



**VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN
REGULAR VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
August 22, 2024
6:30 PM**

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

CALL TO ORDER: 6:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL: LaRhonda McBride, Village Clerk

PRESENT: Mayor Susan Gibbs Thomas, Vice Mayor Angelina Perez, Council Member Janet Hernández, Council Member Carmine Dipaolo, and Council Member Vernestine Williams-Palmer. *Staff:* Village Manager Taryn Kryzda, Village Attorney Wade C. Vose, Parks & Recreation Director Deborah Resos, Parks & Recreation Supervisor Brian Green, Public Works & Utilities Director Patrick Nolan, Finance Director Michael Florio, Village Clerk LaRhonda McBride, and Administrative Assistant Renae Cherry.

INVOCATION: Linda Nycum

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

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, PULLED ITEMS OR OTHER MODIFICATIONS:

Village Clerk McBride stated that Staff was requesting Item #2 be pulled from the Agenda.

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

1. Proclamation for National Suicide Prevention Month

Mayor Gibbs Thomas presented the proclamation in honor of National Suicide Prevention Month.

Kiana Kelly accepted the proclamation.

2. Fact-Finding Committee Report

(Clerk's note: This item was pulled under Additions, Deletions, Pulled Items, or Other Modifications.)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Linda Nycum spoke regarding the importance of attendance, civility, and progress at Village Council meetings.

Daryl Holmes spoke in opposition to the Village's denial of the special event application for the Black History event.

Jayliah Harris requested more sports programs for the youth.

Rosendo Pacheco spoke regarding the importance of fairness in evaluating special event permits.

Kimberly Jackson Brown, Vice President of Concerned Citizens for Booker Park, spoke in opposition to the current special event permitting process.

Susana Isaias proposed that Swampfest be held in a different location in future years.

COMMENTS BY VILLAGE COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Hernández wished all a good evening and announced that this would be her final meeting as a Council Member. She thanked all the residents for their support over the six years of her term and stated that she is proud of what the Village has accomplished. She thanked her Planning, Zoning and Appeals Board appointee Renita Presler. She urged all residents to stay informed and hold the Council accountable and warned against over-developing the Village of Indiantown. She thanked Staff and the Village Council.

Council Member Palmer wished all a good evening and asked how many residents would be willing to volunteer for youth sports programs. She stated that the Village is working to implement new programs but would require the help of everyone in the community, especially parent volunteers. Regarding development, she stated that the Village can only move forward and that sticking together is important. She urged the Concerned Citizens of Booker Park to meet with Staff and come to a resolution and directed Ms. Isaias to speak with Ms. Jackson Brown about her concerns related to Swampfest.

Council Member Dipaolo had no comments.

Vice Mayor Perez wished all a good evening and thanked everyone for joining. Regarding sports programs, she advised that the Village has a soccer league and that she would love to see more sports programs if members of the community would be willing to volunteer their time. She asked whether Staff had planned any field updates at Big Mound Park in advance of the upcoming home soccer games.

Village Manager Kryzda noted that the fields are always in use and therefore never get an opportunity to regenerate. She added that Staff had proposed improving the field at Booker Park to alleviate overuse at Big Mound.

Vice Mayor Perez stated that the fields need to be presentable to parents from other communities.

Mayor Gibbs Thomas echoed the remarks of her fellow Council Members. She stated that in order to implement more sports programs, the whole community would need to work together. She thanked Council Member Hernández for her service and commitment to the community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

COMMENTS BY VILLAGE MANAGER:

Village Manager Kryzda had no comments.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion was made to approve the Agenda, as amended as follows, by Council Member Palmer:

- **Pull Item #2**

Motion was duly seconded by Council Member Hernández and approved 4–1, with Council Member Dipaolo dissenting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting of August 8, 2024

REGULAR AGENDA:

4. FY 2024-2025 Budget Presentation

Village Manager Kryzda provided an overview of parcels, taxable values, ad-valorem tax revenue, residential taxes, taxable value thresholds, and new sources of tax revenue.

