



**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES
TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY OPEN DISCUSSION WORKSHOP
MEETING MINUTES**

**TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 155 F. Road, Loxahatchee Groves, FL 33470
Tuesday, June 04, 2024**

TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kane called the meeting to order at 6:43 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE FOLLOWED BY A MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Mayor Kane led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Anita Kane, Vice Mayor Margaret Herzog, Councilmember Laura Danowski, Councilmember Phillis Maniglia, Councilmember Robert Shorr, Public Works Director Richard Gallant, Town Manager Francine Ramaglia, Town Attorney Tanya Earley, 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), Building Official Jacek Tomasik and Town Clerk Valerie Oakes were present.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

Mayor Kane called for any additions, deletions, modifications or approval of the agenda.

Councilmember Maniglia requested to move item no. 11 before item no. 8.

MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA/MAYOR KANE MOVED TO APPROVE

ITEM NO. 11 BEFORE ITEM NO. 8. MOTION PASSED (4-1 with COUNCILMEMBER SHORR DISSENTING).

MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA/VICE MAYOR HERZOG MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS MODIFIED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0).

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Public comment received from Alysa Daly, Mickey Isaacson, and Candice Rojas. Town Council discussion ensued.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation from the Commission on Ethics by Gina Levesque, Intake and Compliance Manager

Gina Levesque, Intake and Compliance Manager presented the Commission on Ethics.

Public comment received from Todd McLendon. Town Council discussion ensued.

2. Updates on the Building Department by Jacek Tomasik, Building Official

Jacek Tomasik, Building Official gave an update on the Building Department.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Danowski requested to pull item no. 5 & 7 from Consent Agenda.

MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER SHORR/COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS NO THREE A-D, ITEM NO. FOUR, AND ITEM NO. SIX. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0).

3. Consideration of Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- a. January 9, 2024 - Town Council Regular Meeting
- b. January 23, 2024 - Town Council Community Discussion Workshop Meeting
- c. January 23, 2024 - Town Council Regular Meeting
- d. February 6, 2024 - Town Council Community Discussion Workshop Meeting

4. Approval of ***Resolution No. 2024-31***: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE ENTRY BY THE TOWN INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH STEFFEN & SONS STRIPING, LLC FOR ROADWAY STRIPING AND PAVEMENT MARKING SERVICES; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS IN FORMS ACCEPTABLE TO THE TOWN MANAGER AND TOWN ATTORNEY TO IMPLEMENT

THE INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER AND THE TOWN ATTORNEY TO TAKE SUCH ACTIONS AS ARE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

5. Approval of **Resolution No. 2024-32**: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE ENTRY BY THE TOWN INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ODUMS SOD, INC., FOR GOODS AND SERVICES PURSUANT TO VILLAGE OF WELLINGTON ITB202312; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS IN FORMS ACCEPTABLE TO THE TOWN MANAGER AND TOWN ATTORNEY TO IMPLEMENT THE INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER AND THE TOWN ATTORNEY TO TAKE SUCH ACTIONS AS ARE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Agenda item no. 5 was pulled off the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Town Clerk Oakes read the title of Resolution No. 2024-32 into the record.

Public comment provided by Virginia Standish. Town Council discussion ensued.

**MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER DANOWSKI/COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA
MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2024-32. MOTION PASSED
UNANIMOUSLY (5-0).**

6. Approval on **Resolution No. 2024-33**: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE ENTRY BY THE TOWN INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH SOUTHEAST HIGHWAY GUARDRAIL AND ATTENUATORS, LLC, UTILIZING THE PALM BEACH COUNTY PROJECT NO. 2022054: GUARDRAIL CONTINUING SERVICES CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS IN FORMS ACCEPTABLE TO THE TOWN MANAGER AND TOWN ATTORNEY TO IMPLEMENT THE INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER AND THE TOWN ATTORNEY TO TAKE SUCH ACTIONS AS ARE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
7. Approval on **Resolution No. 2024-35**: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA ACCEPTING EASEMENTS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Agenda item no. 7 was pulled off the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Town Clerk Oakes read the title of Resolution No. 2024-35 into the record.

Public comment provided by Cassie Suchy. Vice Mayor Herzog recused herself from item no. 7.

Town Council discussion ensued.

MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER DANOWSKI/COUNCILMEMBER SHORR MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2024-35. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (4-0).

