



**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

AUGUST 1, 2023

*Meeting audio available in Town Clerk's Office
Meetings are also available on YouTube.*

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Danowski called the meeting to order at 6:52 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Danowski led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Danowski led a prayer.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Town Manager Ramaglia, Town Attorney Elizabeth Lenihan, Public Director Larry Peters, and Town Clerk Lakisha Burch.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

It was asked that **item 10** Consideration of **Resolution No. 2023-53** approving Termination of Declaration Groves Town Center be heard as **item 1**, and **item 1** Presentation from Indian Trail Improvement District. (District Board Chair Michael Johnson and Executive Director Burgess Hanson) be removed from the agenda and Town Attorney Lenihan asked that on item the word piggyback should be stated as best interest.

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were public comments made by Paul Coleman and Cassie Suchy.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation from Indian Trail Improvement District. (District Board Chair Michael Johnson and Executive Director Burgess Hanson) **REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA**
2. Presentation from Pitman Law Group and Ronald L. Book, P.A. the Town's Lobbyist. (Rana Brown)

Rana Brown from Ronald L. Book, P.A. with Pitman Law Group and via Zoom addressing the Town Council by giving them an update regarding the 750,000 dollars grant received for storm water rehabilitation, House Bill 102, special assessment. Mr. Pittman also addressed the Town Council by giving an update and stated it was a pleasure to speak with the people in Tallahassee and thanked the Town Council for the opportunity. Ms. Brown gave an update stating DEO designation of Loxahatchee Groves as a Rural Community. Town Manager Ramaglia also expounded on the topic of Rural Community. Vice Mayor Shorr also commented on this topic.

Mr. Book spoke about the upcoming legislative session. Ms. Brown spoke about the reliance grant, and committee week.

Mayor Danowski thanked Ms. Brown, Mr. Book, and Mr. Pittman. She asked what the steps are and how long does it take for rural designation. Ms. Brown responded. Town Manager Ramaglia also responded to Mayor Danowski's question. She also asked regarding annexation will it hurt/hinder the Town with regards to the Resilient Grant.

There was a public comment from Virginia Standish.

3. Presentation from Ashbritt, Inc. (Possible Debris Sites/SWA designated Facilities)

Town Manager Ramaglia introduced the item to the Town Council. Mr. Thomason from Ashbritt, Inc. and Mr. Archambo presented the item to the Town Council speaking about Debris Management, Mr. Thomason gave a brief overview of the company. He also gave a list of properties that have been looked at as a potential site.

Councilmember Maniglia stated that she is a realtor in this Town and that she has a sign on one of the properties and was wondering if she would be in conflict. Town Attorney Torcivia responded to her question.

Vice Mayor Shorr asked where the nearest debris site is. Response Pike and Turnpike. Vice mayor Shorr asked what the process or a debris site is. Mr. Thomason responded. Town Manager Ramaglia also commented on Vice Mayor Shorr question.

Councilmember Miles commented on this item. Mr. Thomason responded to Councilmember Miles' concerns.

Councilmember Herzog asked about household and vegetation will it be separated. Mr. Thomason responded and mixed loads are separated and then go out. There continued to be discussion among Mr. Thomason and Councilmember Herzog. She asked about compensation to the landowner and Mr. Thomason responded. She also asked about tree mitigation. Mr. Thomason and Ms. Ramaglia responded. She asked about noise abatement and Mr. Thomason responded.

