



**Town of Ponce Inlet
Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2023**

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6 **1. CALL TO ORDER:** Pursuant to proper notice, Mayor Paritsky called the meeting to
7 order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 4300 South Atlantic Avenue, Ponce Inlet, Florida.

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9 **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Paritsky led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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11 **3. ROLL CALL:**

12 **Town Council:**

13 Mayor Paritsky, Seat #1

14 Councilmember Milano, Seat #2

15 Councilmember Caswell, Seat #3

16 Councilmember Villanella, Seat #4

17 Vice-Mayor Smith, Seat #5

18
19 **Staff Members Present:**

20 Ms. Cherbano, Town Clerk

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

22 Ms. French, Cultural Services Manager

23 Ms. Gjessing, Permit Technician

24 Chief Glazier, Police Chief

25 Mr. Griffith, Public Works Manager

26 Ms. Hunt, Deputy Clerk

27 Ms. McColl, Finance Manager

28 Mr. Mendenhall, Principal Planner

29 Mr. Okum, IT Manager

30 Chief Scales, Public Safety Director *pro tem*

31 Attorney Shepard, Town Attorney

32 Deputy Fire Chief Taylor

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34 **4. ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS, OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA.** There were
35 no changes.

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37 Mayor Paritsky moved to approve the Agenda as presented; seconded by Councilmember Caswell.
38 The motion PASSED 5-0, consensus.

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40 **5. PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND AWARDS:**

41
42 **A. Presentation of plaque to David Israel for his service on the Town Council.**

43 Mayor Paritsky noted the importance of public service and recognized David Israel for his service
44 on the Town Council; she also thanked Cindy Israel for her support of David during his tenure.
45 Mayor Paritsky read the inscription and presented the plaque to Mr. Israel.

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B. Mayor’s report of proclamations. Mayor Paritsky reported that she signed two proclamations: 1) designating April as Water Conservation Month, a copy of which was presented to the St. Johns River Water Management District; and 2) declaring April 28th as Arbor Day, which will be presented to the Garden Club at its annual Arbor Day luncheon.

C. Presentation by Team Volusia. Keith Norden, President, and CEO of Team Volusia Economic Development Corporation provided a review the services provided by Team Volusia, a public/private not-for-profit corporation, whose primary mission is to market and recruit business to Volusia County.

Council requested this item be placed on the April Council agenda as an action item; 5-0, consensus.

6. CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Paritsky asked if there was any item Council would like to remove from the consent agenda; hearing no requests, Mayor Paritsky asked for public comments – hearing none, she closed public comments.

A. Approval of the Town Council regular meeting minutes – February 16, 2023.

B. Request for co-sponsorship of the Ponce Inlet Garden Club’s Annual Plant Sales and Ice Cream Social, for advertising purposes only.

Mayor Paritsky moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; seconded by Councilmember Caswell. The motion PASSED 5-0, consensus.

7. OLD/NEW BUSINESS ITEMS PREFERRED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING:

A. Town Manager Hiring Process:

1. Selection of Candidate(s) to interview per the recruitment portfolio and Selection of a Special Meeting Date to conduct Interviews. Mayor Paritsky stated each council member had the opportunity to meet separately with the Executive Recruiter, Jim Dinneen, to discuss the pool of candidates, during which he explained the criteria and rationale for narrowing the field to the remaining eleven candidates. Mr. Dinneen was not tasked with selecting a candidate as he is the Recruiter; his role is to provide Council with professional recommendations of which candidates to interview based upon the priorities and qualities Council set forth. As this process continues, Mr. Dinneen’s objective is to prepare a list of candidates that Council may wish to interview, in preparation for this evening’s discussion. Mayor Paritsky stated her opinion that after analyzing all of the information contained in the recruitment portfolio, there are a number of strong candidates and suggested three and four; one of the strong candidates is an internal candidate, Michael Disher. She suggested that he be interviewed first as he is here and that way the Council is not inconveniencing anyone else. Council would then decide whether to bring in other candidates. Council’s job is to be efficient and can set up a Special Meeting next Monday or Tuesday for the interview; there will be no hiring decision tonight; the only decision being made

92 this evening is to move him up the list to interview first. Council discussed options for next steps
93 in the process.

