

REGULAR TOWN COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 1, 2021

Minutes of the Regular Town Commission Meeting of the Town of Ocean Ridge held on Monday,
March 1, 2021 at 6:00 PM in the Town Hall Commission Chambers and live audio feed provided through
Gotomeeting.com.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor de Haseth at 6:00 p.m. Mayor de Haseth reminded that the live audio feed is no longer interactive and encouraged those that would like to make a public comment to attend in person, or send comments to the Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Besler could not participate in person due to extenuating circumstances, and so the Commission would have to vote to allow him to participate virtually. **Vice Mayor Coz moved to allow Commissioner Besler to participate virtually; seconded by Commissioner Wiescholek. Motion carried 4-0.**

ROLL CALL

Town Clerk Armstrong led the roll call, which was answered by the following:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Commissioner Besler | Present |
| Vice Mayor Coz | Present |
| Mayor de Haseth | Present |
| Commissioner Hurlburt | Present |
| Commissioner Wiescholek | Present |

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor de Haseth led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, MODIFICATIONS, AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Hurlburt requested to add agenda item #21 to provide additional comments regarding the Town Manager's Evaluation, while Town Manager Stevens requested to defer item A under presentations, Plaque Presentation to Outgoing Town Commissioner Phil Besler, to the April 5, 2021 Regular Town Commission Meeting. Mayor de Haseth also requested to add item f. under announcements to address right-of-way encroachment complaints on major roads such as A1A.

Commissioner Hurlburt moved to approve the agenda as amended; seconded by Commissioner Wiescholek. Motion carried 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS

- a. Plaque Presentation to Outgoing Town Commissioner Phil Besler – Item Deferred to April 5th
- b. Introduction of New Employees:
 - 1. Valentina Clouse – Dispatcher, full-time
 - 2. Kristen Moretti – Dispatcher, temporary part-time

Police Chief Hutchins introduced the two new Dispatchers to the public. They were in the audience and waved to the public.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The next Regular Town Commission Meeting will be held on April 5th at 6:00 PM at Town Hall. The next Planning & Zoning Commission meeting will be held on March 15th at 8:00 AM at Town Hall. The Board of Adjustment meetings will now be held at 9:00 a.m. on the third Wednesday of the month as needed. The next Septic to Sewer Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting is to be determined.
- b. The Annual Municipal Election will be held on March 9, 2021. There are **two** Town Commission seats open for a three-year term. Qualified Candidates Appearing on the Ballot are: Carolyn Cassidy,

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Kristine de Haseth, John Kramer, and Geoff Pugh. / Las Elecciones Municipales Anuales se celebrarán el 9 de marzo de 2021. Hay dos asientos de la Comisión de la Ciudad abiertos por un período de tres años. Los candidatos calificados que aparecen en la papeleta son: Carolyn Cassidy, Kristine de Haseth, John Kramer, Geoff Pugh.

- c. The Town Commission will consider appointments to the following Board positions at the May 3, 2021 Town Commission meeting: Board of Adjustment, two regular members for a three year term; Planning & Zoning Commission, two regular members for a three year term; and Planning & Zoning Commission, one alternate member for a one year term. Interested residents must be registered to vote in Ocean Ridge and submit a resume and letter of interest to the Town Clerk by the deadline of April 21st at 3:00 p.m. Incumbents are exempted from the resume and letter of interest requirement.
- d. Residents who wish to sign up to receive important Town notifications and news through Civic Ready should sign up on the Town's website or call Town Hall for assistance.
- e. Next on the agenda is public comment. The Mayor will invite the public to speak to the Commission on any item that is not printed on the agenda. Public comments on specific agenda items may be made later in the meeting when the items are taken up. There is a one-time per item three (3) minute individual limit for public comments that will be timed by the Town Clerk. Public comment is not meant to be a question and answer period, and there will be no dialogue. Anyone wishing to speak during public comment will approach the podium and state their name and address for the record, and see the Town Clerk after speaking to fill out a speaker card in order for the minutes to be properly recorded. All comments shall be directed to the Presiding Officer of the meeting and not to individual Commissioners, Staff, or members of the public. The Commission would like to remind everyone that language which includes profanity or cursing, or which is presented in an aggressive or threatening manner toward the Town Commission, Staff, or other members of the public is prohibited. Those addressing the Commission shall avoid personal attacks against anyone, and the Presiding Officer has the authority to remove individuals from the Commission Chambers if such conduct persists after the Presiding Officer provides a warning that the individual is in violation of this policy.
- f. Town Manager Stevens provided overview of a citation issued for planting on the right-of-way for an A1A property and she mentioned that the goal is code compliance not enforcement.

