



**VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN  
REGULAR VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
March 14, 2024  
6:30 PM**

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:33 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** LaRhonda McBride, Village Clerk

**PRESENT:** Mayor Susan Gibbs Thomas, Vice Mayor Angelina Perez, Council Member Janet Hernández, and Council Member Carmine Dipaolo. *Staff:* Village Manager Taryn Kryzda, Village Attorney Wade C. Vose, Community Development Director Deanna Freeman, Financial Services Director Michael Florio, Parks & Recreation Director Deborah Resos, Public Works & Utilities Director Patrick Nolan, Village Clerk LaRhonda McBride, and Administrative Assistant Renae Cherry.

**INVOCATION:** Rick Williams

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

**ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, PULLED ITEMS OR OTHER MODIFICATIONS:**

Staff requested that Item #5 on the Consent Agenda be moved to the Regular Agenda.

Staff requested that the Addendum to the Village Council Agenda be moved to #6 on the Regular Agenda.

**PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

1. Proclamation National Agriculture Day

Mayor Gibbs Thomas read the proclamation in honor of National Agriculture Day.

Paula Smith with the Boys and Girls Club spoke regarding her involvement with the Indiantown Community Garden.

2. Proclamation on Martin Reads

Mayor Gibbs Thomas read the proclamation in honor of Martin Reads and its initiative, Write Your Story Day, to be held on March 14, 2024.

3. Brownfield Presentation

Jared Beck with Stantec Consulting and Stephanie Heidt with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council gave a presentation regarding inventory, site reuse assessment, and revitalization strategy.

Council Member Hernández inquired into the next steps for the work in Booker Park.

Mr. Beck stated that his office would produce a funding roadmap including grant sources that would both fund direct projects and leverage existing Village funding.

Ms. Heidt clarified that the grants laid out in the plan represent a starting point.

Council Member Hernández asked whether Mr. Beck and Ms. Heidt would assist the Village in applying for those funds.

Ms. Heidt advised that the Regional Planning Council can provide technical assistance with grant writing and research.

Mayor Gibbs Thomas advised caution when explaining the plan to the public, given that a substantial portion of the land is privately owned. She noted that private owners cannot be forced to comply with the Village's plans and that this fact should be made clear to the public.

Ms. Heidt confirmed that this plan is a rendering.

Mayor Gibbs Thomas warned that residents may not understand what a rendering is, and that this definition should be clarified to emphasize that private owners are not bound to the Village's plan.

Ms. Heidt agreed to make this very clear in the report.

Council Member Dipaolo asked whether grant money can be used to revitalize an area.

Ms. Heidt stated that the funding is for 'brownfield' specifically and that the

majority of the grant must be used for conducting assessments on these properties.

Mayor Gibbs Thomas thanked Mr. Beck and Ms. Heidt for the presentation.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Juan Carlos Lasso spoke regarding ways to simplify the application for special event permitting. Additionally, he requested an expansion of Parks and Recreation programs and facilities and more options for affordable housing.

**COMMENTS BY VILLAGE COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Council Member Dipaolo assured Mr. Lasso that the Council is working to provide affordable housing but that there are many aspects of the problem that the Council has no control over.

Council Member Hernández wished all a good evening. She stated that the legislative session had concluded and announced that she had been named a Home Rule Hero by the Florida League of Cities. Regarding Land Development Regulations for special events, she requested that Staff make the process easier and more fair. She stated that it is important to have clear divisions between the Council's vs. Staff's decision-making capacities. She requested more oversight at the staff level, given that Staff has years of training and experience. She requested quarterly updates on water and sewer, noting that the Council used to receive quarterly updates from different departments as well as a quarterly newsletter.

Vice Mayor Perez thanked the Staff and community members for their help at the Park-It Market. She requested a proclamation to honor the finalist for the Martin County Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year.

Mayor Gibbs Thomas wished all a good evening and advised that a Youth of the Year proclamation is in the works. Regarding Council Member Hernández's request for increased Staff oversight, she stated that bringing matters before the Council can be a catalyst for change.

