

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



**SPECIAL SESSION  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2022  
TOWN HALL**

Having been duly advertised as required by law, Mayor Mack called the Emergency Session meeting to order at 6:31pm. He led the Pledge of Allegiance and had a moment of silence.

**Members Present:**

Mitchell Mack, Mayor  
Orita Issartel  
Gayle Sikkema  
Zane Teeters

**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**

Lavon Silverwell – 23547 Robbins Road Astatula spoke about the need for a library in the town.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

The Mayor requested a change in the order for new business to bring item three forward to item one. A motion was made by Councilwoman Sikkema; seconded by Councilman Teeters and unanimously approved.

**MINUTES**

Approval of Minutes for July 18, 2022 Budget Workshop  
Approval of Minutes for July 27, 2022 Budget Workshop

**MOTION by Councilman Teeters to approve the minutes shown above; SECONDED by Councilwoman Sikkema**

**For: Issartel, Sikkema, Teeters, Mack**

**MOTION CARRIED 4-0**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL TO SUPPORT THE LAKE COUNTY SHERIFFS, BOOTS, BUCKLES AND BADGES GALA.**

Prior to COVID, the Town had supported the Sheriffs GALA by taking a table at a cost of \$1,000.00 which was budgeted. This year the cost is \$2,500.00 and is not in the budget. Although the event is not until October, the payment is due now and must be approved by council.

Chief Hoagland gave an overview of this Charitable event, who attended, and what the money was raised for. The council discussed the cost and the merit of the event and decided to go with one table of eight for this year and put it in the budget for the next year.

**MOTION by Teeters that the council grant the chiefs request for \$2,500.00 to reserve a table of eight at the Lake County Sheriffs, Boots, Buckles and Badges Gala; SECONDED by Councilwoman Sikkema.**

**A Roll Call vote was taken.**

**Issartel YES**

**Sikkema YES**

**Teeters YES**

**Mack YES**

**MOTION CARRIED 4-0**

**DISCUSSION ON THE INCREASE TO THE SOLID WASTE RATE.**

The Mayor gave an overview of current situation with the solid waste industry and the difficulties that they were going through. He cited the four-million-dollar contract that the county had walked away from which involved \$600,000.00 in liquidate damages with GFL Environmental. He added that he had talked to Kirby Smith, County Commissioner, and staff withinside of the county.

GFL had tentatively said that due to contractual issues with their partners for the disposal of recycling, they were coming to the town requesting a \$2.40 increase per household to continue the service. They were talking to an alternative partner in the hope that they would be able to continue the collection service without increasing the costs to the residents. They assured us that we would know ahead of the Solid Waste hearing scheduled for September 12, 2022.

The Clerk emphasized that the regular increase allowed for in their contract had been approved and the only question was whether the town passed the 4.97% increase, totaling \$11.45 per household to the residents. This would be voted on at the Public Hearing. He added that there has not been an increase for the past three years and made the comparison of the charge that was being levied in Howey in the Hills. If the rate is not increased to the residents, the budget would have to be amended to the tune of \$9,000. These were all considerations to take into account when voting at the public hearing.

**FURTHER REVIEW OF THE BUDGET FOR 2022-23.**

Clerk Wells went over the two versions in presentation of the budget documents. The Chief said that we needed to take out the car that was in the infrastructure fund as it would affect the grant that we had applied for. The Clerk agreed to do this. Councilman Teeters felt that \$4,000 for a new council table was unreasonable and questioned whether it should be removed. Clerk Wells stated that the budgeted amount was only \$2,500, the other \$1,500 was to replace the Mayors computer. No decision was made to take it out.

The Mayor said that he would be bringing some paving work for the council to approve from the Transportation Fund estimated at around \$20,000. The Clerk said that there was more than that amount in the budget for 2022-23 and if more was needed, it could be brought forward from reserves. The Mayor added that the gas tax was based on miles of roads in the city limit and that Colina Del Lago would be added.

Clerk Wells asked if council wanted to add the Belts & Buckles Gala into next years budget. It was agreed to add \$2,500 to the budget for one table. Councilman Teeters wanted clarity on the cost of pest control for town hall and the police department. Clerk Wells gave an explanation.

Clerk Wells stressed the importance of hashing all the questions our so that when going into the budget hearings there is no further discussion needed. After the tentative hearing, the town must advertise the budget in the Orlando Sentinel, after which no further changes can be made.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Teeters and seconded by Councilman Issartel. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mitchell Mack, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Graham Wells, Town Clerk

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