Commissioner Wiescholak asked whether every resident that wanted to install plantings in the right-of-way had to fill out a right-of-way application, to which Town Manager Stevens noted that it was not enforced before she became Town Manager, but that a right-of-way application and hold harmless agreement is the standard procedure for the Town to allow encroachments into the right-of-way. Vice Mayor Coz stated that the right-of-way code should only be applied to new cases or development, and Town Manager Stevens stated that it is enforced to new developments and cases, such as the one presented. She also mentioned that staff has to consider any site line issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT – (3-minute individual limit)

Stella Kolb, 204 Beachway Drive, voiced her frustration about not being able to hear the Commission properly, and asked them to speak louder and remove their facemasks when speaking.

Lisa Ritota, 4 Hudson Avenue, asked for a status update on the seawall project near Edith Street and Anna Street, to which Town Manager Stevens mentioned that the contractor moved the heavy machinery off of the beach prior to turtle season as required, and that the project is on track to have the beach crossovers reopened by March 31, 2021.

Allison Adams, 5553 N. Ocean Blvd., voiced her frustration over the Town's enforcement over her plantings in the right-of-way adjacent to their property. She explained that the plantings were added to be a deterrent for traffic. She advocated for the Town to change the Code to allow plantings with a height restriction, such as neighboring municipalities.

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Robert Adams, 5553 N. Ocean Blvd., reiterated that the planting in the right-of-way was an attempt to deter traffic from damaging the landscaping adjacent to his property. He voiced his frustration with the Town's process and visits from code enforcement.

Town Clerk Armstrong read an email received by Carolann Besler, 5906 Old Ocean Blvd, into the record. Mrs. Besler commended Building Official Guy for his attentiveness and help in getting FPL workers to fix a possible safety hazard behind her property.

Ted Ritota, 4 Hudson Avenue, voiced his frustration with all the new regulations within the Town, and stated that there is a disconnect between the Town and its citizens. He stated that he has an issue and does not like how it is being handled.

Bruce Hindin, 5 Sabal Island Drive, gave an overview of the Sabal Island project that was approved last year for partial funding from the Town Commission, and gave a status update on the project. He noted that staff and residents spent many hours on the project, and that the Sabal Island Bridge is in need of repair.

AJ Emmanuel, 33 Sabal Island Drive, provided a further status update and informed that the Sabal Island project is near completion. He thanked the Mayor and Commissioners for approving the partial funds for the project as well as Public Works employees and the Town Manager for their assistance. Mayor de Haseth noted that Sabal Island now has a water bowl for pets.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (Items that do not require discussion)

1.
 - a. Adopt Minutes of Regular Town Commission Meeting of February 1, 2021
 - b. Authorize Town Manager Stevens to Expend Funds up to the Budgeted Amount for Outside Legal Counsel in FY21
 - c. Approval of a Standby Poll Worker for the March 9, 2021 Election
 - d. Approve Expenditure of \$14,000 to Beacon Software for Third Year Payment of Police Department CAD software including current year maintenance agreement

Commissioner Hurlburt moved to approve the consent agenda as presented; seconded by Vice Mayor Coz. Motion Carried 5-0.

