

# CITY OF PAHOKEE



## MINUTES

**City Commission Regular Meeting**  
Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 6:00 PM

Pahokee Commission Chambers  
360 East Main Street  
Pahokee, Florida 33476

### **CITY COMMISSION:**

Keith W. Babb, Jr., Mayor  
Clara Murvin, Vice Mayor  
Derrick Boldin, Commissioner  
Juan Gonzalez, Commissioner  
Sara Perez, Commissioner

### **CITY STAFF:**

Rodney D. Lucas, City Manager  
Jongelene Adams, Deputy City Manager  
Tijauna Warner, City Clerk  
Burnadette Norris-Weeks, Esq., City Attorney  
Vacant, Finance/Human Resources Director

[TENTATIVE: SUBJECT TO REVISION]

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## MINUTES

### A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Babb at 6:12 PM.

### B. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everett McPherson led the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### C. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mayor Keith W. Babb, Jr.

Vice Mayor Clara Murvin

Commissioner Derrick Boldin

Commissioner Juan Gonzalez

Commissioner Sara Perez

Rodney D. Lucas, City Manager

Burnadette Norris-Weeks, City Attorney

Nylene Clarke, Executive Assistant (Acting City Clerk)

### D. ADDITIONS OF EMERGENCY BASIS FROM CITY MANAGER, DELETIONS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Motion made by Vice Mayor Murvin to approve the agenda. Duly seconded by Commissioner Boldin and passed unanimously.

Voting Yea: Mayor Babb, Vice Mayor Murvin, Commissioner Boldin, Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Perez

### E. PUBLIC COMMENTS / PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS / PRESENTATIONS / PROCLAMATIONS

*(This section of the agenda allows for comments from the public to speak. Each speaker will be given a total of three (3) minutes to comment. A public comment card should be completed and returned to the City Clerk. When you are called to speak, please go to the podium or unmute your device, and prior to addressing the Commission, state your name and address for the record)*

Dorothy Williamson expressed concern regarding the length of time it has been taking to fix Barfield Highway. Discussion ensued.

Annie Ifill, with Healthier Glades, mentioned the Let's Move Campaign, the partnership with the City of Pahokee's Parks and Recreation Department to promote said campaign for the month of March, and provided information regarding a mini grant with Empower Healthcare.

Loletha Kimes Sobers thanked the City for addressing the issue with the cane fields in East Lake Village, requested for the matter to resume being addressed, and commented regarding code enforcement matters.

Everett McPherson commented in regard to the financial reports, annexation, and residential complaints.

Barbara Brown expressed concern in regard to the park in Glades Citizens Villas, Vice Mayor Murvin's seat, and ARPA funding.

Ida M Pringle expressed concern about ARPA funding and Barfield Highway.

Robert Love commented in regard to ARPA funding, Barfield Highway, and the formerly proposed transitional home.

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**F. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. January 24, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Vice Mayor Murvin to approve the Consent Agenda. Duly seconded by Commissioner Boldin and passed unanimously.

Voting Yea: Mayor Babb, Vice Mayor Murvin, Commissioner Boldin, Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Perez

**G. OLD BUSINESS** (*discussion of existing activities or previously held events, if any*)

1. Update - City Projects

Jongelene Adams, Deputy City Manager, provided an update on City projects, along with Marcos Montes De Oca (MDO Engineering, Inc.), Javin Walker ("2" S.B.W. & Associates, Inc.), Robert Audette (Momentum CEI, Inc), and James Washington (Rosso Site Development, Inc.). Mr. Tom Dorita discussed state appropriation. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Babb allowed Shantoria McKay and her family to speak. Ms. McKay requested help with conducting a walk, as well as a search, for her missing son. Discussion ensued.

**H. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND/OR ORDINANCES**

1. ORDINANCE 2023 - 01 (First Reading) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA SUBMITTING TO REFERENDUM AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY CHARTER; AMENDING SECTION 3.01, ENTITLED "DESIGNATION" TO ADD THE CITY ATTORNEY AS AN ADDITIONAL CHARTER OFFICER; PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT AND REPEALER; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN CODE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The ordinance was read into the record by Attorney Norris-Weeks and explained by Mr. Lucas. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Commissioner Boldin to approve Ordinance 2023-01 (First Reading). Duly seconded by Vice Mayor Murvin and passed 3-2.

Voting Yea: Mayor Babb, Vice Mayor Murvin, Commissioner Boldin

Voting Nay: Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Perez

2. ORDINANCE 2023 - 02 (First Reading) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA SUBMITTING TO REFERENDUM AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY CHARTER; AMENDING SECTION 4.02, ENTITLED, "QUALIFYING" TO ESTABLISH A REQUIREMENT THAT ALL CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSIONER SHALL RESIDE WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR PRIOR TO QUALIFYING; ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PRESENTATION OF CERTAIN OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS AS PROOF OF RESIDENCY; ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR REASONABLE TRAINING STANDARDS PRIOR TO THE QUALIFYING; PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT AND REPEALER; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN CODE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The ordinance was read into the record by Attorney Norris-Weeks and explained by Mr. Lucas. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Commissioner Boldin to approve Ordinance 2023-02 (First Reading). Duly seconded by Vice Mayor Murvin and passed 3-2.