Village Manager Kryzda stated that quarterly reports could be added to the Agenda as a standing item.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None.

**COMMENTS BY VILLAGE MANAGER:**

Village Manager Kryzda clarified that Village Staff are required to bring before the Council any issues related to special event permitting.

**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 Hernández and approved unanimously.**

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting of February 22, 2024

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

5. Post Family Park Skatepark Replacement and Improvements

Parks & Recreation Director Resos provided an overview of the item.

Mayor Gibbs Thomas thanked Staff for putting this item on the Regular Agenda.

Discussion ensued regarding the timeline for Phase I and II of the project, the \$99,000 budget, the equipment that would be replaced, additional planned amenities, and the life expectancy of the equipment.

Barbara Clowdus spoke in support of these improvements.

**Motion was made to approve the plan for Post Family Park Skatepark replacements and improvements by Council Member Dipaolo. Motion was duly seconded by Council Member Hernández and approved unanimously.**

6. Vacancy on Village Council

Village Manager Kryzda provided an overview of the item regarding Council Member Guyton Stone's resignation letter.

Village Attorney Vose provided an overview of the laws in the relevant charter.

Village Manager Kryzda noted that Mr. Stone was an original member of the Council and had served as both Vice Mayor and Mayor during his time in the Village.

Mayor Gibbs Thomas recommended presenting Mr. Stone with a recognition plaque and suggested the seat should sit vacant until the public could elect a replacement.

Council Members Dipaolo and Hernández and Vice Mayor Perez concurred.

Village Attorney Vose clarified some of the language in the charter.

Linda Nycum opposed the Council's decision and suggested that Doug Caldwell

fill the seat until a new member could be elected.

Village Attorney Vose clarified that if the Council appoints no one at this time, they may choose to appoint someone later.

**Motion was made to keep the seat vacant by Council Member Dipaolo. Motion was duly seconded by Council Member Hernández and approved unanimously.**

7. Approval to Piggyback City of Cocoa's Contract with Empire Computing and Consulting, Inc., for Security Cameras and Software Licensing for Village Facilities

Parks & Recreation Director Resos provided an overview of the item.

Discussion ensued regarding budget coverage for additional cameras and surveillance and punishment of vandalism caught on camera.

**Motion was made to approve the contract with Empire Computing and Consulting, Inc., by Council Member Dipaolo. Motion was duly seconded by Council Member Hernández and approved unanimously.**

8. Authorization to purchase a John Deer Quarter Cab Backhoe Loader for the Public Works Department

Public Works & Utilities Director Nolan provided an overview of the request to purchase a backhoe loader in the amount of \$177,293.00.

**Motion was made to authorize the purchase of the equipment by Council Member Dipaolo. Motion was duly seconded by Council Member Hernández and approved unanimously.**

9. Appointment of Planning, Zoning & Appeals Board (PZAB) Member

Village Manager Kryzda provided an overview of the item.

Vice Mayor Perez stated that she would announce her appointee to the PZAB at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Gibbs Thomas inquired as to whether Guyton Stone's resignation from the Village Council would impact his representation on the PZAB.

Village Attorney Vose stated that it would have no impact.

## FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

10. **ORDINANCE NO. 02-2024:** AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN, FLORIDA, ANNEXING BY VOLUNTARY PETITION CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY TOTALING 116.16 ACRES IN SIZE, LOCATED AT SOUTH OF SW CITRUS BOULEVARD, NORTH OF SW KANNER HIGHWAY, AND IMMEDIATELY EAST OF THE EXISTING BOUNDARIES OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN, PARCEL ID 03-40-39-000-000-00030-2, 02-40-39-000-000-00050-9, AND 35-39-39-000-00040-4, WHICH PROPERTY IS CONTIGUOUS TO THE VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION PROVISIONS OF SECTION 171.044, FLORIDA STATUTES, AND OTHER CONTROLLING LAW; REDEFINING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN TO INCLUDE SAID PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION AND A MAP; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND NOTICE TO APPROPRIATE AGENCIES; AND PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS, CONFLICTS, NON-CODIFICATION, SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Village Attorney Vose stated for the record the quasi-judicial nature of the proceedings.