Commissioner Wiescholak asked Allison & Robert Adams to stay in attendance so the Commission can address their concerns at the end of the meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

2. **Approve Expenditure of up to \$24,250 to Smith Engineering Consultants, Inc. to Develop Specifications and Provide Construction Phase Services for the Tropical Generator Replacement (By: Town Engineer Tropepe)**

Town Engineer Tropepe introduced the item by noting that the item is tied to the budgeted purchase of a new tropical generator. She explained that the engineering firm is needed to develop the specifications, configuration and construction phase services of the new tropical generator. She noted that the existing Tropical generator will be transferred to the Coconut pump station.

Mayor de Haseth called for public comment, and there was none.

Vice Mayor Coz asked if the new generator will physically fit at the Turtle Beach location, to which Town Engineer Tropepe stated that generators are smaller and more efficient, and that the generator will fit.

Commissioner Besler asked if the specifications are a necessity and if the estimated cost for the engineering firm is reasonable, and Town Engineer Tropepe stated that the contractor is familiar with the Town's customized system and trying to go with another contractor will increase the cost and the chances for future

issues. Commissioner Besler further asked if the contractor took advantage of the fact that the firm was a sole provider, to which Town Engineer Tropepe stated that the price is reasonable for the amount of work and the skill set needed.

Commissioner Hurlburt summarized the calculation set of the expenditure and stressed the necessity of the item.

Commissioner Wiescholak stated that the price seems high, but for the skill set needed that it is a good price, and asked if the price estimate included the placement of the new tropical generator and replacement of the generator on Coconut Lane, and Town Engineer Tropepe stated that the estimate includes both. Commissioner Wiescholak further asked if the existing Tropical station generator will fit in the location for it on Coconut Lane, and Town Engineer Tropepe stated that it will.

Vice Mayor Coz asked about the warranty on the new generator, and Town Engineer Tropepe stated she is not sure of how long the warranty will be, but that the warranty will be a part of the specifications drawn up by the engineering firm. Commissioner Wiescholak voiced the importance of knowing the warranty and if there is an option to pay for additional warranty. Mayor de Haseth asked Commissioner Wiescholak to work with Town Engineer Tropepe on this item and the warranty.

Vice Mayor Coz moved to Approve Expenditure of up to \$24,250 to Smith Engineering Consultants, Inc. to Develop Specifications and Provide Construction Phase Services for the Tropical Generator Replacement; seconded by Hurlburt. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Resolution No. 2021-02: A Resolution of the Town Commission of the Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida, Authorizing the Town Manager to Sign Agreements with FDOT Regarding Crosswalk Installation Near Crown Colony (By: Town Manager Stevens)

Town Clerk Armstrong read Resolution No. 2021-02 into the record by title only.

Town Manager Stevens advised that the Resolution will allow her as the Town Manager to sign all the forms needed for the application. She noted that the Crosswalk has not been approved, and that the Town is in the permitting process for the project.

Mayor de Haseth called for public comment.

Ron Kirn, 5510 N Ocean Blvd, stated that this has been an ongoing issue for a couple of years and that one of the issues is insufficient lighting. He explained the safety hazard that it causes to the residents in Crown Colony, and he explained the variety of recommendations to fix the lighting issues and that he is working with staff on the fix.

Salem Masarof, 5520 N. Ocean Blvd. and President of Crown Colony, stressed the need for the crosswalk and the lighting issue. He asked for a status update on the project, to which Town Manager Stevens stated that the Town is in the permitting process and that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is the one that will determine qualifications and will approve the project. Mr. Masarof voiced the frustration over the ongoing crosswalk approval process, and he asked if the Town can guarantee the crosswalk, to which Town Manager Stevens stated that she could not guarantee it, but that staff is working with FDOT to get the crosswalk approved. Mayor de Haseth concurred that staff and all elected officials are working hard to get the crosswalk approved and installed. Mr. Masarof stated that he appreciated the help, but that the ongoing process is frustrating.

Stella Kolb, 204 Beachway Drive, voiced her frustration that staff is not giving residents all the options and giving residents additional obstacles. Town Manager Stevens responded that FDOT is the one establishing

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the barriers for the crosswalk and that staff is working to overcome the obstacles. She noted that FDOT denied the first application for a crosswalk, and that the Town is working on the second application now, after receiving help to proceed with a second application by Representative Caruso.

