

Town Council Meeting

October 13, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Howey-in-the-Hills Town Hall

101 N. Palm Ave.,

Howey-in-the-Hills, FL 34737

MINUTES

Mayor Wells called the Town Council Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
Mayor Wells led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
Councilor Reneé Lannamañ delivered an invocation.

ROLL CALL

Acknowledgement of Quorum Present and Proper Notice Given

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Tim Everline | Councilor Jon Arnold | Councilor Reneé Lannamañ | Councilor David Miles |
Mayor Graham Wells

STAFF PRESENT:

Sean O'Keefe, Town Manager | Heather Ramos, Town Attorney | Morgan Cates, Public Services Director | April Fisher, Town Planner | Michael Giddens, Police Lieutenant | John Brock, Deputy Town Manager / Town Clerk

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

None

AGENDA APPROVAL/REVIEW

Motion made by Mayor Wells to move agenda item #3 (Consideration Approval: Minor Amendment to Hillside Grove PUD Phase 2) to appear between agenda items #5 and #6; seconded by Councilor Arnold. Motion failed by voice vote.

Voting

Yea: Councilor Arnold, Mayor Wells

Nay: Mayor Pro Tem Everline, Councilor Lannamañ, Councilor Miles

Motion made by Councilor Miles to move agenda item #5 (Consideration and Approval: Number Two Road Dedication) to appear between the Consent Agenda and agenda item #3; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Everline. Motion passed by voice vote.

Voting

Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Everline, Councilor Lannamañ, Councilor Miles

Nay: Councilor Arnold, Mayor Wells

Motion made by Councilor Lannamañ to move agenda item #4 (Consideration and Approval: Police Chief Hiring Ratification) to appear after agenda item #7; Seconded by Councilor Arnold.

Voting

Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Everline, Councilor Arnold, Councilor Lannamañ, Councilor Miles

Nay: Mayor Wells

PUBLIC QUESTION & COMMENT

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. The general Public Question & Comment period will be limited to a maximum of thirty (30) minutes unless extended by the Presiding Officer.

Martha MacFarlane, 63 Camino Real – Town resident, Martha MacFarlane, suggested placing information on the Town’s website and electronic message board about the stormwater project on Lakeshore Blvd.

Marie Gallelli, 1104 N. Tangerine Ave. – Town resident, Marie Gallelli, had questions about piles of dirt on the Town property off of Number Two Rd.

Eric Gunesch, 448 Avila Pl. – Town resident, Eric Gunesch, had questions about code enforcement issues.

Andi Everline, 1012 N. Lakeshore Blvd. – Town resident, Andi Everline, raised two concerns. She requested an update on the GFL solid waste contract, noting that potential revisions discussed in September had not yet been presented and that GFL continues to collect trash and recycling together. She also urged prompt attention to safety and ADA compliance issues at the Griffin Park playground, including leveling the area where equipment was removed and adding mulch.

Town Manager, Sean O’Keefe, responded that the GFL proposal was submitted the previous week and will appear on a future Town Council agenda.

Banks Helfrich, 9100 Sams Lake Rd., Clermont – County resident, “Farmer” Banks Helfrich, shared seasonal planting advice and reminded attendees that, while the Bill of Rights guarantees freedoms such as speech and worship, those rights come with personal responsibility.

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 September 24, 2025, Town Council Public Hearing on Final Budget and Millage Rate.
2. Consideration and Approval: **Deaccession of Town Inventory**

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

Voting

Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Everline, Councilor Arnold, Councilor Lannamañ, Councilor Miles, Mayor Wells

Nay: None

PUBLIC HEARING

None

NEW BUSINESS

5. Consideration and Approval: **Number Two Road Dedication** (*This agenda item was moved to appear at this place in the meeting during the Agenda Approval section of the meeting*)

Town Manager, Sean O’Keefe, reported that he and Councilor Miles recently met with several County Commissioners to discuss the proposed dedication of a portion of Number Two Road, extending from Silverwood Lane to Highway 19. County staff suggested that transferring this section to the Town would simplify coordination with nearby development projects, and the County Attorney proposed a faster legal description method for the transfer. If approved by the Town Council, the matter would proceed to the County Commission for final consideration, with a tentative hearing date of November 20.

