



MINUTES

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2021 *IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING* 9:00 A.M.

General Employee Defined Benefit Pension Board Meeting

TOWN OF INDIAN RIVER SHORES

6001 N. STATE ROAD A1A INDIAN RIVER SHORES, FL 32963

1. Call to Order

- a. Invocation
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Roll Call

Mayor Foley called meeting to order at 9:04 AM with the invocation given by Vice Mayor Carroll and the Pledge of Allegiance recited at the preceding General Employee Defined Benefit Pension Board Meeting. Those present were ELECTED OFFICIALS Mayor Brian **Foley**, Vice Mayor Sam **Carroll**, Councilmember Christian **Hendricks**, Councilmember John **McCord**, with Councilwoman Mary Alice **Smith** absent (excused). STAFF present were Interim Town Manager Heather **Christmas**, Town Attorney Chester **Clem**, Town Clerk Laura **Aldrich**, Town Clerk Assistant Chelley **Pallo**, Building Official Luis **Martinez**, and Public Safety Deputy Chief Mark **Shaw**. RESIDENTS present were Bob **Auwaerter** (Charter Review Committee, Ocean Colony); Patty **Gundy** (PZV Board, Pebble Bay). GUESTS present were Joanne **Stanley** and Joe **Baird**, Republic Services; and Mike **Korpar**, John's Island.

2. Agenda Reordering, Deletions, or Emergency Additions

A **motion to approve the agenda as presented** was made by Councilman McCord and seconded by Vice Mayor Carroll, which **passed unanimously**.

3. Presentations/Proclamations

- a. Republic Services Action Plan (Joanne Stanley)

Joanne Stanley of Republic Services said she was asked by the Town Council to put together a plan and she has done so. This plan has already been put into action. They found that at this time of year, it is sort of like a treasure hunt trying to find where the garbage is, and asks that the Town bear with them. She said they had a meeting with John's Island that included the area supervisor, David Dealy, who is the Town's point of contact going forward. She asked that the Council let her know if they have any questions regarding the action plan.

Councilmember Hendricks said this is unrelated to the action plan, but he wanted to say that despite the fact that his neighborhood has curbside collection, the drivers have been very good about collecting some of the elderly residents' cans from next to garage and them returning them to the same spot. He thanked them for this, and Ms. Stanley added that they do this as a courtesy with no additional fee.

Mayor Foley thanked Ms. Stanley for providing the action plan so quickly. The action plan is only half the equation; following through on the action plan is the other half. He has heard that things have improved already, which is certainly a step in the right direction. Mike Korpar of JIPOA said that since Mrs. Stanley has gotten involved, there is a noticeable change in how her staff is reacting and handling the backdoor service, although not quite 100% yet. They are definitely making an effort, which he truly appreciates, as well as the Town's support in this.

- b. Proclamation – April as Water Conservation Month in Florida

Mayor Foley noted that Abby Johnson would typically be here, as it is a popularly supported effort. A **motion to approve the Proclamation of April as Water Conservation Month in Florida** was made by Councilmember McCord with support from Vice Mayor Carroll that **passed 4-0**.

- c. Jim Poole Certificate of Appreciation for 8 years on Finance Committee

Mayor Foley said Mr. Poole sent an email apologizing for his inability to attend the meeting in person, and expressing that he enjoyed his tenure on the Finance Committee. He stated that the Town is in a very strong financial position going forward. He added that Mrs. Christmas is an excellent financial resource who does an

excellent job protecting the Town financially. He thanked the Council for the privilege of serving, and wishes Mr. Griffin the best in terms of his recovery. Mayor Foley said we have this framed certificate to pass along to Mr. Poole when he is next available.

4. **Consent Agenda** (9:09)

- a. Acceptance of March 21, 2020 General Employee Defined Benefit Pension Board Meeting Minutes
- b. Acceptance of January 25, 2021 Minutes from Charter Review Committee Meetings
- c. Approval of February 25, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes
- d. Approval of Cash Disbursement Registers

With no discussion, a **motion to approve the consent agenda as presented** was made by Vice Mayor Carroll with support from Councilmember McCord that **passed 4-0**.

