



**VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN
REGULAR VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 25, 2024
6:30 PM**

**15516 SW Osceola Street, Suite C
Indiantown, FL 34956**

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: LaRhonda McBride, Village Clerk

PRESENT: Mayor Susan Gibbs Thomas, Vice Mayor Angelina Perez, Council Member Carmine Dipaolo, Council Member Janet Hernández, and Council Member Guyton Stone
Staff: Village Manager Taryn Kryzda, Village Attorney Wade C. Vose, and Village Clerk LaRhonda McBride, Debbie Resos Parks & Recreation Director, Pat Nolan Utilities & Public Works Director, Brian Green Parks & Recreation Supervisor, and Renae Cherry Assistant to the Village Clerk

INVOCATION: Howard L. Brown

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Gibbs Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, PULLED ITEMS OR OTHER MODIFICATIONS: None

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

1. Proclamation for E. Thelma Waters Day

Mayor Gibbs Thomas presented the proclamation.

Rossalyn Waters-Jensen spoke regarding the legacy of E. Thelma Waters and thanked the Council for honoring her.

2. Proclamation for House of Hope 40th Anniversary

Mayor Gibbs Thomas presented the proclamation.

Robert Ranieri spoke regarding House of Hope's current projects.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Linda Nycum requested that Council Members conduct individual self-evaluations and release information to the public regarding the Sedron plant in Washington as well as what Council Members are involved in between Village Council meetings.

Phyllis Waters Brown announced that the fourth annual E. Thelma Waters Community Clean-Up would be held on Saturday, January 27, 2024, from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Volunteers should meet at Post Park or at the Parks & Recreation building at Booker Park and will be provided with breakfast. Jazz in the Park would be held the following Sunday, January 28, 2024, at Big Mound Park from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

COMMENTS BY VILLAGE COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Dipaolo stated that he had visited the Sedron plant and would hold meetings in Indianwood, Booker Park, and at the Civic Center to discuss his findings with interested members of the public.

Council Member Stone thanked all for joining.

Council Member Hernández thanked all in attendance and stated that she did not tour the Sedron plant. She stated that she has been focused on the water plant and would be happy to meet with anyone who would like to speak with her about city infrastructure.

Vice Mayor Perez thanked all for joining and thanked the Village staff for helping at the Park-It Market every Friday. She requested that Staff prepare a presentation regarding investing in emergency alarm systems for severe weather and other events.

Mayor Gibbs Thomas welcomed all to the meeting and announced that she would be running for a seat in the District 3 Martin County Commission. She advised that she would continue to maintain a friendly relationship with the current seat holder, Harold Jenkins, and that her current role as Mayor would not be affected until November 2024. She cautioned pet owners that there was a potential outbreak of canine parvovirus in the community and urged all to ensure their dogs' vaccinations are up to date and to avoid interactions with strange dogs. She stated that she had recently visited Tallahassee to meet with officials and advocate for Indiantown, noting that the State of Florida has funded Indiantown's needs and that she is working to keep their needs known to those who make a difference at the state level.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

COMMENTS BY VILLAGE MANAGER:

Village Manager Kryzda had no comments.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion was made to approve the Agenda by Council Member Dipaolo. Motion was duly seconded by Council Member Hernández and approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda by Council Member Dipaolo. Motion was duly seconded by Council Member Stone and approved unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting of January 11, 2024

REGULAR AGENDA:

4. **RESOLUTION NO. 001-2024:** A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING A PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD; PROVIDING FOR CREATION AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD, TERMS OF BOARD MEMBERS, MEETINGS AND ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD, ABSENCES AND VACANCIES, AND STAFF TO THE BOARD; AND PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS, CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Village Manager Kryzda and Parks Director Deborah Resos provided an overview of the item.

Council Member Stone voiced his support for the advisory board.

Discussion ensued regarding board members' term limits.

Council Member Dipaolo suggested appointing a group of factfinders not bound by Sunshine Law to observe sports programs in other municipalities.

Vice Mayor Perez and Council Member Hernández voiced support for Council Member Dipaolo's proposal.

Discussion ensued regarding the circumstances under which appointed individuals would be governed by Sunshine Law, how to expand the pool of potential volunteers, whether members of the factfinding committee could be involved in the Board, and the number of people to be appointed to the committee.

4a. Motion was made to establish a factfinding committee by Council Member Dipaolo. Motion was duly seconded by Council Member Hernández and approved unanimously.

Rosendo Pacheco spoke in support of establishing the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

Barbara Clowdus spoke regarding the importance of developing strong youth sports programs.