94

95 Mr. Dinneen thanked Council for this opportunity and noted that his firm performed an extensive
96 search, resulting in fifty applicants; he met with Councilmembers individually to obtain the
97 experience, education, training, and background requirements and expectations. He explained the
98 importance of the interview process and suggested one-on-ones with a candidate first, then holding
99 a public interview on the same day; that way, the other candidates can be notified in a timely
100 manner. Mayor Paritsky confirmed that Mr. Dinneen requests two questions from each
101 Councilmember be submitted to Kim Cherbano in preparation of the public interview. Mr. Dinneen
102 suggested that questions be asked of the candidate in an alternating format, noting the importance
103 of no one seeing the questions ahead of the interview. Vice-Mayor Smith and Councilmember
104 Villanella stated they concurred with Mayor Paritsky's and Mr. Dinneen's suggestions;
105 Councilmember Caswell stated her concerns with changing the process. Mayor Paritsky asked if
106 there are any legal parameters that should be considered; Attorney Shepard stated no.
107 Councilmember Milano stated when Ms. Blissett left the Town, the position was offered to Ms.
108 Witt – why can't the Council do that now? He stated that none of the other candidates have the
109 understanding of a coastal community's challenges or the Ponce Inlet Vision statement like Mr.
110 Disher has.

111
112 Councilmember Milano moved to begin contract negotiations with Michael Disher for the Town
113 Manager position; seconded by Vice-Mayor Smith.

114

115 Mayor Paritsky asked if this opens the Town to liability; Attorney Shepard stated the Council *can*
116 do that, but anything beyond that is policy. Councilmember Villanella stated he could not support
117 the motion, would prefer the one-on-one interview and the public interview first; Councilmember
118 Caswell and Mayor Paritsky concurred. Mayor Paritsky requested that members of the public
119 submit questions ahead of time to Ms. Cherbano. Mr. Dinneen stated that if the one-on-one
120 interviews are held first, it could result in a shorter public interview. He commented that Council
121 has the final candidates' information and can use those resumes as the pool from which to select
122 its next manager, so no one is being left out of consideration.

123

124 Mayor Paritsky opened public participation. Robert Bullard, 4802 South Peninsula Drive - offered
125 his support of interviewing and offering the position to Mr. Disher as he came back to work here
126 and has managed the past several months very well; and suggested that Council consider hiring an
127 Assistant Town Manager. Paul Brooks, 88 Jana Drive - offered a dissenting opinion of Mr. Disher
128 based on his interactions regarding the owner/builder permitting conflict. John Juliano, Local 4140
129 Secretary - agreed with hiring internally and suggested that all internal applicants be given the
130 same opportunity as Mr. Disher. Mayor Paritsky closed public participation.

131

132 The motion FAILED 3-2, with the following vote: Councilmember Milano – yes; Vice-Mayor Smith
133 – yes; Councilmember Caswell – no; Mayor Paritsky – no; Councilmember Villanella – no.

134

135 Council selected Monday, May 20th at 5:00 pm for the Special Meeting; and that individual
136 interviews with Mr. Disher and Council members would be scheduled by staff; 5-0, consensus.

137

138 A brief discussion resulted in determining that two questions per Council member be submitted to
139 Ms. Cherbano by 2:00 pm on Monday, March 20th so she and Mr. Dinneen can review them. Mr.
140 Dinneen reminded Council that all notes taken during the one-on-one interviews are public record.

141
142 **2. Consideration of Fire Union Local 4140 request for inclusion in the**
143 **Town Manager selection process.** Mayor Paritsky read the request into the record and thanked
144 the members of Local 4140 for their offer to participate. Attorney Shepard referenced Article III
145 of the Town’s [Charter](#) and stated that only the Town Council has the authority to hire the Town
146 Attorney, the Town Manager, and a Consulting Engineer; those duties are non-delegable. He stated
147 that it is up to Council if it wishes to allow for public participation; members of the public are
148 encouraged to submit questions, and reiterated that only the Council has the hiring authority.