Voting Yea: Mayor Babb, Vice Mayor Murvin, Commissioner Boldin  
Voting Nay: Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Perez

3. ORDINANCE 2023 - 03 (First Reading) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA SUBMITTING TO REFERENDUM AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY CHARTER; AMENDING SECTION 5.02, ENTITLED, "OATH OF OFFICERS; TAKING OFFICE" TO ESTABLISH A REQUIREMENT THAT NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS BE SWORN INTO OFFICE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT PROPERLY NOTICED CITY COMMISSION MEETING; PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT AND REPEALER; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN CODE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The ordinance was read into the record by Attorney Norris-Weeks and explained by Mr. Lucas. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Commissioner Boldin to approve Ordinance 2023-03 (First Reading). Duly seconded by Vice Mayor Murvin and passed 4-1.

Voting Yea: Mayor Babb, Commissioner Boldin, Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Perez  
Voting Nay: Vice Mayor Murvin

4. ORDINANCE 2023 - 04 (First Reading) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, REPEALING AND REPLACING ARTICLE II, SECTION 2-26 ENTITLED "CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS GENERALLY" AND 2-29 ENTITLED "ORDER OF BUSINESS"; RENUMBERING AND REORDERING AS NECESSARY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The ordinance was read into the record and explained by Attorney Norris-Weeks. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Commissioner Boldin to amend Ordinance 2023-04 section 1(b)(4) and 1(b)(5) to increase the override vote to four (4) Commissioners. Duly seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez and passed unanimously.

Voting Yea: Mayor Babb, Vice Mayor Murvin, Commissioner Boldin, Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Perez

Motion made by Commissioner Perez to amend For the Good of the Order, to include Commissioner Comments. Duly seconded by Commissioner Boldin and passed unanimously.

Voting Yea: Mayor Babb, Vice Mayor Murvin, Commissioner Boldin, Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Perez

Motion made by Mayor Babb to approve Ordinance 2023-04 with amendments. Duly seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez and passed 4-1.

Voting Yea: Mayor Babb, Vice Mayor Murvin, Commissioner Boldin, Commissioner Gonzalez  
Voting Nay: Commissioner Perez

## I. RESOLUTION(S)

1. RESOLUTION 2023 - 03 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF ARPA FUNDING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPROVED BUDGET, ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT "A"; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The resolution was read into the record by Attorney Norris-Weeks and explained by Mr. Lucas. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Murvin to approve 2023-03. Duly seconded by Commissioner Boldin and passed unanimously.

Voting Yea: Mayor Babb, Vice Mayor Murvin, Commissioner Boldin, Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Perez

2. RESOLUTION 2023 - 04 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, APPROVING A MINOR HOME REPAIR PROGRAM IN CONNECTION WITH AMERICAN RESCUE ACT FUNDS UP TO AN AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$200,000); PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The resolution was read into the record by Attorney Norris-Weeks and explained by Mr. Lucas. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Commissioner Boldin to approve 2023-04. Duly seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez and passed unanimously.

Voting Yea: Mayor Babb, Vice Mayor Murvin, Commissioner Boldin, Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Perez

3. RESOLUTION 2023 - 05 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING AN EMERGENCY AGREEMENT WITH RESOURCE GROUP OF NORTH AMERICA, INC. FOR LEGISLATIVE LOBBYING SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The resolution was read into the record and explained by Attorney Norris-Weeks.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Murvin to approve Resolution 2023-05, amend the emergency basis to Session, and include language for Special Session. Duly seconded by Mayor Babb and passed unanimously.

Voting Yea: Mayor Babb, Vice Mayor Murvin, Commissioner Boldin, Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Perez

4. RESOLUTION 2023 - 06 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE CITY OF PAHOKEE'S 2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY LIST, ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT "A"; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTION TO CARRY OUT THE AIMS OF THIS RESOLUTION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The resolution was read into the record by Attorney Norris-Weeks and explained by Mr. Lucas.

Motion made by Commissioner Boldin to approve Resolution 2023-06. Duly seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez and passed 4-1.

Voting Yea: Mayor Babb, Vice Mayor Murvin, Commissioner Boldin, Commissioner Gonzalez

Voting Nay: Commissioner Perez

5. RESOLUTION 2023 - 07 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL COUNSEL AGREEMENT WITH TG LAW PLLC FOR SPECIAL COUNSEL SERVICES IN CONNECTION ARPA LEGAL CONSULTING SERVICES AND WORK INVOLVING A CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT OVERLAY FOR THE CITY OF PAHOKEE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The resolution was read into the record and explained by Attorney Norris-Weeks. Gemma Torcivia commented. Discussion ensued.

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Motion made by Vice Mayor Murvin to approve Resolution 2023 - 07. Duly seconded by Commissioner Boldin and passed 3-2.

Voting Yea: Mayor Babb, Vice Mayor Murvin, Commissioner Boldin

Voting Nay: Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Perez

**J. NEW BUSINESS** (*conversation about an activity or event upcoming, if any*)

None.

**K. REPORT OF THE MAYOR**

None.

**L. REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER**

None.

**M. REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY**

None.

**N. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

None.

**O. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS OF COMMISSIONERS, IF ANY**

None.

**P. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER** (*community events, feel good announcements, if any*)

None.

**Q. ADJOURN**

Motion made by Vice Mayor Murvin to adjourn the meeting. Duly seconded by Commissioner Boldin and passed unanimously.

Voting Yea: Mayor Babb, Vice Mayor Murvin, Commissioner Boldin, Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Perez

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Babb adjourned the meeting at 10:10 PM.

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Keith W. Babb, Jr., Mayor

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ATTEST: Tijauna Warner, City Clerk