



**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES
TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES OF FINAL BUDGET HEARING AND REGULAR
MEETING
SEPTEMBER 22, 2020**

Meeting audio available in Town Clerk's Office

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor El-Ramey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor El-Ramey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor El-Ramey led a prayer.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Lisa El-Ramey, Vice Mayor Marge Herzog, Councilmembers Laura Danowski, Phillis Maniglia and Robert Shorr, Town Manager James Titcomb, Town Attorney R. Brian Shutt, Public Works Director Larry Peters, Town Planning Consultant James Fleischmann and Town Clerk Lakisha Burch.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions, deletions or modifications to the agenda.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were public comments from the following Paul Coleman and Mike Sands.

PUBLIC HEARING-FINAL BUDGET

1. Pursuant to F.S. 200.065(2)(d) & (e), the following announcement must be made:
"The Town of Loxahatchee Groves, Florida's rolled back rate is 2.8172 The percentage increase in property taxes for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 is 6.49% and the Town's millage rate to be adopted is 3.0000 mills".

Town Manager Titcomb read the announcement pursuant to F.S. 200.65 (2)(d) & (e) into the record.

2. Approval of Resolution No. 2020-20 adopting the final 2020-2021 millage rate.

Motion was made by Councilmember Maniglia seconded by Vice Mayor Herzog to approve Resolution No. 2020-20 adopting the final millage for the Town of Loxahatchee Groves; it

was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor El-Ramey, Vice Mayor Herzog, Councilmembers Danowski, Maniglia and Shorr. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Resolution No. 2020-21 adopting the final 2020-2021 operating budget.

Motion was made by Councilmember Maniglia seconded by Vice Mayor Herzog to approve Resolution No. 2020-21 adopting the final budget operating budget for the 20-21 fiscal year for the Town of Loxahatchee Groves; there was public comment and discussion as follows:

Town Manager Titcomb spoke about and explained the operating budget.

There were public comments made by the following (In-person): Paul Coleman, Carol Doyle, Marianne Miles, Todd McLendon and Mobley Schloss.

Town Clerk Burch read into record comments from the following: Jane Cleveland, Gene Fontaine, Suzanne Hetrick, Jodi Jansen, Sharon Jarriel, Nate Kameka, Lisa Murray, Charleen McManus and Liz Smith.

Mayor El-Ramey asked the residents in the audience, how they heard about the funding of trails. Town Manager Titcomb spoke about and explained the operating budget.

Mary McNicholas from Sluggett and Associates, Town Lobbyist explained the TPA grants-multi use trails transformation of the corridor.

Councilmember Shorr stated he has been against this (funding of TPA grant) because he had read and researched. He also corrected his statement from previous meeting and passed out an email and he stated that it doesn't count against the Town's reserve.

Vice Mayor Herzog stated that the grant money that Sluggett and Associates worked on was for a specific purpose (made a promise). She also addressed the letter writing and stated that we should support Ms. McNicholas and support project going forward.

Councilmember Maniglia stated that we are paying 3 mills-to catch up. She also commented about unifying the Town (unified trail system), if the Town was to pave all roads (will bankrupt the town), spent 30 million on roads-still horrible, no pride, stay untied (agree or disagree). She also stated that we need to be aware of the Pac-Man minion. Councilmember Maniglia stated not to let the county railroad the Town.

Councilmember Danowski stated she agree with the multi-purpose trail-is a visionary project, like to see North/South trails get this much attention as Okeechobee Blvd. project is given, the economy being what it is doesn't support visionary at the time being that we can apply for it again. She stated that it is the lack of leadership (chasing tail for 12 years) has to fix what is broken.

Mayor El-Ramey gave an overview of what had been said, project has been in the making for 3 years, if not continued will be back at the 3-5-year planning, roads, surplus money and bonds. She stated that she appreciates the courage of the Town and Council.

therefore, after discussion; as it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor El-Ramey, Vice Mayor Herzog, Councilmembers Maniglia and Shorr. Nay: Councilmember Danowski. Motion passed 4-1.

Councilmember Shorr stated why he asked for this motion.

There were public comments by Marianne Miles and Todd McLendon.

Mayor El-Ramey stated that is a message that is being sent that when a promise is made, we follow through.

Motion was made by Councilmember Shorr seconded by Councilmember Danowski to not approve the funding of the TPA grant for the trail and roundabout; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Councilmembers Shorr and Danowski. Nays: Mayor El-Ramey, Vice Mayor Herzog and Councilmember Maniglia. Motion failed 2-3.

QUASI-JUDICIAL-PUBLIC HEARING

4. Approval of Resolution No. 2020- 19 approval of Palm West Site Plan Amendment.

Town Attorney Shutt swore in all the participants that would be speaking on the item and explained how the process will be conducted.

