

**REGULAR TOWN COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 7, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pugh at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Town Clerk Avery led the roll call, which was answered by the following:

Mayor Pugh	Present
Vice Mayor Coz	Present
Commissioner Aijala Jr.	Present
Commissioner Cassidy	Present
Commissioner Hutchins	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pugh led the pledge of allegiance.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, MODIFICATIONS, AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Mayor Coz, Mayor Pugh, Commissioner Cassidy, and Commissioner Aijala requested Commissioner Comments, Commissioner Cassidy asked to move item #11 of the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda, and Town Manager Ladner requested to table item #14 to another meeting.

Commissioner Cassidy moved to approve the agenda as amended; seconded by Commissioner Aijala. Motion carried 5-0. (2:30)

PRESENTATIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

1. Florida City of Government Week 2024 Proclamation

Town Clerk Avery read the proclamation into the record.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 2.** The meeting schedule for the next month is as follows: Regular Town Commission Meeting on Monday, November 4, 2024, at 6:00 PM; Community Standards Hearing on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 10:00 am; Planning & Zoning Meeting on Tuesday, October 15 at 9:00 am; Board of Adjustment Meeting on Wednesday, October 16 at 9:00 am; All meetings are held in the Commission Chambers at the Town Hall.
- 3.** Town Hall will be closed Monday, October 14, 2024, in observance of the Columbus Day holiday.
- 4.** The Annual Municipal Election will be held on March 11, 2025. There is one Town Commission seat open. Candidate filing dates run from November 4, 2024, at Noon through November 15, 2024, at Noon in the Town Clerk's Office. / La Elección

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Municipal Anual se llevará a cabo el 11 de marzo de 2025. Hay un puesto vacante en la Comisión Municipal. Las fechas de presentación de candidatos van desde el 4 de noviembre de 2024 al mediodía hasta el 15 de noviembre de 2024 al mediodía en la Oficina del Secretario Municipal.

5. The Town is hosting a blood drive event with One Blood on Friday, October 11th from 9:30 am – 3 pm and Saturday, October 12th from 10:00 am – 4 pm. The bus will be parked behind the Town Hall. All those who wish to donate blood can sign up through a link posted on the Town's website.
6. Residents who wish to sign up to receive important Town notifications and news through Civic Ready should sign up on the Town's website or call Town Hall for assistance.

Mayor Pugh opened the floor for public comment.

The following spoke: Betty Bingham and Ken Kaleel

Mayor Pugh closed the floor for public comment.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

7. Adopt Minutes of the Special Town Commission Budget Workshop Meeting of September 9, 2024.
8. Adopt Minutes of the Regular Town Commission Meeting and First Budget Hearing of September 9, 2024.
9. Adopt Minutes of the Special Town Commission Final Budget Hearing Meeting of September 20, 2024.
10. Sept Revenue and Expenditures Report
11. Approve ~~2024-2027 Agreement between Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida, and Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Association~~—(Moved to Regular Agenda)
12. Approval of Professional Services Agreement with TSE Consulting, LLC, for Lobbyist and Consulting Services.

Commissioner Hutchins moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended; seconded by Vice Mayor Coz. Motion carried 5-0. (8:01)

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

11. Approve 2024-2027 Agreement between Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida, and Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Association (Moved from Consent Agenda)

Town Manager Ladner explained the item.

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Commissioner Cassidy mentioned a line item in the contract that had increased despite instruction from the Commission not to exceed. There was discussion regarding the item and the process to re-negotiate.

Mayor Pugh opened the floor for public comment. Hearing none, he closed the floor for public comment.

Vice Mayor Coz moved to approve the 2024-2027 Agreement between Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida, and Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Association; seconded by Commissioner Hutchins. Motion carried 5-0. (15:26)

13. Approval of the Motorola Notice to Proceed (Radio Purchase).

Town Manager Ladner explained the item.

Mayor Pugh opened the floor for public comment. Hearing none, he closed the floor for public comment.

Commissioner Cassidy moved to Approval of the Motorola Notice to Proceed; seconded by Commissioner Aijala. Motion carried 5-0. (16:50)

14. ~~Consider adopting increased vacation time accruals for all employees equal to the accruals negotiated as part of the CBA. (Item Tabled until next meeting)~~

15. Adopt updated Employee Handbook

Town Manager Ladner briefly explained the item and suggested that they table the item for the next meeting.

