

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF REDINGTON SHORES
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2021 – 4:00 P.M.
MINUTES**

Present upon roll call: Commissioner Blackburn, Commissioner Krouk, Commissioner Krajewski, Vice Mayor Robinson, Mayor Henderson and Attorney Denhardt.

RATIFICATION OF BILLS – August/September 2021

Will be presented next month.

COMMISSION REPORTS

Mayor Henderson stated the red tide is still with us and staff is doing the best they can to keep up with the cleaning. Mayor Henderson reminded everyone that the town will again be doing a Drive-thru-Picnic, since there has been an uptick in COVID cases. Mayor Henderson reported she has instituted the use of a Virtual Receptionist on the towns phone system and seems to be working well. Both the Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk are happy with this feature. Mayor Henderson reported that Patti Herr our past Deputy Clerk of 11-years has passed away and offered prayers to her family. Mayor Henderson reported Attorney Denhardt and Lauren Rubenstein have resigned as the town attorney effective September 30, 2021. Attorney Denhardt has been with the town for 43-years.

Indian Shores Police Department – Chief Swann reported activity has been down since there is a rise in COVID cases. The department has recently hired two new officers and will back to full staff in four to five weeks. Vice Mayor Robinson asked

Vice Mayor Robinson, Commissioner District No 3

Vice Mayor Robinson mentioned it is still Hurricane Season and reminded all to make sure they have their plans and to stay vigilant. Vice Mayor Robinson reported the Town passed Ordinance 21-02, which adopted the FEMA FIRM Maps, effective August 24, 2021. Vice Mayor Robinson mentioned the flags at the town parks and town hall need to be repaired or be replaced. Commissioner Blackburn will investigate this.

Commissioner Krouk, Commissioner District No 2

Commissioner Krouk reported 57 permits were issued in August with a total revenue of \$11,598.87 and 87 inspections were performed. Extremely busy with phone calls inquiring about renovations and the 50% rule. As the Mayor indicated, we did hire Luke Curtis as the town's Building Official. Luke comes from Anna Maria Island, which is a similar size as Redington Shores and similar ordinances. Commissioner Krouk reported four proposals have been received for the building department software program. Commissioner Krouk stated she has a team to review these proposals and will complete a rating sheet.

Commissioner Blackburn, District No 1

Commissioner Blackburn thanked Commissioner Krouk for organizing the interviews for the candidates for the Building Official position, the process was very organized. The solar powered radar signs are in and will be up soon. The BBQ pits for Constitution Park are order. Brian Stees is getting accumulated to the job and he and Mike are doing a great job.

Commissioner Krajewski, Commissioner District No 4

Commissioner Krajewski asked for a moment of silence for those lives lost on September 11th. Commissioner Krajewski stated Shenandoah and Miller Pipeline are in their last phases of their work regarding the sewer infrastructure. There are still a couple of spots on the east side in District One and District Two that have not been dealt with but will be taken care of. The work needed Gulf Blvd, will need to coordinate with FDOT. The four lift stations will be assessed. Hopefully in mid-October a report will be available for the town. Commissioner Krajewski mentioned in a pass meeting the commission passed the Interlocal Agreement for the

library. Treasure Island came back with a few changes. Commissioner Krajewski stated his understanding is once TI passes the agreement, then the other four communities will again pass the agreement. The renovations at the library have been started.

OLD BUSINESS

Ratification of Signing Recovery Fund Agreement – American Rescue Plan Act

Vice Mayor Robinson reviewed the agreement, and it appears the money can be used only for water, sewer, stormwater improvements and broadband installation. The money will not be able to be used toward the underground the West Side of Gulf Blvd. The amount the town is expecting is \$1,148,457.00. Vice Mayor Robinson moved to ratify the Town Clerk signing the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn. Vice Mayor Robinson would like to workshop the investment in the stormwater system is important, as our sewer bill are still high, stemming from infiltration into the system. Vice Mayor Robinson also stated the town is still talking to Pinellas County about purchasing the sewer system. Mayor Henderson asked for any comments or discussion. There being none, roll call: all yes.

Ratification of Approving Fort Knox Fire and Communications, Inc. – Emergency Repair of Fire Control Panel

Mayor Henderson explained that during the last storm town hall took a lighting hit. Repairs included the fire control panel, electric outlets in the main office and kitchen, including appliances in the kitchen. The town's insurance company has been notified. Commissioner Krajewski moved to ratify the repair of the Fire Control Panel, seconded by Commissioner Krouk. Mayor Henderson asked for any comment or discussion. There being none, roll call: all yes.