5. **Town Attorney**

- a. Resolution 21-03, Supporting Airport Funding in HB 1143 and SB 1466

Mayor Foley said this was a request from Mayor Brackett of the City of Vero Beach to support Bills currently pending in the House and Senate. This minor legislative change would restore funding simply because if the airline has exceeded 10,000 passengers, it classifies the airport as commercial. He did ask whether this meant that the area would turn into a major destination hub, and the answer was no. There are federal regulations that define what the airport can and cannot do. Mayor Foley thinks because of our location we are not likely to see Northwest Airlines or Delta come here anytime soon, but it benefits the residents of the Town to have a nearby airport to land their personal aircraft, and Elite Airways is a good asset for those who like to go back and forth during normal times.

Mr. Clem said we have seen many airlines come and go, but this should help. The title of Resolution 2021-03 was read by Mr. Clem as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF INDIAN RIVER SHORES, FLORIDA, IN SUPPORT OF THE ADOPTION OF HOUSE BILL 1143 AND SENATE BILL 1466 AS FILED IN THE 2021 SESSION OF THE FLORIDA STATE LEGISLATURE AMENDING SECTION 332.007, FLORIDA STATUTES REVISING THE TYPES OF AIRPORTS TO WHICH FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ELIGIBLE AVIATION DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

He also mentioned the "Whereas" clauses and read the actions listed in the resolution. With no further discussion, a **motion to adopt Resolution 21-03** was made by Vice Mayor Carroll and seconded by Councilmember McCord, which **passed 4-0**.

6. **Mayor or Council Items** (9:14)

Mayor Foley said there was a letter forwarded to him yesterday from Indian River County (IRC) County Administrator Jason Brown, who received said letter from City of Vero Beach (CoVB) City Manager Monte Falls, asserting a claim to an exclusive service area that the City of Vero Beach has. He attached the 1989 Territorial Agreement, which basically delineates the areas of service for both entities. He forwarded the letter to Holland & Knight for their analysis and comments. Barring objection from his fellow Council members, rather than Mayor Foley issuing a written response on behalf of Council to Mr. Brown, he will defer to Holland & Knight to respond.

The Mayor continued that he spent time reviewing the issue, and was able to determine that there are two (2) IRC Resolutions, 87-13 and 87-14, that give a franchise agreement to the CoVB. They have an initial thirty (30) year term, which just expired, and then five (5) year increments of renewal/non-renewal. He continued that in 2012, when the County was a candidate to provide water to the Town, this issue either came up or it didn't come up. He is a little surprised that these two underlying resolutions were not included, which makes the notification disingenuous at best. He does think that we want to respond to this, because, in his mind, the Council's approval of the Arcadis study to analyze moving from the City to the County prompted this. He did not think this is an impediment to what we choose to do or not do, because agreements of this type are highly suspect in terms of their being void against public policy. Restricting the jurisdiction or territorial rights of a municipality is a very untoward thing to do. Even if the resolutions were still applicable, like if it were 1995. This is very similar to the whole electric situation; if they don't have an argument, they just throw something else at it.

Mayor Foley said it is unfortunate that we have to spend time, effort and money in order to do some fairly basic and intuitive things, but that is the situation we find ourselves in. A copy of the letter is available from the Town Clerk, as well as the underlying resolutions. He also asked Mrs. Aldrich to look for any amendments to said

resolutions as well as any meeting minutes referencing potential cancellation of the resolutions. We are still awaiting a report from Holland & Knight and said work product will be protected by attorney-client and work product privilege. The written response to Mr. Falls letter will not, because we will be providing it to County Manager Jason Brown and to the City of Vero Beach.

Vice Mayor Carroll said he fully supports Mayor Foley's thought process and his fellow Council members agreed. Mayor Foley thanked them.

7. **Discussion with Possible or Probable Action** (9:18)

a. Former Town Manager Contract Amendment

Mayor Foley said there was discussion at the last meeting regarding the former Town Manager's contract amendment, and some of the Council members had a bit of sticker shock at the explicit and implicit costs. The discussion was tabled to provide Mrs. Christmas and Mr. Griffin time to explore an acceptable alternative for him and for the Town. Mayor Foley said it was his understanding that Mrs. Christmas and Mr. Griffin had conversations regarding the subject and have come to a potential agreement.

