



Town Council

Town Hall Meeting Minutes

3
4 Wednesday

Community Center

5 January 26, 2023 - 6:00 P.M.

4670 S. Peninsula Drive, Ponce Inlet, FL

6
7 **1. Mayor's Welcome and General Introductions:** Mayor Paritsky welcomed attendees at
8 6:02 p.m. and outlined the format for the meeting. She noted that the entire Council, representatives
9 of each of the Volunteer Town Boards, and several staff members were present.

10
11 **Council Present:**

12 Mayor Paritsky, Seat 1

13 Councilmember Milano, Seat 2

14 Councilmember Caswell, Seat 3

15 Councilmember Villanella, Seat 4

16 Vice-Mayor Smith, Seat 5

17
18 **Board Representatives Present:**

19 Code Enforcement: Mr. Finch, Chair

20 Cultural Services: Ms. Bell, Chair

21 Essential Services: Mr. McConaughy, Seat #2

22 Planning Board: Mr. Cannon, Chair

23
24 **Staff Members Present:**

25 Mr. Disher, Director, Planning & Development Department/Interim Town Manager

26 Chief Glazier, Police Chief

27 Mr Griffith, Public Works Manager

28 Ms. Hugler, FD Office Manager/Town Website Administrator

29 Ms. Hunt, Deputy Clerk

30 Chief Scales, Fire Chief/Public Safety Director *pro tem*

31
32 **Special Guest(s):**

33 Mayor Nancy Miller, Daytona Beach Shores

34
35 **2. Mayor's State of the Town Address:** Mayor Paritsky provided a presentation
36 (Attachment #1) to accompany the State of the Town Address (Attachment #2).

37
38 **3. Update on Hurricane Recovery:** Mr. Disher stated originally there were nine buildings
39 deemed uninhabitable, as of today, five of those have been declared safe. The State provided a
40 large sum of money to Volusia County for beach restoration, and since the County has jurisdiction
41 over the beach, the County will have the authority as to how it is spent (design, permitting, adding
42 sand). The County is planning to restore the height of the beach in phase 1 and address dune
43 restoration in phase 2. More information can be found on [Volusia County's Beach Access and](#)
44 [Recovery web page](#) by clicking on the red ribbon at the top of the page.

46 Chief Scales reported that staff is working with FL Department of Emergency Management about
47 utilizing Tiger Dams in Ponce Inlet to prevent further beach erosion and damage. Regarding the
48 Fire Department’s accreditation process, the Standard of Care report is nearly complete and should
49 be published within the next few weeks and will be posted on the Town’s website. [Electric](#)
50 [Vehicles](#) have been of concern and the information that was provided to Council at its January
51 meeting has been posted on the Town’s website. The cause of the recent structure fire on Atlantic
52 Avenue in one of the very large beachfront homes is still under investigation; the workers on site
53 were wearing respirators at the time and did not realize the structure was on fire. Extinguishing
54 the blaze was challenging due to the construction of the house with its many angles and false
55 floors, it took nearly four hours and more than 100,000 gallons of water to extinguish. He attributed
56 the fact that the structure did not burn to the ground to the dedicated firefighters, their training, and
57 the relationships with neighboring communities who provided one engine from Daytona Beach
58 Shores, two engines and an aerial ladder from Port Orange, in addition to our own apparatus; and
59 reported that there were no injuries. He added that the multi-jurisdictional equipment assigned to
60 the call (apparatus) is not unusual due to the automatic mutual aid agreements. He thanked the
61 community for its support.

62
63 Mr. Griffith referenced the department’s monthly report and noted that PW staff are hard-working
64 and very busy. He stated that four staff members, including himself, stayed in Ponce Inlet during
65 the hurricanes and cleared streets as weather permitted and assisted residents and other
66 departments. He reported that pumps moved water out of neighborhoods for more than two weeks
67 after the storms until river water levels receded. The stormwater system cleaning project was
68 approved by Council and will be starting in the next few weeks. He added that he is currently
69 working on a list of projects and needs for the department that he will be submitting for
70 consideration during the budget process. He thanked Chief Scales and Mr. Disher for their
71 assistance and support.

72
73 Chief Glazier stated he has more than 30 years of law enforcement experience; there are always
74 two officers on duty around the clock; and the response time for a top priority call was one minute
75 and thirty seconds; he noted that the department has been accredited for 14 years and will be
76 audited in August to determine if it maintains that status; he asked residents to contact him directly
77 with questions or concerns rather than through social media, as he prefers the personal interaction.