In response to resident questions, Mr. O’Keefe clarified that the parcels on the south side of the road lie within Town limits and that the initial road improvements would be completed at the developer’s expense. Mayor Wells noted that the road dedication is closely tied to the following agenda item regarding the Hillside Groves development, explaining that Town ownership would allow control over access points, including a full exit rather than an emergency-only access. Councilors discussed sequencing of the two items, with some preferring to hear from the developer first, but agreed that accepting the road dedication was necessary to enable the planned improvements and connectivity for the adjoining subdivisions.

Mayor Wells opened Public Comment for this item only.

Peter Tuite, 300 E. Croton Way – Town resident, Peter Tuite, expressed opposition to the proposed Number Two Road dedication, voicing concern that developers were motivated solely by profit and that future maintenance could impose significant costs on the Town. He criticized potential development density in nearby rural areas and questioned the need for the Town to assume responsibility for the roadway.

Mayor Wells reminded Mr. Tuite to maintain decorum and clarified that the two related developments were already approved. He explained that the affected road segment would serve only those projects, that the developer, not the Town, would bear the cost of initial improvements, and that future maintenance expenses would arise only years later.

Eric Gunesch, 448 Avila Pl. – Town resident, Eric Gunesch, stated his support for the Number Two Road dedication, acknowledging it as a necessary step to accommodate future traffic from nearby developments. He expressed concern about potential traffic impacts on Florida Avenue near his home if additional vehicles are redirected from the new connection but ultimately agreed that the improvement was inevitable and beneficial.

John Blodgett, 9350 Number Two Rd. (Lake County Resident) – County resident, John Blodgett, expressed strong concern about the condition and safety of the roadway. He noted that the road is substandard, with narrow seven-and-a-half foot lanes. He cited a recent accident in which a car left the roadway and two occupants required medical evacuation. Mr. Blodgett cautioned that the road is not suitable for increased traffic and urged the Council to consult the Town Attorney before accepting responsibility for it, warning that doing so could expose the Town to safety and liability issues.

Mayor Wells closed Public Comment.

The Council continued the discussion on Lake County dedicating a portion of Number Two Road (Silverwood Ln. to S.R. 19) to the Town to control access for the Mission Rise and Hillside Groves projects. Mr. O’Keefe and Councilor Miles noted the County proposed a faster transfer via legal

description; initial upgrades on the Town segment would be built to two 12-ft travel lanes at the developer's expense, with long-term maintenance by the Town. Council members debated left-turn restrictions and potential traffic on a substandard "farm road"; Town Attorney, Heather Ramos, advised liability is capped by sovereign immunity. Town Planner, April Fisher, recommended requiring a traffic impact analysis at final subdivision to determine whether full access or turn restrictions are warranted; she clarified Road "A" has County permits as right-out/left-in, while the Road "O" connection (formerly emergency-only) is the focus of possible full access. A motion to approve the road transfer agreement was made and seconded; developer obligations to construct improvements remain under the current Development Agreement.

Motion made by Councilor Miles to approve; seconded by Councilor Arnold. Motion approved by roll call vote.

Voting

Yea: Councilor Arnold, Councilor Lannamañ, Councilor Miles, Mayor Wells

Nay: Mayor Pro Tem Everline

OLD BUSINESS

3. Consideration Approval: **Minor Amendment to Hillside Grove PUD Phase 2**

The Town Planner, April Fisher, presented an amendment to Phase 2 of the development project, detailing changes to lot widths from 27 to 29 feet, resulting in a reduction of total residential units from 146 to 138. Discussion followed regarding the impact of these changes, specifically the redistribution of land area, the design of the roadway and cul-de-sac, and the implications for access and traffic. Councilor Miles raised questions about the allocation of additional land resulting from wider lots and recommended that any change to access, such as eliminating the cul-de-sac, should allow the developer to add a duplex (two units), potentially increasing the unit count to 140 if needed. He also requested updates to the amended development agreement to reflect current signatories, including changing references from the previous mayor to the current mayor or town manager, and to ensure the correct builder is listed. Councilor Miles further requested that Road "O" be limited to a 25-mph speed limit and that two speed tables be installed as traffic calming measures, citing safety concerns for residents. The Council and the developer discussed these conditions, with consensus that traffic calming could be included if agreed upon by the developer, and that flexibility should be allowed for up to 140 units without the need for further Council approval.

Town Attorney, Heather Ramos, confirmed that these changes could be incorporated as a minor amendment if mutually agreed. The developer also requested that, should the county deny the transfer of Number Two Road to the Town, the option for an emergency access with a cul-de-sac remain available, to which the Council had no objection.

