



**MINUTES  
TOWN OF HILLSBORO BEACH  
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING  
MARCH 5, 2024**

**TUESDAY**

**9:00 A.M.**

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**CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Irene Kirdahy called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll was called with the Commission members and staff present as listed below.

**Town Commission:**

Mayor Irene Kirdahy

Vice Mayor Barbara Baldassarre

Commissioner David A. Ravanese

Commissioner Jane Reiser

Commissioner Vinnie Andreano

**Town Staff:**

Town Manager William "Mac" Serda, ICMA-CM

Donald J. Doody, Town Attorney, Esq.

Town Clerk Sherry D. Henderson, CMC

Police Chief Jay Szesnat

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**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion** made by Commissioner Ravanese, seconded by Vice Mayor Baldassarre, to adopt the agenda as presented. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously. (5-0)

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. February 6, 2024 Regular Commission Meeting**

**Motion** made by Commissioner Ravanese, seconded by Commissioner Reiser, to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2024, Regular Meeting as presented. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously. (5-0)

## **II. PRESENTATIONS**

### **A. Presentation from Coastal Protection Engineering, LLC (CPE) Beach Nourishment Update**

Tara Brenner, Senior Coastal Engineer, Coastal Protection Engineering (CPE), provided an update on the Town's beach nourishment efforts. She discussed the 2023 renourishment, which included dredging of 400,000 cubic yards of sand from the Boca Raton inlet and shared that the joint project with Deerfield Beach and Boca Raton was recognized and commended on the State level. She reviewed before and after photos and discussed next steps, including post-construction monitoring and engineering for the next project under the settlement agreement, and opportunities for the future.

Continuing, Ms. Brenner explained the results of the post-monitoring surveys to date, noting the erosion resulting from a winter she described as rough. She stated 27,000 cubic yards of loss was measured between May 2023 and December 2023 and discussed contributing factors. She advised that CPE would continue to monitor the beach, reef, and turtle activity, as well as seeking funding for ongoing renourishment and pursuing the extension of the Erosion Control Line (ECL).

Mr. Serda clarified that there was ongoing discussion of extending the ECL into Deerfield Beach as part of the settlement agreement.

Mayor Kirdahy asked if there was wind data available for the past winter. Mr. Serda and Ms. Brenner responded briefly.

Commissioner Ravanese asserted they could not continue to do the same thing repeatedly and expect a different result. He reviewed the past efforts and the costs, and stated a solution other than monitoring and renourishing was necessary for the future.

Mayor Kirdahy stated that she believed they needed to continue renourishing while exploring other options.

Ms. Brenner asserted that the team is not planning to continue doing the same things but is actively pursuing solutions. She discussed potential impacts of changing weather and the sand available off the east coast.

Commissioner Andreano asked for clarification on the availability of sand to return to the beach. Ms. Brenner discussed the impact of environmental resources such as exposed reefs and areas that can be dredged.

Commissioner Andreano discussed the ongoing need for beach maintenance and asked whether there were concerns with losing funding. Ms. Brenner advised that there is no indication State funding will be reduced, as the rate of return on dollars spent on the beach is high and the State relies heavily on tourism.

Commissioner Reiser asked if there had been an effort to bring the City of Pompano Beach into coordinated renourishment efforts. Mr. Serda stated the City of Pompano Beach is involved in discussions and is amenable to participation. Discussion continued regarding future dredging and renourishment scenarios.

Mr. Serda advised that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is also looking at coastline management and potential changes.

### **III. ORDINANCES**

#### **A. Ordinance No. 2024-01**

Water Rates Increase for Domestic Use and Irrigation Use (Second Reading)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF HILLSBORO BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE TO THE WATER RATES CHARGED TO THE TOWN'S RESIDENTS; PROVIDING FOR AN AMENDMENT TO CHARTER 10 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED "WATER" BY SPECIFICALLY AMENDING SECTION 10-1 ENTITLED "WATER RATES"; PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE OF 6.9% PERCENT FOR RESIDENTIAL DOMESTIC USE; PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE OF 6.9% PERCENT FOR RESIDENTIAL IRRIGATION USE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Doody read the Ordinance by title only.

Mr. Ravanese commented on the expenses associated with ongoing water infrastructure and stated there are circumstances which require an increase. He highlighted two (2) recent water main breaks and water plant repairs. He noted the Commission had heard from residents in reference to the increase, but he had researched the issue, and it was necessary.