Robert Adams, 5553 N. Ocean Blvd., stated that his property will receive additional foot traffic with people going to the beach, and that is why he needs a deterrent to ensure that people are not damaging his landscaping.

Commissioner Wiescholek explained the lighting issue and the obstacles faced during the installation of additional lights. He provided an alternate lighting option, such as Crown Colony installing the light pole on their property rather than having FPL install it in the right-of-way. He further explained that it would be less time to get the pole installed on Crown Colony property; however, they would have a monthly bill for the light pole. Mr. Masarof stated that Crown Colony would be willing to install the light pole on the property so long as it guarantees the crosswalk and eliminates the safety issues.

Vice Mayor Coz suggested for staff to ask FDOT to provide all the requirements for the crosswalk permit application, to which Town Manager Stevens stated that FDOT provided the Town with a list of requirements, and the Town's engineering firm is working on providing those requirements to FDOT so they will approve the application.

Commissioner Hurlburt stated that the Town does view this issue as a necessity and the issue is bureaucracy within FDOT, and Town Manager Stevens stated that if FDOT continues to give the Town a hard time, then she will reach out to Representative Caruso once again for help.

Commissioner Wiescholek asked if the Commission should approve expenditure amounts toward solving the lighting issue, to which Mayor de Haseth reiterated that the item is only to give permission to the Town Manager to sign documents for the crosswalk and that staff will present items when additional requirements are needed. Commissioner Besler stated that if residents are willing to share the cost for projects, then the Town should accept that help.

Commissioner Hurlburt moved to approve Resolution No. 2021-02; seconded by Vice Mayor Coz. Motion carried 5-0.

4. Succession Plan for Chief of Police Position, and Promotion of Lieutenant Jones to Chief of Police on April 7, 2022 (By: Town Manager Stevens)

Town Manager Stevens advised that the Chief will be retiring in April 2022, and that the Lieutenant Jones will become Chief of Police at that time. She further advised that in preparation for the Chief's retirement, Lieutenant Jones will be attending all meetings with Chief Hutchins in order to ensure a seamless transition. She further noted that he will be attending special training to become Chief over the year, and thanked Chief Hutchins for his service and helping with the succession plan.

Mayor de Haseth called for public comment.

Stella Kolb, 204 Beachway Drive, welcomed Lieutenant Jones to the position and voiced her appreciation for Chief Hutchins.

Gayle Breman, 5590 N. Ocean Blvd., applauded staff for their professionalism and kindness. She noted that they were doing a wonderful job.

Vice Mayor Coz read a portion of Lieutenant Jones' resume into the record, and congratulated him. All Commissioners congratulated Lieutenant Jones and thanked Chief Hutchins for his service. **There was a consensus of the Commission on moving forward with the succession plan.**

5. **Ordinance No. 2021-01: An Ordinance of the Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida, Amending Its Code of Ordinances By Amending Chapter 67 "Buildings and Building Regulations", Article III "Technical Codes and Other Construction Standards", Division 2 "Administration and Enforcement", Section 67-51 "Permit Required", To Amend the Requirements to Obtain a Demolition Permit and Provide For Penalties; and Amending Section 67-52 "Commencement and Duration of Construction" To Adjust the Timeframes for Construction; Providing for Codification, Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances, Severability, and an Effective Date.**

Town Clerk Armstrong read Ordinance No. 2021-01 into the record by title only.

Town Manager Stevens advised that the Ordinance would provide additional regulations for demolition. She noted that the staff worked with the Planning and Zoning Commission on the ordinance, and the proposed ordinance was approved by the P&Z.

Mayor de Haseth called for public comment, and there was none.

All Commissioners were in favor of the ordinance.

Commissioner Wiescholek moved adopt Ordinance 2021-01 on first reading; seconded by Commissioner Hurlburt. Motion Carried 5-0.

