

**MINUTES
TOWN OF LAKE CLARKE SHORES
HYBRID TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2021**

1. Call to Order

- A. Mayor Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM (meeting was delayed due to technical difficulties).

The following officials were present:

Valentin Rodriguez, Jr., Mayor
Paul R. Shalhoub, Vice Mayor
Robert M. W. Shalhoub, President Pro Tem
Gregory Freebold, Council Member
Albert Pavon, Council Member

- B. Moment of Silence, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Rodriguez requested a moment of silence for those who passed away within the past month due to COVID-19. Pastor Stan Sniezek, Pastor of the New Life Alliance Church, gave the invocation then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion made by President Pro Tem Shalhoub to approve the Agenda, seconded by Vice Mayor Shalhoub; Motion approved (5-0).

3. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the December 8, 2020 Town Council Meeting.
- B. Approval of Resolution 2021-01 – to approve a Fiscal Year 2021 Special Appropriation Request of \$1,000,000 to the State of Florida for the Town Septic to Sewer Design Project and matching the Appropriation with \$1,000,000 in Town Funds; Authorizing Town Staff to request and obtain the Special Appropriation by signing any related documentation and working with Representative David Silvers.
- C. Approval of Resolution 2021-02 – Appointing Steven Quattrocchi as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment.
- D. Approval to extend the agreement between the Town of Lake Clarke Shores and Checkmark Collections (formerly Accounts Receivables, Inc.) for debt collection services through February 13, 2022.

- E. Approval of annual renewal of body camera equipment and cloud storage in the amount of \$10,545 for the Police Department.
- F. Approval to declare Victor Fire Master LX file cabinet as surplus and authorizing disposal of file cabinet.
- G. Approval of Land Use License – Carole Thomas, 1425 Alpha Court N – Dock repair.

Motion made by President Pro Tem Shalhoub to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Vice Mayor Shalhoub; Motion approved (5-0).

4. Presentations

- A. PBC Fire Rescue District Chief Tracy Adams

Chief Adams wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked the Town Council for giving her the opportunity to speak with them. She provided information contained in the annual report that will be given to the Town Council within the next week. She noted the number and types of calls within the Town that they responded to during the 2019/2020 fiscal year. She noted the drop in the number of calls and stated that the longer response times were due to COVID-19 precaution protocols put in place for the safety of Fire Rescue personnel and the public.

Mayor Rodriguez thanked her for the report and for the service they provide to the Town.

5. Quasi-Judicial Proceedings

- A. None

6. Public Hearing

- A. None

7. Unfinished Business

- A. None

8. New Business

- A. Renewal of yearly Agreement of monthly pest control service from Safe Home Pest Control in the amount of \$207.00 per month.

Council Member Freebold, owner of Safe Home Pest Control, abstained from the discussion and vote on this issue.

Motion made by President Pro Tem Shalhoub to approve the yearly contract for pest control services with Safe Home Pest Control, seconded by Vice Mayor Shalhoub; Motion approved (4-0).

After the vote, Council Member Freebold resumed his involvement in the meeting.

B. Golf Cart Ordinance – Mayor Rodriguez

Mayor Rodriguez noted the increase in the use of golf carts by residents since the Town's golf carts ordinance was adopted in 2012. He noted that it may be time to update the Town code to be somewhat similar to the State Statutes regarding golf carts.

He discussed the following items and asked the Council for their feedback:

- Golf carts crossing Forest Hill Boulevard and the placement of golf cart crossing signage along Forest Hill Boulevard, if allowed
- Protective measures for driving golf carts at night
- The age of those who can legally drive a golf cart
- The number of riders that can safely ride in a golf cart and the age that children could be allowed to ride on the lap of an adult
- The requirements for seat belt use and other safety equipment requirements
- Town registration, inspection and insurance requirements
- Application and permit fees
- Changing the size of the Town issued golf cart tags
- Incorporating the State's definition of golf carts, which would allow gas powered golf cart use in Town
- Enforcement of Town golf carts ordinance
- Possibility of driving golf carts within Palm Springs to access the Greenwood Shopping Plaza

The Town Council agreed that it is important to keep those using golf carts safe. As such, it was a consensus of the Council that the code should be changed to require the use of seat belts for all riders, not just have the requirement that the golf cart be equipped with seat belts and to keep the remaining safety measures that are currently incorporated in the code. They discussed lowering the permit fee and providing the option to renew a permit every year or every other year.

