

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, FEBRUARY 06, 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

Mayor Beasley and Parks & Recreation Director Gabe Whittenburg, recognize the participants of the Youth Volleyball league that are present.

Joy Clark, Hilliard and Lorra Britt, Callahan both Branch Managers of Southeastern Bank, presents \$500 donation checks from each branch to the Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall coming in April 2025.

PRESENTATIONS

ITEM-1 Presentation of Certificate of Recognition to Planning & Zoning Board Member, Mrs. Joesetta Lawson in honor of 20 Years of Dedicated Service to the Town of

Hilliard.
Mayor Beasley

Mayor Beasley presents Certificate of Recognition to Planning & Zoning Board Member, Mrs. Josetta Lawson in honor of 20 Years of Dedicated Service to the Town of Hilliard.

REGULAR MEETING

ITEM-2 Additions/Deletions to Agenda

ITEM-14 Town Council to set a Workshop to discuss Town growth and development.

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

ITEM-15 Town Council to approve the contract for the purchase of the third parcel at the Hilliard Airpark.

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

ITEM-3 Town Council approval of the Northeast Florida Fair Association Rental Agreement for the hosting of the Vietnam's Voices Traveling Memorial Wall from April 17 through April 21, 2025, at the Northeast Florida Fair Grounds.
Alicia Head – Public Information Officer & Event Coordinator

Motion to table item until the February 20,2025, Regular Meeting.

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-4 Town Council approval to adopt Resolution No. 2025-03, accepting a Florida Department of Transportation offer of a Public Transportation Grant Agreement and authorizing and directing the Hilliard Town Council to accept such agreement, for the Design and Construction of Hangar Buildings at the Hilliard Airpark.
Mayor Beasley

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-5 Town Council approval to adopt Resolution No. 2025-04, accepting a Florida Department of Transportation offer of a Public Transportation Grant Agreement and authorizing and directing the Hilliard Town Council to accept such

agreement, for the Design Realignment of Pea Farm Road Beyond R/W 36 to RPZ at the Hilliard Airpark.

Mayor Beasley

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-6 Town Council to reschedule the Annual Joint Workshop with the Nassau County School Board.

Lisa Purvis, MMC – Town Clerk

Motion to offer the date of Tuesday, February 25, 2025 or Monday, March 3, 2025, to the Nassau County School Board.

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-7 Town Council approval of the Capital Budget Expenditure for Well #4 Pump Replacement, L & M's Drilling and Waterworks in the amount of \$35,125.15.

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 approval of the Capital Budget Expenditure for Manhole 167 and Manhole 170 Repairs, Engineering Services Agreement with Mittauer & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$18,400.00.

Cory Hobbs – Interim Public Works Director

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-9 Town Council approval of the Capital Budget Expenditure for Manhole 157 Repairs, Atlantic Pipe Services LLC in the amount of \$11,620.00.

Cory Hobbs – Interim Public Works Director

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

ITEM-10 Town Council approval of the Minutes for the January 9, 2025, Workshop, and the January 16, 2025, Public Hearing & Regular Meeting.

Lisa Purvis, MMC – Town Clerk

Timothy Fisk, 27146 West First Avenue, Hilliard, clarifies his remarks made at a previous meeting regarding Town Hall Park.

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-11 Town Council approval of Atlantic Pipe Services, Payable through January 17, 2025, Project Name: Sewer Manhole 53 Oxford & W. First in the amount of \$9,170.00.
CAPITAL FUNDED PROJECT LUMP SUM CONTRACT \$9,170

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-12 Town Council approval of Miller Electric Company, Payable through January 22, 2025, Project Name: Generator & Electric, in the amount of \$8,923.50.
CAPITAL FUNDED PROJECT LUMP SUM CONTRACT \$30,200

Councilman Wollitz inquiries regarding this project's timeline.
Interim Public Work Director Cory Hobbs explains that there is a shipping delay with some of the needed parts.

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

- ITEM-13 Town Council approval of Rangeline Tapping Services, Inc., Payable through January 30, 2025, Project Name: Emergency Tap on County Road 108 in the amount of \$9,207.00.
CAPITAL FUNDED PROJECT LUMP SUM CONTRACT \$9,207

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

ADDED ITEMS

- ITEM-14 Town Council to set a Workshop on February 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., to discuss growth and development within the Town of Hilliard.
Council President Sims

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-15 Town Council approval of the contract for the purchase of the Geiger parcel for \$438,000 at the Hilliard Airpark.
Lisa Purvis, MMC – Town Clerk

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

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

PUBLIC

Heather Gates, 27306 West Fifth Avenue, Hilliard, addresses Councilman Michaels, questioning whom he was referring to as "stupid" during the break at the previous meeting. She expresses that such behavior is disrespectful and urges him to step down, citing a violation of the Town's ethical bylaws. Additionally, she inquires whether certain employees who were caught using profanity toward customers and vaping in the office are still employed by the Town. She stresses the need for Councilman Michaels to issue a public apology for his remarks.

Glenn Higginbotham, 3754 Wade Drive, Hilliard, shares that he had the opportunity to work alongside Mrs. Josetta Lawson and attests to her dedication, noting that she thoroughly researched every item that came across her desk. He adds that he was proud to have worked with her.

Timothy Fisk, 27146 West First Avenue, Hilliard, asserts that to prevent conflicts of interest, any council member holding a realtor's license should abstain from voting on housing matters, extending this restriction to their immediate family as well. He informs the council that he has submitted a petition allowing himself and others to collect signatures for Ordinance No. 2025-01, aiming to bring the issue to a Town-wide referendum vote.