Mayor Wells opened Public Comment for this item only.

Eric Gunesch, 448 Avila Pl. – Town resident, Eric Gunesch, addressed the Council with questions regarding the proposed roadway changes, supporting the recommendation that any rear exit from the subdivision be limited to right-turn only. Mr. Gunesch also inquired about the length of the road section in question and raised the possibility of the Town requiring improvements to Number Two Road if it assumes ownership. Councilor Miles responded that required improvements have already been addressed as part of both the current development and the adjacent Mission Rise project. Mr. Gunesch further suggested that, since lot sizes are being increased and the number of homes reduced, the Town should consider increasing building setbacks to enhance neighborhood aesthetics. Councilor Miles and Mayor Wells clarified that the proposed amendments already improve the visual character of the area by

replacing larger multi-family buildings with duplexes, and that further changes to setbacks are not feasible due to space limitations.

Motion made by Councilor Miles to approve the Minor Amendment to Hillside Groves PUD with 3 conditions (1 – Update technical information in paragraph 19. 2 – Add two speed tables to Road “O” at each end and set the speed limit on Road “O” to not exceed 25-mph. 3 – The developer can build up to 140 townhomes.); seconded by Councilor Lannamañ. Motion approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Voting

Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Everline, Councilor Arnold, Councilor Lannamañ, Councilor Miles, Mayor Wells

Nay: None

NEW BUSINESS

4. Consideration and Approval: **Police Chief Hiring Ratification** (*This agenda item was moved to appear after Agenda Item #7 during the Agenda Approval section of the meeting*)
5. Consideration and Approval: **Number Two Road Dedication** (*This agenda item was moved to appear after the Consent Agenda, Agenda Item #2, during the Agenda Approval section of the meeting*)
6. Discussion: **Elevation Approval Process**

Town Planner, April Fisher, requested Council input on whether elevation approvals should remain under the purview of the Planning and Zoning Board or be brought before the Town Council, noting that the current land development code is silent on the process. After brief discussion, Council members expressed support for continuing the current practice of having the Planning and Zoning Board handle elevation approvals. By consensus, the Council directed staff to codify this procedure in the land development code moving forward.

7. Consideration and Approval: **Parking Space Agreement**

The Town Council discussed a proposed parking space agreement related to the redevelopment of 101 South Palm Ave., for the proposed “Virginia’s Pancake House”. Town Planner, April Fisher, explained that the site, located in the downtown core, is unable to provide the required 23 parking spaces on site and can only accommodate five. In accordance with the Town Center overlay provisions in the Land Development Code, the applicant could compensate for the deficit by paying a fee into a parking fund, with comparable cities charging \$5,000–\$6,000 per space.

Council and staff debated whether this amount was fair, whether it might be burdensome to new businesses, and whether other payment models, such as annual fees or cost-sharing agreements, might be preferable. Council members expressed concerns about fairness and consistency, noting that similar requirements had not been imposed on previous businesses, and emphasized the importance of supporting new commercial ventures in the Town center.

The Town Attorney, Heather Ramos, clarified that the code authorizes the imposition of a fee but does not specify the amount or payment structure, leaving it to Council discretion.

Developer Brad Cowherd addressed the Council, expressing appreciation for the opportunity to fulfill parking requirements through an alternative arrangement and complimenting the Town Planner for her collaboration. Mr. Cowherd shared his experience with similar agreements in other Central Florida municipalities, noting that he had paid \$500 per space in Orlando, \$0 per space in Winter Garden (due to design considerations), and approximately \$800 per space in Winter Park. He explained that his expectation for Howey-in-the-Hills was in the range of \$500 to \$800 per space, and he was surprised by

the much higher amount initially discussed. Nevertheless, he reiterated his enthusiasm for opening “Virginia’s Pancake House” in the Town and his desire to reach a fair agreement.

Council members responded to Mr. Cowherd’s comments by acknowledging that the primary issue was not the existence of a fee but rather the appropriate amount to be charged. Mayor Wells suggested that a fee of \$500 per space would be reasonable given the Town’s smaller size and the precedent set by other cities, noting that this would be considerably less than the originally discussed amount and would total approximately \$9,000. Mayor Pro Tem Everline and other Council members echoed support for a more modest fee, and the idea of simply deciding on a fee was proposed.

