

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, JANUARY 02, 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

PRESENTATIONS

ITEM-1 Florida League of Cities to Present Council President Sims with the Mayor John Land Years of Service Award for 20 Years of Service to the Town of Hilliard.
Lisa Purvis, MMC – Town Clerk

Eryn Russell, Member Services Administrator for the Florida League of Cities, presents the Mayor John Land Years of Service Award to Council President Sims, honoring his 20 years of dedicated service to the Town of Hilliard.

- ITEM-2 Town Attorney to administer the Oath of Office to Re-Elected Town Council Members, Kenny Sims, Lee Pickett, and Jared Wollitz.
Christian Waugh – Town Attorney
- Town Attorney Christian Waugh, administers the Oath of Office to the re-elected Town Council Members, Kenny Sims, Lee Pickett, and Jared Wollitz.
- ITEM-3 Town Council to appoint the Town Council President and Town Council Pro Tem for the 2025 Calendar Year for the Organization of Office.
Lisa Purvis, MMC – Town Clerk
- Motion to retain and appoint Council Member Kenny Sims as Council President and Council Member Lee Pickett as Council Pro Tem.
- 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-4 Town Council to appoint the Town Council Department Commissioners for the 2025 Calendar Year for the Organization of Departments.
Lisa Purvis, MMC – Town Clerk
- Motion to retain and appoint each Council Member as follows:
Council President Sims as Street Department Commissioner
Council Pro Tem Pickett as Water & Sewer Department Commissioner
Councilman Wollitz as Fire Department Commissioner
Councilman Michaels as Parks & Recreation Department Commissioner
Councilman Hunter as Airpark Department Commissioner
- 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

REGULAR MEETING

- ITEM-5 Additions/Deletions to Agenda
- No additions to or deletions from the agenda.
- ITEM-6 Town Council adoption of Resolution No. 2025-01, approving the 2025 Holiday Schedule for the Town of Hilliard.
Lisa Purvis, MMC – Town Clerk
- Timothy Fisk refrains from speaking, believing the item pertained to Ordinance No. 2025-01.
- 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-7 Town Council approval of the Capital Budget Expenditure for the repair to Manhole 53 in the amount of \$9,170.00.
Cory Hobbs – Interim Public Works Director
- 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-8 Town Council approval of the termination of Luke Headington within the probationary period in the Administrative Assistant Position.
Lisa Purvis, MMC – Town Clerk
- Motion made by Councilman Wollitz, Seconded by Councilman Michaels.
Voting Yea: Council President Sims, Council Pro Tem Pickett, Councilman Wollitz, Councilman Hunter, Councilman Michaels
- ITEM-9 Town Council approval of the Minutes for December 12, 2024, Joint Workshop & Workshop, and December 19, 2024, Public Hearing & Regular Meeting.
Lisa Purvis, MMC – Town Clerk
- Motion made by Councilman Michaels, Seconded by Council Pro Tem Pickett.
Voting Yea: Council President Sims, Council Pro Tem Pickett, Councilman Wollitz, Councilman Hunter, Councilman Michaels

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

PUBLIC

Timothy Fisk, of 27146 West First Avenue, Hilliard, mentions submitting public records requests in recent meetings but has not received any response. He more specifically states that he requested records of a verbal exchange between the Mayor and the Town Clerk, which occurred when they backed away from the microphone during the public meeting. He emphasizes that public meetings are not private and suggests recessing the meeting for private conversations. Fisk states he has also requested emails and text messages from all Town Council members and the Town Clerk's during meetings held between November and December from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., noting he has yet to receive a response. He accuses the council of potentially violating the law and questions about who is truly governing the Town, Council members or others. He remarks on what he perceives as progress at the last meeting and offers to buy the Council Members new pants to wear to future meetings. Lastly, Fisk underscores the importance of adhering to the Sunshine Laws, asserting that meetings must remain open to the public. He requests to be invited to all future meetings and concludes by wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

Town Attorney Christian Waugh, provides an update on the status of public records requests. He confirms the requests have been received and explains that Mr. Fisk specifically requested records of oral communications. However, the Town does not maintain records of such communications and will provide this clarification to Mr. Fisk in writing. Regarding the second request, Waugh states that the Town is working on it, has identified responsive documents, and will also address this matter in writing. He notes that, in accordance with the Town's Public Records Policy, Mr. Fisk may be required to provide a deposit to obtain the requested records.

Mayor Beasley, adds that all Town meetings are publicly posted on the board outside the

Town Hall, and everyone is welcome to attend. He clarifies that the Town does not issue formal invitations to its meetings.

Harold "Skip" Frey, Planning & Zoning Board Member, 3728 West 7th Street, Hilliard, announces that the Planning & Zoning Board holds its meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. He expresses gratitude to Council President Sims for his service, stating it has been a pleasure working with him.

