

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Town of Indialantic**  
**Regular Meeting of the Town Council**  
**Council Chamber, 216 Fifth Avenue, Indialantic, FL 32903**  
**Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.**

**A. Call to Order:**

A regular meeting of the Indialantic Town Council was called to order by Mayor McDermott at 6:59 p.m. with the following members present:

Honorable Mark McDermott, Mayor  
Honorable Stu Glass, Deputy Mayor  
Honorable Julie McKnight, Councilmember  
Honorable Doug Wright, Councilmember  
Honorable Loren Strand, Councilmember

Also present:

Michael Casey, Town Manager  
Paul Gougelman, Town Attorney  
Rebekah Raddon, Town Clerk  
Michael Connor, Chief of Police  
Sgt. Weber, Police Dept.  
Jason Steele, Town Lobbyist

1. Mayor McDermott led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Changes to Agenda: Mayor McDermott asked to hear Public Comments, Non-agenda items, before the Fifth Avenue Study Committee update.
- ~~3. Presentations: Fifth Avenue Study Committee Update (Greg Harrigan, Chairman, et al.)~~
4. Public Comments, Non-Agenda Items:

A representative for U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), spoke regarding disaster loans for homeowners, renters, and businesses. He advised that the deadline for Hurricane Nicole loan assistance is Feb. 13. Anyone with questions can call 1-800-659-2955.

Jason Steele, Town Lobbyist, spoke regarding his goal to get a special exemption from FP&L to allow the town to hang illuminated holiday decorations from the light poles. He spoke regarding the state budget and noted that excess funds can be allocated for

municipal shovel-ready projects. Town Attorney Gougelman expressed concern regarding affordable housing initiatives which he feels could increase density beachside; he feels the money would be better spent on the mainland. Mr. Steele advised he would address these issues in Tallahassee.

5. Presentations: Fifth Avenue Study Committee Update

Fifth Avenue Study Committee Chairman Greg Harrigan introduced himself, thanked the committee volunteers and town staff for their efforts, and advised that committee member Pam Rothenberg was present. He referred to a handout he shared with council which posed several questions. He advised that conducting a downtown study was discussed numerous times in the past 25 years, yet no action was ever taken. He spoke at length regarding the creation, scope, and structure of the committee and difficulties with communication due to the Florida sunshine law requirements. Discussion ensued; councilmembers' shared their observations that committee members were limited in working together due to the sunshine law and also most weren't aware of the time commitment. They noted that committee members are unpaid volunteers and the issues being addressed are complicated, and dealing with landlords can be challenging. One councilmember hoped the committee could work on identifying issues with code enforcement and the code itself, and inspire change and public engagement. Mr. Harrigan advised that a lack of resources, the requirement to bring items to council for approval, and the infrequency of meetings were all constraints. Mr. Harrigan posed a number of questions to the council and further discussion was held regarding: who is in charge of long term growth and development, a need for urban planning, a lack of vision, code enforcement policies and a desire for stricter code enforcement to prevent places such as CVS from going downhill, engaging all town staff more for code enforcement so neighbors aren't pitted against each other, accountability, avoiding scarcity mentality, getting funding for shovel-ready projects, and redevelopment. After responding and discussing the topics further, it was the consensus of the council to consider setting a date for a workshop once a clear objective is established.

Loren Goldfarb, 320 DeLand Avenue, recommended starting with smaller, achievable tasks. The town manager can be asked to increase code enforcement now and deal with issues such as painting and parking later. He felt a workshop wasn't necessary and advised that if you ask ten people, you will get ten different opinions. Ultimately, council is the decision-maker and that is why they are elected.

Marquita Fuchs, 120 Tampa Avenue, stated the importance of code enforcement and advised that AirBnb's and businesses are being run from residences, and numerous codes are violated every day.

Gabrielle Strand, 120 Ormond Avenue, suggested reaching out to neighbors and friends for input and ideas for what should happen after code enforcement issues are addressed.

6. Mayor McDermott read the following Public Announcements:
  - There are openings on the following boards and committees: Board of Adjustment; Budget and Finance; Civil Service; and the Fifth Avenue Study Committee
  - There will be a Special Town Council Meeting on Thursday, Feb. 16, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall to review/approve a Joint Partnership Agreement with FDOT for the Fifth Avenue median landscaping project.
  - Town Hall will be closed on Monday, Feb. 20, in observance of Presidents' Day

**B. Consent Agenda:**

1. Approve town council meeting minutes Jan. 11, 2023
2. Approve stormwater agreement – Fourth Avenue Townhomes
3. Approve FEMA grant agreement #Z2961 for Hurricane Ian assistance
4. Approve the following Appointments/Reappointments:
  - a) Heritage Committee – Reappoint Pam Dunn; reappoint Denise Bozeman
  - b) Parks, Recreation, & Beautification Committee – Reappoint Stacie Miller

Motion by Deputy Mayor Glass, seconded by Councilmember Strand, and vote unanimous to approve the consent agenda as written. Motion carried 5-0.

**C. Ordinances and Public Hearings:**

1. Ordinance 2023-01, First Reading/Public Hearing, *Changing regular council meeting dates/times:*

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF INDIALANTIC, BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, RELATING TO TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS; MAKING FINDINGS; AMENDING AND PROVIDING FOR THE TIME, PLACE, AND LOCATION OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS; AMENDING SECTION 2-31 AND 2-32, TOWN OF INDIALANTIC CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY/ INTERPRETATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Attorney Gougelman read the ordinance title.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Glass, seconded by Councilmember Wright to approve Ordinance 2023-01 on first reading. There were no public comments.

Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

#### **D. Unfinished Business:**

1. Request for Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) at S. Miramar Ave. and Eleventh Ave. Town Manager Casey advised that FDOT had no record of this request and if the council wishes, he can draft a formal request for an RRFB.

Motion by Councilmember Wright, seconded by Deputy Mayor Glass, and vote unanimous to have the town manager contact FDOT to request an RRFB at S. Miramar Ave. / Eleventh Avenue. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Town notification systems

Discussion was held regarding how to inform the public about Everbridge, the town's new emergency alert notification system, and other important news. Ideas included the town's newsletter, Indialantic Neighbors magazine, mailers, door hangers, and using a QR code to make it easier to sign up. Councilmember Strand offered to pay for a mailer and/or assist with door-to-door distribution. Town Manager Casey will get pricing for Notify Me, a website tool that allows people to subscribe to whichever topic interests them.

#### **E. New Business:**

1. Social Media Policy Review

Deputy Mayor Glass asked to table this item until next month to allow time to gather more data.

2. IT Options

Councilmember Strand referred to his memo in the agenda packet which details his ideas for increasing IT support for the town and conducting a professional audit.

Mr. Casey advised that there has been a breach of town employee personal information and the police department has had to shut down some functionality while the breach is being investigated. This is an urgent matter and he asked for authorization to spend up to \$30,000 to separate the police and town hall servers, get the police department fully operational, and secure the town's IT infrastructure.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Glass, seconded by Councilmember Wright, to authorize the town manager take any necessary action to make the police department and IT department operational. Further discussion ensued.

#### **Public Comments:**

Linda Beeman, 217 Sixth Avenue, said it sounds like there are two separate issues; there is an urgent need to shore up the breach of personal identifying information and also create a long-term solution to prevent any other breaches. She advised that the town's server may not be patchable due to its age, and it likely will be cheaper to get a new server. Without an analysis, the town may keep having issues and she recommends a long-range plan.

After further discussion, Deputy Mayor Glass agreed to amend the motion to authorize expenditures not to exceed \$30,000; Councilmember Wright concurred with the amendment and the motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

Mr. Casey advised there were issues with the town's website, email, and Hostgator. He supports transitioning the town's website to a professional government website and Office 365 for email, and moving away from Hostgator.

Motion by Councilmember Strand, seconded by Mayor McDermott to have the town manager create clear requirements and a request for proposal for a reputable IT Company to conduct an audit of the IT Systems and for his recommendations of choice for email, website, and hosting. This work output will be delivered to the council within 1 to 2 months from this date for further consideration.

Deputy Mayor Glass asked the clerk to reread the motion; Town Clerk Raddon read the motion and Councilmember Strand advised that his motion included email, website, and hosting.

Public Comments:

Loren Goldfarb, 320 Deland Ave., is glad these changes are happening as this was an issue when he was a councilmember. He advised that IT is as critical as a police car, a fire truck, or a public works truck, and the town's previous philosophy of treating IT like a leaky toilet doesn't work. He feels the town manager shouldn't be tasked with IT as that is not his role. He suggested choosing an independent third party consultant specializing in small, local Florida governments to conduct the audit, not an IT company that provides IT services. He feels the town is probably not in compliance with Florida law regarding how emails are stored and other issues related to technology. He inquired why we have a server on site and recommended a cloud-based server.

After further discussion, the motion carried unanimously 5-0.

3. Disbursement of Witch Way 5K proceeds:

Motion by Councilmember McKnight, seconded by Councilmember Strand, and vote unanimous to distribute the funds as listed by the town manager. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Storm Water Pipe Repairs at 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Wavecrest Ave.:

Town Manager Casey described the repairs needed which involves slip lining the pipe, at a cost of just over \$20,000. Slip lining the pipe will eliminate the need to tear up the road, and ARPA funds can be utilized for the project.

Motion by Councilmember Strand, seconded by Mayor McDermott to authorize the Town Manager to sign a contract with Shenandoah Pipe Inspection & Restoration Specialist in the

amount \$20,896.35 using funds unallocated from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF), a part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

Councilmember Strand inquired about the end of life of slip lining versus installing a concrete pipe. After some discussion, the item was tabled until the special council meeting scheduled for Feb. 16, 2023.

5. Town Lobbyist tasks: Advocate for holiday decorations on FP&L Poles  
Councilmember McKnight does not want to settle for darkness on Fifth Avenue this next holiday season and spoke in support of lit decorations whether they are battery, solar powered, or metered. She advised there may be grant funding which could help pay for them and looks forward to input from Mr. Steele. Discussion ensued regarding the holiday decorations.

**F. Administrative Reports:**

1. Town Attorney – None.
2. Town Manager – Mr. Casey advised that the Florida Marathon is this weekend.

**G. Council Reports:**

Councilmember Strand thanked Town Clerk Raddon for the quality of the agenda packet, especially the bookmarking which made the document more accessible and easier to navigate, and also the meeting minutes. He advised that residents are very appreciative of the minutes and they are a good balance of brevity and detail.

Councilmember Wright advised he is working on a purchasing policy with the town manager and town attorney.

**H. Adjournment:**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Mark McDermott, Mayor. Signature on file.

Attested by: Rebekah Raddon, CMC, Town Clerk. Signature on file.