The Council then discussed whether the fee should be calculated based on the actual cost of paving a new parking lot. Mayor Wells and Mrs. Fisher explained that paving and preparing a municipal lot would be a significant expense, with rough estimates ranging from \$60,000 to \$80,000 for a comparable area. It was noted that such improvements would not only benefit the applicant but also provide additional parking for public events and other downtown businesses, especially given anticipated changes to on-street parking along State Road 19.

Finally, Town Manager, Sean O’Keefe, confirmed that, based on current estimates, paving the available land for public parking would indeed be costly, and that the intent of the parking fee was to help offset these expenses. Council members considered whether a \$500 per space fee, applied as a one-time charge for new downtown businesses, might be an appropriate solution going forward.

Mayor Wells opened Public Comment for this item only.

Tom Ballou, 1005 N. Tangerine Ave. – Town resident, Tom Ballou, addressed the Council and emphasized the community’s strong desire for the new restaurant to open, urging the Council to do whatever is necessary to facilitate the process. He noted that, as a breakfast-oriented business, peak activity at the restaurant would primarily occur in the early morning hours, which should minimize parking conflicts with the Library and Town Hall, whose spaces are typically reserved for official business.

Mr. Ballou encouraged the Council to take a flexible approach in order to avoid discouraging other potential businesses from coming to Howey-in-the-Hills. He also suggested that future redevelopment of the Town Hall site could provide an opportunity for additional downtown parking, which would benefit the entire community.

Eric Gunesch, 448 Avila Pl. – Town resident, Eric Gunesch, noted that, if the site had remained a small grocery store, this might not have been an issue.

Mayor Wells Closed Public Comment on this item.

Following the close of public comment, the Council confirmed the pending motion to approve a one-time parking fee of \$500 per required off-site parking space for the “Virginia’s Pancake House” project. Mrs. Fisher sought clarification that, along with setting the fee, the Council intended for this amount and payment method to be formalized within a written agreement between the Town and the applicant.

Council members agreed that the parking agreement should be amended to reflect the approved \$500 per space fee and that such agreements should continue to be memorialized in writing for future scenarios. Mayor Pro Tem Everline inquired whether the Town Attorney had reviewed the agreement, to which the Town Planner confirmed that legal counsel had been involved. Mrs. Fisher further noted that the agreement also addresses on-site parking improvements and alley loading arrangements, aiming to protect both the applicant and the Town.

With these clarifications, the Council prepared to proceed to a roll call vote on the motion, with the understanding that the fee and related conditions would be included in the executed parking agreement.

Motion made by Councilor Miles to approve the parking space agreement for 101 S. Palm Ave., with a cost of \$500 per parking space; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Everline. Motion approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Voting

Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Everline, Councilor Arnold, Councilor Lannamañ, Councilor Miles, Mayor Wells

Nay: None

Mayor Wells called for a 5-minute recess at 8:09 p.m.

Mayor Wells reconvened the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Mayor Wells called for a motion to extend the Town Council meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Motion made by Councilor Miles to extend the meeting to 9:30 p.m.; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Everline. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Voting

Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Everline, Councilor Arnold, Councilor Lannamañ, Councilor Miles, Mayor Wells

Nay: None

4. Consideration and Approval: **Police Chief Hiring Ratification** (This agenda item moved to appear at this place in the meeting during the Agenda Approval section of the meeting)

Town Manager, Sean O'Keefe, summarized the recent process for selecting a new Chief of Police following the retirement of the previous chief after 30 years of service. He explained that the position was publicly posted both on the Town's website and a statewide law enforcement platform, and that a professional panel, including experienced law enforcement leaders from neighboring jurisdictions, was assembled to ensure an objective and rigorous evaluation. The panel assessed candidates based on their qualifications, leadership, and experience, ultimately making a unanimous recommendation for Interim Chief Michael Giddens, citing his operational oversight and extensive law enforcement background.

Council members then discussed both the selection process and the timeframe in which the position was posted. Mayor Pro Tem Everline asked for clarification regarding the length of the posting period and whether the outgoing chief was involved in the process. The Town Manager explained that outgoing department heads are not involved in selecting their successors, a practice consistently followed since the adoption of the current charter, which delegates all hiring authority for department heads to the Town Manager. It was also clarified that the Council's role is to confirm or reject the appointment, rather than to direct the process.

