

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



**REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY APRIL 12, 2021
TOWN HALL**

Having been duly advertised as required by law, Vice-Mayor Kimberly Kobera called the Regular Session meeting to order at 7.01pm. Councilwoman Sikkema gave the invocation and Vice-Mayor Kobera led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present:

Kimberly Kobera, Vice-Mayor
Steve Cross
Gayle Sikkema
Orita Issartel

Absent:

Mitchell Mack, Mayor

Staff Present:

Graham Wells, Town Clerk
Wally Hoagland, Police Chief

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

CITIZENS QUESTIONS AND COMMENT

There was no public comment.

AGENDA REVIEW

There were no changes requested.

MEETING MINUTES

Approval of Minutes for March 8, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

MOTION by Councilman Cross to approve the minutes as shown above; SECONDED by Councilwoman Sikkema

For: Cross, Sikkema, Kobera, Issartel

MOTION CARRIED 4-0

PUBLIC HEARING

FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2021-02 AMENDING SEC. 10-1 OF THE CODE TO INCLUDE THE ADOPTION OF THE FIRE PREVENTION CODE BY REFERENCE.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF ASTATULA, FLORIDA, AMENDING AND RESTATING SECTION 10-1 OF THE TOWN'S CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ADOPT THE FLORIDA FIRE PREVENTION CODE; PROVIDING FINDINGS AND PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The building code was updated with effect from January 2021. While Sec.10-1 allows for the new Building Code to be adopted by reference, it does not include the Fire Prevention Code. Ordinance 2021-02 amends Sec. 10-1 to include both. The ordinance was advertised on April 1, 2021.

A motion to read the ordinance title was made by Councilman Cross and seconded by Councilwoman Sikkema. Mr. Cross read the title and the Vice-Mayor opened public comment. Clerk Wells explained that this allowed for any future amendments to the Florida Building Code or the Fire Code to be adopted automatically. There was no public comment, and the Vice-Mayor requested a motion to approve the ordinance.

MOTION by Councilwoman Sikkema, to approve Ordinance 2021-02; SECONDED by Councilman Cross.

A Roll Call vote was taken.

Cross YES

Sikkema YES

Kobera YES

Issartel YES

MOTION CARRIED 4-0

FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2021-06 INCREASING THE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES TAX RATE FROM 4.4 PERCENT TO 5.22 PERCENT.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF ASTATULA, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE LOCAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES TAX; CHANGING THE TOWN'S ADOPTED RATE FROM 4.400% TO 5.220%; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; PROVING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Communications Services Tax rate, the tax on cable and internet services was established by the town over a decade ago at a rate of 4.4%. Almost without exception all other town and cities in Lake County have an adopted rate of 5.22%. This may not seem a great difference, less than a dollar to the average home but collectively is a loss in revenue to the town of \$5,000 per year. Following its adoption, the ordinance along with the necessary documentation will be submitted to Department of Revenue. If approved, the change will take place in January 2022. The ordinance was advertised on April 1, 2021.

Clerk Wells explained what the tax was for and that the rates charged by all other cities in Lake County was higher and most charged 5.22%. This was to bring the rate in line with other towns and cities. The Vice-Mayor opened public comment.

Karen Smith asked what the money could be spent on and whether or not the citizens of the town got to vote on it. Clerk wells responded that the money went into the general fund along with other taxes collected and that it was solely a decision for the council to make and the citizens were not entitled to vote on it.

Sean Donnelly asked about the use of the tax and where the town stood on total funding at the end of the last financial year. Clerk Wells responded.

There being no further comment, the Vice-Mayor closed public comment and asked for questions from the Board. There were no questions from the Board and a motion to read by title was requested.

A motion to read the ordinance title was made by Councilman Cross and seconded by Councilwoman Sikkema. Mr. Cross read the title and the Vice-Mayor requested a motion to approve the ordinance.

MOTION by Councilman Cross, to approve Ordinance 2021-06; SECONDED by Councilwoman Issartel.

A Roll Call vote was taken.

Cross YES

Sikkema YES

Kobera NO

Issartel YES

MOTION CARRIED 3-1

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2021-08 ADOPTING THE LAKE COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ASTATULA, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE LAKE COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Lake County is required to update the County's Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) plan every five years. On February 9, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners approved a Resolution to approve the 2020 update to the LMS. Each municipality in the County should adopt the County's LMS to be eligible for future Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding if they do not have their own mitigation plan. HMGP funding typically becomes available after disasters such as a hurricane.

The Vice-Mayor opened public comment; there being none, she closed public comment. There were no questions from the Board and a motion to read the title was requested. A motion to read the resolution by title only was made by Councilman Cross and seconded by Councilwoman Sikkema. Mr. Cross read the title and the Vice-Mayor requested a motion to approve the resolution.

MOTION by Councilwoman Sikkema, to approve Resolution 2021-08; SECONDED by Councilwoman Issartel.

A Roll Call vote was taken.

Cross YES

Sikkema YES

Kobera YES

Issartel YES

MOTION CARRIED 4-0

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT FOR BEACON SOFTWARE FOR UTILITY BILLING.

