



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

**DECEMBER 5, 2023**

*Meeting audio available in Town Clerk's Office- there were some technical difficulties during the recording of meeting.*

*Meetings are also available on YouTube.*

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Danowski called the meeting 6:32 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 Lenihan, Public Works Director Peters, Incoming Public Works Director Richard Gallant, and Town Clerk Lakisha Burch.

**ADDITIONS, DELETIONS AND MODIFICATIONS**

Vice Mayor Shorr asked if items 11 and 13 be moved to be heard after the presentation. Councilmember Maniglia asked a question regarding second reading ordinance being under Discussion. Town Staff responded that it was a heading mistake and Town Manager Ramaglia stated the correction. There was discussion about the order of the agenda.

**Motion was made by Vice Mayor Shorr seconded by Councilmember Maniglia to approve the modification of the agenda as follows items 1 and 2 followed by items 11 and 13, then continue agenda as is 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**

**PRESENTATION**

1. Presentation from the Gehring Group updating of the Town's insurance for employees.

Melissa Morley from the Gehring Group presented the item to the Town Council regarding the renewal of the employee's health and insurance benefits.

It was asked by Mayor Danowski to Town Attorney could Resolution No. 2023-83 be pulled from the Consent Agenda and be approved. Town Attorney Lenihan responded, yes.

Resolution No. 2023-83 was pulled from the Consent Agenda and voted on.

2. Presentation of the FY22 Audit from Caballero, Fierman, Llerena, & Garcia, LLP.

Fierman presented the item to the Town Council by going through the audit for the FY 22 year. He also thanked the Town Council for the opportunity to be their auditor.

Councilmember Herzog asked about the controls. Chris Wallace from Munilytics responded to Councilmember Herzog's question. She also asked about the Policy and Procedures Manual. Town Manager Ramaglia responded. She asked about bank reconciliations, journal entry, and closing. Mr. Wallace responded.

Vice Mayor Shorr asked when the next audit will be coming out. Mr. Wallace responded March.

Councilmember Maniglia asked if this is not a final draft. Mr. Fierman responded. Mayor Danowski thanked Mr. Fierman. She then asked what the importance of the audit is. Mr. Fierman responded to her question.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

3. Consideration of approval of Meeting Minutes.
  - a. August 1, 2023 Community Open Discussion Meeting Minutes
  - b. August 1, 2023 Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes
  - c. August 23, 2023 FY 24 Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes
  - d. November 7, 2023 Community Open Discussion Meeting Minutes
  - e. November 7, 2023 Town Council Meeting Minutes
4. Consideration of **Resolution No. 2023-82** amending Resolution No. 2022-48 regarding employment terms including accrual and carryover of paid time off.
5. Consideration of **Resolution No. 2023-83** authorizing Town employee's health and insurance benefits for 2024. **PULLED FROM CONSENT TO BE VOTED ON AFTER PRESENTATION ITEM # 1**

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

**Motion was made by Councilmember Maniglia seconded by Councilmember Miles to approve Resolution No. 2023-83 authorizing Town employee's health and insurance benefits for 2024; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.**

6. Consideration of **Resolution No. 2023-85** approving ingress/egress easement to facilitate construction of culvert bridge at A Road and 161<sup>st</sup>.

**Motion was made by Vice Mayor Shorr seconded by Councilmember Maniglia to approve the Consent Agenda items 2a, b, c, d, and e, 4, and 6; it voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### REGULAR AGENDA



7. Consideration of **Resolution No. 2023-80** approving Removal of Specimen Trees at 3556 B Road.

**Councilmember Miles recused herself due to living on B Road.**

Mr. James Fleischmann presented the item to the Town Council by giving them an update on the changes made since the last meeting. Vice Mayor Shorr thanked Ms. Brady for saving some of the mature trees.

**Motion was made by Vice Mayor Shorr seconded by Councilmember Herzog to approve Resolution No. 2023-80 approving removal of Specimen Trees at 3556 B Road it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Herzog and Miles. Motion passed 4-0. Councilmember Miles abstained.**

8. Consideration of **Resolution No. 2023-81** approving Removal of Specimen Trees at 14120 6<sup>th</sup> Court.

Mr. James Fleischmann presented the item to the Town Council by giving them an update on 14120 6<sup>th</sup> Court. There was discussion among the Town Council and Town Staff and Mr. Hayes.

