

# CITY OF PAHOKEE



## MINUTES

**City Commission Regular Meeting**  
Tuesday, August 22, 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  
Tijauna Warner, City Clerk  
Burnadette Norris-Weeks, Esq., City Attorney  
Joseph R. Martin, Interim Director of Finance

[TENTATIVE: SUBJECT TO REVISION]

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## MINUTES

### A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Babb at 6:06 PM.

### B. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Mayor Murvin 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

Tijauna Warner, City Clerk

Burnadette Norris-Weeks, City Attorney

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

### 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)*

Ms. Annie Ifill (*Project Director Healthier Glades*) gave the public information on the Healthier Glades Mini Grant.

Mr. Thomas Murvin (*resident*) gave compliments to city staff for keeping the city clean in this heat.

Mr. Joshua Brown (*resident*) expressed concerns with the commissioners decorum and inquired what has the commission done.

Mr. Robert Love (*non-resident*) expressed concerns with the commissioners decorum, the City Manager's name at the Splash Pad, and that nobody will mention Chandler Williamson name.

Ms. Vaughn Jones (*resident*) expressed concerns in reference to the ARPA Funds for Minor Home Repairs and speed bumps being added to her area.

Loletha Kimes (*resident*) expressed concerns with residence driving over the boardwalk using it as a road because they don't want to use McClure Road.

Mrs. Tammy Bussey (*resident*) expressed concerns with the status of Barfield Highway and inquired when will it be completed.

Mrs. Peggy Boule-Washington expressed gratitude for the opportunity to work in the City of Pahokee.

### F. CONSENT AGENDA

1. August 7, 2023 City Commission Workshop Minutes
2. August 7, 2023 City Commission Meeting Minutes

3. RESOLUTION 2023 - 46 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISION OF SECTION 106.07(2)(A)2., FLORIDA STATUTES, REQUIRING SUBMISSION OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS THROUGH AN ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM; ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SYSTEM; ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR SYSTEM ACCESS AND USAGE; DESCRIBING APPLICABLE EXEMPTIONS FROM PUBLIC RECORDS LAW; AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO PROMULGATE RULES AND OTHER GUIDANCE RELATED TO THE SYSTEM; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion made by Commissioner Perez to approve Consent Agenda Items, Seconded by Commissioner Boldin. Mayor Babb called for questions. Motion 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. Discussion and direction on the City Manager's Evaluation and Contract

Commissioner Perez explained why she gave the lowest scores on the City Manager's Evaluation.

Motion made by Commissioner Perez to terminate the City Manager with cause for both misfeasance and nonfeasance in performing his duties and responsibilities, Seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez.

Mrs. Norris-Weeks advised Commissioner Perez there's a process for the removal of a charter officer Section 3.03 - Removal. Mrs. Norris-Weeks read Section 3.03 into the record: To remove a Charter officer, the city commission shall adopt a preliminary resolution stating reasons for the intended removal and shall offer the Charter officer an opportunity for public hearing before the commission on the matters raised by the resolution. This preliminary resolution may also suspend the Charter officer from duty immediately with pay. The Charter officer must accept the offer of public hearing or file a written response within ten (10) days of the adoption of the preliminary resolution or the resolution becomes final at the expiration of this ten-day period and the Charter officer is terminated on that date. If the public hearing is requested it shall be held not earlier than twenty (20) days or later than thirty (30) days after the adoption of the preliminary resolution. After such public hearing, or after consideration of any written response, the commission shall adopt a final resolution of removal or let the preliminary resolution lapse. She informed Commissioner Perez that a Preliminary Resolution has to be added to future agenda items. A discussion ensued.

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

1. ORDINANCE 2023 - 6 (second reading) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, SETTING THE CITY OF PAHOKEE'S MUNICIPAL ELECTION FOR MARCH 19, 2024 TO BE HELD CONCURRENTLY WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA'S PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION; SETTING QUALIFYING DATES; PROVIDING FOR REPRESENTATIONS AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

*Mrs. Norris-Weeks read Ordinance 2023 - 06 into the record.*

Mr. Lucas gave a brief explanation of Ordinance 2023 - 06.

*Public Hearing Opens 7:04 P.M.*

*Public Hearing Closes 7:04 P.M.*

Motion made by Commissioner Boldin to approve Ordinance 2023 - 06, Seconded by Vice Mayor Murvin. Mayor Babb called for questions. Motion passed unanimously. Voting Yea: Mayor Babb, Vice Mayor Murvin, Commissioner Boldin, Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Perez

**I. RESOLUTION(S)**

- A. RESOLUTION 2023 - 47 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE REIMBURSEMENT OF \$88,200.00 TO EVERGLADES PREPARATORY ACADEMY, INC. FOR REPAIRS TO THE CAFATERIA ROOF FROM INSURANCE PROCEEDS RELATED TO PRIOR HURRICANE DAMAGE; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTION; PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

*Mrs. Norris-Weeks read Resolution 2023 - 47 into the read.*

Mr. Lucas gave a brief explanation of Resolution 2023 - 47.