149
150 Mayor Paritsky opened public participation. Paul Brooks, 88 Jana Drive – asked “why not offer
151 the fire department the opportunity to be a part of the hiring team because they are employees
152 here?” Vice-Mayor Smith corrected Mr. Brooks and stated that all members of the public,
153 including employees, are offered an opportunity to speak; they cannot be part of the selection or
154 hiring process. Mayor Paritsky noted an email received from Skip & Jane White, expressing
155 opposition with allowing anyone other than the Town Council to be the hiring authority. Mayor
156 Paritsky closed public participation.

157
158 **B. Consideration of appointment to the Code Enforcement Board.** Ms. Cherbano
159 stated that Joseph Young has applied for the vacant Alternate #2 seat and if appointed, this Board
160 will be fully seated; and noted that Mr. Young was present. Mr. Young introduced himself to
161 Council and thanked them for their consideration. Mayor Paritsky opened public comments –
162 hearing none, she closed public comments.

163
164 Mayor Paritsky moved to appoint Joseph Young to Alternate Seat 2, with a term expiration date
165 of December 31, 2023; seconded by Councilmember Caswell. The motion PASSED 5-0, consensus.

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167 **8. PUBLIC HEARINGS / QUASI-JUDICIAL MATTERS:** None.

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169 **9. PUBLIC HEARINGS / NON-QUASI-JUDICIAL MATTERS:** None.

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171 **10. CITIZENS’ PARTICIPATION:** Mayor Paritsky opened citizens’ participation.

172
173 Paul Brooks, 88 Jana Drive – Stated his ongoing disagreement with the building department’s
174 decision to deny his owner-builder permit and the town attorney’s comments made during the last
175 meeting; Mr. Brooks repeatedly referred to Volusia County Code Enforcement and the Volusia
176 County Property Appraisers office when providing his information.

177
178 Michael Lange, 4366 S. Atlantic Avenue - Thanked the building department staff for waiving
179 hurricane-related permitting fees, complimented staff on their efficiency and professionalism, and
180 pointed-out Robert Blackburn’s attention to inspection details and his level of expertise.

181
182 Charles Burge, Harbour Village Links South – Stated this Saturday is [the Town’s celebration of]
183 Earth Day; the PI Lions Club will be selling hotdogs; noted that there is a golf tournament on

184 March 25th and the Club is looking for golfers and sponsors. Mayor Paritsky closed citizen
185 participation.

186 **11. ORDINANCES (FIRST READING) AND RESOLUTIONS:**

187

188 **A. Resolution 2023-03, reclassifying FRS Senior Management positions.** Attorney
189 Shepard read the resolution by title only. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE
190 TOWN OF PONCE INLET, VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING
191 PARTICIPATION IN THE SENIOR MANAGEMENT SERVICE CLASS WITH THE
192 FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR
193 SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Ms. Cherbano explained
194 that upon reviewing local municipal benefits, it came to her attention that the Town does not
195 provide Senior Management classifications to the Chief Building Official and the Public Works
196 Director. She stated that based on comparisons of the level of responsibility and expertise these
197 two positions require, she recommended approving the reclassification. She noted that this would
198 cost approximately \$20,000, which would be funded within the current budget year from the
199 respective departments, and is in keeping with Council’s goal “to continue to enhance efforts to
200 not only attract candidates but also retain our current talented workforce, so that the needs and
201 services of the Town are met.” Councilmember Caswell stated she would prefer to postpone a
202 decision on this item until the budget review process; Councilmember Milano stated his support
203 of the request; concurred by Vice-Mayor Smith, and Councilmember Villanella. Mayor Paritsky
204 opened public comments – hearing none, she closed public comments.

205

206 Councilmember Villanella moved to approve Resolution 2023-03 as presented, for implementation
207 in the current budget year; seconded by Mayor Paritsky. The motion PASSED 4-1, with the
208 following vote: Councilmember Villanella – yes; Mayor Paritsky – yes; Vice-Mayor Smith – yes;
209 Councilmember Caswell – no; Councilmember Milano – yes.