Town Planning Consultant, James Fleischmann presented the item and gave an overview of the history of the property. There was discussion among Town Council and Town Staff.

Councilmember Maniglia asked is Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) going to pave. Mr. Fleischmann responded.

There was discussion among Town Council, Lauren McClellan, JMorton Planning and Architecture and Kan Yee, President, Yee's Corporation.

Vice Mayor Herzog asked about Tangerine that goes behind goes through someone property and asked what the distance between D Road and Tangerine is. Mr. Fleischmann responded.

Councilmember Shorr stated that he drove to the site and see that everything done as part of the project.

Councilmember Maniglia stated that she suggested Mr. Yee clean up the property before approval.

Mayor El-Ramey stated that other commercial existing building be bought to standard.

There were public comments by the following: Laura Cacioppo, Paul Coleman, Todd McLendon and Mary McNicholas.

Motion was made by Councilmember Shorr seconded by Councilmember Maniglia to continue this item until second meeting which is scheduled for January 19, 2021; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor El-Ramey, Vice Mayor Herzog, Councilmembers Danowski, Maniglia and Shorr. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of First Reading of Ordinance No. 2020-09 approval of Noah's Ark Land Use and Zoning Change.

Town Attorney Shutt read the Ordinance No. 2020-09 into the record by its heading.

Town Planning Consultant James Fleishman presented the item to the Town Council

Josh Nichols of Schmidt Nichols and Owner of Preschool Management, Inc. also addressed Town Council regarding the Noah's Ark Land Use and Zoning Change.

Motion was made by Councilmember Maniglia seconded by Councilmember Herzog to approve on First Reading of Ordinance No. 2020-09 approving the future land use amendment and rezoning of Noah's Ark; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor El-Ramey, Vice Mayor Herzog, Councilmembers Danowski, Maniglia and Shorr. Motion passed unanimously.

TOWN COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENTS

Phillis Maniglia, Councilmember (Seat 1)

- Wasteful spending
- Reaching out to resident for their input
- Council staying united in cleaning the Town
- Staying focus and repairing OGEM roads

Laura Danowski, Councilmember (Seat 2)

- Thanked all residents
- Asked about committees (RETGAC and PZB) look at the Okeechobee overlay
- Ballard maintenance (who's going to take care of it)
- Spoke about Public Works

Lisa El-Ramey, Mayor (Seat 3)

- Letters- dumpsters
- Riding/Parking o shoulders of the road
- Plan for B Road restoration (time road)
- Charter Review Committee

Robert Shorr, Councilmember (Seat 4)

- Committee meeting (stream through Zoom)
- Tire amenity (Coastal to before Council in October)
- Spraying of canal
- Library- (there was consensus by Town Council to look into this matter)

Marge Herzog, Vice Mayor (Seat 5)

- Resident concern (businesses being snuck into the back five)
- Concern about Councilmember undermining projects coming forward

TOWN STAFF COMMENTS

Town Manager/ ATM

Gave KUDOS to Assistant Town Manager Francine Ramaglia, Accounting Technician Desiree Rice, Town Clerk's office for the hard work and effort that has been made.

Town Attorney

No comment.

Public Works

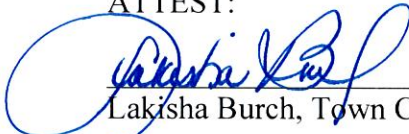
No comment.

ADJOURNMENT

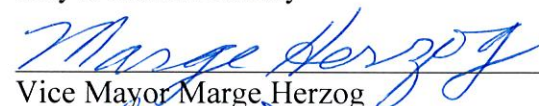
There being no further business meeting was adjourned at 11:02 p.m.

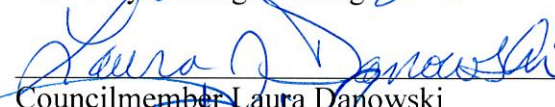
TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

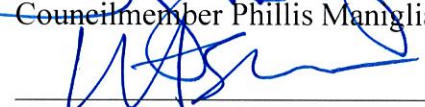

Lakisha Burch, Town Clerk


Mayor Lisa El-Ramey

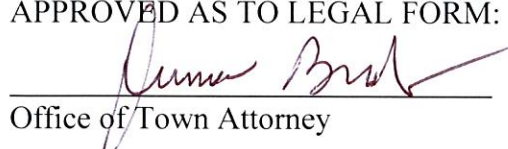

Vice Mayor Marge Herzog


Councilmember Laura Danowski


Councilmember Phillis Maniglia


Councilmember Robert Shorr

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:


Office of Town Attorney