16. Approval of Resolution No. 2024-14: A Resolution of The Town Commission of the Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida, Appointing the Palm Beach County Canvassing Board as The Town of Ocean Ridge Canvassing Board for the 2025 Municipal Election; And Providing for Repeal of Conflicting Resolutions, Severability, And an Effective Date.

Mayor Pugh read the resolution into the record by title only.

Town Clerk Avery explained the item.

Mayor Pugh opened the floor for public comment. Hearing none, he closed the floor for public comment.

Vice Mayor Coz moved to move to adopt Approval of Resolution No. 2024-14; seconded by Commissioner Hutchins. Motion carried 5-0. (18:32)

17. Approve FY 2024 and 2025 Audit engagement

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Town Manager Ladner explained the item.

Vice Mayor Coz questioned the amounts from FY22 and FY23. Manager Lander answered his question.

Mayor Pugh opened the floor for public comment. Hearing none, he closed the floor for public comment.

Commissioner Hutchins moved to Approve FY 2024 and 2025 Audit engagement; seconded by Commissioner Cassidy. Motion carried 5-0. (20:09)

Town Attorney Goddeau mentioned that they would be converting the document into a standard professional services agreement.

There was a consensus to have the agreement converted to have the Town Manager sign for this item.

18. Extension of the N Ocean Blvd Water Main Project to Include Installation of New Water Main on River Dr from N Ocean Blvd to Inlet Cay

Town Manager Ladner explained the item.

Commissioner Aijala asked about the priority list of pipes that should be addressed and if this area was one of them. There was discussion regarding the priority list as well as the required process for adding any new amount to the bid project.

Mayor Pugh insisted that Town Engineer Tropepe be at the meeting to discuss the topic. There was discussion on getting a better understanding/explanation on the seriousness of the situation.

Mayor Pugh opened the floor for public comment.

The following spoke: Mike DeBose, Betty Bingham, and Stella Kolb

Mayor Pugh closed the floor for public comment.

There was further discussion regarding how the process of change orders works.

There was a consensus to have a special meeting with the Town Engineer giving the explanation.

STAFF & COMMITTEE REPORTS

19. Town Manager

Town Manager Ladner mentioned that they need to approve Resolution 2024-15, Resolution of The Town Commission of The Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida, Declaring A State of Emergency

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Within the Town of Ocean Ridge, Providing for An Effective Date. She read the resolution into the record by title only.

Town Manager Ladner gave an explanation on the item.

Mayor Pugh opened the floor for public comment. Hearing none, he closed the floor for public comment.

Commissioner Aijala moved to adopt Approval of Resolution No. 2024-15; seconded by Vice Mayor Coz. Motion carried 5-0. (36:50)

Town Manager Ladner read her report into the record.

20. Town Attorney

Town Attorney Goddeau had no report.

21. Police Chief

Lt. Aaron Chobin stated that the report was in the packet, and he had nothing further.

Vice Mayor Coz asked about the Briny Breeze incident. Lt. Chobin gave a brief overview.

TOWN COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Vice Mayor Coz mentioned items that the Commission had authorized the Planning & Zoning Commission to discuss. There was further discussion on what topics are being brought up with the Planning & Zoning. The two items he wanted to bring as priority were the 50% rule for Substantial Improvement and the authority for the Building Official to make the Planning & Zoning approvals.

There was a consensus to add the Building Official making the design approvals for new homes a priority to the list of discussion items for Planning & Zoning.

Commissioner Cassidy gave an update on the League of Cities Conference in August. She mentioned speakers from the Sea Turtle Conservancy that discussed ordinance language regarding the turtles. She said that she and Lynne will be reviewing the Town's ordinance to see if they can improve it any.

Commissioner Aijala mentioned that the last audit has not been posted on the website and would like to see the audit posted soon.

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Mayor Pugh mentioned that he was surprised about the article in the Coastal Star talking about the reason Commissioners get on the Commission, which was for personal gain. He stated that he felt that was just wrong.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Town Clerk Avery and adopted by the Town Commission on November 4, 2024.



Geoff Pugh, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kelly Avery, Town Clerk