There was consensus that we are willing to have a debris management site for the Town of Loxahatchee Groves for Loxahatchee Groves.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Consideration of approval of Meeting Minutes.
 - a. April 20, 2021, Town Council Workshop/Special Meeting Minutes
 - b. May 4, 2021, Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes
 - c. July 6, 2021, Community Workshop Meeting Minutes

- d. July 20, 2021, Community Workshop Meeting Minutes
 - e. August 17, 2021, Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes
 - f. September 8, 2021, Community Workshop Meeting Minutes
 - g. September 8, 2021, First Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes
 - h. September 21, 2021, Community Workshop Meeting Minutes
 - i. September 21, 2021, Final Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes
 - j. October 19, 2021, Community Workshop Meeting Minutes
 - k. October 19, 2021, Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes
 - l. November 2, 2021, Community Workshop Meeting Minutes
 - m. November 2, 2021, Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes
 - n. November 16, 2021, Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes
 - o. December 7, 2021, Community Workshop Meeting Minutes
 - p. December 7, 2021, Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes
 - q. September 8, 2022, Town Council 1st Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes
 - r. June 6, 2023, Community Workshop Meeting Minutes
5. Consideration of **Resolution No. 2023-48** approving Palm Beach Aggregates piggyback increase in pricing.
6. Consideration of **Resolution No. 2023-49** approving the towing contract with Priority Towing, Inc.

Vice Mayor Shorr asked why this best interest is instead of piggyback.

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

7. Consideration of **Resolution No. 2023-50** authorizing task orders with Keshavarz and Engenuity pursuant to Resilient Florida Grant. **PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Vice Mayor Shorr giving his reason regarding this item. Town Manager Ramaglia responded to Vice Mayor Shorr comment.

Mr. Werthapny from Keshavarz addressed the Town Council.

Motion was made by Councilmember Maniglia seconded by Councilmember Herzog to approve Resolution No. 2023-50 authorizing task orders with Keshavarz and Engenuity pursuant to Resilient Florida Grant; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

8. Consideration of **Resolution No. 2023-51** approving sixth addendum to the Law Enforcement Service Agreement (LESA).

Town Manager Ramaglia presented the item to the Town Council. Councilmembers Maniglia and Miles expressed their concerns.

Motion was made by Councilmember Miles seconded by Vice Mayor Shorr to approve Resolution No. 2023-51 approving the sixth addendum to the Law Enforcement Service Agreement (LESA); it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Consideration of **Resolution No. 2023-52** authorizing an amendment to agreement with Torcivia, Donlon, Goddeau, and Rubin.

Town Attorney Torcivia presented the item to the Town Council. Councilmember Maniglia expressed her concerns regarding this item.

Mayor Danowski expressed her concerns regarding this item. There was discussion among the Town Council and Town Staff.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Shorr seconded by Councilmember Herzog to approve Resolution No. 2023-52 authorizing an amendment to agreement with Torcivia, Donlon, Goddeau, and Rubin; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Consideration of **Resolution No. 2023-53** approving Termination of Declaration Groves Town Center. **THIS ITEM WAS MOVED TO BE HEARD AS ITEM 1**

Town Manager Ramaglia and Mr. Tilbrook, the attorney with Akerman, LLP, presented the item.

Councilmember Maniglia asked if the 3 acres being lost. Mr. Tilbrook responded. There was discussion among the Town Council, Town Manager Ramaglia, and Mr. Tilbrook.

Councilmember Miles asked about cash payment of 3.1 acres and what is the value. Mr. Tilbrook responded.

Councilmember Herzog asked what protection is there for the 20.9 use for instead of trails. Mr. Tilbrook responded.

There was a consensus for Mr. Tilbrook to step out and try to receive additional information from his office for the Town Council to continue with this item.

There was public records comment from Cassie Suchy, Paul Coleman, Brian McNeil, and Virginia Standish.

Motion was made by Councilmember Maniglia seconded by Vice Mayor Shorr to continue item 10 of Consideration of Resolution No. 2023-53 approving the Termination and Release of Declaration of Restrictive Covenant related to Groves Town Center to the August 15, 2023, Town Council Workshop/Special Meeting; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

11. Discussion and updates on Storm Season Priorities:

- Gate repairs
- Emergency generator

Public Works Director Peters gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Town Council.

Motion was made by Councilmember Maniglia seconded by Vice Mayor Shorr to extend the meeting to 11:00 p.m.; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.

To have numbers for the gates by next meeting. Vice Mayor Shorr expressed his concern regarding the gates and pump house.