Motion made by Commissioner Boldin to approve Resolution 2023 - 47, Seconded by Vice Mayor Murvin. Mayor Babb called for questions. A discussion ensued.

Motion made by Mayor Babb to approve Resolution 2023 - 47 with the amount amended to \$112, , Seconded by Commissioner Perez. Mayor Babb called for questions. A discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously.

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

- B. RESOLUTION 2023 - 48 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING CITY VEHICLE TAKE HOME PROCEDURES; PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

*Mrs. Norris-Weeks read Resolution 2023 - 48 into the record.*

Mr. Lucas gave a brief explanation of Resolution 2023 - 48.

Motion made by Commissioner Boldin to approve Resolution 2023 - 48, Seconded by Vice Mayor Murvin. Mayor Babb called for questions. A discussion ensued.

Motion made by Commissioner Perez to table Resolution 2023 - 48, Seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez. Mayor Babb called for questions. Motion passed unanimously.

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

- C. RESOLUTION 2023 - 49 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA ACCEPTING A DONATION FROM THE UNITED STATES SUGAR CORPORATION TO BE USED FOR THE CITY OF PAHOKEE'S SPLASH PAD AND POOL, PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF RESPRESENTATION, PROVIDING FOR AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

*Mrs. Norris-Weeks read Resolution 2023 - 49 into the records.*

Mr. Lucas gave a brief explanation of Resolution 2023 - 49.

Motion made by Commissioner Boldin to approve Resolution 2023 - 49, Seconded by Vice Mayor Murvin. Mayor Babb called for questions. A discussion ensued.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

**J. NEW BUSINESS** (*presentation by city manager of activity or upcoming event, if any*)

Mr. Lucas gave a brief of upcoming city events as follows:

August 24, 2023 Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Free Car Seat, Station 72, S. Lake Avenue  
Pahokee

August 23, 2023 Palm Beach County League of Cities Luncheon, Wellington

August 24, 2023 Job Fair from 2pm to 4pm at the Eddie L. Rhodes Gymnasium

August 24, 2023 Seniors Legends Breakfast from 9am to 11am Belle Glade Marina

August 31, 2023 PBC Climate Risk Assessment and Action Committee Workshop at 6pm  
Pahokee Marina & Campground Conference Room

September 7, 2023 Black Business Symposium at 6:30pm Pahokee Marina and Campground  
Conference Room

September 14, 2023 Hispanic Business Symposium at 6:30pm Pahokee Marina and  
Campground Conference Room

September 15, 2023 Storm of 1928 Remembrance Ceremony from 10am to 12noon at Port  
Mayaca Memorial Garden

September 19, 2023 PBSO Food Distribution at 10am MLK Park Pahokee, FL

October 31, 2023 Fall Festival from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at Parks & Recreation, 360 East Main  
Street

**K. REPORT OF THE MAYOR**

Mayor Babb encourage residents and the commissioners that it's okay to disagree and  
requested everyone conduct themselves according to Robert's Rules of Order.

**L. REPORT OF THE CITY MANAGER**

Mr. Lucas requested consensus for discussion or directions with placing a 4ft. fence around  
the football field with three (3) bids ranging from \$33,000 to \$44,000. A discussion ensued.

Mr. Lucas gave a brief overview of capital improvement projects such as Barfield Highway  
Reconstruction, East Lake Village Stormwater Improvement Project, Phase IV Resurfacing  
Project, MLK Park Improvement Project, and McClure Road Reconstruction Project. A  
discussion ensued.

**M. REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY**

Mrs. Norris-Weeks advised she had no report.

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

Vice Mayor Murvin advised everyone to tell the truth.

Motion made by Commissioner Perez to approve adding a Preliminary Resolution to  
Terminate the City Manager with cause for both misfeasance and nonfeasance in performing  
his duties and responsibilities, Seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez. Mayor Babb called for  
questions. A discussion ensued. Motion passed (3-2).

Voting Yea: Mayor Babb, Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Perez

Voting Nay: Vice Mayor Murvin, Commissioner Boldin

**O. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER** (*community events, feel good announcements, if any*)

Commissioner Gonzalez expressed disappointment with the city commissioners names being on the splash pad, requested replacing their names with dedicated to the children of Pahokee, and thanked U.S. Sugar for their donation.

Commissioner Boldin advised we all have our own special way of serving our community and feedback is always welcome.

Commissioner Perez expressed concerns with the commission working together, gave a brief explanation on the reason she ran for commissioner, and advised everyone to make an educated vote.

Vice Mayor Murvin advised it's so sad that individuals are not being truthful and gave an explanation for her statement.

**P. ADJOURN**

Motion made by Commissioner Gonzalez to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Commissioner Boldin. Motion 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 workshop at 8:11 PM.

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Keith W. Babb, Jr., Mayor

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ATTEST: Tijauna Warner, CMC, Clerk City