

INDIAN SHORES

Ph 727.595.4020 Fax 727.596.0050
19305 Gulf Boulevard, Indian Shores, FL 33785
www.myindianshores.com



SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2019, BEGINS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE 2:00 P.M. ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING INDIAN SHORES MUNICIPAL CENTER, 4TH FLOOR

The meeting convened at 2:05 p.m.

Those present: Mayor Patrick C. Soranno, Vice Mayor Diantha Schear, Councilor Mike Hackerson, Councilor Mike Petrucci, Councilor Bill Smith, and Town Attorney Regina Kardash.

Also present: Town Administrator Bonnie Dhonau, Finance and Personnel Director Susan Scrogam, Interim Chief of Police E. D. Williams, Town Clerk Freddie Lozano, Lt. Mike Bryan, Richard H. Swann, Jr., and Citizens John Caruso and Neil Rode

ITEM # AGENDA ITEM

1.0 Consideration of approving the Special Town Council Agenda for March 5, 2019.

Motion by Councilor Smith– seconded by **Vice Mayor Schear** to approve the Special Town Council Agenda for March 5, 2019.

Motion carried 5-0.

2.0 Comments from the public on any Agenda Item.

Mr. Thomas Morrissey, Jr. lives in Connecticut and is staying at 9114 Mission Oaks, Seminole, FL while visiting Florida. He is a retired New Haven detective with 27 years of service following army and military police duty. Mr. Morrissey thanked the Council for the opportunity to address the parking situation that occurred in Indian Shores on Sunday, February 10, 2019. He spoke about discretion and described the events of that day.

Patrick C. Soranno
Mayor

Diantha Schear
Vice Mayor

Mike Hackerson
Councilor

Michael (Mike) Petrucci
Councilor

William F. (Bill) Smith
Councilor

Bonnie Dhonau
Town Administrator

E.D. Williams
Interim Chief of Police

Susan L. Scrogam
Director of Finance
and Personnel

Freddie G. Lozano
Town Clerk

Steve Tetlak
Building Official

Regina Kardash, Esq.
Town Attorney

He drove in a lot whose 15-minute unloading space and handicapped spaces were occupied. He parked his vehicle to the left of one of the handicapped spaces where there was a "No Parking" sign posted and he also made sure the vehicle would not cause an obstruction. He unloaded the items from his vehicle and dropped them off at the beach. Upon his return, a gentleman informed him he was ticketed by an officer even after informing the officer that Mr. Morrissey was only unloading his car. Mr. Morrissey thanked the gentleman and parked his vehicle at the public parking across the street. After stating his case to the officer involved and Chief Williams, he wondered why his ticket was not provided the same courtesy of being voided. He mentioned being informed that it is not unusual for parking tickets to be voided in Indian Shores.

He thanked Mayor Soranno, Councilor Petruccelli, and Town Staff for their help.

Chief Williams thanked Mr. Morrissey for his service. He stated there are many reasons why tickets could be voided such as mistakes of fact on the ticket, damaged or unissued tickets. He explained the ticket becomes a docket once it is entered in the system. There is nothing more he can do and that the ticket stands.

Attorney Kardash stated that the Council does not have the authority to dismiss any kind of ticket or citation.

Councilor Petruccelli asked if as many as ten parking tickets have been voided.

Chief Williams replied that there were seven or eight improperly issued handicapped citations that were voided.

Mr. Morrissey thanked the Council again for their time.

3.0 Consideration of Council approval to proceed with the hiring process for the Search Committee's selected candidate, Mr. Richard H. Swann, Jr., for the Police Chief position.

Chief Williams named the Search Committee members being himself, Ms. Dhonau, Mrs. Scrogam, retired and former St. Pete Beach Police Chief Dave Romine, and resident and citizen member Neil Rode.

After reviewing applications and conducting interviews, Mr. Richard Swann Jr., scored the highest out of all the applicants. Council was notified of the selection and were provided with Mr. Swann's resume for review. Mr. Swann met with each Council member individually for a meet and greet.

Chief Williams highly recommended Mr. Swann. If Council approves, the next steps of the hiring process will be the background, physical, and behavioral assessments. If Mr. Swann passes assessments, then Mr. Swann would transition into the Police Chief position on March 24, 2019. Chief Williams will assist with the transition up to the first week of April.

Mayor Soranno asked if a salary has been settled.

Chief Williams replied that the high end of the advertised salary of \$98,000 is an appropriate range and is what Mr. Swann requested. He mentioned that Mr. Swann would not need health insurance which would be a cost savings to the Town.

Mr. Swann stated he is willing to start at the advertised salary.

Mayor Soranno confirmed with Mr. Swann he did not need health insurance and Mr. Swann replied he did not.

Motion by **Councilor Hackerson**– seconded by **Councilor Smith** to accept Mr. Richard H. Swann, Jr., for the position of Police Chief at a starting salary of \$98,000 and proceed with the hiring process.

Ms. Dhonau recommended to Council that they consider adding to the motion that the hiring is effective upon positive results of the physical and background checks to prevent having to come back to Council once the results are received.

Motion amended by **Councilor Hackerson**– seconded by **Councilor Smith** to accept Mr. Richard H. Swann, Jr. for the position of Police Chief at a starting salary of \$98,000 and proceed with the hiring pending the assessment results.

Mr. Lozano polled the Council. All ayes. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Council congratulated Mr. Swann.

4.0 Citizens' comments on any subject.

Fire Commissioner Larry Schear, 19829 Gulf Blvd., reminded all of the upcoming election regarding the Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue District's (PSFRD) referendum on the ballot. He urged all to vote and to join the after party at Crabby Bill's.

5.0 Mayor's and Council Members' comments on any subject.

Councilor Hackerson had no additional comments.

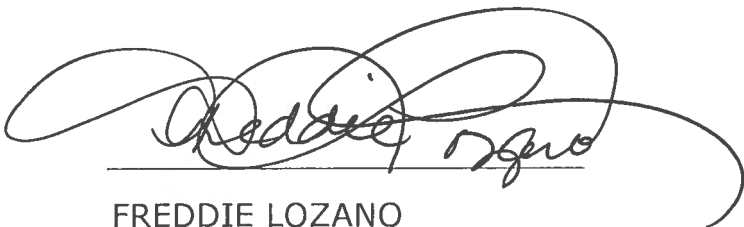
Councilor Petruccelli backed Mr. Schear's comments and strongly recommended for all to vote.

Councilor Smith will be out of town and will miss the St. Patrick's Day Festival.

Vice Mayor Schear reminded all of the St. Patrick's Day Festival on Saturday, March 16, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. The March 2019 Coastal Cleanup is on March 30, beginning at 8 a.m. Coffee, juice, and donuts will be served. Ten tickets remain for sale for the March 9 Fashion Show where there will be raffles and fashion from Stein Mart.

Mayor Soranno added to Councilor Petruccelli's comment that PSFRD desperately needs the money. Response times are critical, and the Town has a fire department that responds quickly. He supports Fire Chief Mike Burton. He mentioned Mr. Swann is the right person at the right time. He is looking forward to Mr. Swann being sworn in as Police Chief.

The meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Freddie Lozano', written over a horizontal line. The signature is highly stylized with large loops and flourishes.

FREDDIE LOZANO
Town Clerk