Mrs. Christmas affirmed, stating they reached an agreement of \$15,000 per year and he understands that he will pay taxes on that. Mayor Foley asked if Council had any questions or wished to discuss, to which there was no response. Mayor Foley said there is one item he wanted to discuss, which is "the parties acknowledge that had Mr. Griffin chosen to retire, he would have been eligible to remain on the Town's insurance for an additional implicit cost of \$134,000." Mayor Foley said that would not really help Mr. Griffin's wife if anything happened to Mr. Griffin, which was a big part of the decision process and why we are going this route. Mayor Foley and Mrs. Christmas discussed the qualifications for our retirement plan, which may be specified statutorily, but not in our plan document, which does not include a minimum, which Mrs. Christmas summarized that only our General Employee Defined Benefit Plan has a defined retirement. She is already planning to bring something forward at the next meeting to tighten that up. Mayor Foley said there very well may be an "industry standard" in place. We want to ensure that someone cannot come in and then six months later retire and claim benefits. Mrs. Christmas said if it is not bound by State Statute, we will probably make it very similar to the Defined Benefit Plan.

A motion to approve the requested amendment to the former Town Manager's contract was made by Vice Mayor Carroll, was seconded by Councilmember McCord, and **passed 4-0**.

b. Interim Town Manager Compensation Adjustment (9:21)

Mayor Foley reminded everyone that Mrs. Christmas was appointed Interim Town Manager at the last meeting to serve until a new full-time manager is found. Councilmember Hendricks had mentioned that her additional duties should come with extra pay, but a compensation adjustment was not on the agenda last month.

Mayor Foley said that Mrs. Christmas recently received a pay increase when she took on the title of Deputy Town Manager, a role in which she would have been expected to take on some of the tasks of the Town Manager in addition to being an excellent Town Treasurer. It was never anticipated that Mrs. Christmas would need to act as Town Manager for more than a week or two while the Town Manager was on vacation, and it could be an extended period of time before a replacement Town Manager is found. He added that he thinks it is fair, as she is spending more time in that role than she did as Treasurer, and would support an increase for the time Mrs. Christmas spends as the Interim Town Manager. He has had conversations with Mrs. Christmas regarding this and has a number in mind. As they are recruiting for a new Town Manager, he does not think it would be appropriate to compensate Mrs. Christmas at Mr. Griffin's old rate, which is in no way meant to reflect on Mrs. Christmas' abilities.

Councilmember McCord says he believes that since Mrs. Christmas is doing extra work over and above, and that it's only fair that she should be compensated accordingly.

Vice Mayor Carroll said he wholeheartedly agrees, and asked if Mayor Foley would entertain a figure at this point, to which Mayor Foley responded affirmatively. Vice Mayor Carroll suggested an additional \$1,250 a month compensation during the time that Mrs. Christmas is serving in an Interim Town Manager capacity, until a new Town Manager is found. Mayor Foley found it is interesting that they both came up with the same amount, and suggested it be made retroactive to March 1st. His logic for choosing that number was that it comes in slightly below what we are advertising for the Town Manager position. Councilmember Hendricks said if Mrs. Christmas is happy with that number, so is he.

A motion to approve an increase in Mrs. Christmas' pay in the amount of \$1,250 per month retroactive to March 1st and to continue for so long as she is acting as Interim Town Manager was made by Councilmember McCord, which was seconded by Vice Mayor Carroll and **passed 4-0**.

c. Boards & Committee Openings/Reappointments (Town Clerk)

1) Appoint Bob Moore as Finance Committee Full Member from Alternate Status

2) Finance Committee Alternates (2), PZV Board Alternate, & Code Enforcement Board Alternates (2) Openings

A motion to accept Luke Webb's resignation as an alternate on the Finance Committee due to moving out of town was made by Councilmember McCord with a second from Vice Mayor Carroll, which **passed 4-0**. Another **motion to appoint Bob Moore to full member status on the Finance Committee** was also made and supported by the same, which **passed 4-0**. Town Clerk Aldrich announced that there are two openings for alternates on both the Finance Committee and Code Enforcement Board, and one alternate position on the PZV Board.

8. Staff Updates (9:28)

a. Building Official Report & Statistics

Building Official Martinez says the monthly numbers show the workload is increasing. Some of that is due to the local COVID relocations. A lot of residents are having more work done to become more permanent residents. The numbers show increases in both the number of units in construction and value has also increased over time for monthly and fiscal year. Mr. Martinez said he is happy to answer any questions.