It was noted that golf carts that have a State of Florida tag and registration can drive along any roadway, in the same manner as licensed vehicles.

It was noted that the Florida Department of Transportation would need to give their approval to allow golf carts to cross Forest Hill Boulevard and Florida Mango Road before the Town could put up golf cart crossing signs. Palm Beach County and the Village of Palm Springs would also have to provide their approval to allow golf carts to cross Florida Mango Road and to travel on the portion of Arabian Road leading to the Greenwood Shopping Plaza. There was also discussion on having golf cart access to

Forest Hill Plaza through a gate at Town Hall Park. Mr. Clark noted that he and town staff will look into the access issues.

There was discussion regarding golf carts being driven in the Town parks and if there should be designated parking areas for golf carts in the Town's parks. It was noted that the pathways in the parks are not wide enough for golf cart use. It was also noted that current Town codes do not allow motorized scooters on the pathways in the park.

The following members of the audience commented on the golf cart issues:

William Murphy, 1841 Evergreen Drive
Tom Dipoloto, 8375 Waterway Drive
Mike Bredeweg, 1410 Carambola Road
William Steele, 7410 West Lake Drive
Mike Wade, 8350 Waterway Drive
Chip Damsel, 8147 Pine Tree Lane
Bernadette Shalhoub, 8429 West Lake Drive

9. Audience Comments

A. Emailed Questions/Comments –

Sandy and Gary Stroke, 1905 Mediterranean Road W – noted the difficulty for those over 65 to obtain appointments to be vaccinated against COVID-19. She asked if there were any possibility that the Town would be able to provide COVID-19 vaccines for the residents. Mr. Clark noted that while the Town is working with Palm Beach County to set something up, there are issues that have to be resolved before this can take place. He stated that residents should continue utilizing the designated websites to schedule their appointments.

B. Written Questions/Comments –

Chip Damsel, 8147 Pine Tree Lane – noted the problem with motorized bikes that are not following road rules when it comes to stop signs. He asked Chief Smith if persons riding on motorized bikes should be stopping at the stop signs. Chief Smith noted that they are supposed to obey the stop signs. He noted that the Police Officers have addressed this issue and that parents of those riders are being notified.

Mayor Rodriguez noted that the Town held a bike safety event about three years ago that was well received. He would like to schedule another bike safety event once we can start holding events again.

C. Verbal Questions/Comments –

Bernadette Shalhoub, 8429 West Lake Drive – noted that adults are not following bike safety rules either. She also noted that people walking and riding bikes at night need to wear reflective clothing or use flash lights so that they can be seen.

10. Status Report

Mr. Schoech – did not have any additional comments.

Chief Smith – stated that December 2020 was the slowest December regarding arrests, accidents, burglaries, etc. in the 19 years that he has been with the Town. He noted that the Marine Unit patrolled the waterways for 14 hours in December. He also noted that there were only 3 residential burglaries during 2020 compared to over 30 in 2019. He stated that Officer Walker assisted the Sober Home Task Force Detectives with an arrest and officers arrested 2 subjects for domestic battery.

He noted the diligence of the officers in preventing “porch pirate” theft over the holidays.

Mayor Rodriguez thanked Chief Smith for the work that he and the officers have been doing for the Town.

Mr. Clark – noted that the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation met and voted unanimously to move the Lake Clarke Shores Annexation Bill to the House. Senator Berman has agreed to move the bill forward in the Senate.

He stated that Lisa Hubbard, owner of Palms Courtyard Apartments, is very anxious to have sewer lines hooked up to her apartments located at 1475 Forest Hill Boulevard. He noted that staff is working on having the paperwork ready for Town Council to approve in February.