Finance Director Florio presented the FY 2024-2025 budget.

Discussion ensued regarding the annual cost of fireworks, the Village Hall Debt Services, the TPP fund rebate to Florida Power & Light, intergovernmental

revenue, the timeline for the new apartments in Booker Park being added to the tax roll, field repairs and ongoing maintenance, ARPA fund commitments and deadlines, grant research and applications, benefits of and potential sponsorships for fireworks displays, and ARPA funds from the contract with Martin County Fire Rescue.

Council Member Hernández requested information on expenditures for maintenance at each individual park and requested that in the future, Staff make presentation slides available online for residents to review prior to the Village Council meeting.

Council Member Hernández requested a community meeting to discuss the uptown drainage work.

Discussion ensued regarding reimbursement for funds given to the Indiantown Civic Center.

Council Member Dipaolo suggested not rushing to sell the Village Hall lot and waiting for the right sale price.

Council Member Palmer echoed Council Member Hernández's request for itemized expenditures for each individual park and requested them for the last two years.

Finance Director Florio stated that he was not sure whether he could access historical data but could provide data from the current year and projected year.

Council Member Hernández agreed that would be satisfactory.

Discussion ensued regarding sponsorship of community events using Village funds.

Council Member Palmer suggested sponsoring Swampfest because of the economic growth it brings to the community. She thanked Finance Director Florio for his presentation.

5. **RESOLUTION NO. 006-2024:** A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN, FLORIDA, ADJUSTING WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 AND AUTHORIZING SUBSEQUENT ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS OF WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY RATES BASED ON A SPECIFIED PRICE INDEX; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS, CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Finance Director Florio provided an overview of the item.

Village Attorney Vose advised that the water and wastewater systems must be financially sustainable in order to qualify for State Revolving Fund (SRF) grants.

Discussion ensued regarding future SRF partnerships, the current SRF grant rates, and check-processing fees.

Motion was made to approve Resolution No. 006-2024 by Council Member Dipaolo. Motion was duly seconded by Council Member Palmer and approved unanimously.

6. **RESOLUTION NO. 007-2024:** A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN, FLORIDA, ADJUSTING UTILITY SERVICE COST RECOVERY CHARGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 AND AUTHORIZING SUBSEQUENT ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS OF UTILITY SERVICE COST RECOVERY CHARGES BASED ON A SPECIFIED PRICE INDEZ; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS, CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Finance Director Florio provided an overview of the item.

Discussion ensued regarding returned check fees, how the fee increase would impact residents, the need to incentivize on-time payments, the use of automatic payments to avoid late fees, the sewage charge cap for residential customers, additional utility deposits incurred for late payments, and the proportion of residents paying late and disconnected from service each month.

Council Member Palmer requested a community meeting to inform residents of these new rates and fees. She stated that she would like to see modifications to the proposed late fees and deposits.

Vice Mayor Perez requested a workshop to educate residents and explain the rationale behind the \$30 late fee increase.

Mayor Gibbs Thomas and Council Member Dipaolo supported the rate increase and late penalties to incentivize on-time payments and qualify for grants.

Motion was made to approve Resolution No. 007-2024 by Council Member Dipaolo. Motion died for lack of a second.

Council Member Palmer concurred with Mayor Gibbs Thomas and Council

Member Dipaolo but stated that the Village should first do its due diligence by holding a workshop in September to inform residents of the change.

Mayor Gibbs Thomas proposed pushing the start date of the new rate structure until November so that notices can be included in the next utility bill.

Finance Director Florio stated that the Village had already notified residents via mail, advertisements, and at the present hearing and asked what other methods the Council would propose.

Council Member Hernández acknowledged that the rate increase is necessary but spoke in opposition to the additional late fees and customer deposits.

Vice Mayor Perez requested holding a workshop on a Saturday or Sunday to maximize working residents' ability to attend.

Mayor Gibbs Thomas again spoke in support of the fees to incentivize on-time payments.