6. **Ordinance No. 2021-02: An Ordinance of the Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida, Amending Chapter 64 "Zoning," Article I "District Regulations" By Amending Section 64-1 "RSF And RSE Single-Family Residential Districts," Amending Section 64-2 "RMM Medium Density Multiple-Family Residential District," Amending Section 64-4 "RHM High Density Multiple-Family Residential District," and Amending Article II "Planned Residential Development" By Amending Section 64-24 "Development Standards" To Decrease the Height of Two-Story Buildings When FEMA Regulations are Implicated and to Adjust the Height of a Parapet So That It Does Not Extend Too Far Above the Roof; Providing for Codification, Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances, Severability, and an Effective Date.**

Town Clerk Armstrong read Ordinance No. 2021-01 into the record by title only.

Town Manager Stevens advised that the proposed ordinance addresses the residential building height and parapet height. The ordinance would require that the 7' NAVD be the point of measurement and for every foot increase in the floor elevation would cause a decrease in building height by 1 foot from the 36' building height, and that flat roof parapet be a maximum of 3' above the tie beam. She noted that P&Z recommended approval with the condition that a "Whereas" clause be added that the properties in Flood Zone X will not be impacted by this ordinance. Mayor de Haseth gave an explanation of flood zone X and recommended for residents to speak with Building Official Guy or Building Clerk Burns regarding any flood zone questions.

Mayor de Haseth called for public comment, and there was none.

Vice Mayor Coz stated that this ordinance may lower property values because it decreases the size of people's homes. He further stated that residents are being limited on what they can do with their property, and he asked for the Town Attorney to review the legal issues and for staff to discuss with contractors about the unintended consequences.

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Commissioner Besler asked if the homes already elevated will be impacted, to which Building Official Guy responded that the ordinance only addresses the properties affected by FEMA and not the homes within Flood Zone X.

Commissioner Hurlburt noted that the ordinance has been in the planning stages during the course of the Town going through three Town Attorneys and none of the Attorneys reviewing the ordinance had any issues in regards to the legality. She asked Building Official Guy how often FEMA renews the maps, and Building Official Guy stated it's about every 30 years.

Building Official Guy presented the Commission with plans of a two-story luxurious home that is under 30' in height that was recently built here in Ocean Ridge.

Ric Carey, Vice Chair of the Planning & Zoning Commission, 39 Spanish River Drive, mentioned that the ordinance does not decrease the height of the interior ceiling because that is ruled by the tie beam, which is regulated within our Code. He further mentioned that the only reduction is to the size of the roof. Neil Hennigan, Member of the Planning & Zoning Commission, 91 Island Drive South, noted that Ocean Ridge has one of the highest permissible structure heights to build to in the area, and that the ordinance only places a burden on the reduction of the roof. Vice Mayor Coz stated that he will review the ordinance and the Code in regards to the points being made.

Town Attorney Goddeau stated that she will review to see if there are any Bert J. Harris claims in regards to roof heights; however, that anyone can file a Bert J. Harris claim at any time and that a Bert J. Harris claim first comes to the Town to review the claim and validity.

Commissioner Besler asked the Town Attorney if the ordinance would make homes non-compliant, to which Mayor de Haseth stated that the regulation will only apply to new construction or substantial improvements. Commissioner Besler concurred that there could be a Bert J. Harris claim if the height is reduced, and Town Attorney Goddeau agreed to review before second reading.

Commissioner Wiescholek stated that if a home is destroyed by natural disaster, then the owner could rebuild the same structure, to which Building Official Guy stated that the footprint will stay the same, but the elevation will need to comply. Town Attorney Goddeau stated that she will review the code in regards to grandfathering in regards to the substantial improvement threshold and natural disasters.

Mayor de Haseth thanked everyone for their comments, and that the ordinance is predicated on FEMA and alleviating flooding in the Town.

Commissioner Hurlburt moved to adopt Ordinance 2020-02 on first reading; seconded by Commissioner Wiescholek. Motion carried 3-2 with Commissioner Besler and Vice Mayor Coz dissenting.

7. Resolution No. 2021-03: A Resolution of the Town Commission of the Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida, Strongly Encouraging the State Legislature to Oppose Senate Bill 522 and House Bill 219, and Any Companion Senate and House Bills Related to the Preemption of Local Laws Regarding Short Term Rentals (By: Town Manager Stevens)

Town Clerk Armstrong read Resolution No. 2021-03 into the record by title only.

