

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



**REGULAR SESSION  
MONDAY JUNE 14, 2021  
TOWN HALL**

Having been duly advertised as required by law, Mayor Mack called the Regular Session meeting to order at 7.00pm. He gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Members Present:**

Mitchell Mack, Mayor  
Gayle Sikkema  
Orita Issartel

**Absent:**

Kimberly Kobera, Vice-Mayor  
Steve Cross

**Staff Present:**

Graham Wells, Town Clerk  
Wally Hoagland, Police Chief

Roll Call was performed, and it was determined that a quorum was present. The Mayor welcomed Mr. Skip McCall from WCA. Mr. McCall gave an explanation for the poor service that the town was receiving on its garbage collection. It was due to the shortage of labor created partly by COVID and also the fact that people were being paid to stay at home. They have increased their hourly wage and added a sign on bonus to attract drivers and the situation will get back to normal as they recruit new employees.

In light of the deficiency of service he stated that WCA would not be applying the CPI increase in the rates as per the contract. Mayor Mack thanked him for coming and for providing insight to the problems that they have been having.

**CITIZENS QUESTIONS AND COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

The were no changes to the agenda.

**MEETING MINUTES**

Approval of Minutes for May 10, 2021 Regular Council Meeting

**MOTION by Councilwoman Sikkema to approve the minutes as shown above; SECONDED  
by Councilwoman Issartel**

**For: Issartel, Sikkema, Mack**

**MOTION CARRIED 3-0**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2021-09. RENEWING THE LAKE COUNTY AMBULANCE MSTU FOR THE PROVISION OF AMBULANCE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ASTATULA, FLORIDA, ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 125.01(1)(q), FLORIDA STATUTES, EXTENDING THE TOWN'S INCLUSION IN THE COUNTY-WIDE MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT FOR THE PROVISION OF AMBULANCE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, AS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

The inclusion in the county-wide municipal service taxing unit for the provision of ambulance and emergency medical services has been adopted every three years by ordinance and is scheduled to expire on July 19, 2021. As the town cannot provide ambulance service and to save having to advertise and pass an ordinance every three years, the following language has been added in Section 2.

*The Town shall continue to be included in Municipal Service Taxing Unit unless and until the Town provides notice to the County of the Town's desire to not be included. In such event the Town must provide written notice to the County on or before March 1 and the Town will no longer be included in the Municipal Service Taxing Unit beginning on October 1 of the same year.*

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sikkema to read by title and seconded by Councilwoman Issartel. The title was read by Mayor Mack. He opened public comment and there being none requested a motion to approve.

**MOTION by Councilwoman Sikkema to adopt Ordinance 2021-09; SECONDED by Councilwoman Issartel.**

**A Roll Call vote was taken.**

**Sikkema YES**

**Issartel YES**

**Mack YES**

**MOTION CARRIED 3-0**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSAL FOR GRANT APPLICATION FOR UTILITIES – PENNONI.**

Mayor Mack explained that there is a potential opportunity for the town to apply for two grants to fund a new wastewater plant (WWP) for the town. Based on best estimates, the cost for land acquisition and to install the WWP range from \$7,000,000 to \$8,500,000 and would be applied for in two stages.

The first stage is a 50% matching grant which if successful would at the high estimate give the town \$4,250,000. The cost for conceptual planning and grant application is \$7,500.00 which is what is being requested tonight.

If successful in the first stage, the second stage is a further grant application through the DEP State Revolving fund which if successful would fund 80% of the \$4,250,000 as the town is a REDI community. This would leave a balance that the town would have to pay towards the project of \$850,000.

Following discussion about water and wastewater grant funding, the mayor requested a motion to approve the addendum to the agreement with Pennoni and the proposed cost to make the application for the wastewater system grant.

**MOTION by Councilwoman Sikkema, to approval in the amount of \$7,500.00 and for the Mayor to sign the agreement contingent on confirmation that new wastewater systems are eligible for grant funding; SECONDED by Councilwoman Issartel.**

**A Roll Call vote was taken.**

**Sikkema YES**

**Issartel YES**

**Mack YES**

**MOTION CARRIED 3-0**

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2021-11 BUDGET AMENDMENT.**

Clerk wells gave a detailed overview of the budget amendment, the details of which are shown below.

**General Fund:**

572.640: The amount of \$6,000.00 for the purchase of tables and chairs for the new Community Center.

522.600: The amount of \$12,000.00 was approved by Council at the March 8, 2021 regular meeting for part payment of the Chlorination Building from Public Facilities Impact Fees.

521.121, 210 & 220: The amount of \$20,000.00 was approved by council at the May 10, 2021 for employment costs for an additional part time officer for the four-month period to September 30, 2021.

