



TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH TOWN COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM, 3618 S. OCEAN
BLVD., HIGHLAND BEACH, FL

Date: January 16, 2024
Time: 1:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Moore called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Judith Goldberg
Commissioner Donald Peters
Commissioner Evalyn David
Vice Mayor David Stern
Mayor Natasha Moore
Town Manager Marshall Labadie
Town Attorney Glen Torcivia
Lanelda Gaskins, Town Clerk

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Town Commission led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United State of America.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: David/Stern - To approve the agenda as presented, which passed unanimously 5 to 0.

5. PRESENTATIONS / PROCLAMATIONS

None.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS (NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

Mr. John Shoemaker provided comments about the Milani property.

Mr. Jack Halpern talked about the Committee to Save Highland Beach and the Milani property. He congratulated Mayor Moore, Vice Mayor Stern and Commissioner Goldberg on their unopposed candidacy.

7. ORDINANCES (Public Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker per item after Commission initial discussion.)

A. None.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Public Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker per item after Town Commission initial discussion.)

A. Fire Rescue Implementation Update

Fire Chief Glenn Joseph provided an update on the construction of the fire rescue building. The TCO could be at the end of February or early March. He also gave an update on the hiring process and onboarding of the fire rescue personnel as well as purchasing or ordering major equipment. Town Manager Labadie will circulate dates to the Town Commission for the grand opening of the Fire Rescue Building in April.

B. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) RRR Project Update

Town Manager Labadie mentioned that the Florida Department of Transportation will hold its construction meeting in the Library on March 7, 2024 to discuss the RRR project. There will be an in-person meeting from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and the virtual meeting from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

C. Building Department Recertification Program Update

Building Official Jeffrey Remas gave an update on the Recertification Program. Dalton Place, Highlands Tower, Trafalgar, and Highlands Place have completed the recertification milestone inspection. Additionally, 24 buildings have complied and submitted their information, three buildings are currently undergoing restoration, and five buildings have not complied. Town staff is working with those five buildings.

D. Continued discussion of Milani Park.

Town Manager Labadie spoke about the history of the Milani property and the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners. He mentioned that the Town Commission has not expressed any desire for a park on the Milani property. Hence the reason for developing a comprehensive strategy to pursue or convince Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners. The administrative approach and the community approach had to be separated. Therefore, Mr. Ron Reame and Ms. Eve Rosen are taking the lead as community champions and have agreed to contact the condominium groups.

Ms. Sharon Merchant, President, of Merchant Strategy Inc, the Town's consultant, lobbyist, and public outreach coordinator will assist the community group with messaging, being prepared for the February 1, 2024 public hearing with Palm Beach County.

Town Manager Labadie talked about the administrative process concerning the contractual side and making sure whatever Palm Beach County does, the Town will hold them accountable for every element of the contract, which is ongoing. He mentioned that on July 7, Verdenia Baker, Palm Beach County Administrator executed the two-year window for development, and once they start the project, they must undertake the 40 items written in the contract. In addition, Town Manager Labadie mentioned that he is working with other avenues, which is being discussed with Ms. Milani, her team, and the Town Commission.

Town Manager Labadie encouraged the residents to attend the February 1, 2024 public meeting with Palm Beach County District 4 Commissioner Marci Woodward, to express their concerns regarding the Milani Park property. The meeting will be recorded and available to the public. Also, there will be an overflow area in the library for the public.

Ms. Sharon Merchant, with Merchant Strategy, Inc. asked the Town Commission if they considered a resolution to Palm Beach County expressing the Town's position on the park. She spoke about ways to communicate through emails, use of social media, public comment cards for the February 1, 2024 public meeting, and a press release. Ms. Merchant also suggested a sticker ("No Park") for the residents to wear at the public meeting.

Mayor Moore opened the item for public comments.

Mr. John Shoemaker commented on this matter.

Mr. Jack Halpern spoke about this matter as well.

Mr. David Newman also commented on this matter.

Mayor Moore closed the public comments.

9. CONSENT AGENDA (These are items that the Commission typically does not need to discuss individually, and which are voted on as a group.) Public Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker per item after Commission initial discussion.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2023 Town Commission Meeting Minutes

MOTION: David/Stern - Moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, which passed unanimously 5 to 0.