There were public comments by Katie Edward Walphe and Mr. Hayes.

**Motion was made by Mayor Danowski seconded by Councilmember Herzog to approve Resolution No. 2023-81 approving removal of Specimen Trees at 14120 6<sup>th</sup> Court it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski, Councilmembers Herzog, and Miles. Nay: Vice Mayor Shorr. Councilmember Maniglia abstained.**

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

9. Consideration of **Ordinance No. 2023-08** on first reading revising the Building Code.

Town Attorney Lenihan read Ordinance No. 2023-08 on second reading.

Jacek Tomaski, the Building Official presented the item to the Town Council regarding the revising of the Building Code. There was discussion among the Town Council, Building Official and Town Staff.

There were public comments made by Paul Coleman and Virginia Standish.

**Motion was made by Councilmember Maniglia seconded by Vice Mayor Shorr to approve on first reading Ordinance No. 2023-08 revising the Building Code; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.**

10. Consideration of **Ordinance No. 2023-13** on second reading amending election for date and vacancies.

Town Attorney Lenihan presented the item to the Town Council. There was discussion among the Town Council and Town Staff.

**Motion was made by Councilmember Maniglia seconded by Councilmember Herzog to approve on second reading Ordinance No. 2023-13 amending elections for date and vacancies; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.**

11. Consideration of **Ordinance No. 2023-15** on second reading on Agricultural and Agritourism. **MOVED TO BE HEARD AFTER ITEM PRESENTATIONS.**

Town Attorney Lenihan read the Ordinance into the record. She also gave a brief update on the changes to the Ordinance.

Mayor Danowski asked what the handout was given out. Town Manager Ramaglia responded.

There were public comments made by the following: Teri Mitze representative for Florida House Representative Ric Roth, Sara Baxter, District 6 Palm Beach County Commissioner, Mark Rhinehole, Darrin and Jodi Swank, Virginia Standish, Cassie Suchy, Manish Sood, Liza Corazo and Marty Holman, Cheri Reed, Joseph Chammas, and Todd McLendon.

Mayor Danowski asked for the Town Council to consider the following: create and AD Hoc Committee to be created, Town Councilmember appoint one member, cancel 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and bring back. The Town Council individuals gave their thoughts and opinions regarding Mayor Danowski's request. Commissioner Baxter addressed the Town Council with her suggestion of how the Town Council should proceed with approving Ordinance No. 2023-15. Mayor Danowski asked how to proceed. Town Attorney Lenihan responded.

**There was consensus made by the Town Council to have an Ad Hoc Committee regarding Agritourism allowing each Town Councilmember to appoint a member.**

**Motion was made by Councilmember Maniglia to deny the second reading of Ordinance No. 2023-15 seconded by Councilmember Herzog; she then changed her motion to approve on second reading on Ordinance No. 2023-15 regarding Agricultural and Agritourism seconded by Councilmember Herzog it was voted as follows: Ayes: None. Nays: Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Motion failed 0-5.**

**Motion was made by Mayor Danowski seconded by Councilmember Miles to remove Councilmember Maniglia from the bench for disruptive behavior; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmember Herzog, and Miles. Nay: Councilmember Maniglia. Motion passed 4-1.**

#### **DISCUSSION**

##### **12. Discussion of Comprehensive Plan (EAR).**

James Fleischmann, Town Planning Consultant, presented the item to the Town Council. There was discussion among the Town Council and Town Staff.

There were public comments made by the following: Paul Coleman, Katie Edwards-Walpole, Virginia Standish, and Cassie Suchy.

Councilmember Miles asked about why special properties in the Comp Plan. Town Attorney Lenihan responded to her question.

**There was consensus by the Town Council to schedule a workshop to discuss the next version.**

##### **13. Discussion regarding Roadway and Drainage update. MOVED TO BE HEARD AFTER ITEM 11 WHICH WAS MOVED TO BE HEARD AFTER PRESENTATIONS.**



Jeff Kurtz presented the item to the Town Council and asked the Town Council to give the Town Manager and Town Attorney the authorizing any change orders that will be needed. Town Attorney Lenihan also commented on this.