Town Manager Stevens stated that the bills are an attack on home rule, and provided an overview of the House and Senate bills.

Mayor de Haseth called for public comment, and there was none.

Vice Mayor Coz asked if a similar resolution was adopted last year, to which Town Manager Stevens confirmed. She stated that similar bills were submitted by Legislators this session, and a new resolution is being introduced for those bills. All Commissioner were in favor of the Resolution.

Vice Mayor Coz moved to approve Resolution No. 2021-03; seconded by Commissioner Hurlburt. Motion carried 5-0.

8. Approve Budget Meeting Schedule for 2021 (By: Town Manager Stevens)

Town Manager Stevens advised that she prepared the budget meeting schedule based on availability and in a similar fashion as was proposed last year to hold the budget meetings prior to the Regular Town Commission meetings, with the exception of the Goal Setting Workshop and the Final Budget Hearing. She read the dates of the budget schedule into the record.

Mayor de Haseth called for public comment, and there was none.

Commissioner Hurlburt moved to approve the budget meeting schedule for 2021 as presented; seconded by Commissioner Wiescholek. Motion carried 5-0.

9. Update on No Wake Zones (By: Town Manager Stevens)

Town Manager Stevens advised that she researched no wake zones based on the Commission's direction, and found that the Town applied for a No Wake Zone in the past and was denied because the Town's main points were that property owners were sustaining infrastructure damage to docks and seawalls. She stated that if the Town wishes to proceed with a new application, boating safety needs to be the main point or the application will likely be denied again. She noted that the City of Delray Beach and the Town of Briny Breezes are going through the application process for a No Wake Zone, and she recommended that the Commission hold off to see how the application process goes with the other municipalities.

Mayor de Haseth called for public comment, and there was none.

All Commissioners concurred with deferring the application for a No Wake Zone until more information is received from the other jurisdictions. Commissioner Hurlburt further noted for the Commission to consider accidents to human life when discussing this item in the future.

Commissioner Hurlburt moved to defer an application for a No Wake Zone until more information is received from the City of Delray Beach and the Town of Briny Breezes; seconded by Commissioner Wiescholek. Motion carried 5-0.

10. Establish a Street Name for the New Private Road off Thompson Street (By: Town Manager Stevens)

Town Manager Stevens noted that as part of the re-plat of a property on Thompson Street west of A1A, there were requirements for off-site improvements, and one of those requirements was for the property owner to construct a private road from Thompson Street northward toward Corrine Street, with a dead end before Corrine Street in order for adequate access to both re-platted lots. She asked the Commission to establish a name for the new private road off Thompson Street.

Mayor de Haseth called for public comment.

Neil Hennigan, 91 Island Drive South, recommended "Betty Lane" as the name of the private road.

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Polly Joa, 35 Hersey Drive, recommended for the Town to name the private road after exemplary residents of Ocean Ridge. After reviewing possible names, Ms. Joa recommended “Whitney Way” as the name of the private road in honor of Dorothy Whitney, who owned, donated, and platted lots on the South end of Town. Ms. Joa noted that Vice Mayor Coz and Betty Bingham are in favor of Whitney Way as well.

Vice Mayor Coz concurred with the recommendation of Ms. Joa for “Whitney Way”. He gave a brief history of Dorothy Whitney’s accomplishment to the community, which included her instrumental part in donating the lots near Beachway Drive.

Commissioner Besler recommended to put a policy in place to have the homeowners pay the Town for the ability to choose the name of a new street; however, Town Manager Stevens stated this is time sensitive since the homeowner needs to get a property address. Town Attorney Goddeau noted that the policy idea is based on other jurisdictions that have a policy in which there is a donation schedule to name a building or street after, to which Mayor de Haseth noted that she is not in favor of such a policy.

Commissioner Hurlburt noted that City of Delray Beach has a donation based policy for naming streets and buildings, and she stated that she is in favor of using the name “Whitney” for the new private road, but she stated that she preferred for it to end in “Lane” and not “Way”.