Additionally, he presents a photo of a man allowing a small child in the driver's seat on a golf cart, emphasizing that it is the Town's responsibility to enforce its ordinances. He questions how the Town plans to address such violations, stating that the image borders on child endangerment and neglect.

John Gates, 27306 West Fifth Avenue, Hilliard, explains that the concrete at the skatepark is cracked and he would like for the Town to fix up the skatepark.

Shawn Pride, 37199 Oxford Street, Hilliard, remarks that he is present simply to make some noise and express an existential statement. He then apologizes for taking up the Council's time.

MAYOR & TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor Beasley, delivers the State of the Town address, beginning by recalling that "Big Dave" used to present one at every meeting, always affirming that the state of the Town is good—a sentiment he reiterates. He reflects on 2024 as a year of both challenges and successes, as is the case every year.

He commends the Public Works Department for their dedication to repairs, maintenance, and acquiring new equipment that benefits both the Town and its residents. He also recognizes the Town Clerk and her staff for their crucial role in keeping the Town funded and operational, including securing grants to support its growth.

Mayor Beasley praises the Parks & Recreation Department for their exceptional work in developing programs under the Director's leadership. He highlights the addition of Town Hall Park, and the various events held there, crediting Alicia Head, Public Information Officer & Event Coordinator, for her contributions.

He concludes by expressing gratitude to all Town staff and citizens who support community events, with a special acknowledgment to the Volunteer Fire Department for their service.

Mayor Beasley, announces that planning for the 2025 Fireworks Show is underway. However, due to a scheduled surgery in June, he requests a representative from the Town to take on the responsibility, assuring them that he will provide the necessary information. He also reminds attendees of the upcoming HAC Meeting on February 24, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., where discussions will focus on the Town Cleanup and the Traveling Vietnam Wall.

Councilman Wollitz, extends his thanks to the Volunteer Fire Department for their efforts during Winter Storm Enzo. He also expresses appreciation to Southeastern Bank for their contribution to the Traveling Vietnam Wall and recognizes Planning & Zoning Board Member Mrs. Josetta Lawson for her 20 years of dedicated service to the Town.

Council Pro Tem Pickett, also thanks Southeastern Bank for their donation and expresses gratitude to Mrs. Josetta Lawson for her years of service. He concludes by appreciating all those in attendance at the meeting, emphasizing the value of public input, whether positive or critical.

Council President Sims, joins in recognizing and thanking Mrs. Josetta Lawson for her two decades of service to the Town.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

PRESENT:

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

Mayor Beasley, speaks on behalf of Parks & Recreation Director Gabe Whittenburg, who had to leave to attend practice at the gymnasium. He encourages everyone to attend the basketball games on Saturday, February 8, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Town Clerk Lisa Purvis, announces that Mrs. Janis Atkins will present a proclamation in April for Election Poll Worker Appreciation Day, scheduled for Tuesday, April 22, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Refreshments and door prizes will be provided for poll workers. She informs the Town Council that Councilman Hunter has been invited to participate in the Florida League of Cities Leadership Class on March 6-7, 2025.

Regarding the Florida Department of Environmental Protection State Revolving Fund Grant & Loan, she explains that a rate study and subsequent rate increase are required due to the water and sewer department's operating losses over the past three years. This step is necessary before the Town can receive the loan. She is currently working with the Florida Rural Water Association to conduct a free rate study and has also contacted Mittauer & Associates, Inc. regarding the System Development Charge fee study, which is nearly ready for presentation.

She also provides an update on the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Resilient Florida Program, for which the Town was awarded \$180,000. Mittauer & Associates, Inc. is assisting with the submission process. This grant will help address flooding issues in the area.

Additionally, she announces that the Town will officially close on the Geiger property on Friday, February 7, 2025.

Finally, she congratulates Planning & Zoning Board Member Mrs. Josetta Lawson for her 20 years of dedicated service to the Town of Hilliard.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Christian Waugh, mentions that he met with local municipalities today, including the local school board and the Town's Land Use Administrator, Lee Anne Wollitz,

to discuss the Interlocal Agreement on school concurrency. He expresses confidence that the Town will receive a favorable agreement.

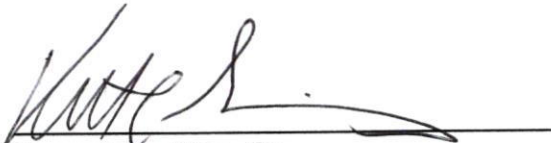
ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

Motion made by Council President Sims, Seconded by Councilman Hunter.

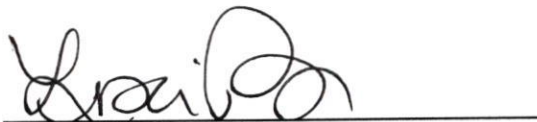
Voting Yea: Council President Sims, Council Pro Tem Pickett, Councilman Wollitz, Councilman Hunter, Councilman Michaels

Approved this 20th day of February, 2025 by the Hilliard Town Council, Hilliard, Florida.



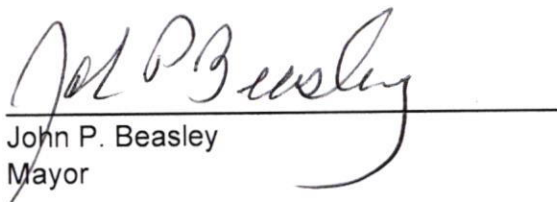
Kenneth A. Sims, Sr.
Council President

ATTEST:



Lisa Purvis
Town Clerk

APPROVED:



John P. Beasley
Mayor