210

211 **B. Ordinance 2023-01 (First Reading), Large-scale Comprehensive Plan**
212 **Amendment to the Coastal Management Plan and Future Land Use Elements related to**
213 **Coastal Resiliency.** Attorney Shepard read the ordinance by title only. AN ORDINANCE OF
214 THE TOWN OF PONCE Inlet, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR A LARGE-SCALE
215 AMENDMENT TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BY AMENDING GOALS, OBJECTIVES,
216 AND POLICIES OF CHAPTER II, FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT AND CHAPTER VI,
217 COASTAL MANAGEMENT ELEMENT, TO COMPLY WITH THE STATE-MANDATED
218 REQUIREMENTS OF THE 2015 PERIL OF FLOOD ACT AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS
219 OF THE TOWN’S 2022 VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT; PROVIDING DIRECTIONS TO
220 THE TOWN STAFF; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR
221 SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Mr. Mendenhall provided
222 a review of the history and process; noted the Planning Board found the amendment consistent
223 with the comprehensive and forwarded it to the Town Council with a recommendation of approval.
224 Mr. Disher noted that this is part of the long-range planning process. Mayor Paritsky commended
225 the Planning Department and the Planning Board for their hard work on this item. Councilmember
226 Milano asked how the public is notified of this information; Mr. Disher stated that all of the Town’s
227 Codes are available on the website via [links](#) and could be emailed to the Town’s subscribers.
228 Councilmember Milano referenced line 332, Policy 1.6.4 (Boat Storage facilities) and asked if the
229 Town could be sued again over the requirements. Attorney Shepard stated no, and further

230 explained that the policy states, "...all new or redeveloped facilities for the storage of boats in
231 either wet or dry slips shall comply with the Town's boat slip allocation ordinance," which was
232 done *prior* to the lawsuits; as was the Comprehensive Plan (those applicable parts still remain in
233 place) and the Manatee Protection Program for Volusia County. That process requires certain
234 frontage on the river (intercoastal waterway) and does not guarantee slips – it is an allocation,
235 which is a mathematical calculation which takes into consideration several other factors, but is
236 subject to other development requirements. Councilmember Milano referenced a vegetation list
237 that is allowable on the dune system and asked how that information could be disseminated. Mr.
238 Mendenhall stated the type of vegetation is located in the Land Use and Development Code; the
239 Comprehensive Plan is a guide. Mr. Disher stated that links to this information and the DEP are
240 available on the [Planning & Development Department's](#) web page. Councilmember Caswell
241 referenced the managed relocation conversations and the former Land Acquisition Advisory
242 Committee and asked how this ties into acquisition of repetitive loss properties. Mr. Mendenhall
243 stated managed relocation can be achieved by increasing setbacks and raising elevations for
244 properties located on the water; when it gets to a point where this no longer works, then the Town
245 may consider acquiring the property (a last resort); and noted that these are tools for helping
246 maintain properties for as long as possible. Mr. Disher noted that this policy is long range and for
247 Planning purposes only. Councilmember Caswell asked if the Town would be liable for someone
248 who just bought property by changing the rules. Attorney Shepard stated that the purchase price is
249 not the critical factor; it is reliance on the zoning and regulations in place at the time, and if you
250 change them after the design and build, then you have a problem; but you do not get to "freeze in
251 place" the zoning just because you bought a property – you have to do something beyond just
252 buying it. Mayor Paritsky opened public comment – hearing none, she closed public comment.

253
254 Mayor Paritsky moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2023-01, Coastal Management
255 Plan and Future Land Use Elements as presented and to authorize its transmittal to state and local
256 review agencies; seconded by Councilmember Villanella. The motion PASSED 5-0, with the
257 following vote: Mayor Paritsky – yes; Councilmember Villanella – yes; Councilmember Milano –
258 yes; Councilmember Caswell – yes; Vice-Mayor Smith - yes .

259
260 **12. OLD BUSINESS:**

261
262 **A. First Step Shelter Signs.** Chief Glazier stated the signage is a benefit to the Town,
263 as Ponce Inlet has an existing relationship with First Step Shelter and is a contributing financial
264 partner; a current member of Council sits on its board, and the police department transports people
265 to the shelter. He recommended changing the signs to a smaller size and include the QR code and
266 Town logo; the recommended locations would be outside the Town Hall, outside the Fire Station
267 near the entrance to Timothy Pollard Park, and in the Ponce Preserve parking lot near the
268 restrooms. There was a brief discussion and the majority of Council members concurred with the
269 recommendation; Councilmember Caswell stated she could not support adding more signs in
270 Town as there are too many, the Town contributes financially every year, and panhandling is not
271 a problem. Mayor Paritsky opened public comment – hearing none, she closed public comment.

