

INDIAN SHORES

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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2021, BEGAN AT 5:01 P.M. INDIAN SHORES MUNICIPAL CENTER, 4TH FLOOR

The Meeting convened at 5:01 P.M.

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

Also present: Town Administrator Bonnie Dhonau, Director of Finance and Personnel Susan Scrogam, Town Clerk Freddie Lozano, Building Official Neal Mazzei, Interim Town Engineer Jerry Dabkowski, Police Chief Rick Swann, Police Captain Glen Smith, Fire Chief Mike Burton, Fire Commissioner Larry Schear, Danny Powell of West Central Signs (SignStar, DBA), Sarah Lynn Westmoreland Mullins, LLC, Artist Steve Graff, Michael McCoy of Residential Designs, Inc., Information Technology Support Applicant Dale Hutchinson, Planning, Zoning and Building Committee Members Dr. Candiss Rinker and Roland Goerner.

Those absent: None.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ITEM # AGENDA ITEM

1.0 Consideration of approving the Town Council Meeting agenda for September 8, 2021.

Motion by **Councilor Schear** – seconded by **Councilor Smith** to approve the Town Council Meeting Agenda for September 8, 2021, as amended. **All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.**

Patrick C. Soranno
Mayor

Mike Hackerson
Vice Mayor

Diantha Schear
Councilor

Michael (Mike) Petruccelli
Councilor

William F. (Bill) Smith
Councilor

Bonnie Dhonau
Town Administrator

Richard (Rick) Swann
Chief of Police

Susan L. Scrogam
Director of Finance
and Personnel

Freddie G. Lozano
Town Clerk

Regina Kardash, Esq.
Town Attorney

2.0 Comments from the public on any agenda item. None.

3.0 PUBLIC HEARING: Adoption of the Tentative proposed Ad Valorem millage rate of 1.8700 mills per \$1,000 of the assessed valuation of \$1,158,466,195 for FY 2021/2022.

Mayor Soranno opened the floor for public comments.

Councilor Smith and **Councilor Schear** commented that 1.8700 has been the same millage rate for the past few years.

Motion by **Councilor Smith** – seconded by **Councilor Schear** to approve the adoption of the tentative proposed Ad Valorem millage rate of 1.8700 mills per \$1,000 of the assessed valuation of \$1,158,466,195 for FY 2021/2022.

Council polled. All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.

4.0 PUBLIC HEARING: Adoption of the Tentative proposed Budget of \$9,655,396 for FY 2021/2022.

Ms. Scrogam commented that the \$9,655,396 is comprised of the actual operating budget of \$5,478,614 and reserves in the amount of \$4,176,782.

She updated the Council on budget changes that included an increase of \$19,607 in revenues, an overall budget increase of \$14,369 for the Police Department, an increase of \$5,746 in the revenue sharing for the local option gas tax, the Pinellas County Beautification revenues decreased to \$500,000 due to the \$305,510 of Penny III monies submitted to the County, and infrastructure tax increase of \$4,514.

Mayor Soranno opened the floor for public comments, which there were none.

Motion by **Councilor Smith** – seconded by **Councilor Schear** to approve the adoption of the tentative proposed Budget of \$9,655,396 for FY 2021/2022 with the amendments as summarized by Ms. Scrogam.

Council polled. All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Soranno announced that the second Budget Hearing for the adoption of the proposed final budget is scheduled on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, at 5:01 P.M.

5.0 Consideration of approving the "CONSENT AGENDA" as follows:

A. MINUTES:

- 1. Town Council Meeting, August 10, 2021.**
- 2. Special Town Council Meeting, August 24, 2021.**

B. RE-OCCURRING EXPENSES: for August 2021.

Motion by **Councilor Schear** – seconded by **Councilor Smith** to approve the Consent Agenda. **All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.**

6.0 Correspondence.

- **Email link to "Appeals court overturns beach access ruling in Pinellas case" news article.**

Attorney Kardash's thought is that the ruling will have minimal impact on Indian Shores due to the Town's ordinance on beach access that has been in place for several decades.

- **Email invitation to the Town Council from St. Petersburg Civitan Club President Janice Ward for the Civitan Centennial Celebration on Saturday, September 11, 2021.**

Mayor and **Mrs. Soranno** and Councilor Petruccelli will be attending the celebration.

