

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 07, 2025, 7:00 PM

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

Anyone wishing to address the Town Council regarding any item on this agenda is requested to complete an agenda item sheet in advance and give it to the Town Clerk. The sheets are located next to the printed agendas in the back of the Council Chambers. Speakers are respectfully requested to limit their comments to three (3) minutes. A speaker's time may not be allocated to others.

PLEDGE OF CIVILITY

WE WILL BE RESPECTFUL OF ONE ANOTHER
EVEN WHEN WE DISAGREE.
WE WILL DIRECT ALL COMMENTS TO THE ISSUES.
WE WILL AVOID PERSONAL ATTACKS.
"Politeness costs so little." – ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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

REGULAR MEETING

ITEM-1 Additions/Deletions to Agenda

ITEM-12 Resolution No. 2025-08 – St. Johns River Water Management District
Permit Fees Reduction.

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

ITEM-13 Resolution No. 2025-09 – Interim Procedures for Preliminary Plat and Final Plat Approval.

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

ITEM-14 Hiring of Public Works Department Employee.

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

ITEM-15 Set Workshop for Public Works Department.

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

ITEM-2 Town Council approval of Septic Exception Application No. 20250723.2, allowing for a septic system to be placed within the Town Boundaries to serve a new dwelling unit at 0 W 9th Avenue. Parcel ID No. 08-3N-24-280-0092-0080.
Cory Hobbs – Interim Public Works Director

Motion to approve Septic Exception Application No. 20250723.2, with the condition as recommended by Land Use Administrator Lee Anne Wollitz.

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

ITEM-3 Town Council approval of Septic Exception Application No. 20250724.1, allowing for a septic system to be placed within the Town Boundaries to serve a new dwelling unit at 0 W 10th Avenue. Parcel ID No. 08-3N-24-2380-0193-0090.
Cory Hobbs – Interim Public Works Director

Motion to approve Septic Exception Application No. 20250724.1, with the condition as recommended by Land Use Administrator Lee Anne Wollitz.

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

ITEM-4 Town Council approval of the Capital Budget Expenditure for the replacement of Fire Hydrants from the sole source supplier, Fortiline Waterworks, in the amount of \$13,600.00.
Cory Hobbs – Interim Public Works Director

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

- ITEM-5 Town Council approval of the Capital Budget Expenditure for Millings.
Cory Hobbs – Interim Public Works Director
- Motion made by Council President Sims, Seconded by Councilman Wollitz.
Voting Yea: Council President Sims, Council Pro Tem Pickett, Councilman Wollitz, Councilman Hunter, Councilman Michaels
- ITEM-6 Town Council to accept the resignation of Jason Bergendahl, Drinking Water Treatment Plant Operator/Certified Pool Technician, effective August 8, 2025.
Cory Hobbs – Interim Public Works Director
- Motion made by Councilman Michaels, Seconded by Councilman Hunter.
Voting Yea: Council President Sims, Council Pro Tem Pickett, Councilman Wollitz, Councilman Hunter, Councilman Michaels
- ITEM-7 Town Council to accept the resignation of Mark Strickland, Public Works Technician/Heavy Equipment Operator, effective July 31, 2025.
Cory Hobbs – Interim Public Works Director
- Motion made by Council Pro Tem Pickett, Seconded by Councilman Michaels.
Voting Yea: Council President Sims, Council Pro Tem Pickett, Councilman Wollitz, Councilman Hunter, Councilman Michaels
- ITEM-8 Town Council to set Workshops for the review and discussion of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget.
Lisa Purvis, MMC – Town Clerk
- Motion to set the following Workshops:
Monday, August 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.
- Motion made by Council President Sims, Seconded by Council Pro Tem Pickett.
Voting Yea: Council President Sims, Council Pro Tem Pickett, Councilman Wollitz, Councilman Hunter, Councilman Michaels
- ITEM-9 Town Council approval of the FY 2025 Revenues and Expenditures Report for the period ending June 30, 2025.
Lisa Purvis, MMC – Town Clerk
- Motion made by Councilman Hunter, Seconded by Council President Sims.
Voting Yea: Council President Sims, Council Pro Tem Pickett, Councilman Wollitz, Councilman Hunter, Councilman Michaels
- ITEM-10 Town Council approval of the Capital Budget Expenditure for 2 Bunker Gear Sets, from Municipal Equipment Company, LLC, in the amount of \$9,794.10.
Mike Sadler – HVFD Assistant Fire Chief
- Motion made by Councilman Hunter, Seconded by Council Pro Tem Pickett.
Voting Yea: Council President Sims, Council Pro Tem Pickett, Councilman Wollitz, Councilman Hunter, Councilman Michaels

- ITEM-11 Town Council approval of the Minutes for the July 10, 2025, Joint Workshop & Workshop, and the July 17, 2025, Regular Meeting & Workshop.
Lisa Purvis, MMC – Town Clerk

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

ADDED ITEMS

- ITEM-12 Town Council approval of Resolution No. 2025-08, Requesting the St. Johns River Water Management District to reduce Permit Applications Fees.
Lisa Purvis, MMC – Town Clerk

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

- ITEM-13 Town Council approval of Resolution No. 2025-09, Providing for interim procedures for preliminary plat and final plat approval; providing for an effective date; and for other purposes.
Christian Waugh – Town Attorney

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

- ITEM-14 Town Council approval of the Interim Public Works Director's recommendation to fill the vacant Public Works Heavy Equipment Operator position.
Cory Hobbs – Interim Public Works Director

Motion to approve the hiring of Robert C. Anderson Sr. as a Heavy Equipment Operator, Grade 4 / Step 7, at an hourly rate of \$23.62, contingent upon the results of the background check and drug screen.