First Reading Ordinance 21-06 – Rear Setbacks on Water View Lots

Attorney Denhardt read Ordinance 21-06 by title. Commissioner Krouk moved to adopt Ordinance 21-06 on first reading, seconded by Vice Mayor Robinson. Mayor Henderson asked for any comment or discussion. There being none, roll call: all yes.

First Reading Ordinance 21-07 – Setbacks for Storage Sheds

Attorney Denhardt read Ordinance 21-07 by title. Commissioner Krouk moved to adopt Ordinance 21-07 on first reading, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn. Mayor Henderson asked for any comment or discussion. There being none, roll call: all yes.

First Reading Ordinance 21-08 – Establishing Position for Town Administrator

Attorney Denhardt read Ordinance 21-08 by title. Commissioner Krajewski asked if in the second "Whereas", contractors and/or consultants should be added. Chief Swann asked for an exemption for the Police Department, as the contract states they work for the Mayor and Commission. Vice Mayor Robinson stated there is no need to add either, as Section 2 clearly outlines the role of the Town Administrator should do. Commissioner Krajewski commented on Section 3 referencing the appointed officers of the clerk and deputy clerk, what about the building office and maintenance staff. This action will be outlined in the job description. Vice Mayor Robinson moved to adopt Ordinance 21-08 on first reading, seconded by Commissioner Krouk. Mayor Henderson asked for discussion or comments. Lisa Hendrickson stated she has no other comments to add, as the Town Attorney answered Commissioner Krajewski questions very well. There being no further discussion or comments, roll call: all yes.

Approval for Rejoining FRS Retirement

Mayor Henderson stated the Commission has the detailed spreadsheet from Lisa Hendrickson. Commissioner Krouk questioned on the defined contribution portion, it states it requires 8-years of service, she reads one year service requirement. Mrs. Hendrickson stated a normal retirement under the vesting provision under the FRS defined contribution in their summary plan description they define 8-years for normal retirement but are vested after one year. The Commission discussed in detail both the FMPT and the FRS plans with Lisa Hendrickson.

Mrs. Hendrickson cautioned the Commission on lowering the vestment of the FMPT from six years to one year as there is some value in keeping the vesting period for six years, and that is the value of the retention of keeping your employees. You don't want employees coming and going.

Vice Mayor Robinson stated his personal point of view on forcing an employee to contribute 3% could be difficult for them. I do like the ability if the employee desires to be able to contribute, whereas being mandated.

Commissioner Krajewski stated if the commission are in the FRS plan, then so should the employees. He does not know why there should be two plans. Commissioner Krouk stated she totally agrees. Commissioner Krouk stated town of Indian Shores just changed their Commission from the FRS to another plan, claiming they save \$8,000.00.

Mayor Henderson asked if any attendees had any comments.

Chris Cook asked if the FMPT a defined benefit plan or defined contribution plan. Commissioner Krouk stated it is a defined contribution plan. Mrs. Cook stated so right now the town is paying a flat percentage into the plan and you are not guaranteeing the employees any specific benefit. The FRS has the option of the same defined contribution and a defined benefit plan.

Commissioner Krajewski moved to approve the FRS Retirement for all employees and elected officials, seconded by Mayor Henderson. Commissioner Blackburn, yes; Commissioner Krouk, no; Commissioner Krajewski, yes; Vice Mayor Robinson, no; Mayor Henderson, yes.

Status of Hiring Town Attorney

Vice Mayor Robinson stated Mayor Henderson already mentioned we received resignation from the firm Denhardt and Rubenstein and thanked them for their service. Two responses to the RFP were received, Trask Daigneault, L.L.P. and Waugh Grant, PLLC. Attorney Daigneault and Attorney Eschenfelder from Trask Daigneault and Christian Waugh were available to the Commission for questions and comments. Vice Mayor Robinson asked Attorney Waugh to address the Commission. Attorney Waugh stated his firm has three municipalities in the State of Florida that the firm represents. Hilliard, 3-years Callahan, 2-yers and Person, one-year. They range in population of 1,500 to 3,000.00. They also work for other government gov work for other counties, Special Magistrate for Code Enforcement in Citrus County. I am a Board-Certified Real Estate Attorney. Vice Mayor Robinson asked where their offices are located. The main office is in Orlando, also have offices in the Villages, Miami and Atlanta. Commissioner Krouk asked what else does your law firm represent? Mr. Waugh stated they do a lot of other litigation.