7.0 Town Attorney's report.

Attorney Kardash reported that the proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments with regards to increasing the density of the Institutional zone category from 0 to 12.5 Units Per Acre (UPA) were approved by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (FDEO). The second reading of the ordinance will be scheduled for the September 22nd meeting.

After the land development code is amended, the parcel's zoning will be changed from Transportation/Utility to Institutional. A site plan

application review for the parcel of interest will be scheduled for a quasi-judicial hearing for recommendation and approval.

8.0 Report from the Fire Chief.

Fire Chief Burton reported: staffing levels are stable, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) call volumes remain high, and all met the target response time, fire calls remain typical during the summer storm season, they are working on getting requalified for reimbursement costs incurred from Hurricane Elsa, he announced that he, along with Finance Director David Martin, will be retiring December 3rd, the Commission has a target start date of November 15, 2021 for the next Fire Chief.

Mayor Soranno stated that he has enjoyed working with Chief Burton and that he will be missed.

9.0 Consideration of hiring Dale Hutchinson as I.T. Support at a rate of \$65.00 per hour effective September 11, 2021.

Ms. Dhonau stated that Mr. Hutchinson works at the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and comes highly recommended. His I.T. background, especially in law enforcement, will be a benefit during our Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) audits. She recommended hiring Mr. Hutchinson as Mr. Lancto will be transitioning out of his position to take on new responsibilities at the Sheriff's Office. A recently conducted security review of the Town's systems by an outside vendor that Mr. Lancto initiated gave our systems high marks. Mr. Lancto has everything planned out for a seamless transition.

Motion by **Councilor Schear** – seconded by **Councilor Smith** to approve the hiring of Dale Hutchinson as I.T. Support at a rate of \$65.00 per hour effective September 11, 2021. **All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.**

10.0 PUBLIC HEARING: Quasi-Judicial

(The Planning, Zoning and Building Committee previously approved and recommended this site plan for Council approval at a Special Town Council Meeting scheduled on August 17, 2021, which was canceled due to a lack of a Council quorum.)

Consideration of the Planning, Zoning and Building Committee recommendation of a request for a Site Plan Review application

from Daniel J. Hickey, Authorized Representative of Roosevelt Road Holdings, LLC., for the construction of a single-family home with 2 stories over parking. The location will be at 19004 and 19006 Gulf Boulevard, Indian Shores, Florida, Lots 24 and 25, Parcel #s 30-30-15-42588-000-0240 and 30-30-15-42588-000-0250, and to utilize 19006 as the street address number moving forward.

Mr. Lozano administered the Oath to those who planned to testify before the Council; Mr. Dabkowski, Mr. Mazzei, and Mr. McCoy.

Mayor Soranno opened the public hearing for Town Staff and contractor comments.

Mr. Dabkowski commented that based upon his review, the proposed site plan meets and exceeds the Town's code requirements. He recommended its approval contingent upon the applicant/owners obtaining a driveway permit from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and submit it to the Building Official prior to the issuance of a building permit.

Mr. Mazzei commented that, with the exception to the FDOT driveway permit, the site plan application was complete, and all fees have been paid in full. He also confirmed that the Unity of Title for the two lots has been received.

Mr. McCoy stated that their consulting civil engineer is waiting on the official approval letter for the site plan to move forward along with the FDOT driveway permit approval which is ready to go.

Mayor Soranno opened the hearing for public comments, which there were none.

Motion by **Councilor Schear** – seconded by **Councilor Petruccelli** to approve the Site Plan Review application for 19004 and 19006 Gulf Boulevard, Indian Shores, Florida and to utilize 19006 as the street address number moving forward, contingent upon the applicant/owners obtaining a driveway permit from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and submit it to the Building Official prior to the issuance of a building permit.

Council polled. All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.

11.0 PUBLIC HEARING: Quasi-Judicial

Consideration of the Planning, Zoning and Building Committee recommendation of a request for a Site Plan Review from The Town of Indian Shores to develop a Monument Project located at the Northwest corner of the Tiki Gardens Parking area, 19601 Gulf Boulevard, Indian Shores, FL 33785. (S24, T30S, R18E) Parcel # 24-30-14-42912-006-0030. The project will consist of a new sculpture with arch, interpretive signage, circular plaza, lighting, landscape and irrigation.

Mr. Lozano administered the Oath to those who planned to testify before the Council; Mr. Dabkowski, Mr. Mazzei, and Mr. Powell.