4b. Motion was made to adopt Resolution No. 001-2024 to create a Parks & Recreation Advisory Board by Council Member Hernández. Motion was duly seconded by Council Member Stone and approved unanimously.

Mayor Gibbs Thomas clarified that the Council would put together the factfinding committee at the next Village Council meeting.

5. Discuss Having a Workshop on Affordable Housing

Village Manager Kryzda provided an overview of the item.

Discussion ensued regarding the importance of affordable housing.

Mayor Gibbs Thomas proposed holding public quarterly workshops led by financial institutions to educate residents on credit scores, loan applications, and other relevant topics. Additionally, she stated that the Land Development Regulations (LDRs) could offer incentives for the development of housing that is attainable based on the median income in the community.

Council Member Stone stated that private developers would not be interested in this and instead recommended partnering with Habitat for Humanity to build with volunteers on donated land.

Council Member Dipaolo disagreed and suggested looking for developers outside of Indiantown.

Discussion ensued regarding who would be involved in the workshop, potential incentives for developers, and leads on where to find property that could be developed.

Mayor Gibbs Thomas stated that there was an affordable housing symposium held in June 2023 at Indian River State College.

Village Manager Kryzda agreed to contact the organizers to request the information presented at the symposium.

Village Attorney Vose outlined the sections in the LDRs that incentivize developers to participate in affordable housing.

CEO of House of Hope Robert Ranieri advised that he participates in a housing committee, including builders, planners, and elected officials, that look at obstacles to affordable housing. He offered to share what they have learned and to be part of a task force if one is created.

Colleen Pachowicz recommended contacting Commissioner Jenkins to discuss the Martin County Community Land Trust.

Barbara Clowdus noted that the Village's Comprehensive Plan called for an affordable housing committee to have been formed by 2021.

Mayor Gibbs Thomas stated that the Village should start by holding workshops and fixing the LDRs.

Village Manager Kryzda stated that she would contact Mr. Ranieri to discuss workshops and would report back with more information at the next meeting.

Mayor Gibbs Thomas requested that the Village staff also prepare a presentation on the Sedron plant findings.

6. Approval of Amendment 2 to FDEP SRF Loan Agreement WW430310 to Authorize Leasing of Land Purchased with SRF Loan

Village Attorney Vose provided an overview of the item.

Mayor Gibbs Thomas asked whether lease payments from Sedron would go toward paying down the SRF loan.

Village Attorney Vose confirmed that lease payments would be committed to paying down the loan portion of any SRF loans.

Motion was made to approve Amendment 2 to FDEP SRF Loan Agreement WW403310 by Council Member Dipaolo. Motion was duly seconded by Council Member Hernández and approved unanimously.

7. Annual Evaluation of the Village Manager

Village Manager Kryzda provided an overview of the item.

Village Attorney Vose advised that annual evaluation was stipulated in the former village manager's contract.

Village Manager Kryzda stated that all Village employees receive an annual review in conjunction with a merit-based salary increase of up to 2% associated with positive annual review.

Village Manager Kryzda introduced Brian Green, who is working with both the Utilities and Parks & Recreation departments.

Council Member Dipaolo voiced his support for offering Village Manager Kryzda a contract to be the permanent Village Manager.

Motion was made to direct Village Attorney Vose to prepare a contract for the full-time position of Village Manager to be presented to Taryn Kryzda, with terms equivalent to those set forth in the contract of the former Village Manager, by Council Member Dipaolo. Motion was duly seconded by Vice Mayor Perez and approved unanimously.

Discussion ensued regarding the implementation of an annual review for the Village Manager.

Motion was made to complete an evaluation following the approval of a contract by Council Member Hernández. Motion died for lack of a second.

Village Attorney Vose suggested incorporating the annual review into the employment contract rather than making a motion.

Consensus was reached to stipulate annual review terms in the contract.

Discussion ensued regarding Village Manager Kryzda's interest in a full-time position.

FIRST READING ORDINANCES: None

SECOND READING ORDINANCES: None

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Gibbs Thomas reminded everyone of the several upcoming events:

- Community Clean-Up on Saturday, January 27, 2024, at 7:30 a.m.
- Jazz in the Park on Sunday, January 28, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Big Mound Park
- Park-It Market on Friday, January 26, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
- A joint meeting between Indiantown, Stuart, the Martin County School District, and the Martin County Commission on Friday, February 2, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Blake Library in Stuart

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: February 8, 2024

ADJOURNMENT: 8:31 p.m.

ATTEST:



LaRhonda McBride
Village Clerk

VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN, FLORIDA



Susan Gibbs Thomas,
Mayor

February 8, 2024
Date