Councilmember Hendricks said the revenue is going up, and Mr. Martinez mentioned at the last meeting that he would be requesting an additional employee. Mr. Martinez said, yes, he was hoping at some time that they could look into bringing on an additional inspector to help with the workload. Councilmember Hendricks asked if this is something that will be addressed during the budget process. Mayor Foley said he believes we already budgeted some amount for this. Mrs. Christmas stated that a subcontractor was budgeted for, but Mr. Martinez is looking to hire a full-time employee. She said that she and Mr. Martinez have discussed this, but as we are in the middle of the Town Manager search, we tabled the issue. Mr. Martinez agreed and said he is looking toward the future and the big summer push, so we have some time. Mayor Foley agreed that it would be appropriate to wait for a new Town Manager. Mr. Martinez stated that he is finding there are a lot of benefits to the Town in having someone in-house as opposed to a contract employee.

Mayor Foley wanted to pass along a comment from a resident who expressed how easy it was to work with the Building Department as compared to those up north. Mayor Foley said the turnaround time is usually quick, although sometimes that is not possible for a variety of reasons.

b. Town Hall Renovation Report

Mr. Martinez said it seemed as though there was not much action earlier in the month, but all the sudden during the last week everything is happening. The lights and electric are in place, with some alterations. The cabinets are now being installed. Mr. Martinez met with the air conditioning contractor this morning, who wants to start running the A/C to keep the cabinets cool. There has been a lot of progress recently.

Mrs. Christmas said there were three (3) significant change orders. The first was the drafting table, which was discussed at the last Council meeting. The second is the addition of flooring in the Finance office, which was around \$4,000 and was mentioned last month. The newest change order is for the posts, which was a required change order. Mr. Martinez explained that it was a structural element, as when the contractor went to remove the existing posts in the courtyard area, they found that the posts were rotted and there was no foundation base. The contractors have cut holes to apply steel and pour concrete for the support posts.

Mrs. Christmas said there is an additional change order that she has not yet signed for a light fixture change. The original plans included box lights, which are not reflective of the architectural design of the building. The box lights are not flush, but extend down from the ceiling by about two (2) inches. The change order is for lights similar to those in the Community Center which will last twenty (20) years. The cost is approximately the same as if we were to add trim around the box lights to improve the aesthetics, which is why the decision was made to exchange the lights. Mayor Foley asked whether the cost effect was neutral or slightly more. Mrs. Christmas said there would have been a change order either way, either for the additional trim or the different fixtures.

Mayor Foley asked if there were any questions from his fellow Council members for Mr. Martinez. There being none, Mayor Foley said he did have a question, and said he was very excited when he heard that we

would be done in April. He is assuming that means that the Building Department will be completed and they can move out of the Council Chambers then, but that the rest of the work will continue through the summer. Mr. Martinez clarified that he had hoped the Building Department would be done by April, but there have been delays due to finding extra items as we go along. He would hate to give another date and have to change that as well. Mayor Foley said he understood. Mayor Foley asked if we are still looking at Fall 2021 for a completion date. Mr. Martinez said with the recent uptick in activity, that seems like a possibility. Mr. Martinez said the contract gives the contractor one (1) year for completion, and the work began in January 2021, but we are currently ahead of schedule and it could be completed by the fall.

c. Town Treasurer Report /Project Updates (Town Manager) (9:36)

Mrs. Christmas said on the financial side, she will have an updated report on the next budget adjustment. The Town Manager and General Administration line items will be adjusted based on the contract that was approved today for next month, as well as whatever we end up deciding for the next Town Manager's costs. That will be in next month's financial forecast.

Regarding ongoing projects, Mrs. Christmas said she speaks with Mr. Griffin on a regular basis, and he has given her an update on the status of the Town Manager search. At the beginning of the month, the Town advertised the position on multiple platforms and as of now have almost 40 resumes. The closing date for the search is next Friday, April 2nd, and Mr. Griffin will arrange for interviews shortly after that.

Mrs. Christmas continued that the kick-off meeting of the Indian/Seminole Lane project was just held, with construction to begin this summer. This project involves the dredging of the canal as well as milling and paving. An interim storm-drain and basin cleaning project was also completed in Pebble Bay in order to prevent flooding during the upcoming rainy season. The cost was less than \$5,000, and the contractor also photographed the drains.

An RFP was issued for the painting of the exterior of the Public Safety Building and the pre-bid meeting was held on Tuesday, March 23rd. The closing date for that bid is April 7th and we plan to bring it before Council at the May meeting. This project was budgeted for last year in the amount of \$8,000.