10. NEW BUSINESS (Public Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker per item after Town Commission initial discussion.)

A. Resolution No. 2024-001

A Resolution of the Town Commission of the Town of Highland Beach, Florida, authorizing the Mayor to execute Amendment Number Eight to the State of Florida Department of Transportation District Four Landscape Inclusive Memorandum of Agreement on behalf of the Town; providing for conflicts; and providing for an effective date.

Mayor Moore read the title of Resolution No. 2024-001.

Town Planner Ingrid Allen presented.

MOTION: David/Peters - Moved to approve Resolution No. 2024-001, which passed unanimously 5 to 0.

B. Consideration of Proposed Addendum No.1 to the Settlement Agreement between the Town of Highland Beach and Highland Beach Real Estate Holdings, Inc.

Mayor Moore read the title of Item 10.B.

Town Manager Labadie presented Proposed Addendum No. 1 to the settlement agreement with Highland Beach Real Estate Holdings, Inc., Ms. Milani's willingness to work with the Town, and the concerns with the zoning district. Town Commission discussions followed concerning this matter, the partnership with Ms. Milani and consideration of a proposed purchase of Milani Park should Palm Beach County does not develop the Milani Park. It was the consensus of the Town Commission for Town staff to prepare an item for a future agenda to discuss the feasibility of purchasing the property.

Town Attorney Torcivia spoke about the Town Commission slightly favoring the current concept.

Mayor Moore opened the item for public comments.

Mr. Ron Reame of Dalton Place provided comments regarding this matter.

Town Attorney Torcivia suggested that the Town Commission could schedule a special meeting on January 30, 2024 prior to Palm Beach County's February 1, 2024 public meeting.

Mr. David Newman commented on this matter.

Mayor Moore closed the public comments.

C. Consideration to approve and authorize the Mayor to execute a Janitorial Maintenance Services Agreement with Imperial Cleaning Corporation in an amount of \$77,976.00 for janitorial maintenance services for Town-owned facilities.

Mayor Moore read the title of Item 10.C.

Public Works Director Pat Roman presented the item.

MOTION: David/Stern - Moved to approve the contract for cleaning services with for \$77,976.00 with Imperial Cleaning Corporation. The motion passed unanimously 5 to 0.

11. TOWN COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Judith M. Goldberg was a very robust meeting and looks forward to further discussions concerning Milani Park.

Commissioner Donald Peters concurred with Commissioner Goldberg. He thanked Sharon Merchant and was against the Milani Park project.

Commissioner Evalyn David mentioned that we must do everything that we can so that the park does not get built in a way that displeases the residents.

Vice Mayor David Stern mentioned it would be a very power statement if the Town could get an agreement with Ms. Milani.

Mayor Natasha Moore agreed with the Vice Mayor. She asked about the Sea Turtle Lighting ordinance and the entry signage. Town Manager Labadie explained that the second read ordinance will be on the February 5 agenda. He also provided an update on the entry signate regarding the design, material, the solicitation of bids, and the permitting process. Lastly, she inquired about the annual update of the Strategic Priorities Plan and Town Manager Labadie explained that the plan was forthcoming.

12. TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Town Attorney Torcivia had nothing to report.

13. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Labadie attended the Palm Beach County Days event in Tallahassee last week and spoke about the event. He also talked about Milani property.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Moore read the announcements as follows:

Board Vacancies

Board of Adjustment and Appeals Board One (1) vacancy for an unexpired term ending September 21, 2024

Meetings and Events

January 31, 2024 9:30 A.M. Board of Adjustment and Appeals Board
Regular Meeting

February 06, 2024 1:30 P.M. Town Commission Meeting

Board Action Report (Information Only)

None.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:44 P.M.

APPROVED: February 20, 2024, Town Commission Meeting.

ATTEST:



Natasha Moore

Natasha Moore, Mayor

Transcribed by
Lanelda Gaskins

Lanelda Gaskins

Lanelda Gaskins, MMC
Town Clerk

02/20/2024

Date

Disclaimer: Effective May 19, 2020, per Resolution No. 20-008, all meeting minutes are transcribed as a brief summary reflecting the events of this meeting. Verbatim audio/video recordings are permanent records and are available on the Town's Media Archives & Minutes webpage: <https://highlandbeach-fl.municodemeetings.com/>.