



**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES
TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY OPEN DISCUSSION WORKSHOP
MEETING MINUTES
TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 155 F. Road, Loxahatchee Groves, FL 33470
Tuesday, February 4, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Kane called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

ROLL CALL

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

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Captain Turner stated he has served the town for the past eight years, offered a heartfelt farewell as he transitions to a new position in Greenacres. Reflecting on his time in Loxahatchee Groves, he acknowledged the various leadership changes, including working with at least three city managers and numerous board members. He expressed appreciation for the progress made on ordinances and town development, recognizing that views on growth may differ. He thanked the Council and residents for their support and patience, noting that his successor, Captain Robert Sandt from Delray, will take over. He described Captain Sandt as highly experienced with a similar

background—having served together as watch commanders and SWAT members—and assured the town they would be in capable hands, humorously adding that he “smiles and talks more.”

Captain Robert Sandt introduced himself.

Jennifer Stephens expressed deep gratitude to the Town for the ongoing pond project and for taking action on the neighboring problematic property. She shared that the magistrate recently ruled to allow the Town to proceed with foreclosure and mentioned that the Town also requested the option of pursuing a money judgment. She urged the Council to choose foreclosure, citing the ongoing distress caused by the property owner over the past three years. She detailed numerous code violations and quality-of-life issues, including flooding on her property due to unpermitted fill dirt, illegal construction (a barn, arena, and structure in a pond), large hogs with waste being rinsed directly into the water, and multiple trailers causing noise, drug activity, and domestic disturbances. She emphasized that these conditions not only affect her and her family but also nearby neighbors who could not attend the meeting. She concluded by strongly encouraging the Town to foreclose on at least the 4.5 acres allowed, expressing doubt that a monetary judgment would result in any meaningful resolution. Mayor Kane thanked her for the comments.

Cynthia Taylor identified herself as an artist rather than someone knowledgeable in politics, returned to express her continued concerns about the direction of the town. She questioned whether the Council had a clear vision for the future of the community and emphasized the need for more interactive communication between residents and elected officials during meetings. While referencing her previous comments about widespread tree removal, she shared confusion over the agricultural exemptions that allow it, and suggested more oversight may be necessary. She expressed strong disapproval of a new structure built at Southern Lawn and Garden, calling it a “monstrosity” and criticizing its appearance as inconsistent with the rural charm of the town. She pointed to Davie, Florida as a model town with architectural standards and a cohesive visual identity, urging Loxahatchee Groves to adopt a similar approach. Ms. Taylor warned against turning the town into something unrecognizable, likening unchecked development to the rapid changes seen in Westlake. She closed with a heartfelt plea to the Council to carefully consider the long-term consequences of every decision to preserve the unique character of the town she and others deeply love. Mayor Kane thanked her for the comments.

Jo Siciliano expressed her enthusiasm for the revival of the charter review process in town. She encouraged residents to participate in the process even if they’re not ready to serve on a committee by attending meetings and offering input. Ms. Siciliano emphasized the value of hearing diverse viewpoints during committee discussions, noting that committee members work to refine ideas and present thoughtful recommendations to the Council. She highlighted the importance of civic engagement beyond social media, urging residents to come in person to Town Hall and be part of the conversation. With a population of only about 3,000, Ms. Siciliano said Loxahatchee Groves has the opportunity to be a united and forward-moving community that preserves its rural, agricultural, and green character. She closed with a hopeful call for unity and involvement, stressing that this unique character is exactly why so many chose to live there. Mayor Kane thanked her for the comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 P.M.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES,
FLORIDA**

ATTEST:

Town Clerk

Mayor Anita Kane, Seat 3

Vice Mayor Margaret Herzog, Seat 5

Councilmember Phillis Maniglia, Seat 1

Councilmember Laura Danowski, Seat 2

Councilmember Robert Shorr, Seat 4