78
79 **4. Update on Town Projects:** Provided during reports in items #3 and #7.

80
81 **5. Presentation and discussion of Advisory Boards:**

82
83 a. *Planning Board:* Mr. Cannon, Chair, reported that there are two extensive
84 documents that are essential to the Board’s activities: the Comprehensive Plan – which consists of
85 nine elements and instructions on how to administer the Plan, and provides general guidelines on
86 various topics; and the Land Use and Development Code (LUDC) – a more detailed document that
87 provides specifics to implement the Comp Plan, and these two documents are closely interwoven.
88 The Board acts as the Local Planning Agency under State Law and provides recommendations to
89 the Town Council, but works extensively with the Planning Department. He stated that agendas
90 are posted to the website and welcomed the public to attend meetings to ask questions or concerns.

91

92 b. *Code Enforcement Board:* Mr. Finch, Chair stated that this is the only board that is
93 not advisory, it is Quasi-Judicial and operates under FS 162. He stated that cases are brought before
94 the Board by the Code Enforcement Officer when voluntary compliance is not achieved by the
95 property owner; the Board has the ability to fine property owners, and the rules are black and
96 white.

97
98 c. *Cultural Services Board:* Ms. Bell, Chair stated this board is a combination of the
99 former Historic & Archaeological Preservation Advisory Board and the Parks, Recreation, & Tree
100 Advisory Board; the responsibilities include review of parks and recommendations for
101 improvements in the Town's parks. She noted that the gazebo at Timucuan Oaks was destroyed
102 during the hurricanes and the Board is seeking public suggestions for a replacement.

103
104 d. *Essential Services Advisory Board:* Mr. McConaughey, Seat #2 (Fire-EMS), stated
105 this is the newest board which works with budgetary needs and recommendations to the Council
106 regarding the Fire Department, Police Department, and Public Works Department; this board is
107 purely advisory. He reviewed the Board's accomplishments: fire department exhaust system,
108 SCBA and defibrillators equipment, marine unit, town hall remodel project, stormwater system
109 project, and S. Peninsula Drive Sidewalk Project; he announced there is a vacancy for Seat #4,
110 CPA/Financial and asked that anyone interested to contact Town hall.

111 112 **6. Councilmember Comments:**

113
114 Vice-Mayor Smith stated that the purpose of these meetings is to provide information to the public
115 and invited residents to the Town's website to sign-up for specific information to receive by email.

116
117 Councilmember Caswell stated she is a five-year resident, was appointed to the Council in 2021
118 and elected in 2021; she will be seeking re-election; the State of the Town address was well put
119 together and commended the Mayor for the great presentation; she stated there is a Farmers Market
120 every Sunday and encouraged residents to visit it; noted that Town Council meetings are held on
121 the third Thursday of every month at 6 pm; on February 10th at 10:00 am there will be a public
122 service seminar at the Community Center to educate and advise residents of services related to
123 continuation of care.

124
125 Councilmember Villanella encouraged and invited residents to use the Town's website as it
126 contains valuable information; noted Town Hall events are being held throughout the year and
127 provides an opportunity for residents to keep an open dialogue with Council and staff because "we
128 don't know what we don't know."

129
130 Councilmember Milano stated he has been a full-time resident since 2002 when he began attending
131 Council meetings, was appointed to the Planning Board and was most recently re-elected to the
132 Council in 2021; he stated his job is to listen to the residents and serve the community as best as
133 possible; he reported that his townhome HOA had a water leak on a Monday at 5:30 pm and after
134 the plumber came to repair it and turned on the water main, water was bubbling up everywhere,
135 he contacted the Public Works On-call line and Eric arrived shortly after and informed him that he
136 needed a new valve; a new valve was purchased, the plumber obtained the permit, and all was
137 quickly repaired – he commended Public Works personnel and the permitting staff, adding that
138 this is what Ponce Inlet is all about. He stated his passion for the homeless shelter began in 2017

139 when he received a booklet entitled “FAITH” manual: *Fighting Against Injustice Through*
140 *Harmony* – he discussed it with the Town Manager and it was later presented to the Council, which
141 approved an annual contribution of \$15,000; he was appointed to the First Step Shelter’s Board
142 and has been its treasurer since 2019; residents should be proud of their community because Ponce
143 Inlet was the third municipality to join, which also made us Pottinger compliant, as required by
144 law, and has contributed to the Shelter’s success.