Mrs. Christmas said she is almost completely finished with the Town's financial statements, and has scheduled a Finance Committee meeting for April 13th. Council will receive a copy of the financial statements for their review, and this will be on the agenda for the April meeting. After that, budget preparations will begin, she concluded. Mayor Foley asked if there were any questions or comments, and there were none.

d. Public Safety Department Report

Chief Rosell said they have a new uniform patch, which Mr. Auwaerter had noticed. April 1st is the start of Autism Awareness Month, and he explained that the Public Safety Department is usually involved with the Special Olympics, which was unfortunately cancelled last year due to COVID. There is going to be a crimp in it this year as well. April is normally the month when the Public Safety Department holds their 5K run for the Special Olympics, which usually raises between \$8,000-\$10,000. They decided if they cannot raise money, they can at least raise awareness, and Deputy Chief Shaw had the idea of changing their patch. If you look at it closely, it has the autism symbol, which is brightly colored puzzle pieces that don't necessarily match perfectly with the other pieces. These patches will be worn for the month of April.

Chief Rosell moved on to operational issues, and said there is no sick-leave report in the packet as there was a malfunction with the CrewSense software program which gathers all the time-clock information. This is a vendor problem, so next month they plan to provide two month's-worth of sick leave on the report. A manual review of the report appears to show they are way down due to an individual retiring last month.

As far as the A1A project, their hands are tied. The company was so far ahead of schedule that they decided to go on the mainland and finish their projects there, and then come back and finish this one. Chief Rosell said they tried to convince them to come back, but the best they could get was someone to come over here to upright the barrels that were knocked over. Public Safety is hesitant to touch the barrels because they could then be accused of manipulating the traffic pattern, and the Town could be held liable.

Chief Rosell said he received a complaint from a resident regarding people passing on the right of cars waiting to turn left at the Fred Tuerk light, and witnessed the problem firsthand over a couple of hours on a

Saturday. There were people coming from 4-5 cars behind and passing people on the right; next thing there would have been a drag race on A1A. He did authorize the barrels to be moved at that location. It was

something that had to be done or there would have been a bad accident. Other than that, they are doing the best they can. People are losing their minds and they are trying to be as sympathetic as possible, but the wrong-way drivers are becoming a problem.

Mayor Foley said he knows it is frustrating when you have no jurisdiction over something, and you can see a problem but can't fix it. It is not just at Fred Tuerk, people are getting frustrated sitting in the line by the CVS at the south end of Town and are veering out into what are currently functioning as bike lanes. Only by the grace of God have we not had a serious accident. Chief Rosell said that every single morning, one of his jobs is to drive to the South side of Town and rearrange the barrels that people who have gotten tired of waiting in line have moved. As far as the bicyclists riding in the construction zone, all they can do is warn the bicyclists to please not ride there.

Chief Rosell said that response times are back down where they should be, mostly because there were no dispatch errors to throw them askew. They handled a lot of calls in the month of March.

Regarding sharks, there were two people shark-fishing, who caught one and cut off its head and left the carcass on the beach, which they are not allowed to do. Mayor Foley asked if they were chumming. Chief Rosell said he was unsure. A couple of officers checked on them, and they seemed okay. There was no evidence of drug or alcohol use. They have the cameras, and they have suspects and know what the individuals look like; we just don't have any names yet. He would like to say that they have increased patrols on the beach, but they are already out there quite often, as evidenced by the fact that we were aware of these individuals a couple of hours before they did what they did. The Chief added the animal should have been harvested respectfully and the carcass disposed of properly. There has been talk about modification to our existing ordinance, which Chief Rosell believes is unnecessary as there is already State law that handles this. He said the people who usually fish off this beach generally obey the baiting and chumming restrictions. He goes down there all the time and has never seen anyone chumming. There are a lot of sharks down there.

Councilmember McCord said he had an experience in January 2020 in which he had to call the Public Safety Department to his house for an emergency. He believes he called at about 6 AM and they showed up at 6:20 AM. Recently, he had to call them at 3:00 AM and they came and were totally professional. He could not believe they were up at 3:00 AM. He wanted to say kudos to the Department for being so professional.

e. Town Clerk Updates/Reports (9:47)

Mrs. Aldrich provided a written report, and added that it is Bicycle Safety Month and that FDOT provided a new brochure with bicycle safety tips. Mayor Foley mentioned that he liked the idea of streamlining the Council packets as well as making them more environmentally friendly by reducing the amount of printed copies. He also reported to Council that he had a conversation with the Town Clerk regarding abusive complaint phone calls she occasionally receives, and the fact that she is not required to tolerate foul language. He suggested that she ask the caller to call back later when they have calmed down or to speak to Council. This goes for any employee.