MAYOR & TOWN COUNCIL

Council President Sims, expresses gratitude to everyone for their attendance and support, both at the meeting and over the past 20 years. He states that serving the Town has been a pleasure, driven by his love for the community, and emphasizes that his efforts have always been fully dedicated to the Town's benefit. He acknowledges concerns about development in Hilliard, encouraging more residents to attend meetings to engage in the decision-making process. Sims also voices heartbreak over residents who grew up in Hilliard being unable to afford to live there, attributing the issue to high demand and low housing supply. He shares that he discussed this statewide housing crisis with Representative Dean Black, emphasizing that increasing the housing supply is the key solution.

Council Pro Tem Pickett, echoes Council President Sims' sentiments, expressing his love for the community and congratulating Council President Sims on his service. He clarifies that no Council Members benefit personally from development and notes that increased residential growth is necessary for attracting desired amenities, like new restaurants.

Councilman Wollitz, congratulates Council President Sims and acknowledges the challenges of balancing growth with preserving Hilliard's small-town character. He highlights the need for improvements in medical and dental care, as well as transportation, for our aging seniors which require growth to achieve.

Councilman Michaels, congratulates Council President Sims, Council Pro Tem Pickett, and Councilman Wollitz on their re-elections. He shares updates from Parks & Recreation Director Gabe Whittenburg, who was unwell, noting that the adult basketball league currently has 80 participants. Reflecting on his own experience, Councilman Michaels remarks that change is inevitable and encouraged efforts to guide it positively for Hilliard's benefit.

Councilman Hunter, congratulates Council President Sims on 20 years of service and reiterated Councilman Michaels' points about change. He stresses the importance of public engagement and encourages online commenters to attend meetings and actively contribute to decision-making.

Mayor Beasley, congratulates Council President Sims on his 20 years of service, highlighting their lifelong connection and expressing gratitude for his contributions to the Town. He also congratulates Council Pro Tem Pickett and Councilman Wollitz on their re-elections, hoping they, too, might reach 20 years of service. Addressing growth, Mayor Beasley notes that Jacksonville's expansion is approaching Hilliard and emphasizes the need for strategic management of this growth, including infrastructure, housing, and commercial development. He encourages public participation in meetings. He also shares details about the Christmas Golf Cart Parade held on December 28, 2024, noting its success and thanking attendees. He extends his appreciation to the Town Council, staff, and volunteers for their contributions to a prosperous year, particularly recognizing the Town Hall Office staff, Parks & Recreation Department and Alicia Head, Public Information Officer & Event Coordinator.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

PRESENT:

Town Clerk, Lisa Purvis
Interim Public Works Director, Cory Hobbs

ABSENT:

Parks & Recreation Director, Gabe Whittenburg

Interim Public Works Director Cory Hobbs, congratulates Council President Sims, Council Pro Tem Pickett, and Councilman Wollitz on their re-election. He also acknowledges and commends Council President Sims for his 20 years of dedicated service to the Town.

Town Clerk Lisa Purvis, highlights the service milestones of the Council members, noting that Council Pro Tem Pickett has served for 12 years and Councilman Wollitz for 9 years. She congratulates Council President Sims on his 20 years of service, mentioning that he is only the second person in the Town's history to receive this prestigious award. She extends her congratulations to Sims, Pickett, and Wollitz on their re-election and affirms the remarks made about the Town's growth, thanking everyone for attending.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Christian Waugh, provides an update, noting that he is collaborating with the Town Clerk to draft an ordinance related to the Town's State Revolving Fund Loan Application.

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 16th day of January, 2025 by the Hilliard Town Council, Hilliard, Florida.



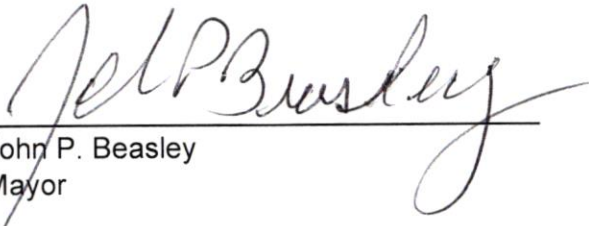
Kenneth A. Sims, Sr.
Council President

ATTEST:



Lisa Purvis
Town Clerk

APPROVED:



John P. Beasley
Mayor

TOWN OF HILLIARD

AGENDA ITEM SHEET

REQUEST TO SPEAK

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AGENDA ITEM-NO.

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AGENDA ITEM TOPIC

Resolution 2023-01

FOR THE RECORD:

YOUR NAME

Tim Fisk

ADDRESS

27146 W. 15th AVE

PHONE NO.

904-574-6974