REGULAR AGENDA

8. Approval of *Resolution No. 2024-34*: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE SEVENTH ADDENDUM TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN AND SHERIFF RIC L. BRADSHAW AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Clerk Oakes read the title of Resolution No. 2024-34 into the record.

Public comments provided by Todd McLendon and Marianne Miles. Town Council discussion ensued.

MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA/VICE MAYOR HERZOG MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2024-34. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0).

PUBLIC HEARING

9. Consideration of *Ordinance No. 2024-03* on Second Reading: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA AMENDING CHAPTER 2 “ADMINISTRATION”, ARTICLE II “TOWN COUNCIL” TO REORGANIZE ITS PROVISIONS, TO PROVIDE FOR ADOPTION BY RESOLUTION OF SUPPLEMENTAL RULES OF PROCEDURE, DECORUM, AND ORDER FOR MEETINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AND TOWN BOARDS, AND TO REPLACE REFERENCES TO CITIZEN REQUESTS WITH REFERENCES TO PUBLIC COMMENTS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Clerk Oakes read the title of Ordinance No. 2024-03 into the record.

There were no public comments. Town Council discussion ensued.

MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER SHORR/COUNCILMEMBER DANOWSKI MOVED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2024-03 ON SECOND READING. MOTION PASSED (4-1 with COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA DISSENTING).

10. Consideration of *Ordinance No. 2024-06* on Second Reading: 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.

Town Clerk Oakes read the title of Ordinance No. 2024-06 into the record.

Public comment provided by Cassie Suchy and Marianne Miles. Town Council discussion ensued.

**MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER DANOWSKI/VICE MAYOR HERZOG
MOVED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2024-06 WITH
CONTINUED CHANGES SUMMARIZED ON SECOND READING
TO BE DISCUSSED ON JULY 2ND. MOTION PASSED
UNANIMOUSLY (5-0).**

11. Consideration of **Ordinance No. 2024-05** on Second Reading: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, PROVIDING THAT IN THE EVENT THERE IS NO CONTRACT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES IN EFFECT BETWEEN THE TOWN AND THE PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ("PBSO") OR AN ADJOINING MUNICIPALITY, THE LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES IN THE TOWN WILL BE THE STANDARD LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE PBSO; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Clerk Oakes read the title of Ordinance No. 2024-05 into the record.

There were no public comments. Town Council discussion ensued.

**MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA/VICE MAYOR HERZOG
MOVED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2024-05 ON SECOND
READING WITH THE CORRECTIONS. MOTION PASSED (3-2
with COUNCILMEMBER DANOWSKI & COUNCILMEMBER
SHORR DISSENTING).**

12. Consideration of **Ordinance No. 2024-04** on Second Reading: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA AMENDING THE UNIFIED LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE SECTION 10-015, DEFINITIONS TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND SECTION 20-015, RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS, PERMITTED USES TO CLARIFY THE SPECIAL EXCEPTION CATEGORY FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES, AND TO ADD DEBRIS MANAGEMENT SITES AS A SEPARATE ESSENTIAL SERVICE

USE, SUBJECT TO SPECIFIC APPROVAL CRITERIA; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Clerk Oakes read the title of Ordinance No. 2024-04 into the record.

Public comment provided by Cassie Suchy. Town Council discussion ensued.

MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER DANOWSKI/COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA MOVED TO MOVE ORDINANCE NO. 2024-04 ON 2ND READING TO THE JULY 2ND AGENDA. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0).

DISCUSSION

13. Discussion on Recreational Vehicle Ordinance

By consensus, the Town Council directed staff to move this item to June 18th agenda and then a further discussion will be held.

MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER DANOWSKI/VICE MAYOR HERZOG MOVED TO REVISIT THE OLD RV ORDINANCE AND THE 2023 ATTEMPTED RV ORDINANCE AS PART OF THE DISCUSSION ON JUNE 18TH FROM 5 P.M. TO 6 P.M. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (4-0).

Councilmember Maniglia was away from the dais during this vote.

14. Discussion on the Sign Code Updates and Interim Enforcement

MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA/VICE MAYOR HERZOG MOVED TO SEND THE SIGN CODE WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ULDC. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0).

15. Discussion on Committees and Committee Appointments

MOTION: COUNCILMEMBER MANIGLIA/VICE MAYOR HERZOG MOVED TO APPROVE THE CURRENT ORDINANCES FOR THE ULDC, RETGAC, PLANNING AND ZONING, FAAC, ALL OF THE CITIZEN COMMITTEES IN ITEM NO. 15 TO COME BACK WITH A 2024 RESOLUTION NO. AND TITLE. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0).