Councilmember Miles asked about circuit boards.

Mr. Peters spoke about the generator at Town Hall due to it being the Emergency Operation Center (EOC). Mayor doesn't support buying a generator. Councilmember Herzog asked what the history of generators at Public Works is.

Motion was made by Councilmember Herzog seconded by Vice Mayor Shorr to extend the meeting to 11:30 p.m. it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.

There was consensus to pursue quotes for purchasing or renting a generator.

12. Discussion and update on Paving Project.

Public Works Director Peters presented the item to the Town Council. Councilmember Maniglia asked why the maps were not on the agenda. Mr. Peters responded. Mayor Danowski asked for the E road properties, asking how much road we have, Mr. Peters stated 19ft. Mayor Danowski asked if there was enough to pave north E, Mr. Peters responded. She also asked about the remobilization fee, there continued to be discussion among the Mayor and Mr. Peters.

Vice Mayor Shorr stated that he supports in the next Gruber and Casey due to having 60 ft. doesn't see an issue to rush a change.

Motion was made by Councilmember Herzog seconded by Vice Mayor Shorr to the meeting to extend to midnight; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilmember Herzog seconded by Mayor Danowski to hold off on any and all roads that were scheduled to be paved until next fiscal year; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski and Councilmember Herzog. Nays: Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Maniglia, and Miles. Motion failed 2-3.

There was a public comment by Cassie Suchy.

13. Discussion on canal bank restoration (in partnership with the Sod Farm).

Public Works Director Peters presented a PowerPoint presentation the item to the Town Council. Councilmember Maniglia asked if the sod is going to stay low, Mr. Peters responded. Town Manager Ramaglia stated that any donation over 25, 000 dollars will have to be accepted. There was discussion among the Town Council.

14. Discussion of scheduling meeting dates for property owner workshops, RV public input workshops and budget workshops and Council Priorities.

Town Manager Ramaglia presented the item to the Town Council by giving updates of upcoming meetings.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Shorr seconded by Councilmember Maniglia to extend the meeting to 12:30 a.m.; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.

Vice Mayor Shorr asked for clarification regarding upcoming meetings. Town Manager Ramaglia responded to his question.

Councilmember Maniglia asked about members not being able to attend meetings. Town Clerk Burch responded to her concern.

TOWN STAFF COMMENTS

Town Manager

- Gave the dates for upcoming meetings regarding the Town Council and Advisory Boards.

Town Attorney

Thanks to the Town Council.

Public Works Director

Town Clerk

Announced the upcoming Book Bag Give Away that will be Saturday, August 5, 2023, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. and upcoming meetings.

TOWN COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Phillis Maniglia (Seat 1)

- FPL back to explain, underground project.
- See a weight limit on the roads with a permit decal. Town Manager Ramaglia responded.
- Glad Sod Farm is working with us.
- Assessments are entailed to passable; repair reschedule for roads that are in disrepair, grading schedule for people who live on dirt roads.
- Light at B Road- can it be put back in. Mr. Peters responded.
- Have the right to speak our minds.

Councilmember Marianne Miles (Seat 3)

- Agenda Review Meetings- doesn't think it is being helpful.

There was consensus to not have any Agenda Review for August or September.

Councilmember Margaret Herzog (Seat 5)

- Thanked the public works for filling in the 10 water walls.
- What is the run down on the tractor trailers on the roads.

Vice Mayor Robert Shorr (Seat 4)

- A new smaller tractor- south of the canal banks- bush hogs.
- Trimming of trees on the west side of canals.
- Org chart/ HR manual-
- Go to the FLC meeting next week.

Mayor Laura Danowski (Seat 2)

- Thanked everyone for coming, read an article from the Town Crier, annexation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:23 a.m.

**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES,
FLORIDA**

ATTEST:

Lakisha Burch, Town Clerk

Mayor Robert Shorr

Vice Mayor Laura Danowski

Councilmember Margaret Herzog

Councilmember Phillis Maniglia

Councilmember Marianne Miles