145

146 **7. Open Public Comments/Questions:**

147

148 Cynthia Johnston, 70 Inlet Harbor Rd. - Stated her home flooded during Hurricane Ian and believes
149 that it is due to some homes being built higher than others; she reported that the property owner
150 behind her filled-in the retention pond several years ago and there is now a fence across it. Mr.
151 Griffith stated he is aware of the location and it is on his list; Mr. Disher noted that if the Town
152 holds a drainage easement for that retention pond and it has been filled-in, the Town has the legal
153 authority to clean it out.

154

155 Unknown – Is there going to be a discussion about the Sewer Master Plan? Mr. Griffith stated the
156 sewer project on Ponce deLeon Circle is nearly complete; the master project that includes Phase 1
157 and Phase 2 is 60% complete and there have been meetings with the City of Port Orange (owner
158 of the sewer system) and Mead & Hunt (Town Engineers). He has reviewed the preliminary plans
159 and has a meeting with the City of Port Orange next week. The project will cost more than \$10
160 million to complete and the Town will need grants to finance this project and those grants will
161 determine how much of the system can be built at a time. It includes the majority of the Town that
162 is not currently provided sewer service and will be a deep gravity sewer; he added that when the
163 project begins, residents will be inconvenienced and the Town will be a mess with all the
164 construction. He has managed projects like this in the past and it needs the support of the
165 community. The design will be completed within the next four months; but there is no timeframe
166 for construction at this time. Mr. Disher stated the construction timetable is unknown, as it will
167 depend on grants and other funding. Unknown stated he lives on Jennifer Circle and that a pond
168 owned by the ‘City’ overflowed, and asked if any of the State money will be divided amongst all
169 property owners? Mr. Disher acknowledged that the drainage system needs work but it was not
170 designed to handle the amount of rain just experienced; we are looking for grants because nothing
171 can be done without grants; there is a lot of information on the Town’s and County’s websites; and
172 the Town Council recently passed an Ordinance to allow residents whose homes were deemed
173 uninhabitable, to live in an RV on a temporary basis while the home is being repaired.

174

175 Jair Kessler – asked if the Town had any plans to do land acquisition to use for retention ponds.
176 Mr. Disher stated that staff has been discussing it.

177

178 Unknown – are permits required to repair a broken water pipe on the owner’s side of the meter?
179 Mr. Disher stated yes, but if you contact staff, we will work with you.

180

181 Unknown – what is going on with this sidewalk project? The gentleman stated his concerns with
182 losing parts of this property for the project. Mr. Disher replied that the project has not yet been
183 designed, residents will have input on the design, it has been in process since 2017 and the Town
184 Council has declared that no additional right-of-way or easements will be taken; he offered
185 residents contact his office to view plans and obtain more information.

186
187 Judy – asked why electric bikes are allowed on the sidewalks – they are dangerous and she has
188 been hit by cyclists because the sidewalks are not wide enough. Chief Glazer stated that by State
189 law, he cannot force the bikes into the roadway because there are no bike lanes. There is now a
190 speed limit of 10 mph on the sidewalks, and his officers are interacting with and educating riders;
191 in addition, flyers have been distributed to the E-bike rental businesses to explain the law.

192
193 Unknown – is Ponce Inlet going to get any sand to fix the beach? Mayor Paritsky stated that the
194 County, State, and Federal agencies are working on a replenishment and renourishment plan; but
195 the plan cannot be formulated until funding partnerships are in place and environmental concerns
196 are researched; she noted that there is a lot of work going on behind the scenes involving many
197 agencies.

198
199 Unknown – are there any plans for the stairs to be repaired leading to the beach? Mr. Disher stated
200 the County is working on installing temporary stairs at its walkovers; the Town is working on the
201 walkover in the Ponce Preserve; and the rest are up to private property owners.

202
203 Unknown – there were boulders being put in the Lighthouse Park at the jetty but since the
204 hurricanes destroyed the entire boardwalk, are they going to restore it? Mr. Disher stated that is a
205 County Park and they are working with the Army Corps of Engineers; he does not have any other
206 information to report on that.

207
208 Jeff Wilner, Harbour Village – stated the temporary stairs at the Harbour Village Beach Club will
209 be installed in the next couple of weeks, and he invited residents to use those stairs until the other
210 walkovers are repaired.

211
212 **8. Adjournment** - Mayor Paritsky adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

213
214 Respectfully submitted by:

215
216 Kim Cherbano

217
218 Kim Cherbano, CMC, Town Clerk

219 Peg Hunt, Deputy Clerk