16. Discussion on Roadway & Drainage Updates

Director of Public Works Richard Gallant provided discussion on Roadway & Drainage.

Public comment provided by Cassie Suchy. Town Council discussion ensued.

17. Updates, Items of Interest and Future Agenda Items

Town Clerk Oakes provided Updates, Items of Interest and Future Agenda Items.

Public comment provided by Cassie Suchy. Town Council discussion ensued.

TOWN STAFF COMMENTS

Town Manager Francine L. Ramaglia had no report.

Town Attorney - Torcivia, Donlon, Goddeau and Rubin, P.A. had no report.

Public Works Director Richard Gallant responded firmly to prior concerns and clarified several issues. He emphasized that he does not do special favors for anyone and treats all residents equally. He reiterated that his efforts are focused on improving the safety, health, and welfare of the entire town—residents, wildlife, and environment included. Addressing ongoing concerns about canal water levels, Gallant clarified that canal levels on the north side of town are higher due to elevation differences, not negligence. He reaffirmed that water seeks its own level and that the town has been pumping daily for the past three months—verified by increased electric bills. He explained that dredging cannot proceed without proper equipment and a place to dispose of the material. The town needs a dump truck to transport the dredged sediment, and he is already considering legal placement options once the truck is available. He addressed a specific concern about tree removal near a resident's property. Gallant said they visited the property with an arborist who identified a small number of exotic trees for removal. These trees were marked, and the residents were cooperative. Regarding a mistakenly damaged oak branch, he stated that it occurred during the removal of a melaleuca tree and would be repaired. Responding to a misconception, he clarified that all fire hydrants in Loxahatchee Groves are “wet hydrants” connected to the Palm Beach County water utility system and not canals. None of them are dry hydrants. While he wasn't sure of the testing schedule, he noted that Palm Beach County Fire Rescue historically tested them every five years. He concluded by stating that these systems are under broader county jurisdiction and are not maintained by the town itself.

Town Clerk Valerie Oakes had no report.

TOWN COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Laura Danowski (Seat 2) raised two points during the meeting. First, she asked the town attorney whether failing to update ordinance numbers—such as not assigning them a correct "2024" designation—could present legal or procedural issues. The attorney clarified that while such discrepancies might not trigger an official audit finding, they could create confusion in future recordkeeping, making it difficult to trace legislative history or decisions accurately. Clear and consistent documentation was emphasized as best practice. Second, the councilmember shared information from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services regarding House Bill 7063, which became effective on July 1, 2023. This bill prohibits certain special assessments—such as fire protection, garbage disposal, emergency medical services, street improvements, and drainage—from being levied on land classified as agricultural. She then questioned how this change might impact on the town's revenue or operations and provided the material for further review.

Councilmember Phillis Maniglia (Seat 1) had no report.

Councilmember Robert Shorr (Seat 4) provided a personal update regarding past ethics accusations, stating that all charges were dismissed and they received a "clean bill of health." He further clarified it was actually "dismissed with instructions." The instruction from the administrative judge stated that the speaker, acting as mayor, had volunteered to substitute for a town employee—an action deemed outside the scope of mayoral duties and not to be repeated. He emphasized there was no finding of corruption or misconduct. Reflecting on the experience, he advised that legal representation isn't always necessary until a case reaches trial, as third-party judgment often shifts outcomes more effectively than pre-trial arguments. Additionally, the speaker briefly addressed road improvements, specifically noting that the road slope on Grober Road appeared, exceeding the 2% grade limit. He expressed concern that such slope could affect paving thickness and drainage. He closed by complimenting the town's staff for their efforts and the progress being made.

Vice Mayor Margaret Herzog (Seat 5) raised concerns about ongoing illegal net fishing in the town's canals, specifically mentioning that many of the individuals involved appear to be Spanish-speaking and may not understand English. She attempted to communicate using a phone translator to explain that net fishing is not allowed, particularly due to the harm caused to smaller fish left to die after the larger ones are taken. Vice Mayor requested clarification on the legality of net fishing and suggested the town post clear signage in both English and Spanish stating that net fishing is prohibited in local waterways.

Mayor Anita Kane (Seat 3) thanked everyone for their patience in getting through the agenda and all the different things that needed to be worked through.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, Vice Mayor Herzog moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 PM, which was seconded by Councilmember Maniglia and passed unanimously (5-0).

**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