Those offering testimony were sworn in by Village Clerk McBride.

Village Clerk McBride confirmed that the application had been properly advertised.

No conflicts of interest were declared by the Board Members.

Mayor Gibbs Thomas disclosed ex-parte communications via discussions with Joe Walsh and Indiantown Marine Center President Dan Romence regarding the annexation.

Council Member Hernández disclosed ex-parte communications via discussions with Joe Walsh regarding the annexation.

Vice Mayor Perez disclosed ex-parte communications via discussions with Mr. Romence regarding the annexation.

Community Development Director Deanna Freeman provided an overview of the item.

Indiantown Marine Center President Dan Romence provided additional information about the project and stated that it represented an important opportunity for the Village, the applicant, and Martin County.

Discussion ensued regarding environmental regulations for the shipyard, the positive economic impact the proposed shipyard would have on the Village, tax



revenue that the annexation might generate, plans for shipyard waste disposal, and security of the annexed property.

Council Member Hernández thanked Mr. Romence and Mr. Walsh for bringing this opportunity to the Village.

Council Member Dipaolo spoke regarding the marine industry jobs that this annexation would bring to Indiantown and the positive impact it would have on students working in the Marine Center.

Vice Mayor Perez thanked the applicant for donating to Indiantown High School.

Executive Vice President of Indian River State College Michael Hageloh spoke in support of the annexation.

Pierre Taschereau of the Martin County Business Development Board spoke in support of the annexation.

Commissioner Harold Jenkins spoke in support of the annexation.

Barbara Clowdus spoke in support of the annexation.

**Motion was made to approve Ordinance No. 02-2024 on first reading by Council Member Dipaolo. Motion was duly seconded by Council Member Hernández and approved unanimously.**

11. **ORDINANCE NO. 03-2024**: AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR A LARGE-SCALE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FUTURE LAND USE MAP AMENDMENT CONCERNING REAL PROPERTY TOTALING 116.16 ACRES IN SIZE, LOCATED SOUTH OF SW CITRUS BOULEVARD, NORTH OF SW KANNER HIGHWAY, AND IMMEDIATELY EAST OF THE EXISTING BOUNDARIES OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN, PARCEL ID 03-40-39-000-000-00030-2, 02-40-39-000-000-00050-9, AND 35-39-39-000-000-00040-4, FROM COUNTY RURAL DENSITY LAND USE DESIGNATION TO VILLAGE COMMERCIAL WATERFRONT LAND USE DESIGNATION; AND PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Community Development Director Freeman provided an overview of the item.

**Motion was made to approve Ordinance No. 03-2024 on first reading by Council Member Hernández. Motion was duly seconded by Council Member Dipaolo and approved unanimously.**

12. **ORDINANCE NO. 04-2024**: AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR THE REZONING OF REAL

PROPERTY 116.16 ACRES IN SIZE, LOCATED SOUTH OF SW CITRUS BOULEVARD, NORTH OF SW KANNER HIGHWAY, AND IMMEDIATELY EAST OF THE EXISTING BOUNDARIES OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN, PARCEL ID 03-40-39-000-000-00030-2, 02-40-39-000-000-00050-9, AND 35-39-39-000-000-00040-4, FROM COUNTY A-2, AGRICULTURAL ZONING DISTRICTS TO VILLAGE CANAL MIXED-USE (CMU) ZONING DISTRICT; AND PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Community Development Director Freeman provided an overview of the item.