Councilor Lannamañ expressed appreciation for the transparency and rigor of the current selection process, noting that it was more open and comprehensive than the methods used in many other Florida municipalities, which sometimes forego open postings and panel interviews entirely. She also expressed her support for the appointment of Interim Chief Giddens and suggested, if possible, that a probationary period be included. Other councilors echoed support for the process, with Councilor Arnold commending the involvement of outside law enforcement professionals, and Councilor Miles suggesting that a longer posting period could have attracted additional applicants, but ultimately endorsing the process and the recommended candidate. Several members also highlighted the strong letters of recommendation and positive feedback received regarding Interim Chief Giddens.

Mayor Wells opened Public Comment for this item only.

Jennifer Rice, 703 N. Lakeshore Blvd. – Town resident, Jennifer Rice, expressed strong support for Interim Chief Michael Giddens, sharing that he provided ongoing compassion and support to her family following a personal tragedy. She described him as a role model whose character and caring reflect the spirit of the community and stated her confidence that he is the right choice for Chief of Police.

Hugh Bass, 1008 N Hamlin Ave. – Town resident, Hugh Bass, a retired State Attorney's Office prosecutor, spoke in strong support of Interim Chief Michael Giddens. He described working closely with Mr. Giddens during his years at the Lake County Sheriff's Office and later with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, highlighting Giddens's deep experience in both law enforcement and the criminal justice system. Mr. Bass emphasized Mr. Giddens's professionalism, integrity, and ability to see complex cases through from investigation to conviction. He concluded by urging the Council to appoint Mr. Giddens as Chief of Police, stating that his experience would be invaluable for the Town as it grows.

Debbie Tubbs, 302 W. Dupont Cir. – Town resident, Debbie Tubbs, shared her deep appreciation for Interim Chief Michael Giddens, recounting how he responded quickly and saved her life during a medical emergency when her husband was away. She praised his kindness, ongoing support, and dedication to the community, stating that he has remained in contact with her family throughout her recovery. Mrs. Tubbs described Mr. Giddens as her hero and expressed strong confidence in his experience and character, urging the Council to appoint him as the next Chief of Police.

Gavin Scheel, 123 E. Oak St. – Town resident, Gavin Scheel, spoke in strong support of Interim Chief Michael Giddens, highlighting his caring nature and community involvement. Mr. Scheel shared a recent example where Mr. Giddens organized a road safety event and provided him with an FDOT light for safer travel at night. He praised Interim Chief Giddens' dedication to residents and expressed confidence in his leadership as the Town's next police chief.

George Brown, (Former Law Enforcement) – County resident, George Brown, former Lieutenant for the Howey-in-the-Hills Police Department, addressed the Council to share his perspective as a former Police Department employee and applicant for the police chief position. He acknowledged his past termination from the agency but emphasized his enduring connection to the community and his respect for the selection process. Mr. Brown expressed support for Interim Chief Michael Giddens, praising his reputation, the strong letters of recommendation received, and the Council's diligence in the hiring process. He urged the Council to give Mr. Giddens the opportunity to serve as Chief of Police, stating that his background and understanding of the community make him the right fit for the role.

George Holcomb, (Former Law Enforcement) – County resident, George Holcomb, spoke in strong support of Interim Chief Giddens, citing his own extensive law enforcement background and personal experience working with Interim Chief Giddens. Mr. Holcomb described Interim Chief Giddens as a true professional who values community engagement and effective policing in small towns. He commended the Town's selection process and urged the Council to appoint Interim Chief Giddens as Chief of Police.

Peter Tuite, 300 E Croton Way – Town resident, Peter Tuite, voiced concerns about the selection process for the new police chief, stating that the timeline felt rushed, there was limited background information provided to the public, and the interview panel was chosen solely by the Town Manager. He questioned the composition and size of the panel, as well as the lack of involvement from the former police chief in the transition. While Mr. Tuite emphasized that his criticism was not directed at Interim Chief Giddens personally, he felt the process could have been more open and inclusive.

Martha MacFarlane, 63 Camino Real – Town resident, Martha MacFarlane, encouraged the Town to ensure that the new chief attends specialized training for police chiefs and that he should continue to pursue grant opportunities, which have historically provided resources for the department. She also

urged the Town to support Chief Giddens in accessing necessary systems and to ensure that vacancies are posted promptly.

Susan Distler, 36623 Grand Island Oak Circle (County Resident) - County resident, Susan Distler, spoke in strong support of Interim Chief Giddens, highlighting his integrity, compassion, and dedication both on and off duty. She described him as honest, dependable, and committed to serving the community, earning the respect of colleagues and residents alike. Mrs. Distler expressed confidence that Chief Giddens will continue to lead with fairness and compassion, inspire others, and ensure that all citizens feel safe and respected.

