



**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES
TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY OPEN DISCUSSION WORKSHOP
JUNE 7, 2022**

Meeting audio available in Town Clerk's Office

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Shorr called meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Robert Shorr, Vice Mayor Laura Danowski, and Council Member Marianne Miles. Town Manager James Titcomb, Town Attorney Elizabeth Lenihan, Esq., Assistant Town Manager Francine L. Ramaglia, Public Works Director Larry Peters, Assistant Public Works Director, Mario Matos, Planning Consultant, Jim Fleishman and Absent: Town Clerk Lakisha Burch.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were public comments from Manny Hernandez, Cassie Suchy, Daniel Zimmer

Manny Hernandez

- Right to Farm Act

Councilmember Maniglia asked Mr. Hernandez what the issue is. Mr. Hernandez said that there are a number of issues; as staff are always saying things about agriculture that they do not understand; he said his particular situation is electrical service. He said for many years he has been going through FPL to handle situations. Councilmember Maniglia inquired what was the resolution.

Mayor Shorr commented that it is a personal conversation, and it is none of Councilmember Maniglia's business. He advised Mr. Hernandez to keep that conversation personal. Mr. Hernandez advised that it boils down to staff not being up to date.

Councilmember Maniglia asked Mr. Hernandez if he spoke with the Town Manager or the Assistant Town Manager. Mr. Hernandez advised he did not have to go that far; he got together with staff of the district and pointed out certain things to them; it became clear that they just misunderstood what was allowed to be done. Councilmember Maniglia commented good, great, and thank you.

Cassie Suchy

- Land between Ag and the Shell Gas Station
- Utility boxes/ B Road
 - Mayor Shorr commented on the splice boxes and transformers. He asked Mr. Peters what can be done about this. Mr. Peters advised that he was not aware of it; he will check on it.
 - Vice Mayor Danowski advised Mr. Peters that there are splice boxes along the easement of E Road between Okeechobee Boulevard and Collecting Canal. Mayor Shorr inquired if they are buried. Vice Mayor Danowski advised that she can see the top of one as she drives past it, and she saw the other one when it was installed.

There was discussion among Town Council.

- Mayor Shorr inquired on the final elevation. Assistant Public Works Director Mario Matos responded that the boxes were marked with cones; he said that they are probably an inch or two below the new level. Mayor Shorr commented if the Grader Operator does not know that they are there it is not going to be a good situation. Councilmember Miles inquired if the boxes are hooked up. Mr. Matos responded that the boxes are on the low side of the road; they barely dig their blade on that side; there is a chance that the boxes will be ok. He said they can work with the company to figure something out to mark the places where they are located.
- Councilmember Maniglia asked Mr. Matos if the company would be willing to pay for some road covering. Vice Mayor Danowski commented that they would still have to access it. Mr. Matos commented he does not think that they are done therefore they are not covered.

There was discussion among Town Council.

Dan Zimmer

- Update on Groves Town Center
 - Mr. Zimmer advised that the equestrian trail it is not marked off as closed as there is a lot of earth moving being done by H & J Construction. Mayor Shorr inquired on the black silk fencing. Mr. Zimmer advised that he took the trail as far as he could go; he said that you cannot go through. He noted that Council previously requested for signage to be placed on B and C Roads. Mayor Shorr asked why signage is not up and whether Mr. Zimmer will put the signage up. Mr. Zimmer responded he was not putting the signage up; he has people for that sort of thing. Mayor Shorr asked for staff to put signage up as a courtesy for the people to let them know if they head that way, they will hit a dead end. Mr. Zimmer sent best wishes to Town Manager Titcomb.

Chris Marreo

- Boones New Owner
 - Mr. Marreo advised that he has been helping Ken Yeeves get the plaza cleaned up.

Town Manager Titcomb reminded everyone to use their microphone when speaking.

Alexis Puszowicz

- Closure/Blockage off 43rd Rd North
 - Town Manager Titcomb advised that it is a jurisdictional issue with Indian Trail District and explained why. Ms. Puszowicz inquired if Indian Trail District budgets and pays for that. Mr. Titcomb responded yes.

Paul Coleman

Mr. Coleman thanked Town Manager Titcomb for being a wealth of information and a very good resource; he said that he is sad to see him go.

- Water levels
 - Mr. Coleman inquired on the water table timeframe and process. Assistant Public Works Director Mario Matos explained the process when preparing for a storm and advised why so much water is being held. He said that they cannot control the canal water levels from the North; secondly having to pay for falling water from the C-51 Canal when getting enough rain. He advised that the levels are below 17 feet and pumped at 16 feet. Mayor Shorr asked if the two numbers are 16 and 17. Mr. Matos responded yes. He said if we go below the levels, half of the canals will be too low; and mentioned that levels are lowered to 15 feet before a storm. He said they are trying to keep certain levels and allow drainage. He mentioned this is the first complaint received after the storm. He said they can allow some drainage between rain whenever there is a problem. Mayor Shorr inquired on the policy for dropping levels. Mr. Matos explained how the levels are determined.
 - Vice Mayor Danowski inquired on the coordination between the Town, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and Special Districts for water control. Mr. Peters responded this is what he has been trying to explain to everyone in the community; that there is coordination for a controlled discharge. He said that water cannot just be dumped into the canals; we are mandated to control the discharge. Vice Mayor Danowski commented that she is on board with having to abide by that system. She asked Mr. Peters if there is day-to-day dialog with the SFWMD and asked whether coordination is done only when a storm is approaching. Mr. Peters responded there is no day-to-day coordination.
 - Councilmember Miles asked Mr. Peters if the system could be split and inquired if there is a mechanism that can be installed on the North end to slow down the water and what the cost is. Councilmembers Maniglia and Herzog both commented weirs.
 - Assistant Town Manager Ramaglia advised Town Council that Mr. Hernandez has another comment. Mayor Shorr said that Mr. Hernandez can make it during public comment at the regular meeting.
 - Mr. Peters responded yes to Councilmember Miles question. He mentioned that the last Capital Improvement Plan had weirs to be installed in all 7 canals North of Okeechobee Boulevard; however, it was not approved, and it did not go forward. He said we will try again this budget period. Mayor Shorr inquired if it was the \$300k. Mr. Peters said he believes this was the figure. Councilmember Herzog inquired what happened that it did not get done. Assistant Town Manager Ramaglia said that there was only \$700k that year the weirs were placed in the plan, and we did not have the funding to pay for them; now that we have the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds this would be an eligible allocation.

There was discussion between Town Council and Mr. Peters.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the workshop was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES,
FLORIDA**

ATTEST:

Lakisha Q. Burch, Town Clerk

Mayor Robert Shorr

Vice Mayor Laura Danowski

Councilmember Marge Herzog

Council Member Marianne Miles

Council Member Phillis Maniglia