**Infrastructure Fund:**

533.620: The Amount of \$25,000.00 was approved by Council at the March 8, 2021 regular meeting for part payment of the Chlorination Building.

**Transportation Fund:**

541.640: The Amount of \$95,000.00 was approved by Council at the January 11, 2021 meeting for the purchase of a John Deere Backhoe machine.

A motion to read by title only was made by Councilwoman Sikkema, Seconded by Councilwoman Issartel and unanimously approved. The Resolution title was read by the Mayor. He opened public comment and there being none requested a motion to approve.

**MOTION by Councilwoman Sikkema to adopt Resolution 2021-11 Budget Amendment; SECONDED by Councilwoman Issartel.**

**A Roll Call vote was taken.**

**Sikkema YES**

**Issartel YES**

**Mack YES**

**MOTION CARRIED 3-0**

**APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH LAKE COUNTY FOR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER FOR 2021-22.**

For the past three years the Town has provided a School Resource Officer at the Astatula Elementary School. This contract renews the agreement for the 2021-2022 school year at a new rate of \$51,585.00 which represents an increase of \$3,585.00 over last year. The agreement is the same as prior years and has been reviewed by the towns legal counsel.

**MOTION by Councilwoman Sikkema to approve the agreement for a School Resource Office with Lake County Schools; SECONDED by Councilwoman Issartel.**

**A Roll Call vote was taken.**

**Sikkema YES**

**Issartel YES**

**Mack YES**

**MOTION CARRIED 3-0**

**BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT REVIEW**

Clerk Wells reported that ad valorem revenue had fallen short of expectations by \$10,000, likely due to the lack of tax sales normally received in May. Solid waste revenue was also short by \$4,648 for the same reason as it was on the tax roll. Expectation for revenue for the new community center were also low due to COVID. Overall YTD revenues were \$158,012 over budget after the \$38,000 budget amendment.

All departments were under budget for expenses with the exception of Law Enforcement. The overspend of \$7,208 was due to operating an old fleet of vehicles, rising cost of fuel, education, and the purchase of new pistols. Also, the \$3,050 from the sale of the old pistols has gone into revenues.

There was little movement on the bank balances other than the transportation fund following the purchase of the Backhoe machine which was \$92,000. The line of credit for the community center stands at \$170,000 at the end of May.

The transportation fund was \$6,000 over on revenues and \$20,000 under on expenses against budget. The infrastructure fund was \$30,000 over on revenues and \$51,000 under on expenses against budget and the enterprise (utility) fund revenues were \$5,680 more than expenses.

The balances at the end of May are shown below.

**May Bank Balances:**

General Fund:	629,494.32
Impact Fees:	31,691.75
Transportation Fund:	53,947.57
Infrastructure Fund:	12,962.18
Enterprise Fund:	(1,936.08) plus \$205,562.74 to complete the new well).
Cash Drawer:	150.00

**COUNCIL DEPARTMENT & COMMITTEE REPORT**

*Finance - Councilman Cross - ABSENT*  
*Public Works - Mayor Mack - NONE*  
*Public Safety/Code Enforcement - Councilwoman Kobera - ABSENT*  
*Office - LDR's, Ordinances, Legal - Councilwoman Sikkema - NONE*  
*Economic Development - Councilwoman Issartel - NONE*

**STAFF REPORTS**

*Town Attorney - Heather Ramos - ABSENT*

*Police Department - Chief Hoagland* - said that we would have to take a serious look at next years budget for vehicle repairs and employee raises. He stated that garbage truck drivers were being paid significantly more than his officers who were about \$6,000 behind on what other agencies are paying. He said that Jackie was promoting a back-to-school drive. There is a box in the lobby for supplies donations.

*Town Clerk - Graham Wells - NONE*

**REVIEW**

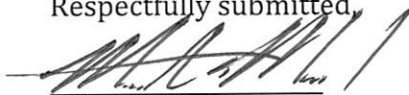
- a. Items for Workshops and possible dates - NONE
- b. Items put forward for the next Council meeting - NONE
- c. Review of items needing Special Meetings and possible dates - NONE

**COUNCIL MEMBER MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS** - Clerk Wells answered Councilwoman Sikkema's question about the streetlight on Fair Street. Discussion ensued.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business Vice-Mayor Kobera adjourned the meeting at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

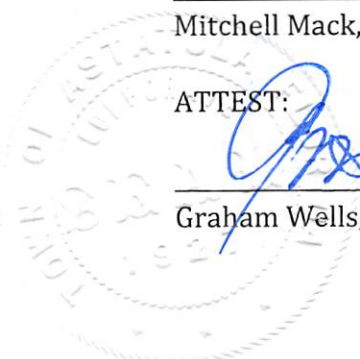


Mitchell Mack, Mayor

ATTEST:



Graham Wells, Town Clerk



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