



**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES
TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY OPEN DISCUSSION WORKSHOP
MEETING MINUTES
TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 155 F. Road, Loxahatchee Groves, FL 33470
Tuesday, September 3, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Kane called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Anita Kane, Vice Mayor Margaret Herzog, Councilmember Laura Danowski, Councilmember Phillis Maniglia, Councilmember Robert Shorr, Town Manager Francine Ramaglia, Town Attorney Glen Torcivia, Public Works Director Richard Gallant, Public Works Superintendent Craig Lower, Project Coordinator Jeff Kurtz, Town's Planning Consultant Kaitlyn Forbes (of Complete Cities), Town's Financial Consultant Chris Wallace (of Munilytics) and Town Clerk Valerie Oakes were present.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Rachelle Litt mentioned she was the former Mayor of the City of Palm Beach Gardens, a pharmacist for 45 years and the current candidate for State House District 94 which includes Loxahatchee Groves. She wanted to introduce herself and to thank Council for the work they do representing the City. Ms. Litt mentioned her understanding of home rule and her fight in Tallahassee for the residents through the electoral process so they can choose their representatives and the type of City they would like to live in. She expressed she is the current Vice Chair for the County's Water Task Force and that she serves on the Steering Committee for the Housing Coalition of Palm Beach County. She stated she is wanting to bring down the price of insurance and increase access to affordable healthcare. Mayor Kane thanked Ms. Litt for being there.

Katie Lakeman mentioned three dump trucks arrived on her street before 7:00 a.m. and she was hopeful they were bringing material, however they only dumped one load that did not fill the puddle. Ms. Lakeman asked Council if there was a list to be placed on being that the courtesy grade is no longer available. Richard Gallant, Public Works Director, stated the issue is being addressed and they are waiting on the shell rock that was ordered from the vendor.

Robert Austen mentioned the date for an agenda item concerning the RVs was incorrect. Mr. Austen stated the date on the first draft was November 1st to April 1st due to the removal of the year-round camping adding on 179 days. He stated he was hoping that was an error due to the year-round camping being removed due to campers surrounding the Groves at six-month intervals in the summertime. Mr. Austen mentioned the traffic on Southern Blvd west of Fox Trail to Arden. Mr. Austen stated that State Road 8 would be exactly like 595 in Broward within the next 10-20 years. He mentioned commercial businesses and tax revenue will be going to Wellington because commercials are not a waste of time. He mentioned if the commercial tax base on Southern is not enough to support this town, then they will be forced to place commercial on Okeechobee. He feels this would be the reason we lose employees. Mayor Kane thanked Mr. Austen for his comment.

Brian McNeil thanked the Fire Department and the Emergency Services Department for caring for him at 2:30 a.m. 6 weeks ago at his home due to a massive blood clot. He mentioned he was alone after driving back from Maine. Mr. McNeil stated the EMTs were unbelievable and that we are in great hands. He called asking why it took 11 minutes to get from Okeechobee to B Road. He was told the ambulance must stop at every pump and with the time he has gathered, it could take 22 minutes for someone else. He stated he sees we are using speed tables now, but asked is that a guarantee now for all future paving particularly on B-Road. He discussed other safety issues that he has mentioned twice, such as the massive water on B Road at the corner. He asked if there was a way to pursue the idea of traffic circulation at the intersection B Road and Okeechobee in the roundabout. Mayor Kane thanked Mr. McNeil for his comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Kane adjourned the community meeting at 6:17 p.m.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES,
FLORIDA**

ATTEST:

Mayor Anita Kane, Seat 3

Town Clerk

Vice Mayor Margaret Herzog, Seat 5

Councilmember Phillis Maniglia, Seat 1

Councilmember Laura Danowski, Seat 2

Councilmember Robert Shorr, Seat 4