**Motion** made by Commissioner Ravanese, seconded by Vice Mayor Baldassarre, to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-01. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously. (5-0)

### **IV. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION**

#### **A. Discussion on Leaf Blower Restrictions**

Mr. Serda provided a brief overview of research he had done, including putting out calls to several landscapers, in Town and in Broward County. He stated he did not have great response yet, but not all of those he spoke with were willing to make the change. He noted

some advised that they had clients who required battery-operated blowers and the cost was approximately \$100 to \$150 more per month. Mr. Serda shared that Miami Beach had put a restriction in place, which included a nine (9) month education period and a nine (9) month warning period before they started implementing the restriction in February of this year. He advised that the change was plausible, and it was up to the discretion of the Commission as to whether staff should pursue a restriction on gas leaf blowers.

Mayor Kirdahy asked if the \$100-\$150 upcharge for using battery-operated leaf blowers was in reference to private residences or condominiums. Mr. Serda stated the landscaper who provided this information had condominium clients and explained that he carries 12 batteries which cost approximately \$300 each.

Commissioner Reiser suggested the item be tabled to the April meeting to allow for more feedback from local landscapers and condominiums and then discuss the matter again.

Commissioner Ravanese stated he had sat in on a comparison and the difference between gas and electric was large. Mr. Serda advised that he had reviewed the decibel levels with a decibel meter, and it was approximately 30 percent difference.

Mayor Kirdahy commented that it was a difference, but not everyone would agree it was a big difference. She stated the factors to review moving forward were cost and effectiveness.

Mr. Serda noted barriers in staff gathering information and asked that members of the Commission assist him in connecting with individual landscapers that they have relationships with.

Mr. Doody noted pending legislation related to landscaping and leaf blowers and encouraged the Commission to table the item until the end of the legislative session due to potential preemption of municipalities.

## **IV. RESOLUTIONS & CONTRACTS**

### **A. Resolution No. 2024-07**

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE THE APPROPRIATE TOWN OFFICIALS TO SUBMIT A LETTER OF REQUEST TO THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION TO EXTEND THE NO WAKE ZONE ON THE INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY WITHIN THE TOWN OF HILLSBORO BEACH, FLORIDA JURISDICTION.

Mr. Doody read the Resolution by title only.

Mr. Serda commented that this resolution did not change the wake zone, as that was under the authority of other entities, but would allow for a letter in support of the change. He advised that discussion between staff from Hillsboro Beach, Deerfield Beach, and Lighthouse

Point had taken place as to reducing the speed for boating traffic along the Intracoastal waterway. He explained that the area south of Hillsboro Beach already has a speed limit, and this was a request to expand it. He stated the request before the Commission was to work with other adjoining cities to establish a year-round “No Wake Zone” on the Intracoastal.

Mr. Serda noted there is a State Statute that indicates what requirements are necessary to qualify, and Police Chief Jay Szesnat would be the point person on the development.

Police Chief Szesnat stated that from 1125 Hillsboro Mile to the south, there is an existing “No Wake Zone” and for six (6) months of the year there is a five (5) mile per hour slow zone for manatees, so the focus was on the area to the north for the other six (6) months of the year.

Vice Mayor Baldasarre pointed out that there was a definite advantage to having the municipalities work together. She noted there were previous requests, but the support did not exist at that time.

**Motion** made by Commissioner Ravanese, seconded by Commissioner Andreano, to adopt Resolution 2024-07. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously. (5-0)

**B. Resolution No. 2024-08**

CONSIDERATION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SELECTION/EVALUATION COMMITTEE FOR “RFQ 2021-01 ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS” AND ACCEPT PROPOSAL P24-022FL SUBMITTED BY NETTA ARCHITECTS, INC. AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE CONTRACT WITH NETTA ARCHITECTS, INC. FOR COMMISSION CHAMBER RENOVATION SERVICES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$49,750 PLUS \$2,000 REIMBURSABLE ALLOWANCE.

Mr. Doody explained the procedure for accepting the recommendation.

**Motion** made by Commissioner Andreano, seconded by Commissioner Ravanese, to accept the recommendation of the selection/evaluation committee and identify the proposal from Netta Architects, Inc. as the most responsive and responsible proposal. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously. (5-0)

Mr. Doody read the Resolution by title only.

**Motion** made by Commissioner Reiser, seconded by Vice Mayor Baldasarre, to adopt Resolution 2024-08. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously. (5-0)

**C. Resolution No. 2024-09**

CONSIDERATION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SELECTION/EVALUATION COMMITTEE FOR "RFQ 2021-01 ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS" AND ACCEPT PROPOSAL 24-8040 SUBMITTED BY CALVIN GIORDANO & ASSOCIATES, INC. AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE CONTRACT WITH CALVIN GIORDANO & ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR WATER TREATMENT

**Motion** made by Commissioner Ravanese, seconded by Vice Mayor Baldassarre, to accept the recommendation of the selection/evaluation committee and identify the proposal from Calvin, Giordano, and Associates as the most responsive and responsible proposal. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously. (5-0)

Mr. Doody read the Resolution by title only.

