

**MINUTES
TOWN OF LAKE CLARKE SHORES
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 16, 2024**

1. Call to Order

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

The following officials were present:

Gregory Freebold, Mayor
Jon Maples, Council Member
Taylor Materio, Council Member

B. Moment of Silence, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Freebold requested a moment of silence for Carrie Shealy, City Clerk for the City of Cocoa; residents Jon Spradley and Albert Mahanes and for Manley F. Caldwell Jr, Senior Partner for the Law Firm of Caldwell, Pacetti, Edwards, Schoech & Viator. Pastor Stan Sniezek, Pastor of the New Life Alliance Church, gave the invocation, then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Audience Comments

Nathalee Morin, 1820 Arabian Road W – discussed the vehicles running stop signs and speeding along her street. She noted that people are moving out of the area and leaving their cats to fend for themselves. She also noted the deplorable condition of her neighbor's yard, fence, and pool.

Carol Hassel, 7205 West Lake Drive – discussed the problem with the jet skiers congregating at the boat ramp, blocking the use of the boat ramp for others and the noise generated from the numerous jet skis on the lake. She noted the need for rules to use the boat ramp and stated that there should not be parking of any kind allowed at Boat Ramp Park.

Louise Bing, 7401 West Lake Drive – discussed the danger of people riding bikes while walking their dogs.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Council Member Maples to approve the Agenda, seconded by Council Member Materio; Motion approved (3-0).

4. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the Minutes of the December 12, 2023 Town Council Meeting.

B. Approval of Resolution 2024-01 – Expressing its deepest gratitude to Robert M. W. Shalhoub for his service on the Town Council.

- C. Approval of Resolution 2024-02 – Expressing its deepest gratitude to Valentin Rodriguez for his service on the Town Council.
- D. Approval of Resolution 2024-03 – Expressing its deepest gratitude to Robert Gonzalez for his service on the Town Council.
- E. Approval of the Second Amendment to the Service Agreement with ABM Industry Groups LLC.
- F. Approval of Agreement between Building Up Sports Academy, Inc. and the Town of Lake Clarke Shores to hold a summer fishing camp for children during the week of June 10 – June 14, 2024.
- G. Acceptance of the Infrastructure Surtax Citizen Oversight Committee Annual Report.

Motion made by Council Member Maples to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Council Member Materio; Motion approved (3-0).

5. Presentations

- A. None

6. Quasi-Judicial Proceedings

- A. None

7. Public Hearing

- A. None

8. Unfinished Business

- A. Traffic Calming Study – Bryan Kelley P.E., Traffic Engineer, Simmons & White

Mr. Kelley noted that the Town requested the traffic study to evaluate the existing road and traffic conditions and to review the Town's current traffic calming policy.

He noted that the report includes statistics on the average width of the Town's roadways; the number of speed hump/tables already in place; and the number of cameras and full stop and always stop intersections that there are in Town. He explained the differences between speed bumps, humps and tables and noted that speed tables are better at slowing traffic and easier for Fire/Rescue vehicles to maneuver.

He discussed the statistics gathered from the traffic cameras. He noted that there is not a Town wide speeding problem although there are some areas where speeding does happen. He stated that the speed signs, roadway design, existing speed humps/tables and police presence keeps most people from speeding in Town.

He noted the following recommendations gathered from the study: use speed tables when needing to replace the existing speed humps; remove one of the two existing speed humps along Venetian Way; continue with the police activity and adopt the traffic calming policy included in the study.

Council Member Maples thanked Mr. Kelley for his work on the study. He asked about the condition of the existing roadways in Town and how long the roadway surfaces usually last. He noted that residents complain of speeding in their area, but the study does not mention where the speeding takes place.

Mr. Kelley noted that they did not perform a roadway study, just a traffic study. He also noted that there is not really any one area that is a red flag area for speeding.

Mayor Freebold reiterated the highlights in the report. He noted that the Police Department is doing their job. He stated that the radar speed signs are working and asked if the Town should invest in more of these types of signs. Mr. Kelley noted that the radar signs are immediately effective because people can see their speed and slow down, if needed. He also noted that the speed signs do not impact the Fire/Rescue vehicles as they go through Town.

B. Town Council Vacancies

Mayor Freebold noted that the Town Council had to appoint Council Members in the past when someone resigned because they no longer lived in Town, but there have never been three Council Members resigning at the same time. He noted that Council Member Materio was appointed during the December Council Meeting so the Town Council would have a quorum and could continue to conduct business.

There was discussion on whether Bridget Keating, unopposed candidate for Group 3, could be sworn in early instead of waiting until the April meeting to be sworn in. Mr. Lo Bello noted that he spoke to Ms. Keating and that she would be willing to step in early if the Town Council so desires.