9. Council/Committee Reports or Non-Action Items (9:50)

(MPO, EDC, TCCLG, TCRPC, IRC PSC Citizen's Oversight Committee, CoVB Utilities Commission)

a. Committee & Informational Updates or Comments

COVB Utility – Councilmember McCord said he was unable to attend the Utilities Commission Meeting, but that Mr. Auwaerter did attend, and he suggested a motion that the City reconsider talking to the County about water issues, which was made. The Chairman decided that the City already said they were not interested in discussing this with the County, so no action was taken. Councilmember McCord said he was not surprised. He continued that Mr. Auwaerter has been great about giving him information, part of which is that the federal government is going to get involved in funding water issues. You will note that part of the \$1.9 trillion bill included funds for water and the new infrastructure bill that is currently in front of Congress will include millions of dollars for water infrastructure and technology improvements. He and Mr. Auwaerter are anxiously waiting to see how much the rates are increased, and how much a new water facility will cost.

Mayor Foley apologized that, as the alternate for the Utilities Commission, he was unable to attend in Councilmember McCord's stead due to the late notice. He thanked Mr. Auwaerter for attending and asked if he had anything to add. Mr. Auwaerter said he did not.

EDC - Vice Mayor Carroll apologized and said he had a conflict and was unable to attend. He will report next month.

TCCLG – Mayor Foley attended a meeting on March 3 that was informative, wherein they mostly discussed legislative updates. Of interest to us was short term rentals, which looks like it will not be passed. One bill that is still alive is the regulation of home businesses, which would be preempted to the State. Other than that, there were some interesting unemployment statistics. The County is certainly not where it was 18 months ago.

TCRPC – Mayor Foley attended a Joint Workshop between the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council and the South Florida Regional Planning Council and left the information on file with the Town Clerk. There were incredibly informative presentations, particularly regarding water issues, flood risks and water planning issues. The City of Port St. Lucie gave a presentation on their septic to sewer conversion. The representative from the City of Vero Beach mentioned there is a mandatory septic to sewer conversion, which surprised him. There is also a notation that the federal mortgage departments are now requiring septic to sewer conversion, if available.

MPO - Mayor Foley left the meeting information on file with the Town Clerk.

Beach & Shores - Councilmember Hendricks said the good news is that Sectors 1, 2, and 3 have had 600,000 yards of sand placed on the beach. Wabasso will have another 450,000 yards of sand. The bad news is that the DEP rejected the request for Sector 4 to be considered as a critically eroded beach. The County did a fantastic job with the request; he does not know why they rejected it. The State has 550 miles of critically eroded beaches, and only 100 miles is not. Indian River County Commissioner brought our case to DEP, but Senate Bill 1690 requests that DEP update the list of critically eroded beaches and plan as to how to fix them. The Mayor asked if citizen involvement would help, and encouraged Councilmember Hendricks to think about preparing such a letter for the next Council meeting, and it could be sent to the Governor as well.

10. Call to Audience (10:01)

Resident Bob Auwaerter of Ocean Colony stated he had a question regarding the February 2020 Budget Analysis, which is Section 8c of the packet. He saw that the Building & Zoning Department is running an \$800,000 deficit for the year, which he understands was done to lower the balance in the Planning & Zoning fund and we dropped the rates being charged in the Building Department. His question is whether they have set a target for where they want the Planning & Zoning Fund to be. It is currently at \$1,059,000, which would bring us down to \$250,000 - \$300,000, and we don't want to overshoot the target amount and then have to come back.

Mrs. Christmas stated that per Florida Statute, the Building Department fund is only allowed to have one (1) year of operating costs; that is the maximum that can be carried forward, so that is the target. We ended the year last year with \$1.2 million. As of 9/30 this will put us at about \$400,000, depending on the timing of the construction project. Mr. Auwaerter asked if Capital Assets are included, and Mrs. Christmas answered yes. We may need to raise permit fees this next fiscal year or the year after.

Mayor Foley said before we adjourn, he believes we usually start casual dress in May, but he was looking at the forecast and it looks as though it will be pretty warm in April. He said without objection, we will move to casual dress for the April meeting, to which everyone was agreeable.

11. Adjournment. Upon motion made by Vice Mayor Carroll with support from Councilmember McCord, the meeting adjourned at 10:05.

Respectfully submitted,

*Approved by the Town Council at their April 22, 2021
Regular Town Council Meeting*

/s

Laura Aldrich, Town Clerk