Attorney Eschenfelder from Trask Daigneault addressed the Commission. Attorney Eschenfelder stated our firm almost exclusively represents local government, with focus on municipal government. The do have a real estate attorney that handles that need for us. We serve as town attorney for many municipalities in Pinellas County. Good experience with beach communities. All four partners are board certified in City, County and Local government law, as himself. Attorney Eschenfelder stated his is also a Labor Employment Lawyer. Vice Mayor Robinson stated Attorney Eschenfelder would be the appointed attorney, backed up by the firm. Vice Mayor Robinson stated within the documents, neither firm requires a retainer, their rates are comparable hourly. Vice Mayor Robinson moved to retain the services of Trask Daigneault, starting October 1, 2021, seconded by Commissioner Krajewski. Commissioner Krouk asked if there would be any conflict since their firm is handling some cases for the town right now. Attorney Eschenfelder stated there is no conflict. Commissioner Krajewski stated he had witnessed Attorney Eschenfelder in action at a meeting in Redington Beach he attended and interacted with one of the Commissioners there who spoke very highly of you. Mayor Henderson stated that the town will need to compensate Denhardt and Rubenstein as well during the transition. Mayor Henderson asked for any discussion or comments. Property owner Carol Muszik asked if the Commission would need to hire a new Special Magistrate. Mayor Henderson answered, yes. There being no further comments, roll call: all yes.

Status of Staff Vacancies

Vice Mayor Robinson stated he would like to fill the part time vacancy position whether it be for building or a general position. Mayor Henderson wanted to let the accountants start their work, which will free up time for both Mary and Tracy. Vice Mayor Robinson stated it is in the budget for the position, also stating this could give more free time to CRS and LMS. Vice Mayor Robinson moved to immediately hire a part-time position, seconded by Commissioner Krajewski. Commissioner Krouk agrees. Commissioner Krajewski stated our town is understaffed, especially in the building department. Tracy will remain Deputy Clerk with continuation of building department duties. The Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk will write a job description for a generalized position. There being no further comments, roll call: all yes.

Approve Master Services Agreement for West Side Utility Undergrounding

Mayor Henderson stated as previously discussed this is the agreement is for the Professional services for the design/build for the undergrounding on the West Side of Gulf Blvd. Mayor Henderson stated this company has a grant writer who will be writing a grant for this project. Commissioner Krajewski questioned some of the blank attachments. Mayor Henderson stated at this point it is very preliminary and all the mayors must present to their commission. Commissioner Krajewski asked where the money is coming from for this project and if it was in the budget. Mayor Henderson explained the money is Penny for Pinellas money, given to the towns from Pinellas County. Vice Mayor Robinson stated it is in the budget. Commissioner Krouk asked when the start date is. Mayor Henderson stated she thinks sometime in January. After further discussion, Vice Mayor Robinson moved to approve the concept of the agreement, with the agreement to come back to the Commission with the dollars amounts and dates, seconded by Commissioner Krouk. Mayor Henderson asked for any more discussion or comments. There being none: roll call: all yes.

NEW BUSINESS

Ratification of Payment to McKim & Creed for Sewer Locates

Commissioner Krajewski stated staff is getting trained to be able to perform the sewer locates. Until then the town has been using the service of McKim & Creed for this service. Commissioner Krajewski moved to ratify the payment to McKim and Creed in the amount of \$13,095.00, seconded by Commissioner Blackburn. Roll call: all yes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Resident, Leslee Coppock asked the commission how the town is coming along with the Certificate of Use permits, and enforcement as there are still issues with violations of the code. Mayor Henderson stated we are working on it. We have a list of those who have obtained their permits and notice of violations will be going out shortly. Mayor Henderson stated it is not everyone in the CTF districts, it also pertains to those handful of properties that have been grandfathered in.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mayor Henderson announced the following meeting dates:

Special Meeting – Monday, September 13, 2021 – 5:15 p.m., Adopt Tentative FY 21/22 Millage and Tentative FY 21/22 Budget

Special Meeting – Wednesday, September 22, 2021 – 5:15 p.m., Adopt Final FY 21/22 Millage and Final FY 21/22 Budget

Workshop Meeting – Wednesday, September 29, 2021 – 2:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting – Wednesday, October 13, 2021 – 4:00 p.m.

Comm. Mtg.

09/08/2021

Vice Mayor Robinson stated he will not be available for the September 12th meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary F. Palmer, MMC
Town Clerk