Mayor Rodriguez asked Mr. Clark about the renewal letters that were mailed to golf cart owners giving them until January 15th to renew their golf cart registrations. He wanted to know if the Town Council would be willing to extend the deadline for registration renewal until changes could be made to the golf carts ordinance.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Shalhoub to extend the time line to renew current golf cart permit/licenses to October 1, 2021, without incurring a penalty, seconded by President Pro Tem Shalhoub; Motion approved (5-0).

11. Council Comments

Council Member Pavon – noted the discussion on golf cart safety that took place during the meeting. He stated that as he was in his car leaving Forest Hill Plaza at 6:20 PM to come to the meeting, 5 kids were riding on a golf cart without lights on the sidewalk and stopped right next to his car as they were attempting to cross through the driveway. He noted that he was afraid for the kids because a car could turn into the plaza and not be able to see the golf cart. He noted how dangerous it was for the kids that were using the golf cart without the headlights and the potential impact that it would have had on a driver that would not have been able to see the golf cart in the dark. He would like to have parents pass information on the safe use of golf carts to their children, so that everyone stays safe.

Council Member Freebold – wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated that he is looking forward to the upcoming legislative sessions regarding the annexation bill and other Town issues. He also reminded everyone to stay safe and healthy.

President Pro Tem Shalhoub – noted the following Palm Beach County League of Cities 2021 Legislative Priorities and Issues:

- The League of Cities supports legislation that facilitates the municipal annexation of unincorporated areas while protecting private property rights and respecting municipal boundaries.
- The League of Cities supports regulatory and financial initiatives that encourage properties with septic tanks to connect to centralized sewer systems.
- The League of Cities supports legislation that will ensure that short term rental properties abide by state and local regulations and are properly licensed and insured.

He wished everyone a healthy and prosperous new year. He noted that the age of the children using golf carts is getting younger. He asked that parents to continue to be diligent in teaching their children the rules needed to keep them safe while riding or driving golf carts.

Vice Mayor Shalhoub – asked Mr. Clark about the status of the possible Closed Point of Distribution site for Lake Clarke Shores. Mr. Clark noted that he has been in touch with AMR, who has agreed to provide the required medical services, but there are several issues that need to be considered before the agreement can go to Mr. Schoech for his review. It was determined that it would be in the best interest of the Town residents for the agreement to be signed as soon as it has been approved by Mr. Schoech, instead of waiting until a future Town Council Meeting for the Council to give approval.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Shalhoub to allow Mr. Clark to sign the agreement on behalf of the Town, when the agreement is ready, subject to legal review and approval, seconded by Council Member Freebold; Motion approved (5-0).

Vice Mayor Shalhoub also discussed the possibility of adding pickle ball courts to one of the Town's parks during the 2021/2022 fiscal year. Mr. Clark noted that it would cost approximately \$30,000 to \$40,000 to construct pickle ball courts in Community Park. He also noted that FRDAP Grants may be available to help pay the costs for the courts. He noted that the Town Council will need to reconvene the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and appoint additional members to the committee to get this started.

Vice Mayor Shalhoub noted that vegetative debris is constantly being placed in the roadways causing a safety hazard. He noted that the Town only has one Code Enforcement officer to cover code violations and asked if all of the police officers could issue violations to the homeowners that place debris on the roadways. Chief Smith noted that the Code Enforcement officer issues notices and/or warnings to the property owner to move the vegetative debris off the roadway but Waste Management usually picks up the debris before the time given on the notice is up. The property owner comes

into compliance once the debris is removed, whether the debris is moved by the property owner or if it is picked up by Waste Management.

He stated that some residents feel that their concerns are not being addressed by the Town. He noted that residents can contact the members of the Town Council or Town staff to get these issues resolved. He also thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mayor Rodriguez – thanked Vice Mayor Shalhoub for covering for him during the January Town Council Meeting. He noted Chief Smith’s comments about the statistics for the year being down which is in part due the fact that the Police Department patrols the town all of the time preventing criminal activity from taking place.

He noted the lengthily discussion on the changes needed to the golf carts ordinance and reminded everyone to continue with the precautions in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

12. Adjournment

Motion made by President Pro Tem Shalhoub to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM, seconded by Vice Mayor Shalhoub; Motion approved (5-0).

Valentin Rodriguez, Jr., Mayor

Mary Pinkerman, Town Clerk