The Town is installing Badger meters as residents are hooked up to the towns water system. The Beacon system allows us to read the meters through the cell tower and integrate the information to the billing software that we already have set up. Their contract to use the Beacon software has been reviewed by our attorney and has been back and forth several times. What is presented is the best compromise that we can achieve.

The town has investigated alternate products to use instead of badger which we have found to be inferior and the ongoing costs more expensive. Badger is by far the best solution for the town as we roll out connections to existing residents and to the new subdivisions.

There were no questions from the Board and the Vice-Mayor requested a motion granting approval for the Mayor to sign the Badger Meter Beacon AMA Managed Solution General Agreement.

MOTION by Councilman Cross, to authorize the Mayor to sign the Badger Meter Beacon AMA Managed Solution General Agreement; SECONDED by Councilwoman Sikkema.

A Roll Call vote was taken.

Cross YES
Sikkema YES
Kobera YES
Issartel YES

MOTION CARRIED 4-0

DISCUSSION ON THE TOWN HAVING A STREETLIGHT INSTALLED AT CR48 AND FAIR ST. FOR SAFETY AT THE BUS PICK-UP - COUNCILWOMAN SIKKEMA

This item was brought by Councilwoman Sikkema who was approached by the Meadows subdivision regarding the pickup point on the corner of Fair St. and CR48 for the children waiting for the school bus in the morning. It is dark at that time with limited place for them to stand and concern for their safety. She had been in contact with Lake County to see if they would install a streetlight as both are county roads. They did not want to help and said it was Astatula's responsibility.

Councilman Cross felt that if the bus stop is not safe for the students to wait, it is the responsibility of the school board to make it safe or move the stop. Mr. Cross suggested that the bus goes into the Meadows and pick the children up. Ms. Sikkema said that there is a shortage of bus drivers and they do not have the time.

Several options were discussed on the location of a light including across the other side of CR48 where there is an existing pole. Another possibility is a solar light with a battery and timer to come on just on school mornings for a maximum of two hours. The cost is estimated to be less than a thousand dollars. This could potentially be funded by the town, the school board or possibly a donation from the Sonnentag Foundation. It was left to get some more accurate details on the product and the cost.

BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT REVIEW

Finance Officer Wells announced that General Fund revenues were \$172,685 over budget which included the addition of \$179,912 in Cares Act funding. There had been no revenues received for Ad Valorem Tax or Solid Waste Assessments for March at that time.

GF Expenses were \$26,695 under budget YTD, which included the \$25,794 budgeted carry forward surplus. There would be a budget amendment next month to cover the new pistols purchased by the Police Department and the \$7,500 paid to Pennoni for the fiber grant preparation. Transportation revenues were up \$2,635 and expenses \$12,212 under budget. Infrastructure Fund revenues were up \$15,008 and expenses were \$4,172 over budget. There was also a budgeted \$41,664 carry forward surplus amount. From the Enterprise (Utility) Fund, revenues had exceeded expenses by \$4,268 and the town had paid \$238,525 for the construction progress on the well with a further \$265,475 to pay.

The movement on the bank balances was explained along with the March repayment of \$10,000 on the loan for the community center. The balance of the loan is \$190,000. The balances at the end of March are shown below.

March Bank Balances:

General Fund:	640,482.78
Impact Fees:	37,835.21
Transportation Fund:	137,995.94
Infrastructure Fund:	22,598.52
Enterprise Fund:	10,022.83 plus \$265,475 for the new well.
Cash Drawer:	150.00

COUNCIL DEPARTMENT & COMMITTEE REPORT

Finance - Councilman Cross - NONE

Public Works - Mayor Mack - ABSENT

Public Safety/Code Enforcement - Councilwoman Kobera - NONE

Office - LDR's, Ordinances, Legal - Councilwoman Sikkema - NONE

Economic Development - Councilwoman Issartel - Asked about annexing the enclave on the lake into the town. The Clerk reported that the attorney opinion was that it could not be forced to annex into the town.

STAFF REPORTS

Town Attorney - Heather Ramos - ABSENT

Police Department - Chief Hoagland - Officer LaJeunesse had been awarded officer of the year by the Leesburg Rotary Club. Officer Calhoun was going to have surgery on his shoulder and during the period he will be off, the town would revert to complaint-based enforcement. He announced that the Astatula Dawgs football team had won its first three matches. All the matches are being played away until the Swaffar Park ball field is resurfaced. The Refuge of Love Church were having a soccer tournament at Swaffar Park on Saturday April 24th.

Town Clerk - Graham Wells - NONE

REVIEW

- a. Items for Workshops and possible dates - NONE
- b. Items put forward for the next Council meeting - NONE
- c. Review of items needing Special Meetings and possible dates - NONE

COUNCIL MEMBER MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS - Chief Hoagland said that officers had been monitoring speeding on Georgia Avenue and the claims of high speeds were not substantiated.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Vice-Mayor Kobera adjourned the meeting at 8:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mitchell Mack, Mayor

ATTEST:



Graham Wells, Town Clerk

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State of Florida
Department of Education
Tallahassee, Florida

Wm. J. ...

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