Commissioner Wiescholak voiced his preference for Whitney being the new name of the private street, and he thanked Ms. Joa for presenting the research on Dorothy Whitney.

Vice Mayor Coz added that Betty Bingham is in favor of Dorothy Whitney as the name of the private road, and stated that he prefers Whitney Way as opposed to Whitney Lane.

Commissioner Hurlburt moved to name the new private road off Thompson Street Whitney Lane; seconded by Commissioner Wiescholak. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor de Haseth asked staff to announce the name in the newsletter. Commissioner Wiescholak suggested for Betty Bingham to provide names of all the exemplary residents from the past.

11. Budgeting for Commission Chambers Audio Repairs (By: Town Clerk Armstrong)

Town Clerk Armstrong advised that the audio system in the Chambers is no longer working and that it is in need of a complete replacement. She presented the Commission with alternate unreliable methods of conducting the current meeting, and noted that the methods used are not long-term. She noted the audio system does not work in the foyer, and Mayor de Haseth asked if there is external audio, to which Town Clerk Armstrong stated that there is audio on the patio that was installed by Chief Hutchins and Lieutenant Jones.

Mayor de Haseth called for public comment.

Zoanne Hennigan, 91 Island Drive South, is in favor of live audio feed and/or two-way communication for the meetings. She asked the Commission to spend the necessary funds to keep residents informed and to prioritize this in the next budget cycle.

All Commissioners were in favor of putting the item in the budget for FY 21-22.

Vice Mayor Coz moved to add Audio Repairs as a budget item for FY 21-22; seconded by Commissioner Hurlburt. Motion carried 5-0.

STAFF & COMMITTEE REPORTS

12. Planning & Zoning Commission

Mayor de Haseth invited Vice Chair Carey of the Planning & Zoning Commission to the podium. Mr. Carey advised that his report summarizing the last P&Z Meeting was included in the meeting package and asked if Commissioners had any questions. There were none.

13. Town Attorney

There is no report.

14. Town Manager

Town Manager Stevens advised that her report was included in the meeting package. She reported on the following:

- In the month of February, we celebrated the following employee anniversaries with the Town: Assistant Town Clerk Kathie Gatewood, 2 years; Police Officer Lequandra Beckford, 3 years; Police Investigator Aaron Choban, 3 years; and Dispatch Manager Jessica Simpson, 16 years. We thank them for their service and dedication to the Town of Ocean Ridge!
- The photometric plan has been completed for the Crown Colony crosswalk. Engenuity submitted the plan and updated drawings to FDOT for final approval of the crosswalk. FDOT reviewed the Town's application and made comments for additional information and paperwork needed, and additional lighting may be required. Town Staff is currently working on those requirements, and we will keep you all updated as to the status of the permit when we receive additional notification from FDOT.
- The Anna/Edith Street landscape plans were submitted to the Town by the contractor. Town Staff met with the Citizens' group representative and submitted our comments back to the contractor. We are awaiting the finalized landscape plan from the contractor at this time.
- At last month's Town Commission meeting, Town Staff presented an enhanced communications plan. Overall consensus was that the Town was already doing a good job communicating with the public, however, Town Commission consensus was to wait for survey results before any decisions are made. The updated survey results show that 103 people responded to the survey, with 92% agreeing that the communication from the Town to the public is adequate at this time. If the Town Commission would like staff to re-visit this, we would need consensus direction to make changes that would cost the Town for programs that were not budgeted for in the FY21 budget.
- FDOT has inspected the Inlet Cay and Sabal Island bridges, and the inspection reports show that the deterioration to the bridges is fairly extensive. Town Engineer Tropepe consulted with a structural engineer who estimates that the cost of the bridge repairs will be around \$200,000 to \$300,000. This will be a budget proposal for FY22.

Vice Mayor Coz asked if there are any grants available for bridge repairs, to which Town Manager Stevens stated that she is not aware of any, but she would work with the Grants Administrator.