Mayor Soranno opened the public hearing for Town Staff and contractor comments.

Mr. Dabkowski presented his letter of recommendation which contained seven items that needed to be addressed. He discussed each item and confirmed that each have been answered and/or resolved. He approved the site plan for recommendation of Council approval.

Mr. Powell commented on the project's timeline stating that the bulk of it will be completed by January. The bronze statue is currently scheduled to be completed in July of 2022. The Bronze Foundry has the maquette, and he was told that the bronze maquette may possibly be ready sometime in October.

Mayor Soranno opened the hearing for public comments, which there were none.

Motion by **Councilor Smith** – seconded by **Councilor Schear** to approve the Site Plan Review application request from The Town of Indian Shores to develop a Monument Project located at the Northwest corner of the Tiki Gardens Parking area, 19601 Gulf Boulevard, Indian Shores, FL 33785.

Council polled. All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.

12.0 Consideration of renewing the annual Local Agreement between the Town of Indian Shores and the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and Sheriff Bob Gualtieri for Ancillary Services to support the Indian Shores Police Department for fiscal year 2021-2022.

Chief Swann noted that this contract's \$5,000 increase was partly due to the addition of the evidence storage and maintenance that was added to the contract last year. There are prepaid items built into the agreement that generate a return. \$3,594 was returned last year.

Motion by **Councilor Schear** – seconded by **Councilor Smith** to approve renewal of the annual Local Agreement between the Town of Indian Shores and the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and Sheriff Bob Gualtieri for Ancillary Services to support the Indian Shores Police Department for fiscal year 2021-2022. **All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.**

13.0 Report from the Building Official for August 2021.

Mr. Mazzei reported that August was a busy month with \$42,000 in fees collected. Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) became effective on August 4th and can be viewed in his office on the second floor for building permits and site plan research.

14.0 Report from the Town Administrator.

Ms. Dhonau reported on the completed installation of the counter, glass partition and intercom of the Town Library, parking fees at Nature Park took effect on September 1st with \$750 collected within the first seven days of September, Pinellas County has been billed for the \$305,000 of Penny III monies, red tide update, a \$5,000 TIPS Grant for safety related items has been approved, Public Services began replacing some of the boards at Nature Park and they have deployed all of the garbage can enclosures.

15.0 Consideration of approving the Financial Statement for period ending July 2021.

Motion by **Councilor Schear** – seconded by **Councilor Smith** to approve the Financial Statement for period ending July 2021.

Council polled. All ayes. Motion carried 5-0.

16.0 Report from the Fire Commissioner.

Fire Commissioner Schear has had the responsibility of hiring three Fire Chiefs during his service including Chief Burton. A fire chief

requirement list has been circulated through the fire chief availability groups with hopes to begin reviewing resumes by October 1st. He commented that all fire chiefs that have been selected were exemplary.

17.0 Police activity report for August 2021.

Chief Swann commented he is sad to see Fire Chief Burton retire. He has been an asset to Indian Shores. He mentioned sending an email that provided a year-end update on Police Department staffing, a new police vehicle has been secured for the new fiscal year in anticipation of the budget approval, law enforcement deaths due to COVID-19, storm preparedness with regards to high water capacity vehicles, GPS satellite phones and storm supplies.

18.0 Citizen's comments on any subject.

Sara Mullins, 2244 21st Avenue S., St. Petersburg, FL, thanked the Town and Staff for all the work that has been done to arrive at this milestone. It is meaningful to her to see the monument art and plaza come to existence to memorialize and understand the indigenous people who are no longer here.

19.0 Council members' comments on any subject.

Councilor Schear announced the annual International Coastal Cleanup scheduled for October 23rd. Keep Pinellas Beautiful will support the event by supplying the cleanup materials. She mentioned that Legacy Vacation Resorts is excited about the monument project and that they sponsored their own cleanup event that took place today.

Councilor Petruccelli thanked everyone who provided support during his absence.

Councilor Smith thanked the Town Staff and Police Department for all their hard work every day.

Vice Mayor Hackerson mentioned that there are already ten spaces reserved for the October Town Yard Sale. It is moving along.

Mayor Soranno echoed Councilor Petruccelli's comments. He urged everyone to stay safe and be careful. He will be preparing a report on

the Town Staff's and Police Department's accomplishments for this past year.

20.0 Meeting adjournment.

6:03 P.M.



Freddie Lozano
Town Clerk