272
273 Councilmember Milano moved to approve the redesign of the sign and the recommended
274 placement locations; seconded by Councilmember Villanella. The motion PASSED 4-1, with the

275 following vote: Councilmember Milano – yes; Councilmember Villanella – yes; Councilmember
276 Caswell – no; Vice-Mayor Smith – yes; Mayor Paritsky – yes.

277
278 **B. Discussion on government affairs consultants/lobbyists.** Mr. Disher provided an
279 overview of what other cities/towns do and explained what the purpose of a lobbyist is. He stated
280 there is money out there but you have to ask for it and know who to ask and when to do so. The
281 lobbyist would work as an extension of staff in Tallahassee and advocate for the Town. He noted
282 that Debary, Holly Hill, Oak Hill, and South Daytona employ lobbying firms. He stated that if
283 Council is interested, he would recommend an eight-month term. Mayor Paritsky noted her own
284 advocacy work with the Volusia League of Cities, Florida League of Cities, and in Tallahassee.
285 She stated that this is the first time she has heard that the FL League of Cities has asked lobbyists
286 for their help, and it would benefit the Town by having a professional consultant working on its
287 behalf. Vice-Mayor Smith asked if this is done at an hourly rate or is this a retainer? Mr. Disher
288 stated this is billed per month, and the amount would be set unless you ask them to go outside the
289 scope. Attorney Shepard noted that these consultants work to build relationships throughout the
290 year in order to be effective. Councilmember Caswell stated the proposal is reasonable and asked
291 what we get now for the tax dollars used in Tallahassee, and would the Town benefit from having
292 its own lobbyist on staff, or piggyback on another municipality’s contract? Councilmember
293 Villanella stated his support of the idea at no more than \$2,200 per month for an eight-month term.
294 Councilmember Milano stated his support and that it is a shame we cannot start this tomorrow;
295 noting that many of the proposed Bills are trying to destroy Home Rule and will ruin the Town’s
296 Vision. Mayor Paritsky noted that when requesting funds or priorities, we need an advocate. Mr.
297 Disher stated that a consensus would allow staff to move forward to obtain information and
298 propose in next year’s budget; staff would then put it out for bid per the purchasing procedures.

299
300 Mayor Paritsky opened public comment. Robert Bullard, 4802 S. Peninsula Drive – Stated the
301 Lighthouse Point Park exists because of lobbying; the Halifax Plantation/Bulow State Park is half
302 the size it was planned to be because of lobbying; he asked if there is a code of conduct for
303 lobbyists? Attorney Shepard stated yes, it is a State law, F.S. 112; Mr. Bullard asked if lobbyists
304 are supposed to provide full disclosure to any of their clients who wish to have them engage in any
305 form of monitoring or advocacy? Attorney Shepard stated the code of ethics applies to lobbyists
306 as well; if the lobbyist represents two cities that could be in conflict with each other, the lobbyist
307 must disclose that to both cities and it is enforced by the FL Commission on Ethics. Mr. Bullard
308 urged Council to use caution as there could be major conflicts of interest with other municipalities
309 and suggested Council request full disclosure up front. Mayor Paritsky closed public comment.

310
311 Council consensus to move forward with preparing this item for the budget process; 5-0.