**Motion was made to approve Ordinance No. 04-2024 on first reading by Council Member Hernández. Motion was duly seconded by Council Member Dipaolo and approved unanimously.**

13. **ORDINANCE NO. 05-2024**: AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR A SMALL-SCALE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FUTURE LAND USE MAP AMENDMENT CONCERNING REAL PROPERTY TOTALING 4.14 ACRES IN SIZE, LOCATED EAST OF SW 168<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, INDIANTOWN, PARCEL ID 06-40-39-001-013-00010-1, FROM LIGHT INDUSTRIAL TO UTILITY LAND USE DESIGNATION; AND PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Village Attorney Vose stated for the record the quasi-judicial nature of the proceedings.

No conflicts of interest were declared by the Board Members.

Mayor Gibbs Thomas, Vice Mayor Perez, Council Member Hernández, and Council Member Dipaolo disclosed ex-parte communications via discussions with Village Staff regarding the amendment.

Community Development Director Freeman provided an overview of the item.

**Motion was made to approve Ordinance No. 05-2024 on first reading by Council Member Dipaolo. Motion was duly seconded by Council Member Hernández and approved unanimously.**

14. **ORDINANCE NO. 06-2024**: AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR THE REZONING OF REAL PROPERTY TOTALING 4.14 ACRES IN SIZE, LOCATED EAST OF SW 168<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, INDIANTOWN, PARCEL ID 06-40-39-001-013-00010-1, FROM LIGHT INDUSTRIAL (LI) ZONING DISTRICT TO UTILITY (U) ZONING DISTRICT; AND PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Community Development Director Freeman provided an overview of the item.

**Motion was made to approve Ordinance No. 06-2024 on first reading by Council Member Dipaolo. Motion was duly seconded by Council Member Hernández and approved unanimously.**

15. **ORDINANCE NO. 07-2024**: AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN, FLORIDA, CREATING ARTICLE VII, "WATER CONSERVATION -- LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION," OF CHAPTER 40, "UTILITIES," OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANDATORY YEAR-ROUND LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION CONSERVATION MEASURES RULE OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (CHAPTER 40E-24, F.A.C.); PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR THE APPLICABILITY OF THE ARTICLE; PROVIDING THE LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION SCHEDULE; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS TO THE LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION SCHEDULE; PROVIDING FOR A REQUIREMENT TO OPERATE TECHNOLOGY THAT INHIBITS OR INTERRUPTS AN IRRIGATION SYSTEM DURING PERIODS OF SUFFICIENT MOISTURE; PROVIDING FOR VARIANCES FROM THE SPECIFIC DAY OF THE WEEK LIMITATIONS; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION; AND PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS, CODIFICATION, CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Village Attorney Vose provided an overview of the item.

**Motion was made to approve Ordinance No. 07-2024 on first reading by Council Member Dipaolo. Motion was duly seconded by Council Member Hernández and approved unanimously.**

**SECOND READING ORDINANCES:** None

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

16. Discussion of Draft Charter Amendment Providing for Term Limits for Village Council Members

Village Attorney Vose provided an overview of the item, which would impose a term limit of 8 consecutive years followed by a two-year break.

Village Attorney Vose advised the Council that the deadline for the Village to adopt and deliver this amendment in order to have it on the August 2024 ballot would be by noon on June 14, 2024.

Mayor Gibbs Thomas spoke regarding the importance of establishing term limits.

Council Member Dipaolo stated that term limits are not needed because elections serve the will of the residents.

Council Member Hernández spoke in support of having term limits but suggested that 8 years is too short.

Vice Mayor Perez concurred with Council Member Dipaolo that term limits are not needed.

Mayor Gibbs Thomas spoke again in support of term limits.

Barbara Clowdus spoke in opposition to term limits.

Linda Nycum spoke in support of term limits.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:** March 28, 2024

**ADJOURNMENT:** 9:17 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

*LaRhonda McBride*

LaRhonda McBride  
Village Clerk

**VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN, FLORIDA**

*Susan Gibbs Thomas*

Susan Gibbs Thomas,  
Mayor

*March 28, 2024*

Date

