



Town Council Meeting

January 09, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Howey-in the-Hills Town Hall

101 N. Palm Ave.,

Howey-in-the-Hills, FL 34737

AGENDA

Mayor MacFarlane called the Town Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
Mayor MacFarlane led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

ROLL CALL

Acknowledgement of Quorum

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councilor Reneé Lannamañ | Councilor David Miles | Councilor George Lehning | Mayor Pro Tem Marie V Gallelli | Mayor Martha MacFarlane

STAFF PRESENT:

Sean O'Keefe, Town Administrator | John Brock, Town Clerk | Morgan Cates, Public Works Director | Rick Thomas, Police Chief | Tara Hall, Library Director | Abigail Herrera, Finance Supervisor | Tom Harowski, Town Planner | Azure Botts, Code Enforcement Officer

AGENDA APPROVAL/REVIEW

**Motion made by Councilor Miles to approve the meeting's agenda; seconded by Councilor Lannamañ.
Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.**

Voting

Yea: Councilor Lannamañ, Councilor Miles, Councilor Lehning, Mayor Pro Tem Gallelli, Mayor MacFarlane

Nay: None

CONSENT AGENDA

Routine items are placed on the Consent Agenda to expedite the meeting. If Town Council/Staff wish to discuss any item, the procedure is as follows: (1) Pull the item(s) from the Consent Agenda; (2) Vote on the remaining item(s); and (3) Discuss each pulled item and vote.

1. The approval of the minutes and ratification and confirmation of all Town Council actions at the December 12, 2022 Town Council Meeting.
2. Consideration and Approval: **Library Impact Fee Trust Fund Award**

Motion made by Councilor Lehning to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Councilor Lannamañ. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Voting

Yea: Councilor Lannamañ, Councilor Miles, Councilor Lehning, Mayor Pro Tem Gallelli, Mayor MacFarlane

Nay: None

PUBLIC HEARING

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

3. Presentation: The Town Code of Core Values for Civility and Ethics

Mayor MacFarlane asked Town Clerk, John Brock, to introduce and explain this item. Mr. Brock explained that Resolution 2019-001 requires the Town Clerk to annually present the Town Councilors with the *Town Code of Core Values for Civility and Ethics*. Resolution 2019-001 also requires each Town Councilor to sign a *Code of Core Values for Civility and Ethics Attestation Statement*.

Councilor Miles made a motion to revoke Resolution 2019-001; there was no second for this motion.

Councilor Miles stated that he felt the *Town Code of Core Values for Civility and Ethics* was a “woke” imposition and he was not in favor of it. Councilor Miles stated that he would refuse to sign the *Code of Core Values for Civility and Ethics Attestation Statement*.

Mayor MacFarlane, Mayor Pro Tem Gallelli, Councilor Lehning, and Councilor Lannamañ all signed their *Code of Core Values for Civility and Ethics Attestation Statement* and submitted them to the Town Clerk.

4. Presentation: Howey-in-the-Hills Planning Concepts

Mayor MacFarlane asked Town Planner, Tom Harowski, to introduce and explain this item. Mr. Harowski gave his “Howey-in-the-Hills Planning Concepts – A Review of the Town’s Planning Direction and Accomplishments” presentation. Mr. Harowski explained that he had created and given this presentation to the Town’s Planning & Zoning Board last year to educate them on basic principles of Town planning, some of the Town history as it relates to planning projects, and to let them know what sort of issues they may be asked to make recommendations on in the future.

Mayor MacFarlane opened Public Comment for this item only.

Tim Everline, 1012 N Lakeshore Blvd. – Mr. Everline stated that current residents do not want developments coming into the Town with smaller lots.

Roddy Tate, 1003 N Hamlin Ave. – Mr. Tate stated that he did not want the Town Council to bow to the requests of developers.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

5. Town Hall

Town Clerk, John Brock, explained that the Town Hall report had been submitted to the Town Councilors in their packet for the Meeting and that he was available to the Town Councilors for questions.

6. Police Department

Police Chief, Rick Thomas, gave a few statistics for the Police Department in 2022, including 15,000 events created in their system, 13,000 man-hours worked, received 356 subpoenas for traffic court trial, and patrolled around 156,000 miles.