Finance Director Florio requested that the Council provide Staff with direction on which modifications they would like to see.

Discussion ensued regarding the amount of the late fees and the possibility of using automated calls to notify residents.

Motion was made to approve Resolution No. 007-2024 by Council Member Dipaolo. Motion died for lack of a second.

Motion was made to notify the residents of the changes via the water bill and to hold a workshop to explain the changes to residents in English, Spanish, and Creole, prior to bringing the Resolution back before the Village Council, by Council Member Palmer. Motion was duly seconded by Council Member Hernández and approved unanimously.

Rosendo Pacheco spoke in opposition to the proposed increases.

Linda Nycum spoke in support of the proposed increases and in opposition to additional resident notifications.

Kimberly Jackson Brown spoke in opposition to the proposed increases.

Carolyn Parker requested consideration for elderly residents with extenuating

circumstances and requested that Staff cut the grass in the swales in Booker Park.

Discussion ensued regarding the hardship to residents the increases would pose.

Village Attorney Vose clarified how the hearings would be noticed in the utility bills.

7. **RESOLUTION NO. 008-2024**: A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN, FLORIDA, ADOPTING CERTAIN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Village Attorney Vose provided an overview of the item.

Motion was made to approve Resolution No. 008-2024 by Council Member Hernández. Motion was duly seconded by Council Member Palmer and approved unanimously.

8. **RESOLUTION NO. 009-2024**: A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN, FLORIDA, UPDATING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE VILLAGE'S POLICY FOR THE PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUALS ENGAGING IN NON-VIOLENT CIVIL RIGHTS DEMONSTRATIONS, REPEALING ALL RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Village Attorney Vose provided an overview of the item.

Upon request from Mayor Gibbs Thomas, Village Attorney Vose provided a brief explanation of the Community Development Block Grant.

Motion was made to approve Resolution No. 009-2024 by Council Member Hernández. Motion was duly seconded by Council Member Palmer and approved unanimously.

9. Provide Direction to Staff on Special Event Application Process

Village Manager Kryzda provided an overview of the item.

Discussion ensued regarding the requirements for events with amplified music.

Parks & Recreation Director Resos explained that events with amplified music and off-site parking are automatically required by the Land Development Regulations (LDRs) to come before the Council for approval.

Discussion ensued regarding the special event permit application submitted for a Black History event in Booker Park, State and County laws related to parking in the right of way, and general parking for special events.

Council Member Hernández suggested a meeting between Ms. Jackson Brown and the Council at which she could act as mediator.

Council Member Palmer agreed and stated that she would call all of the relevant parties on August 23, 2024, to schedule a meeting.

Mayor Gibbs Thomas stated that Booker Park is a neighborhood, not an event center.

Kimberly Jackson Brown expressed dissatisfaction with the special events permit process.

Daryl Holmes requested that the Village find a solution to the parking issue.

Laura Hernández spoke in support of Concerned Citizens for Booker Park.

Rosendo Pacheco spoke in support of Concerned Citizens for Booker Park.

Susana Isaias spoke regarding her respect for her community.

Melody Baum asked whether the LDRs would allow for any large event parking.

Vice Mayor Perez suggested contacting the owner of the empty lot where the monthly food drive is held.

FIRST READING ORDINANCES: None

SECOND READING ORDINANCES: None

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

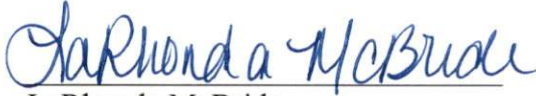
Vice Mayor Perez announced that the Park-It Market would be held on August 23, 2024, at Booker Park and that volunteers are needed for the next monthly Food Drive on September 12, 2024. She also announced that soccer registration for children aged 4 to 18 is open until August 30, 2024.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: September 12, 2024

ADJOURNMENT: 10:36 p.m.

ATTEST:

VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN, FLORIDA


LaRhonda McBride
Village Clerk


Carmine Dipaolo
Mayor


Date