312
313 **13. NEW BUSINESS:**

314
315 **A. Review of Special Events Co-Sponsorship Criteria.** Mayor Paritsky noted that
316 currently, there are no criteria that can support a Town Council decision to approve or deny a co-
317 sponsorship request; she suggested: 1) no waiver, or 2) waiver with cause; and asked Council for
318 suggestions specifically related to criteria and standards for approvals. Councilmember Caswell
319 stated her support to have criteria; Councilmember Villanella stated there seemed to be so much
320 verbiage to read through, that some applicants may be deterred from asking; Councilmember

321 Milano stated one club used to have an event at Davies Park, but once Town Council declined to
322 waive the fees, they left – so by having criteria, the Council can justify an approval or denial and
323 we must ensure that the event is in line with our Vision statement; Vice-Mayor Smith noted that
324 most events are held at a Town facility and should benefit the Town as well; Mayor Paritsky
325 suggested the Town continue to offer a waiver of fees, and by having criteria, it would make the
326 decision easier. Councilmember Caswell suggested the criteria be objective so Council can make
327 an informed decision. Mr. Disher stated that currently it is based on eligibility not criteria; staff
328 could tighten-up the language and present the proposed changes at a future meeting. Mayor
329 Paritsky opened public comments – hearing none, she closed public comments.

330
331 Council requested this item be presented with proposed changes and specific criteria; by
332 Consensus, 5-0.

333
334 **B. Town of Ponce Inlet’s 60th Anniversary.** Ms. French noted that this year marks
335 the Town’s 60th Anniversary, and based on inquiries from the public and Council, the Cultural
336 Services Department has begun preparations for this event. The Cultural Services Board discussed
337 potential event activities and referenced the celebration held in 2013 for the Town’s 50th. She
338 provided suggestions made by the Board and asked Council for direction: 1) do we want a 60th
339 anniversary party; and 2) suggested that the event be held in September due to heat and conflicts
340 with other events; she asked if Council members would send suggestions to her by email so she
341 could compile a list from which selections could be made. Mayor Paritsky asked what the hours
342 of the event would be and what provisions can be made for inclement weather; Ms. French stated
343 that the hours are yet to be determined, noting that the 50th was an all-day event; regarding rain-
344 dates, it would be impossible to do mainly because of the vendor’s other commitments.
345 Councilmember Milano stated that the 50th was a fun day for all; Councilmember Villanella
346 supports holding an event and wants the dunk tank; Mayor Paritsky noted her support and likes
347 the idea of public safety, such as helmet fittings, bike safety, and car seat installations.
348 Councilmember Caswell asked if one of the Councilmembers could explain the events of the 50th.
349 Vice-Mayor Smith stated it was one day full of food, activities, and fun, with a carnival-like feel.
350 Mayor Paritsky asked if the food is provided or do customers have to pay. Ms. French stated that
351 tickets would be sold and you could use those to exchange for food.

352
353 Mayor Paritsky opened public comment. Robert Bullard, 4802 S. Peninsula Drive – Stated that
354 there were two or three residents around when the Town was incorporated, and they spoke during
355 the 50th event and it was impressive; he suggested contacting Edwina Knox and Don Hampton to
356 obtain more information. Mayor Paritsky noted that the Citizens for Ponce Inlet Newsletters may
357 also be a good source for information. Mayor Paritsky closed public comment.

358
359 Council consensus to move forward with obtaining ideas and present a final proposal at a future
360 meeting for consideration; 5-0.

361
362 **C. Application for a SAFER grant for new firefighter positions.** Chief Scales,
363 Public Safety Director *pro tem*, stated that the grant would support the addition of three firefighters
364 as recommended in the Standard of Cover/Community Risk Assessment (SCA/RCA) process. He
365 stated that this is for a period of three years, there is no local match required, and no requirement
366 to keep the additional staffing past the three years. He clarified that the \$369,038 is per year so the

367 total cost for three firefighters over a three-year period would be \$955,071 total grant award.
368 Mayor Paritsky asked if there are any reporting requirements or audits if the grant is awarded;
369 Chief Scales stated yes, but we have been awarded Federal grants in the past and he, along with
370 Ms. McColl, and Ms. Brooks (grants writer) have worked with those requirements and are familiar
371 with them. Chief Scales stated this item was presented to the Essential Services Advisory Board
372 at its March 2nd meeting, which it unanimously supported. Councilmember Caswell asked if part
373 of pursuing this grant is linked to the Risk Assessment findings? Chief Scales stated yes, and this
374 will support the recommendation of the SCA/CRA to add one firefighter per shift. Councilmember
375 Milano stated this started a few years ago when we did not know how many firefighters per shift
376 we needed – so this is a good thing. Councilmember Caswell asked what the likelihood of being
377 awarded the grant; Chief Scales stated he is optimistic but also a realist, and due to the size and
378 location of the Town, and the impacts from Nicole and Ian, the Town’s residents are trying to
379 rebuild their homes and he articulated that well in the application. Councilmember Caswell asked
380 if the grant is not awarded, would this item come back during the budget process; Chief Scales
381 stated yes. Mayor Paritsky opened public comment – hearing none, she closed public comment.

