

HILLIARD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Hilliard Town Hall / Council Chambers
15859 West County Road 108
Post Office Box 249
Hilliard, FL 32046

TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

John P. Beasley, Mayor
Kenny Sims, Council President
Lee Pickett, Council Pro Tem
Joe Michaels, Councilman
Jared Wollitz, Councilman
Dallis Hunter, Councilman

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Lisa Purvis, Town Clerk
Cory Hobbs, Interim Public Works Director
Gabe Whittenburg, Parks & Rec Director

TOWN ATTORNEY

Christian Waugh

MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024, 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mayor John Beasley
Council President Kenny Sims
Council Pro Tem Lee Pickett
Councilman Jared Wollitz
Councilman Dallis Hunter
Councilman Joe Michaels

The Town Council leaves their seat for the following items:

WORKSHOP

ITEM-1 In honor of Florida City Government Week, October 21 – 27, 2024, the Hilliard Elementary School students participated in an Essay Contest titled "If I were the Mayor of Hilliard _____".
John P. Beasley – Mayor

Mayor Beasley expresses gratitude to everyone who took part in the Town's City Government Week activities. He extends special thanks to Town Clerk Lisa Purvis for leading the event from the start, and to Public Information Officer & Event Coordinator Alicia Head for bringing the idea of a Mock Town Council Meeting to fruition.

Mayor Beasley then reads essays and presents Honorable Mention Certificates to Liliith Wood and Braylen Oliver. He proceeds to award Winner Certificates and cash prizes, presenting Emma Jo Allen with Third Place and \$20, Adalynn Adams with Second Place and \$30, and finally Noah Blake Hughes with First Place and \$50.

ITEM-2

In honor of Florida City Government Week, October 21 – 27, 2024, the Hilliard Elementary School students will conduct a Mock Town Council Meeting.
John P. Beasley – Mayor

Mayor Beasley has appointed Noah Blake Hughes as Mayor.

The following representatives were elected from the 5th Grade classes:

- Councilwoman Raelynn Smith
- Councilman Gavin Tappe
- Councilwoman Lily Strickland
- Councilwoman Isabella Mason
- Councilman Barren Boucher

The Mock Town Council members are now seated, and the Mock Town Council Meeting begins.

ITEM-1 Town Council to discuss removing Homework from all schools in the Town of Hilliard.

Motion to remove Homework from all schools in the Town of Hilliard.

Councilwoman Mason suggests that we don't need homework since we already learn a great deal each day in school. She states that this time would be better spent with our families.

Councilman Boucher argues in favor of homework, stating that since we only have seven hours of school, homework helps keep the mind refreshed and prepared for the next day.

Motion made by Councilman Tappe, Seconded by Councilwoman Mason.
Voting Yea: Councilman Boucher, Councilwoman Smith, Councilwoman Strickland, Councilwoman Mason, Council Councilman Tappe

ITEM-2 Town Council to discuss building a shelter for the animals.

Motion to build a shelter for the animals in the Town of Hilliard.

Councilwoman Smith supports the idea, explaining that it would make it easier for people to adopt pets and provide a place for citizens to bring abandoned animals to the shelter.

Councilman Boucher notes that the only local shelter is in Yulee, so having one in Hilliard would help prevent animals from getting injured.

Councilwoman Strickland mentions that there are many stray cats and dogs in Hilliard, and providing them with a home would be ideal.

Motion made by Councilwoman Mason, Seconded by Councilwoman Strickland.
Voting Yea: Councilman Boucher, Councilwoman Smith, Councilwoman Strickland, Councilwoman Mason, Council Councilman Tappe

ITEM-3 Town Council to discuss closing school during hunting season.

Motion to close school during hunting season.

Councilwoman Smith suggests that there should be no school during hunting season, allowing more time to enjoy hunting and family activities.

Councilwoman Strickland suggests that there should be no school during the first week of hunting season to ensure students don't miss any important experiences.

Councilman Boucher argues that school should continue during hunting season, as it lasts a long time, and missing school would leave students unprepared for the next grade.

Councilwoman Mason argues that we should have school because missing days would require us to make them up later.

Danielle Lauder milk of Ohio Street, asks the Mock Town Council when they would schedule make-up dates if a break is taken for hunting season.

The Mock Town Council is undecided at this time regarding this question.

Motion made by Councilwoman Strickland, Seconded by Councilman Tappe.

Voting Yea: Councilwoman Smith, Councilwoman Strickland, Councilman Tappe

Voting Nay: Councilwoman Mason, Councilman Boucher

ITEM-4 Town Council to discuss giving the parks a facelift and adding a shelter for any homeless.

Motion to give the parks a facelift and add a shelter for homeless.

Councilman Boucher states that if the park undergoes a facelift and includes a homeless shelter, it will provide a more modern space where homeless individuals can have access to housing, food, and essential resources, preventing them from having to rely on roadkill for sustenance.

Councilwoman Mason emphasizes the need to revitalize the parks and add a shelter for the homeless, noting that some areas are in poor condition. She believes it's crucial for local children to have a safe and enjoyable place to play, as the current state of the parks, along with the presence of many homeless individuals, is preventing them from doing so.

Councilwoman Strickland proposes that if the parks are renovated, adding a food court would be a great addition to provide families with activities to enjoy.

Mayor Beasley asks the Mock Town Council where the shelter will be located.

Councilman Tappe responds that there is a forest behind his house where both

the park and the homeless shelter could be situated.

Councilman Boucher adds that the trees could be cleared to make room for this.

Councilwoman Mason mentions that the trees at the skate park could be cut down to create a larger shelter.

Motion made by Councilman Tappe, Seconded by Councilwoman Mason.
Voting Yea: Councilman Boucher, Councilwoman Smith, Councilwoman Strickland, Councilwoman Mason, Council Councilman Tappe

ITEM-5 Town Council to discuss adding a hotel in Hilliard.

Motion to add a hotel in Hilliard.

Councilwoman Strickland suggests that a hotel should be added, as it would provide accommodation for families attending events or other activities in the area.

Councilman Tappe states that adding a hotel would attract more visitors to Hilliard, resulting in increased revenue for the town and contributing to a more stable Florida.

Councilwoman Mason points out that there are many trees in the town, and if action isn't taken, they could potentially catch fire and threaten nearby houses. She emphasizes the importance of having a designated place for people to go in case of an emergency.

Councilman Boucher raises the question of what happens if travelers passing through town need a place to stay.

Motion made by Councilwoman Mason, Seconded by Councilman Boucher.
Voting Yea: Councilman Boucher, Councilwoman Smith, Councilwoman Strickland, Councilwoman Mason, Council Councilman Tappe

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

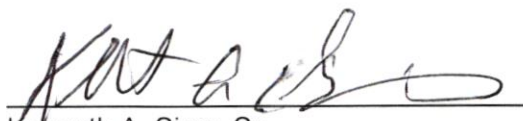
No additional comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 6:29 p.m.

Motion made by Councilman Wollitz, Seconded by Councilman Hunter.
Voting Yea: Council President Sims, Council Pro Tem Pickett, Councilman Wollitz, Councilman Hunter, Councilman Michaels

Approved this 7th day of November, 2024 by the Hilliard Town Council, Hilliard, Florida.



Kenneth A. Sims, Sr.
Council President

ATTEST:



Lisa Purvis
Town Clerk

APPROVED:



John P. Beasley
Mayor