**Motion** made by Vice Mayor Baldassarre, seconded by Commissioner Reiser, to adopt Resolution 2024-09. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously. (5-0)

**D. Resolution No. 2024-10**

TOWN OF HILLSBORO BEACH COMMISSION RATIFICATION OF INVOICE PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$27,515 FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY LANZO CONSTRUCTION COMPANY RELATED TO EMERGENCY WATER MAIN REPAIR AT 901 HILLSBORO MILE ON JANUARY 21, 2024.

Mr. Doody read the Resolution by title only.

Mayor Kirdahy asked whether the cause of the break had been determined. Mr. Serda advised that the exact cause was not known. He stated the section that was repaired was newer pipe and was excluded from the lining project.

**Motion** made by Commissioner Reiser, seconded by Commissioner Ravanese, to adopt Resolution 2024-10. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously. (5-0)

**E. Resolution No. 2024-11**

TOWN OF HILLSBORO BEACH COMMISSION RATIFICATION OF INVOICE PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$29,325 FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY LANZO CONSTRUCTION COMPANY RELATED TO EMERGENCY WATER MAIN REPAIR AT 1050 HILLSBORO MILE ON JANUARY 22, 2024.

Mr. Doody read the Resolution by title only.

Mr. Serda advised that this section was part of the water main project, though it was not lined due to the number of valves and connections. He stated the section had been replaced, and it was an acceptable material for the water main. He noted he is having continued conversations to understand what happened and why, but the warranty expired three (3) months ago. Mr.

Serda added that Lanzo Construction Company came immediately on a Sunday and Monday when the Town's three (3) emergency contractors were unable to respond. He stated they had done a significant amount of work and benefited the Town tremendously.

Mayor Kirdahy asked about a new type of water piping with nylon veining. She noted a lot less water is used in summer, and the pipes tend to dry and crack. She asked whether there had been heavy trucks as a contributing factor. Mr. Serda commented that the water mains run parallel and not under the road. He stated neither area was especially subject to delivery traffic but following the water project there had been invasive sewer and road projects.

Vice Mayor Baldasarre asked whether there was insurance the Town could get against this type of situation. Mr. Serda stated he would investigate.

**Motion** made by Vice Mayor Baldasarre, seconded by Commissioner Reiser, to adopt Resolution 2024-11. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously. (5-0)

## VI. CONSENT AGENDA

|    | Vendor    | Invoice Number | Date     | Amount      | Description                            |
|----|-----------|----------------|----------|-------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1. | CG&A      | 265397         | Jan 2024 | \$59,223.71 |                                        |
| 2. | GCDE      | 58026          | Feb 2024 | \$3,692.35  | General Matters                        |
| 3. | GCDE      | 58027          | Feb 2024 | \$1,1110    | Development - Related                  |
| 4. | GCDE      | 58028          | Feb 2024 | \$795.00    |                                        |
| 5. | GCDE      | 58029          | Feb 2024 | \$5,074.90  | Adv. R Crusco & C Doherty (Ord 12-269) |
| 6. | LSF       | 24-0131-26     | Jan 2024 | \$6,481.37  |                                        |
| 7. | Inframark | 11000106       | Feb 2024 | \$8,398.29  |                                        |

### 8. Proclamation - Recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month

**Motion** made by Vice Mayor Baldasarre, seconded by Commissioner Ravanese, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously. (5-0)

## VII. BEACH REPORT

Mr. Serda added additional comment to the Coastal Protection Engineering (CPE), noting the intent of the report was not to assert that the beach had not eroded.

## VIII. STAFF UPDATES

### A. Police Department

Police Chief Szesnat shared his report. He stated patrol contacts are on track. He advised that high-liability training and use of force training took place in January. He provided a brief update on the beach safety initiative.

Vice Mayor Kirdahy asked about the new Police Officer (Collin Josey) introduced at the last meeting. Police Chief Szesnat advised that he had graduated from the Department of Health training, and he is on his own, working as a dispatcher.

## **B. Building Department**

Kameron Purdue, CG&A Assistant Building Official, presented the report on behalf of Steven Mitchell, Building Official. He stated permit activity had been consistent with single-family residences, condominium remodels, and concrete restoration projects. He advised that 1079 Hillsboro Mile had recently submitted plans for review and there were minimal corrections needed. He provided an update on the Related Group project and ongoing meetings to iron out the submittals.

