

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
VILLAGE COUNCIL OF NORTH PALM BEACH, FLORIDA
FEBRUARY 24, 2022**

Present: Darryl C. Aubrey, Sc.D., Mayor
Deborah Searcy, Vice Mayor
Mark Mullinix, President Pro Tem
David B. Norris, Councilmember
Susan Bickel, Councilmember
Andrew D. Lukasik, Village Manager
Len Rubin, Village Attorney
Jessica Green, Village Clerk

ROLL CALL

Mayor Aubrey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All members of Council were present. All members of staff were present.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Aubrey gave the invocation and Vice Mayor Searcy led the public in the Pledge.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular Session held January 27, 2022 were approved as written.

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

John Samadi, 512 Marlin Road, expressed concern regarding the Village's management and management staff.

Bob Starkie, 36 Yacht Club Drive, expressed his concerns and opposition of the current proposed 200 Yacht Club Drive project. Mr. Starkie requested that Council take into consideration the sidewalks and street width that was included in the Master Plan and to address the density allowance of a one (1) bedroom or less than one (1) bedroom to be counted as a full unit by rescinding the amendment to the code.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND QUASI-JUDICIAL MATTERS

ORDINANCE 2022-04 ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Searcy and seconded by Councilmember Bickel to adopt on first reading Ordinance 2022-04 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF NORTH PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, ADOPTING AN ADDITIONAL \$25,000 HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION FOR TAXPAYERS 65 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER WITH LIMITED INCOME AS

ORDINANCE 2022-04 ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION *continued*

AUTHORIZED BY FLORIDA STATUTE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Lukasik explained that the purpose of the ordinance was to give an extra \$25,000 of homestead exemption to low income seniors 65 years of age and older. The criteria to receive the extra exemption was the person must be 65 years or older, own a property that already has a homestead exemption and have a cumulative adjusted gross income of all persons living in the home of \$32,561 or less for 2022. Mr. Lukasik stated that the reduction to the Village's Ad Valorem Revenue would be \$22,102. The additional exemption would not take effect until 2023.

Marie Silvani, 100 Cruiser Road South, stated that she believed that the additional homestead exemption was brought up for consideration in 2018 and was never implemented and wanted to know the reason it was not implemented.

Councilmember Bickel asked if the cumulative adjusted gross income was determined by the Department of Revenue.

Mr. Lukasik stated yes and the only flexibility the Village would have was in the amount of the exemption offered.

Thereafter, the motion to adopt on first reading Ordinance 2022-04 passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

Councilmember Norris moved to approve the Consent Agenda. President Pro Tem Mullinix seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The following items were approved:

Resolution approving a Contract with Hazen & Sawyer to evaluate and update the Village's Stormwater Utility Assessment in an amount not to exceed \$19,656.

Resolution accepting a proposal from Superior Floor Coatings, LLC for the repair and epoxy of the Golf Course Maintenance Building floor at a total cost of \$29,180; and authorizing execution of the Contract.

Resolution approving the purchase of two Suzuki outboard engines for the Police Department's Marine Patrol boat from Nick's Creative Marine, Inc. at a total cost of \$44,500; approving a budget transfer to fund the purchase; and approving the surplus of the existing engines and authorizing their disposal.

Receive for file Minutes of the General Employees Pension Board meeting held 11/2/21.

Receive for file Minutes of the Police and Fire Pension Board meeting held 12/9/21.

Receive for file Minutes of the Planning Commission meeting held 1/11/22.

Receive for file Minutes of the Recreation Advisory Board meeting held 1/18/22.

Receive for file Minutes of the Recreation Advisory Board meeting held 2/8/22.

Mayor Aubrey announced that the fire engine purchase agenda item would be moved and heard at the end of the agenda.

RESOLUTION 2022-14 – MILLING, RESURFACING AND STRIPING OF SPECIFIED VILLAGE ROADWAYS

A motion was made by President Pro Tem Mullinix and seconded by Councilmember Norris to adopt Resolution 2022-14 entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF NORTH PALM BEACH, FLORIDA ACCEPTING A PROPOSAL FROM J.W. CHEATHAM LLC FOR MILLING, RESURFACING AND STRIPING OF SPECIFIED VILLAGE ROADWAYS PURSUANT TO PRICING ESTABLISHED IN AN EXISTING AGREEMENT FOR MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS WITH THE CITY OF PALM BEACH GARDENS AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND VILLAGE CLERK TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR SUCH SERVICES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Streets and Stormwater Manager Kenneth Hern explained that the purpose of the resolution was to mill, resurface and stripe certain roads within the Village. Mr. Hern discussed the roads that were included in the project. The roads were selected based on the pavement condition report that was performed in 2018.

John Samadi, 512 Marlin Road, expressed his concerns regarding the roads that were selected for milling and resurfacing in the past and the roads currently proposed for milling and resurfacing. Mr. Samadi expressed concerns over how the roads were selected.

Mayor Aubrey asked how the roads were selected and how long the period would be to finish all of the streets that were in need of milling and resurfacing.

Mr. Hern stated that all of the roads in the proposed current contract would be completed this year. The roads that were identified as poor in the 2018 study were selected for the project by staff with no outside influence.

