

**TOWN OF ASTATULA
MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MINUTES**



**REGULAR SESSION
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2019
TOWN HALL**

Having been duly advertised as required by law, Mayor Robert Natale called the Planning Workshop to order at 6.05pm. Vice-Mayor Mack gave the invocation and Mayor Natale led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present:

Robert Natale, Mayor
Mitchell Mack, Vice-Mayor
Gayle Sikkema
Stephen Cross

Staff Present:

Graham Wells, Town Clerk

Absent:

Kimberly Kobera

Roll Call was performed, and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Mayor Natale opened the meeting asking how the meeting is noticed. Clerk Wells stated that the agenda is posted to the website and the bulletin board and also put on the sign in the parking lot. The Mayor wanted no other notices on the sign when Planning Workshops were being advertised and for the notice to be displayed longer so that motorists can see it.

He also wanted to use social media more through the towns Facebook page or Astatula peeps to help get residents to the meetings. Also, the email list that the town has from the website sign up will be used. He felt that the residents had to buy into the plan or it would not work.

For this meeting the Mayor wanted to brainstorm where we want to be in twenty years' time and what resources are necessary to get us there. He wanted to bounce ideas and then work backwards to ten and then five years out to get to where we want to go.

His first priority is that Town Hall is not being operated from a mobile home. He wants a decent block constructed building that is hurricane proof. Councilman Mack said that the Public Works building is falling apart and would want to move the operation of PW to Swaffer park which is closer to where the PW services are required. The current building could then be demolished, and Town Hall be built on that site or another site somewhere else in town; maybe Swaffer Park close to the new community building. The current Town Hall site which is prime commercial property could then be developed, sold or leased on a ninety-nine term with the income coming into the Town.

The mayor added that whatever the plan if we were still in this building in twenty years' time then we would have failed.

The discussion then turned to the traffic issues that the town will face in the future on CR 561 and the need to build a ring road. Mr. Cross brought up a P, D & E study that was conducted in 2010 for 561. Eventually Hancock Road will be extended across CR 561A to join up with CR455 and then onto CR561 through Astatula. This would not be good for the Town.

The Mayor stated that if we do not manage and plan for the future, then the developers will bulldoze over us. We need to sow the seeds of a bypass now. Councilwoman Sikkema asked what we could do to make this happen. Councilman Cross suggested that we should set up a meeting with the County and the Lake-Sumter MPO.

The ISBA map was reviewed and the Mayor said that we need to annex all of that land into the Town before someone else comes calling. He added that we should get a list of all the large land owners and have them come to the meetings to ascertain what they would want to do with their land.

To retain the small town feel of Astatula, any new development would be pushed to the outskirts. A downtown area should be developed to make a central place for people to come with shops surrounding a park area. The land by the boat ramp can also be developed with villas and waterfront restaurants to bring tourists into the town.

Water and sewer are also a big factor when developing a commercial node. The town can connect to the sewer system in Tavares, but we would need to come up with a plan and the funding to do it.

The Mayors Message letter which is going out with the newsletter was reviewed and Councilwoman Sikkema made some suggestions on changes that she would recommend to polish it up. The cemetery rules letter was also approved by council including the time period given to clean the lots up.

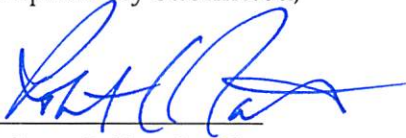
Several dates were suggested for the next planning meeting to invite the Lake County Executive Director of Economic Development, Brandon Matulka; either April 23 or 25 at 6:00 pm.

Councilman Mack requested to add a special events ordinance to the agenda of the next Council meeting to deal with the Central Florida Motorsports Park and the complaints that have been received. The owner wants to work with the town and has applied for his business tax receipt for the first time ever.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Mayor Natale adjourned the meeting at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert C. Natale, Mayor

ATTEST:



Graham Wells, Town Clerk