Mayor Kirdahy asked when staff anticipates approval of the Related Group permits. Mr. Purdue advised that the ball was currently with Related Group. He stated sitework would be the initial scope of work, including test pilings. Mr. Serda commented that two (2) to three (3) months was a likely timeline.

## **C. Code Compliance**

Bernard Pita, Code Enforcement, CG&A, presented his report. He reviewed overall open cases, explaining every case is currently in progress. He noted he had spoken with the Fire Inspectors regarding outstanding items, and they would be providing an extension to May for compliance. He reviewed the case action report, stating three (3) cases had been opened in January, including work without a permit, property maintenance, and a nuisance related to wildlife on unoccupied property. Mr. Pita advised that inspections and reinspection would increase with sea turtle season. He shared that he had attended an intensive training to become better educated on the issue. He stated he would be conducting night walks beginning March 6.

Commissioner Andreano asked about automated external defibrillator (AED) compliance. Mr. Serda stated that was inspected by the Fire Department, and then Code Enforcement handles the administration. Mr. Pita stated he could reach out to the Fire Department if there was an issue that needed follow-up. Discussion continued.

## **IX. TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

### **A. Shredding, Recycling, Prescription Drug Take Back Day – Saturday, April 27, 2024, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Mr. Serda shared the details of the Town's Household Hazardous Waste, Shredding, Recycling, and Prescription Drug Take Back event and noted the date may change.

### **B. Sea Turtle Nesting Season – March 1 to October 31, 2024**

Mr. Serda highlighted the beginning of the sea turtle nesting season. He stated staff had sent emails and would send out flyers to alert residents that Code Compliance staff would be enforcing the ordinance regarding lighting.

## **X. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT**

Mr. Doody stated he had advised the Commission that residents had filed a lawsuit in Civil Court attacking the validity of a Town ordinance and he would provide updates as they become available.

## **XI. TOWN COMMISSION COMMENTS/REPORTS**

### **A. Recognizing Mayor Irene Kirdahy for Eight Years of Service to the Town of Hillsboro Beach**

Mr. Serda stated this was Mayor Kirdahy's last meeting, and each of the Commissioners made presentations on behalf of the Town to recognize her leadership and commitment to the Town of Hillsboro Beach over the past eight (8) years. Each member of the Commission shared brief comments.

Mayor Kirdahy thanked the residents for their confidence in her, electing her four (4) times to serve on the Commission. She shared that it was a privilege to serve the community and thanked everyone for their support, professionalism, and voting their conscience. She stated she could not have asked for a more informed and supportive Town staff, recognizing Town Manager Mac Serda, Town Clerk Sherry Henderson, and Town Attorney DJ Doody. She thanked her family for their continued love and support.

### **B. Vice Mayor Barbara Baldassarre**

Vice Mayor Baldassarre thanked Mayor Kirdahy for a yeoman's job in pursuing the road elevation project. She mentioned the Hillsboro Beach Condominium Forum would be on March 14, and the Broward League of Cities meeting was scheduled for March 7 in Wilton Manors.

### C. Commissioner Jane Reiser

Commissioner Reiser shared a photo from March 15, 2016, the night of Mayor Kirdahy's first election win. Commissioner Reiser expressed her appreciation for the support she received from Mayor Kirdahy serving on the Commission herself.

### D. Commissioner David A. Ravanese

Commissioner Ravanese provided a brief update from the Broward County Solid Waste Authority meeting. He stated they are in the process of seeking an executive director.

### E. Commissioner Vinnie Andreano

Commissioner Andreano shared that the annual bocce championship was held recently and enjoyed by all. He noted it was very competitive this year, and nearly 40 people participated. He stated the Town would eventually need one (1) additional bocce court.

### F. Mayor Irene Kirdahy

Mayor Kirdahy stated the Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) had recently recognized her for eight (8) years working with their board.

## XII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

(Former Mayor) Deb Tarrant, 1083 Hillsboro Mile, added her thanks and appreciation to Mayor Kirdahy, noting they had been through a lot of hurdles together and done a lot of great things for the Town.

## XIII. ADJOURNMENT

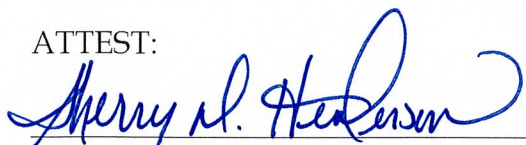
**Motion** made by Vice Mayor Baldasarre, seconded by Commissioner Ravanese, to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously. (5-0)

ADOPTED THIS 8<sup>th</sup> DAY OF April, 2024

By:

Dawn Miller, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sherry D. Henderson, CMC Town Clerk