Thereafter, the motion to adopt Resolution 2022-14 passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2022-15 – BROADCAST SYSTEM AND HANDS-FREE MEETINGS WEB-STREAMING HARDWARE, SOFTWARE AND MANAGED SUPPORT PURCHASE

A motion was made by President Pro Tem Mullinix and seconded by Councilmember Bickel to adopt Resolution 2022-15 entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF NORTH PALM BEACH, FLORIDA APPROVING A PROPOSAL FROM SWAGIT PRODUCTIONS, LLC FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN AVIOR HD BROADCAST SYSTEM AND HANDS-FREE MEETINGS FROM SWAGIT PRODUCTIONS, LLC FOR VILLAGE COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS; APPROVING A BUDGET AMENDMENT TO TRANSFER \$39,690 FROM THE CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT TO THE IT – MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT CAPITAL ACCOUNT TO FACILITATE THE PURCHASE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Information Technology Director Michael Applegate explained the purpose of the resolution. The resolution would approve the purchase of a web-streaming solution for Village Council and Planning Commission meetings. The web-streaming would allow an improvement in Village transparency. Residents would be able to view the meetings from any computer with internet access.

RESOLUTION 2022-15 – BROADCAST SYSTEM AND HANDS-FREE MEETINGS WEB-STREAMING HARDWARE, SOFTWARE AND MANAGED SUPPORT PURCHASE *continued*

Deborah Cross, 2560 Pepperwood Circle South, asked if the system would be a one-time purchase and if there would be an ongoing annual fee for technical support. Mrs. Cross asked if the public would be able to watch meetings.

Mr. Applegate explained that the service would allow the public to attend and view Council meetings and Planning Commission meetings. The remainder of Advisory Board meetings could be added in the future. The company would be providing continual support. The system and equipment would be a one-time purchase with an annual fee for managed services. Mr. Applegate stated that three quotes were received for the purchase.

Vice Mayor Searcy asked for Mr. Applegate to explain the set-up of the system.

Mr. Applegate explained that there would be three (3) cameras installed in the Council chambers. One (1) camera would be behind Council facing the council chambers and the other two (2) cameras would be on the opposite side of the chamber facing Council. It would be fully televised experience for the public as if they were attending a meeting.

Vice Mayor Searcy asked if there would be privacy concerns for the cameras facing out toward the audience in the council chambers.

Mr. Applegate explained that the cameras would be preset to specific areas of the council chambers. The meetings would be recorded and archived so that the public can watch past meetings.

Mr. Lukasik and Mr. Applegate explained that the agendas would be indexed so that the public could click on a specific agenda item to hear that portion of the meeting.

Thereafter, the motion to adopt Resolution 2022-15 passed unanimously.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MATTERS/REPORTS

Councilmember Bickel requested that the Council move forward with removing the half-unit density count language from the Village code.

Council came to consensus to move forward with removing the half-unit density count language from the Village code.

Councilmember Bickel asked if the density bonuses for workforce housing could be addressed as well.

Council came to consensus to have a workshop to discuss the density bonuses for workforce housing.

President Pro Tem Mullinix suggested that other types of density bonuses be considered and discussed at the workshop.

President Pro Tem Mullinix stated that the parking issues at the Country Club needed to be discussed and addressed.

VILLAGE MANAGER MATTERS/REPORTS

Police Chief Rick Jenkins gave a Police Department Annual Report. Chief Jenkins presented and discussed average response times, overall crime statistics, department revenue generated, annual recruitment analysis, SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats), National Incident Based Reporting System and Florida Incident Reporting System.

Vice Mayor Searcy stated that she has heard concerns from residents regarding cars speeding through neighborhoods and asked Chief Jenkins if he wanted to comment on those concerns.

Chief Jenkins stated that he and the Police Department have heard the concerns. Chief Jenkins stated that it was important to balance staffing with the core mission of citizen safety. Chief Jenkins stated that he was sensitive to the issue of speeding and that he and Manager Lukasik have discussed and come up with a strategy to address the problem.

RESOLUTION 2022-13 – FIRE ENGINE PURCHASE FOR FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Searcy and seconded by Councilmember Norris to adopt Resolution 2022-13 entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF NORTH PALM BEACH, FLORIDA APPROVING THE ACQUISITION OF A SUTPHEN G9 BODY CUSTOM PUMPER FIRE APPARATUS FROM SOUTH FLORIDA EMERGENCY VEHICLES PURSUANT TO PRICING ESTABLISHED IN AN EXISTING SOURCEWELL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING CONTRACT AND AUTHORIZING A SEVEN-YEAR LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH PINNACLE PUBLIC FINANCE, INC.; APPROVING A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH SUTPHEN AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXECUTION; DECLARING AN EXISTING FIRE ENGINE AS SURPLUS PROPERTY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Fire Chief J.D. Armstrong explained that the new fire truck purchase would replace a 2002 fire truck that has served its purpose. The delivery of the new fire truck would take between twenty-four (24) to twenty-six (26) months.

Thereafter, the motion to adopt Resolution 2022-13 passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.



Jessica Green, MMC, Village Clerk