382
383 Mayor Paritsky moved to authorize the Public Safety Director, pro tem to submit the SAFER grant
384 application for the addition of three firefighters; seconded by Councilmember Caswell. The motion
385 PASSED 5-0, consensus.

386
387 **D. Application for a Cyber-Security grant through FL Digital Services.** Mr. Okum
388 stated that due to changes in the FL Cybersecurity Act and from recommendations regarding the
389 Florida Local Government Cybersecurity Grant Program, he is requesting authorization to submit
390 a grant application to obtain funding for cybersecurity improvements. He noted that there are no
391 matching funds required, and no grant writing or monitoring; the program provides opportunities
392 to obtain software, tolls, and services, including the State’s Cybersecurity Operations Center,
393 which will centralize monitoring and response, asset discovery, endpoint protection, managed
394 security services, risk assessments, license access controls, workforce training and incident
395 response. If awarded, the grant term is a 12-month period; continuation thereafter is limited to
396 those who first received the money. Councilmember Caswell asked if staff are currently trained in
397 cybersecurity; Mr. Okum stated yes, that has already been implemented.

398
399 Mayor Paritsky opened public comments. Robert Bullard, 4802 S. Peninsula Drive – Expressed
400 concerns of multiple users/packages, asked if there was any way to track the malware attacks, and
401 asked who monitors the threats, and is it in real time? Mr. Okum stated malicious attacks and
402 monitoring is performed by a task force in real time; there is no issue with multiple end-users
403 because each municipality selects its own services. Mayor Paritsky closed public comments.

404
405 Mayor Paritsky moved to authorize the IT Director to submit the Cybersecurity Grant through FL
406 Digital Services; seconded by Councilmember Villanella. The motion PASSED 5-0, consensus.

407
408 Mr. Disher stated this is one of those rare occasions of a State-funded mandate.

409
410 **14. FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL:**
411

412 A. **Vice-Mayor Smith, Seat 5** – Stated his appreciation to the staff who worked the
413 volunteer dinner event; reported that Edwina Knox will be 95 years young next week and wished
414 her a happy birthday.

415
416 B. **Councilmember Villanella, Seat #4** – Stated there was a great deal of information
417 covered tonight and we are on a great trajectory.

418
419 C. **Councilmember Caswell, Seat #3** – Reported that there are three lifetime
420 achievement awards being presented this year at the C4PI Citizen of the Year dinner; noted that
421 there is a lot going on in Tallahassee and reported that there are changes coming to the financial
422 disclosure requirements.

423
424 D. **Councilmember Milano, Seat #2** – Stated that everyone did a wonderful job
425 tonight; reported that the First Step Shelter saw a net gain after the Gala of \$234,319 and have
426 booked the room for next year; 90% of residents placed in permanent housing remain in permanent
427 housing after two years; and he is proud to be a part of it.

428
429 E. **Mayor Paritsky, Seat #1** – Provided the following report: **Sovereign Immunity**
430 **update** – Representative Leek is the Chair of the House Appropriations Committee and has the
431 capability to not place a bill on an agenda, she spoke with Representative Leek requesting that this
432 bill not be placed on his Appropriations Committee Agenda and also requested that if it were
433 placed on the agenda, he oppose the bill in the current format as outlined in her letter to the Civil
434 Justice Subcommittee, the bill is still in play. **Subcommittees and Task Force created by the**
435 **Roundtable of Elected officials** - Mayor Partington of Ormond Beach is the Chair of the task
436 force addressing our bridges and their closures during emergencies and disasters, she will be on
437 that task force along with the Police and Fire Chiefs; there are positions available on the
438 Transportation subcommittee chaired by Mayor Burnette of Port Orange and the Nova Canal task
439 force; the **Mentoring Program** created for newly elected officials with the VLoC has commenced;
440 the mentor and mentee will be meeting at the VLoC dinner next Thursday in Daytona Beach
441 Shores; she has two mentees, both of whom are newly elected, noting the role of a mentor is to be
442 available for questions and provide guidance.