Vice Mayor Shorr stated that if a deduction doesn't need Town Council approval. Town Attorney Lenihan responded to Vice Mayor Shorr's question. Vice Mayor Shorr asked Town Manager do we have 40, 000 that could be approved tonight. Town Manager Ramaglia stated that it could be done but doesn't know where it would come from. There was discussion among the Town Council and Town Staff.

**Motion was made by Vice Mayor Shorr seconded by Councilmember Miles to allot and additional \$40,000.00 and necessary time extension for J. W. Cheatum to complete E Road, Folsom, 25<sup>th</sup> and G West as much as these easements will allow and give authorization to the Town Manager and Town Attorney to execute; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Danowski, Vice Mayor Shorr, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.**

Councilmember Maniglia asked why these roads are being stuck on. Mr. Kurtz responded.

Mr. Kurtz stated that Collecting Canal- contract will be done by WBI to do the work.

Town Manager Ramaglia introduced the new Public Works Director Richard Gallant to the Town Council. Thanked Larry for his service to the Town. Mr. Gallant introduced himself.

### **TOWN STAFF COMMENTS**

Town Manager

- Announced that she was happy to see Commission Baxter was still in audience.
- Spoke on the Town opposition on the annexation and thanked Commissioner Baxter for her help.

Town Attorney

No comment.

Public Works Director

- Mr. Peters addressed the Town Council
- Introduction of new Public Works Director- Richard Gallant

Town Clerk

- Town Clerk spoke about the upcoming Holiday Parade: Working on the float will be this Saturday, December 9th from 9:00 - until
- The Holiday Parade will be held on December 10th. Information has been sent to the Town Council.
- Holiday Gratitude Basket will be given out on December 15th- we are accepting donations and taking names. Please send in names to receive the basket.
- Announce resignation.

**TOWN COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

Councilmember Margaret Herzog (Seat 5)

- Nice to see bank mowers out cleaning the breams.
- Happy Holidays

Councilmember Phillis Maniglia (Seat 1)

- Not the weakest link.
- Happy Holiday
- Thanked Mr. Peters and Ms. Burch

Councilmember Marianne Miles (Seat 3)

- Happy Holidays, thanks for kind words, thanks 2024 will be better.
- Spoke about overgrown grass.
- Told Mr. Peters and Town Clerk Burch that they will be missed.

Vice Mayor Robert Shorr (Seat 4)

- The Agritourism committee-gave names to Francine, Elizabeth, Town Attorney will have resolution done.
- Thanked Mr. Peters for his hard work, kicked butt. Great to have a new Director. Great to see a Building Official, Town Manager Ramaglia responded.
- Things are moving forward bumped up reserves.
- Spoke about the mower being out.
- Excited to see paving machine coming to Town.
- Staff have done great work on.

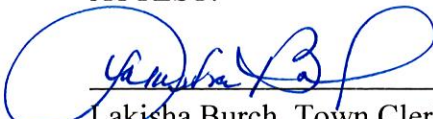
Mayor Laura Danowski (Seat 2)

- Thanked Town Clerk stating she (Town Clerk) will be missed. She also addressed Mr. Peters, Public Works Director and thanked him for his service.
- Spoke about her time visiting elementary school.
- Stated that she loves what she does. Thanked staff.
- Happy Holiday

**ADJOURNMENT**

The workshop was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

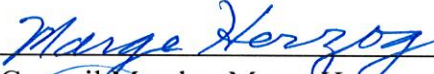
ATTEST:

  
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Lakisha Burch, Town Clerk

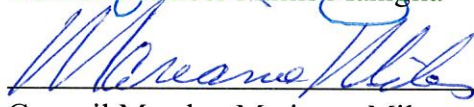
**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES,  
FLORIDA**

  
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Mayor Laura Danowski

  
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Vice Mayor Robert Shorr

  
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Council Member Marge Herzog

  
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Council Member Phillis Maniglia

  
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Council Member Marianne Miles