Councilor Lehning asked if the Police Department should offer safety training to the Town's residents. Chief Thomas stated that the Police Department could do this if the Town Council thought it would be a good idea.

7. Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement Officer, Azure Botts, gave an update on the FEMA status of the Town's hurricane damage.

8. Public Works

Morgan Cates, Public Works Director, stated that the Public Works and Public Utility reports for December were included in the meeting's packet and that he was available for questions. Mr. Cates stated that the project of fencing in the lift station at Griffin Park and Town Hall were completed before the Town Council meeting.

9. Library

Tara Hall, Library Director, gave an update on upcoming events at the library.

10. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board / Special Events

Morgan Cates, Public Works Director, stated the Sara Maude Mason Nature Preserve was still closed due to storm damage to the boardwalk. Mr. Cates also stated that the borders at the swing sets at Griffin Park and Central Park had been installed.

11. Town Attorney

Nothing to report.

12. Finance Department

Abigail Herrera, Finance Supervisor, stated the Monthly Finance report for December was included in the meeting's packet. Councilor Miles asked if she could present him with a Budget-to-Actual Report on a line-item basis. Mrs. Herrera stated that she would send Councilor Miles the report that he requested.

13. Town Manager

Town Manager, Sean O'Keefe, gave an update on the Simpson / Watermark development project and that the development team has indicated that they would be accepting the proposed Development Agreement. Mr. O'Keefe stated that Lake County was going to go to the State and ask the State to help enforce the Rural Protection Areas (RPAs) that the County had created. Mr. O'Keefe also asked the

public and the Town Council to participate in the planning program that Lake County had funded called “Strong Towns.” This program would kickoff the week of January 18, 2023.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

14. Mayor Pro Tem Gallelli

Mayor Pro Tem Gallelli stated that it was National Law Enforcement Day and thanked the Howey Police Department for their hard work. Mayor Pro Tem Gallelli reminded the public to stay safe and utilize the locks on their sheds, cars, and houses.

15. Councilor Lehning

Councilor Lehning suggested that, with the RPA discussion from the County, the Town should be quick to annex parcels.

16. Councilor Miles

Councilor Miles stated that he would like councilors and staff to use common sense. Councilor Miles also said that he had seen too many cases of staff and councilors focusing on “ant manure,” which is to say, focusing on too many little things. Councilor Miles stated that the Town Council should be focusing on controlling the Town’s water and sewer utilities.

17. Councilor Lannamañ

Councilor Lannamañ stated that words have power and perception is personal. Councilor Lannamañ had a discussion on the vernacular of the phrase “woke” that Councilor Miles had used earlier in the meeting. Councilor Lannamañ urged the other Councilors and the public to treat others with a respectful manner. Councilor Lannamañ also stated that the Town Council needed to control the destiny of the Town by controlling the water and sewer utilities.

18. Mayor MacFarlane

Mayor MacFarlane stated that the report that the Town Planner had given earlier in the meeting focused on items that the Town Council would have to possibly act on throughout the year and there was no presupposition on what direction the Town Council needed to take.

Mayor MacFarlane urged the Town Council to look into promoting affordable workforce housing. Lake 100 and other entities would be approaching the Town looking for assistance with this topic.

Mayor MacFarlane explained that the primary reason why the Town Council had adopted the *Code of Core Values for Civility and Ethics* was to promote civility between the Town Councilors, Board Members, and members of the public. Mayor MacFarlane urged everyone to please be respectful of others.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any person wishing to address the Mayor and Town Council and who is not on the agenda is asked to speak their name and address. Three (3) minutes is allocated per speaker.

Roddy Tate, 1003 N Hamlin Ave. – Mr. Tate was concerned about the Town’s Code Enforcement officer enforcing the removal of reflectors in the right-of-way next to roads. Mr. Tate also stated that he disagreed with the Town’s three-minute public comment rule.

Tim Everline, 1012 N. Lakeshore Blvd – Mr. Everline stated that civility goes both ways and citizens expect civility too.

Kathy Coleman, 706 Santa Cruz Lane – Ms. Coleman urged seniors to take advantage of the Senior Technology training program that the Town's library would be offering on Friday, January 13, 2023 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT


There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Councilor Lehning to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Lannamañ seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m. | **Attendees: 38**



Mayor Martha MacFarlane

ATTEST:



John Brock, Town Clerk