443 **15. FROM THE (INTERIM) TOWN MANAGER** – Mr. Disher referenced the Town
444 Manager Report included in the agenda packet and provided the following updates: Volusia
445 County will be placing a food truck in Winterhaven Park and some vegetation will be removed to
446 allow its placement; he attended two sessions with Town residents featuring Volusia County staff
447 and Matt Reinhart about the County’s plans for the beach; next week, the County Council will
448 approve the \$37.5 million dollar Grant Agreement for a beach renourishment feasibility study, \$5
449 million has already been used to provide emergency sand and trap bags; there will also be a
450 discussion regarding beach tolls; the Army Corps of Engineers will be dredging the inlet later this
451 year as part of its regular maintenance and the County has requested permission to place the
452 dredged sand on the beach; the County has also requested from Florida Fish & Wildlife, to allow
453 those who have already begun repairs/construction on the beach to continue working through turtle
454 nesting season, provided the permitted work commenced before May 1st; the County has sent
455 letters to beachfront property owners requesting a five-year temporary construction easement, to
456 allow them to clear the beach of any debris; the *Coffee with A Cop* program was a success in the

457 past and staff is looking at holding that event, along with sessions with the Fire Chief and IT
458 Director; he thanked Council for its vote of confidence for the Manager position.

459
460 **16. FROM THE TOWN ATTORNEY** – Attorney Shepard referenced the resident who
461 spoke earlier asking why Mr. Disher had not responded to him for a mediation and stated that if
462 there is an issue where a statute states you cannot do it, then you do not do it; and there is a statute
463 that states if you cannot get a permit, that is not a *mediatable* issue; what is an issue is the
464 *interpretation* – and what we are doing is cautiously going up the chain to get that interpretation
465 from the highest level. The Building Official is charged with understanding the Code and making
466 a decision, it has nothing to do with the Town Attorney’s office or personal opinions. If the Florida
467 Attorney General provides a different opinion, we will follow it. Attorney Shepard stated the
468 Volusia County Property Appraiser’s office issued the following statement this afternoon: “*Please*
469 *be advised that the classification placed on the parcel by Ponce Inlet does not change the*
470 *classification method of valuation. Our office classifies property in accordance with the*
471 *Department of Revenue guidelines. These may differ from a municipality’s building department*
472 *for issuance of building permits”.*

473
474 **17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (on items 14 – 16 only)** – Mayor Paritsky opened public
475 participation. Charles Burge, Harbour Village Links South - Expressed concerns with the number
476 of dogs on the beach and that the County Council is considering allowing them when they are
477 currently not allowed but are always on the beach; he reported that there is a serious problem with
478 dog feces on the beach and it is a health hazard for humans and wildlife; adding that owners refuse
479 to pick up after their dogs now, what will happen if dogs *are* allowed?

480
481 Mayor Paritsky stated she would write a letter to Matt Reinhart, County Councilman, informing
482 him of this issue.

483
484 Robert Bullard, 4802 S. Peninsula Drive – Asked if the Town is involved with the County’s
485 easement project; Mr. Disher stated no, we are merely sharing the information. Mr. Bullard asked
486 if anyone was familiar with SB 1316; Councilmember Caswell requested Mr. Bullard see her after
487 the meeting.

488
489 Paul Brooks, 88 Jana Drive – Stated he is not seeking to mediate a Statute, he is seeking to mediate
490 a Policy; he disagrees with the owner/builder judgment and will continue to fight it because it
491 impedes his property ownership rights. Mayor Paritsky closed public participation.

492
493 **18. ADJOURNMENT** – With no further business, Mayor Paritsky adjourned the meeting at
494 9:09 PM.

495
496 Respectfully submitted by:

497
498 _____
499 Kim Cherbano, CMC / Town Clerk
500 Prepared by: Peg Hunt, CMC / Deputy Clerk

501
502 Attachment(s): None.