owners can call and be asked random questions.

Councilmember Herzog asked are we going to bring in extra help for him and how we are handling that discussion. Town Attorney Lenihan responded to her question. There was discussion among the Town Council and Town Staff.

**Motion was made by Vice Mayor Danowski seconded by Councilmember Miles to approve Resolution 2022-55 related to the Agreement with Land Research Management, Inc. it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Shorr, Vice Mayor Danowski, Councilmembers Herzog, and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.**

- b. Consideration of *Resolution No. 2022- 56* for Keshavarz & Associates for Engineering Services.

Town Attorney Lenihan presented the item to Town Council relating to an Extension of the Agreement with Keshavarz & Associates, Inc. for Professional Engineering Services. The term of the proposed Extension is through December 31, 2022, to provide the Town with a continuity of services as it proceeds through the competitive procurement process for such services. There was discussion among the Town Council and Town Staff.

**Motion was made by Vice Mayor Danowski seconded by Councilmember Miles to approve Resolution No. 2022-56 for Keshavarz & Associates for Engineering Services extension through December 31, 2022; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Shorr, Vice Mayor Danowski, Councilmembers Herzog and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.**

- c. Consideration of *Resolution No. 2022-57* for Davis-Ashton (Mitty Bernard) for Special Magistrate Services.

Town Attorney Lenihan presented the item to Town Council relating to an Agreement with Davis & Associates, P.A. for special magistrate services. The term of the proposed Agreement is for three (3) years, with the option for two (2) additional one (1) year terms. The Agreement will commence on the date approved by Town Council.

**Motion was made by Vice Mayor Danowski seconded by Councilmember Herzog to approve Resolution No. 2022-57 for Davis-Ashton (Mitty Bernard) for special magistrate services; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Shorr, Vice Mayor Danowski, Councilmembers Herzog and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **FINAL BUDGET AND PUBLIC HEARING**

- 6. Pursuant to F.S. 200.065(2)(d) & (e), the following announcement must be made:

“The Town of Loxahatchee Groves, Florida’s rolled back rate is 2.6694 The percentage increase in property taxes for Fiscal Year 2022/2023 is 12.38% and the Town’s millage rate to be adopted is 3.0000 mills”.

Town Manager Ramaglia presented the item to the Town Council she also announced the following “The Town of Loxahatchee Groves, Florida’s rolled back rate is 2.6694 The percentage increase in property taxes for Fiscal Year 2022/2023 is 12.38% and the Town’s millage rate to be adopted is 3.0000 mills”. She also gave the Town Council updates on other Town business.

- a. Approval of **Resolution No. 2022-63** adopting the final 2022-2023 millage rate.

**Motion was made by Vice Mayor Danowski seconded by Councilmember Herzog to approve Resolution No. 2022-63 adopting the final 2022-2023 millage rate; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Shorr, Vice Mayor Danowski, Councilmembers Herzog and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.**

- b. Approval of **Resolution No. 2022-64** adopting the final 2022-2023 operating budget.

**Motion was made by Vice Mayor Danowski seconded by Councilmember Miles to approve Resolution No. 2022-64 adopting the final 2022-2023 operating budget; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Shorr, Vice Mayor Danowski, Councilmembers Herzog and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **TOWN STAFF COMMENTS**

#### **Town Manager**

- Thanked the Town Council and for a great meeting.

#### **Town Attorney**

- Gave an update on the Briar/Smiley and Underwood case.

#### **Public Works Director**

- Thank HR for the several applicants that we have received for the available openings in Public Works.

#### **Town Clerk**

No Comment.

### **TOWN COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

#### **Margaret Herzog (Seat 5)**

- Asked are we going to hear from PBSO or Fire Department.
  - Lt. Robert DeMarco from the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office Districts 1517 and 18 gave a brief update on monthly stats and there was discussion among the Town Council and Lt. DeMarco.
  - District Chief William Rowley from Palm Beach County Fire Rescue District 28 gave a brief update.

**There was consensus from the Town Council to put information given by District Chief Rowley on the website.**

#### **Phillis Maniglia (Seat 1)**

**Marianne Miles (Seat 3)**

- Stated that it is great we are accomplishing a lot of things.
- Stated that we are still in hurricane season, so please stay safe and happy.

**Vice Mayor Laura Danowski (Seat 2)**

- Asked about the number of people who have signed up for CodeRed and encouraged people to sign up for CodeRed.
- Spoke about the Flood Management Program.

**Mayor Robert Shorr (Seat 4)**

- Spoke about Invitation for Bid “IFB” for paving and giving staff a deadline for getting the bid out. Town Attorney Lenihan responded. The Town Council asked for it to be on the street by October 7, 2022.
- Thank you all regarding the budget.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES,  
FLORIDA**

ATTEST:

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Lakisha Burch, Town Clerk

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Mayor Robert Shorr

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Vice Mayor Laura Danowski

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Councilmember Margaret Herzog

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Councilmember Marianne Miles

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Councilmember Phillis Maniglia