Council Member Maples noted that Christian (Christie) Maasbach, 7071 Pine Tree Lane, is also interested in being appointed to the Town Council to cover one of the open terms. He stated that she was in the audience and asked her to introduce herself.

Ms. Maasbach noted that she has lived in Lake Clarke Shores most of her life. She provided a background of where she went to school and her experience in banking and investments. She noted that she is active in the United Way and that she is on the Board for other agencies. She stated that she is interested in serving on the Town Council.

Mayor Freebold noted that he feels that the Council should wait until the next meeting to give other people a chance to apply for the open seat. He also noted that it would be fair to wait until Ms. Keating is sworn in before choosing the final Council Member, so that Ms. Keating can be part of the discussion and decision making.

Council Member Maples made a motion to appoint Bridget Keating to Group 3 effective February 20, 2024 (instead of waiting for her term to start in April), seconded by Council Member Materio; Motion approved (3-0).

It was noted that the Town Council will continue to look for someone to cover the final open seat and have this item put back on the February 20th agenda.

9. New Business

A. None

10. Status Report

Chief Craig Spiegelhalter, PBC Fire Rescue – noted the traffic calming study and stated that Palm Beach County has ordinances about the use and placement of speed humps/tables.

He noted that the monthly reports are being revamped due to HIPPA laws. He provided statistics for the Fire Rescue responses in the Town for the past month and noted the average response time starting from the time that the call was made to when the unit arrived on scene is 7 minutes 38 seconds.

Chief Spiegelhalter noted that they are still working on their annual report at this time, but it will be ready soon. He noted that a new station will be opening in the Boynton Beach area. He also noted that training classes will be starting in 2 weeks, they will be adding 50 new recruits, and they still have additional vacancies on the force due to the growth in Palm Beach County.

Chief Smith – provided statistics regarding the number of calls, assists and citations that the Police Department handled during the last month. He also presented the annual statistics for the Police Department and Code Enforcement.

He asked Lt. Fisher to provide information on the registration of vacation rental properties and golf carts. Lt. Fisher noted the number of vacation rental properties in Town. She also gave the number of golf cart registrations and stated that there are people who do not live in Town that are registering their golf carts so that they are able to drive them within the Town limits.

Council Member Maples asked about the use of decals at the boat ramp and whether citations are being issued to those who do not have a decal.

Chief Smith noted that decals are required to use the boat ramp. He stated the Town used to charge one fee to residents and a separate fee to non-residents to purchase decals but once the Town received grant money to upgrade the boat ramp, the Town stopped charging the fees for the decals. He noted that the officers are not issuing citations to those who do not have a decal at this time, but he will speak with the officers so they can inform the boaters that they need a decal to use the boat ramp.

Mayor Freebold noted the complaint from Ms. Hassel regarding the problem with the jet skiers at the boat ramp. Chief Smith noted that the officers have spoken to the jet skiers and will continue to speak to them about the situation.

Mr. Schoech – did not have anything additional to report.

Mr. Lo Bello – reminded everyone that the next Town Council Meeting will take place on February 20, 2024. He also noted the upcoming events.

He noted the modifications to the Pine Tree Bridge bid specifications will include that the bridge will be totally closed to traffic and pedestrians to see if the Town can receive better bids. He also noted that the Town is trying to get additional funding from the state to help pay the bridge replacement costs.

He also discussed some of the proposed legislative changes affecting utility funds, vacation rentals and Sovern immunity.

11. Council Comments

Council Member Materio – thanked Code Enforcement and the Code Enforcement Board for the work that they do. She thanked Mayor Freebold, Council Member Maples and Mr. Lo Bello for going to Tallahassee on behalf of the Town.

Council Member Maples – thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He asked if residents would be able to provide names of the people that they would like to have on the panel during the sewer workshop. It was noted that the names should be provided to Mr. Lo Bello. He also noted that they were able to speak with the Legislators while in Tallahassee and that the Town Council is trying their best for the residents of Lake Clarke Shores.

Mayor Freebold – noted that the Town Council advocates for the Town residents and builds relationships with the Legislators while in Tallahassee. He stated that the Town of Lake Clarke Shores is well known in Tallahassee and the Council's presence in Tallahassee makes a difference. He noted that they are trying to obtain additional money for the Pine Tree Bridge project.

He noted that several community events will be taking place in the next few months and reminded everyone to contact Mr. Lo Bello prior to the February 20, 2024 Council Meeting if they are interested in serving on the Town Council.

12. Adjournment

Motion made by Council Member Maples to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM, seconded by Council Member Materio; Motion approved (3-0).

Gregory Freebold, Mayor

Mary Pinkerman, Town Clerk