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

- ITEM-15 Town Council to set a Workshop to discuss the Public Works Department.
Kenneth A. Sims – Council President

Motion to set a Workshop for August 12, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

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

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

PUBLIC

Hilliard Volunteer Assistant Fire Chief Mike Sadler of Pond Drive, Hilliard, provides an extensive update to the Town Council and public regarding the Hilliard Volunteer Fire Department. He states that operations are improving, though challenges remain. County system upgrades and outdated radios mean we can no longer be paged directly from the station, so we rely on the JPS phone-based dispatch system, monitor the chief's zone, and receive direct calls from battalion chiefs or forestry when needed. We also have a mutual aid agreement with Charlton County for phone-based requests. Station 40's new officers are promising partners, and we're addressing needs such as replacing expired bunker gear and planning for eventual upgrades to aging equipment, including the 26-year-old Engine 4. Growth in the area will increase demand in both the county and our department, requiring future investment in resources. Our greatest hurdle is training volunteers. The state's 250-hour certification course is difficult for recruits to complete, with no night classes and limited instructor availability—an issue faced by nearby departments as well. Replacing our 14 outdated radios would cost roughly \$8,000 each, which is impractical for an unmanned station, so equipment and communication upgrades will depend on the Council's priorities.

MAYOR & TOWN COUNCIL

Councilman Wollitz, follows up on Assistant Chief Sadler's update, noting that while the department is managing, aging systems make operations cumbersome. Unlike the past, when a single station tone indicated a relevant call, they now must listen to all battalion pages, sometimes waking in the middle of the night for calls far outside their area. He emphasizes that this issue has been ongoing and can no longer be postponed; at some point, the Council will need to hold a workshop for serious discussion on future operations. While they remain committed to helping, the department is nearing a point where changes will be necessary.

Mayor Beasley, asks about the status of hanging former Mayor Floyd's picture in the Town Council Chambers and then inquires with Councilman Michaels whether he has spoken to Parks & Recreation Director Gabe Whittenburg.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

PRESENT:

Town Clerk Lisa Purvis

Interim Public Works Director Cory Hobbs

ABSENT:

Parks & Recreation Director Gabe Whittenburg

Town Clerk Lisa Purvis, states that the adjuster is scheduled to visit the water treatment plant tomorrow to review damages. Nassau County Fire Rescue has provided the list of replacement items, which have already been ordered and will be shipped directly to them to avoid separate billing. Disposal fees remain, but once the adjuster meets with Interim Public Works Director Cory Hobbs tomorrow, approval will be given to proceed. All costs will be part of an insurance claim, and the adjuster will also review possible causes.

The fire department gutter will be installed on Tuesday, and roof repairs completed by Thursday, both within standard repair limits. Projects are moving forward, including a Monday meeting with the architect for the hurricane shelter ahead of Thursday's update. She continues regarding the Local Option Gas Tax, that discussions with Nassau County have led to securing an interlocal agreement for next year to maintain prior funding levels despite a recent recalculation. The required 10-year recalculation had not been done since 2007, likely due to turnover, and was only triggered this year during the extension of the gas tax process. While the figures provided are mathematically correct, there are concerns that inconsistencies in reported expenditures across jurisdictions may affect accuracy.

TOWN ATTORNEY

No comment.

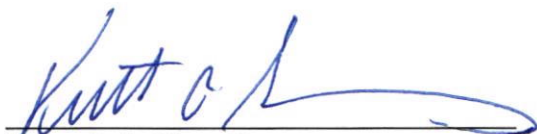
ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:33 p.m.

Motion made by Council President Sims, Seconded by Council Pro Tem Pickett.

Voting Yea: Council President Sims, Council Pro Tem Pickett, Councilman Wollitz, Councilman Hunter, Councilman Michaels

Approved this 21st day of August, 2025, by the Hilliard Town Council, Hilliard, Florida.



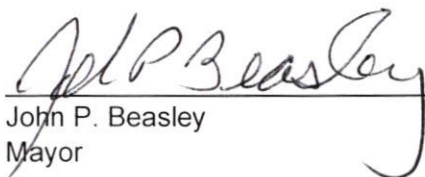
Kenneth A. Sims, Sr.
Council President

ATTEST:



Lisa Purvis
Town Clerk

APPROVED:



John P. Beasley
Mayor