

**MINUTES
TOWN OF LAKE CLARKE SHORES
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 14, 2023**

1. Call to Order

A. Mayor Freebold called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

The following officials were present:

Gregory Freebold, Mayor
Robert M. W. Shalhoub, Vice Mayor
Valentin Rodriguez, Jr., President Pro Tem (arrived at 6:38 PM)
Robert O. Gonzalez, Council Member
Jon Maples, Council Member

B. Moment of Silence, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Freebold requested a moment of silence for Betty Richardson, Retired City Clerk for the City of Leesburg. Mayor Freebold gave the invocation, then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Audience Comments

Mayor Freebold noted that the Audience Comments section of the meeting has been moved to the beginning of the meeting instead of at the end of the meeting. He noted that the audience will still be able to ask questions during the course of the meeting, if needed.

Ashok Kulkarni, 8131 West Lake Drive – noted that Lake Clarke Shores is a great place to live. He thanked the Town Council and staff for the many wonderful things that the Town does for the residents such as the Footprints Senior's Club that just started, the advantages of having a local Police Department and local zoning regulations.

Gerard Sanchez, 8360 West Lake Drive – noted that Lake Clarke Shores is the “gem” of Palm Beach County. He thanked all of the first responders for their service. He also asked for an update of the Blueway Trail. Mayor Freebold noted that the Blueway Trail has been designated as such and the C-51 boatlift project is still ongoing as a proposed project.

Joseph Scheerer, 8060 West Lake Drive – asked about making donations to help with the C-51 boatlift project. Mayor Freebold explained that there are a lot of logistics involved before funding the boatlift can be addressed.

Victoria Prinzi, 1411 Carandis Circle – noted that the Town should be charging residents when the Police Department does house watches instead of performing this for free.

Jennifer Chrzanowski, 7130 Pine Tree Lane – noted that she turned in a petition signed by 959 residents requesting a referendum to decide whether the Town should continue any and all endeavors related to sewer and/or septic to sewer infrastructure. She asked for a motion from the Town Council to allow the voice of the residents to be heard, and allow the

referendum to be placed on the ballot. She noted that the Town has already spent too much money without any public input on something that a majority of the residents do not want or support.

It was noted that the petition was sent to the Town Attorney for review. Mayor Freebold noted that the Town Council wants to make sure that the petition is legally sufficient before determining the next steps to take.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Vice Mayor Shalhoub to approve the Agenda, seconded by Council Member Gonzalez; Motion approved (5-0).

4. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the September 27, 2023 Town Council Meeting.
- B. Approval of the Minutes of the October 10, 2023 Town Council Meeting.
- C. Approval of the Recreation Services Provider Agreement for Winter Tennis Camp to be held December 27th & December 28th.
- D. Approval of the continued Palm Beach County Law Enforcement Agencies Combined Operational Assistance and Voluntary Cooperation Mutual Aid Agreement with the agreement to remain active through January 31, 2029.
- E. Approval of the Employee Holiday Thank You Dinner at Don Ramon, with the total cost of the dinner not to exceed \$2,000.00.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Shalhoub to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Council Member Gonzalez; Motion approved (5-0).

5. Presentations

- A. Recognition of Sgt. William Howell on his retirement after 20 years of service on the Lake Clarke Shores Police Department.

Mayor Freebold noted that Sgt. Howell is being promoted to Lieutenant and thanked him for his 20 years of service to the Town. Chief Smith noted that he has known Lt. Howell for 40 years. He noted the many accomplishments that Lt. Howell has made during his tenure as a member of the Lake Clarke Shores Police Department. Chief Smith noted that Lt. Howell has went out of his way helping the residents of the Town, that he was, and is, a great asset to the community and that he will be greatly missed.

Chief Smith presented Lt. Howell with his Lieutenants Badge. Mayor Freebold presented Lt. Howell with his plaque and a Key to the Town. Chief Smith presented him with his service weapon. He noted that Lt. Howell will be relocating to Georgia to be near his family. Lt. Howell thanked everyone for their thoughtfulness.

- B. Lithium Batteries: Battery Smart. Fire Smart. – Elyse Weintraub Brown, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Community Education Supervisor and Jessica Winter,

Recycling, Education & Marketing Manager, Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County

Ms. Winter noted the dangers of disposing lithium batteries in with the garbage and trash. She explained that lithium batteries are very combustible and gave examples of the different items that use lithium batteries. She noted that they are trying to educate the public on this issue so that they will know how to properly dispose these batteries.

Ms. Weintraub noted that Palm Beach County Fire Rescue is all about safety and that people need to be more aware and educated on what they are purchasing. She noted that all electronics come with operational manuals that explain how to use the product properly and provides warnings about the product. She reminded everyone to look for "LI" on the packaging before making purchases and if the product has "LI" they should be mindful of how to dispose of the battery.

It was noted that the Town will receive decals that will be placed on trash containers to remind people to take the lithium batteries to a hazardous waste disposal site instead of throwing them into the trash.

C. Home Internet Essentials from Xfinity - Rachel Bonlarron

Ms. Bonlarron provided statistics about Comcast and noted that Comcast invests over 4.2 billion dollars annually for internet access. She noted the Affordable Connectivity Program that is funded by the Federal Government and explained how Internet Essentials from Xfinity provides high-speed home internet at a low cost. She noted that the fee for Internet Essentials from Xfinity may be reduced or even removed for qualifying households when they enroll in the Affordable Connectivity Program.

Ms. Bonlarron also noted that Comcast cares about the communities that they serve. She explained how the Comcast Cares Program changed from a one day per year community event to a year around program called Project UP. She gave some examples of some of the community projects that they participated in recently.

6. Quasi-Judicial Proceedings

A. None

7. Public Hearing

A. None

8. Unfinished Business

A. None

9. New Business

A. None

10. Status Report

Chief Smith – provided statistics regarding the number of calls, assists and citations that the Police Department handled during the last month.

Mr. William Doney sat in for Mr. Schoech, who was not in attendance. He did not have anything new to report.

Mr. Lo Bello – noted the next Town Council Meeting will take place on December 12th and noted the upcoming events. He noted that there was only one bid on the Pine Tree Bridge and the amount for the bid was double the amount that the Town had expected. He noted that the Town will modify the requirements and go out for another bid.

He also reminded everyone about the PBC Board of County Commissioner's Hearing regarding the Edgewater Park Annexation will take place on November 21, 2023.

Vice Mayor Shalhoub requested that Mr. Lo Bello add the 2024 event dates to the December agenda for Council consideration

Chief Craig Spiegelhalter, PBC Fire Rescue – noted that he was covering for Chief Tracy Adams while she is out of the office. He provided statistics for the Fire Rescue responses in the Town for the month of October.

11. Council Comments

Council Member Maples – wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He requested that the sewer petition be placed on the December agenda.

Mr. Lo Bello asked if there needs to be a consensus by the Town Council to add items to the agenda since he was not familiar with the Town's policy on this.

Vice Mayor Shalhoub noted that it is out of mutual respect for each other to have items added to agendas.

Council Member Gonzalez – wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

President Pro Tem Rodriguez – did not have any comments at this time.

Mayor Freebold – wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

12. Adjournment

Motion made by Vice Mayor Shalhoub to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM, seconded by Council Member Gonzalez; Motion approved (5-0).

Gregory Freebold, Mayor

Mary Pinkerman, Town Clerk