Eric Gunesch, 448 Avila Pl. – Town resident, Eric Gunesch, expressed that, while he does not personally know Interim Chief Giddens, he hopes the positive and caring culture of the police department will continue under his leadership.

Zach (Blogger- via Zoom) – Online commenter Zach (“Liberty Troll” on YouTube) opposed Lieutenant Giddens’ promotion, alleging a prior violation of his constitutional rights and requesting a delay in the decision pending further review.

Candy Giddens, (Spouse of Law Enforcement) – County resident, Candy Giddens, spoke in support of her husband, Interim Chief Giddens, highlighting his 30 years of dedicated and honorable service in law enforcement, his commitment to family during their daughter’s many surgeries, and his deep care for the Howey-in-the-Hills community and its officers.

Mark Kitchens (Current Law Enforcement, Deputy with Orange County Sheriff) – Mr. Kitchens spoke in support of Interim Chief Giddens.

Chief Charles Broadway, (Current Law Enforcement, Police Chief for City of Kissimmee) – Kissimmee Chief of Police Chuck Broadway spoke in strong support of Interim Chief Giddens, emphasizing his integrity, dedication, extensive law enforcement experience at all levels, and servant leadership, stating the Town would be very well served by his appointment as Chief.

Mayor Wells closed Public Comment and asked the Town Clerk to proceed with a roll call vote.

Motion made by Councilor Lannamañ to confirm Michael Giddens’ hire as Police Chief for the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills; seconded by Councilor Arnold. Motion approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Voting

Yea: Mayor Pro Tem Everline, Councilor Arnold, Councilor Lannamañ, Councilor Miles, Mayor Wells

Nay: None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

8. Town Hall

This report was included in the meeting's packet.

9. Police Department

This report was included in the meeting's packet.

10. Code Enforcement

This report was included in the meeting's packet.

11. Lake County Fire Rescue

This report was included in the meeting's packet.

12. Public Services Department

This report was included in the meeting's packet.

13. Parks & Recreation

None

14. Library / Community Events

This report was included in the meeting's packet.

15. Town Attorney

None

16. Finance Supervisor

This report was included in the meeting's packet.

17. Town Manager

Text

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT

18. Mayor Pro Tem Everline

None

19. Councilor Arnold

Text

20. Councilor Miles

Councilor Miles asked what fund the \$500 parking fee (Agenda Item #7) would go to. Town Manager, Sean O'Keefe, explained that it would go into the Transportation fund.

21. Councilor Lannamañ

Councilor Lannamañ addressed the recent controversy surrounding the police chief selection process, emphasizing that Council members act with integrity and commitment, and urging residents to seek facts before spreading misinformation or making assumptions. She called for respect and civility within the community, encouraged support for Chief Giddens, and highlighted the dedication and preparation of Council and staff in serving the Town.

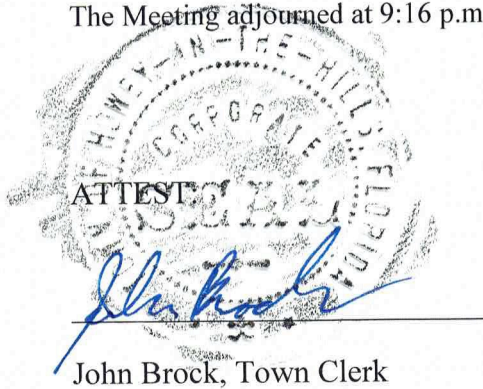
22. Mayor Wells

None

ADJOURNMENT

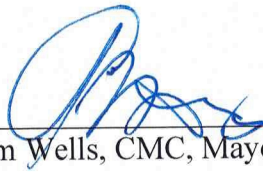
There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Councilor Lannamañ to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Arnold seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

The Meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m. | **Attendees: 128**

The seal of the Town of Highway-In-The-Hills, Florida, is circular. It features a central emblem with a palm tree and a sun. The words "HIGHWAY-IN-THE-HILLS" are written in a circle around the emblem, and "FLORIDA" is at the bottom. The word "CORPORATE" is also visible. Overlaid on the seal is the word "ATTEST" in bold, capital letters. Below the seal is a signature in blue ink, which appears to be "John Brock".

ATTEST

John Brock, Town Clerk

A blue ink signature, likely of Graham Wells, is written over a horizontal line.

Graham Wells, CMC, Mayor