- The South Lake Worth Inlet Management Study that was performed by APTIM Environmental & Infrastructure, LLC has been submitted to the Town for review, and the County will be holding a Technical Review Committee meeting on March 31st to review the sediment budget with Town Manager's in Ocean Ridge and Manalapan. The study is on file in the Town Manager's office.
- Please check the Town's website regularly for important informational updates regarding COVID-19 vaccine opportunities. Town Staff will continue to gather information regarding vaccines for our residents to ensure everyone who wishes to be vaccinated can do so.
- Palm Beach County extended the emergency order until March 19th that mandates facial coverings be worn in all businesses and establishments, in all county and municipal buildings, on Palm Tran, and in any outdoor public places where social distancing cannot be accomplished.

15. Police Chief

Chief Hutchins advised that the Police Department report was included in the meeting package, and reminded of the Shredding event hosted by the Town on April 17, 2021 in the parking lot behind Town Hall. He read into the record a commendation for all the officers that participated in a high risk traffic stop.

16. Town Engineer & Public Works

Mayor de Haseth advised that the report was included in the meeting package. There were no questions from Commissioners.

17. Building Official

Building Official Guy advised that his report was included in the meeting package, and spoke about the first Building Official forum for contractors and homeowners. He noted that the Flood Administrator for the Town of Ocean Ridge is Lisa Burns, and that the Town will be going from a class 7 to a class 6 in the Community Rating System.

Commissioner Besler asked Building Official Guy how he accomplished performing so many inspections over the past month, to which Building Official Guy stated that he is doing his best and may need additional help in the future.

Commissioner Wiescholek addressed Allison & Robert Adams comments regarding code enforcement for plantings in the Town's right-of-way by noting that the Town has regulations to abide by; however, he understands the issue in regards to traffic ruining the grass in that area, and he recommended that the Town waive any application fee for the right-of-way application for the Adams residence and to remove the application fee for future right-of-way applications. Robert Adams, 5553 N. Ocean Blvd., voiced his appreciation to Commissioner Wiescholek, but noted that he is still unsure on how to solve the situation and he reiterated his frustration with all the visits from Police Officers or the Building Official. Mayor de Haseth asked Town staff and Commissioner Wiescholek to work with Mr. & Mrs. Adams to address the issue. The Commission consented to waive any fees for meetings with the Adams', and/or for staff to come back with possible solutions at the next meeting.

TOWN COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

18. Mayor Update (By: Mayor de Haseth)

Mayor de Haseth decided to remove this item due to time, and took the opportunity to wish Commissioner Besler well on his future endeavors.

19. Employment Contract Term Limits (By: Commissioner Wiescholek)

Commissioner Wiescholek asked to defer this item to the next meeting due to time.

20. Explore Options for an In-House Town Attorney (By: Commissioner Wiescholek)

Commissioner Wiescholek asked the rest of the Commission to entertain the idea of hiring an in-house Town Attorney due to all the litigation faced by the Town.

Mayor de Haseth asked for Town Attorney Goddeau to speak on this matter, to which Town Attorney Goddeau noted the benefits of an in-house Town Attorney, but also reminded that a Town needs an Attorney that specializes in a lot of fields, such as Municipal Law, Labor & Employment Law, and/or specific lawsuits/litigation. She noted that it would be difficult to find an Attorney that specializes in all the fields needed and so the town would also likely need to hire special legal counsel to help with specialized fields, which could be more expensive. Commissioners were in favor of remaining with a legal firm at this time.

REGULAR TOWN COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES MARCH 1, 2021

(Town Clerk's Note: The following item was added during the approval of agenda.)

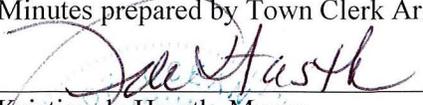
21. Town Manager's Evaluation

Commissioner Hurlburt ask to defer this item to the next meeting due to time.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Town Clerk Armstrong, and adopted by the Town Commission on April 5, 2021.



Kristine de Haseth, Mayor

ATTEST:



Karla M. Armstrong, Town Clerk

