

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



**REGULAR SESSION
TUESDAY OCTOBER 11, 2022
TOWN HALL**

Having been duly advertised as required by law, Mayor Mack called the Regular Session meeting to order at 6:33pm. He gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present:

Mitchell Mack, Mayor
Stephen Cross, Vice-Mayor
Gayle Sikkema
Orita Issartel
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

Carole Reinhardt – 25521 Madison Street, Astatula made a general plea to stop building more houses in Astatula.

Mr. Banks Helfrich - 9100 Sams Lake Rd. Clermont, 34711 gave an impassioned call that citizens become engaged and turn out to vote in the upcoming election.

AGENDA REVIEW

There were no changes to the agenda.

MEETING MINUTES

Approval of Minutes for July 11, 2022 Regular Council Meeting.
Approval of Minutes for August 8, 2022 Regular Council Meeting.
Approval of Minutes for September 6, 2022 Special Council Meeting.
Approval of Minutes for September 12, 2022 Solid Waste Public Hearing
Approval of Minutes for September 13, 2022 Regular Council Meeting
Approval of Minutes for September 15, 2022 Tentative Budget Hearing
Approval of Minutes for September 27, 2022 Emergency Council Meeting
Approval of Minutes for September 29, 2022 Final Budget Hearing

MOTION by Vice-Mayor Cross to approve the minutes shown above; SECONDED by Councilwoman Issartel

For: Cross, Sikkema, Issartel, Teeters, Mack

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

PUBLIC HEARING

FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2022-22 ADOPTING A NEW COMPENSATION SCHEDULE.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF ASTATULA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE MONTHLY PAY FOR THE TOWN MAYOR TO BE EFFECTIVE ON OCTOBER 1, 2022; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Section 2 of Article 2 of the Town's Charter provides that the Town Council may determine the compensation of the Mayor and Council Members by ordinance, and the ordinance increasing such compensation shall be becoming effective on October 1 of the next budget year.

The Town Council now desires to adopt a new payment schedule for the Mayor to become effective on October 1, 2022, whereby the Mayor shall receive \$500.00 per month compensation. The new amount is included in the FY2022-2023 budget. No changes shall be made to the compensation for the Town Council members.

A motion by Vice-Mayor Cross was made to read by title; seconded by Councilman Teeters. The Mayor read the title and opened public and board comment. Karen Smith said that she was for it. Vice-Mayor Cross asked whether it was a stipend or was it pay. Mayor Mack said that it should reflect what it says in the Charter. The Clerk checked and the charter referred to 'compensation'. The ordinance had compensation in the body but referred to pay in the title. It was agreed to change pay to compensation in the title.

MOTION by Vice-Mayor Cross to approve Ordinance 2022-22 with the amended title; SECONDED by Councilwoman Sikkema

A Roll Call vote was taken.

Cross YES

Sikkema YES

Teeters YES

Issartel YES

Mack YES

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL TO ALLOW THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HURRICANE DEBRIS.

The Mayor gave an overview on the options for contracts available for collection of debris post hurricane, with the County, GFL and DSV Group Inc who have an agreement with Mascotte and Montverde. The charge would be \$485.00 per hour per truck and the Mayor believed that it would be completed in a day. This would be funded from the Transportation Fund and hopefully reimbursed by FEMA. Following discussion, it was decided to go with DSV Group with a maximum not to exceed amount to pick up all the storm debris in the town.

MOTION by Vice-Mayor Cross to approve \$10,000, not to be exceeded for DSV Group Inc for Storm Debris Removal; SECONDED by Councilman Teeters

A Roll Call vote was taken.

Cross YES

Sikkema YES

Teeters YES

Issartel YES

Mack YES

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

DISCUSSION ON THE MAYOR'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE OLIVE INGRAM COMMUNITY CENTER.

The Mayor outlined his vision for the future use of the Olive Ingram Community Building to include a library and town hall offices. He was concerned about the structural integrity of the center and the cost and funding to do the design and construction. Many thoughts were discussed including the liability issues and taking steps to have the structural stability being inspected by an engineer. The funding to have a library within the Lake County Library System was discussed and some details were shared by Councilwoman Sikkema and resident Levon Silvernell.

Vice-Mayor Cross stated that with the termite damage and the effects on the building from the past hurricanes, it is probably not salvageable without a major amount of money being spent to shore it up. He added that there are more important things that require town funding. There was no action taken.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL TO REPLACE THE POLICE BODY CAMERAS.

It was brought to the attention of the Police Chief that some of the police department's body cameras were failing. During his investigation into this matter, it was determined that Wolfcom industries had not replaced the cameras or updated the software system. Contact with the company was made, and the town was advised that due to the recent pandemic, they could not replace the cameras at this time and had no timetable of when they could.

Discussion with the town attorney was made for possible breach of contract. The Attorney advised the Chief that it depended on if they had any clauses in the agreement that would allow them to delay the product to us. A copy of the contract was sent to the Attorney for further investigation.

The Chief's proposal was to ask the council to reallocate infrastructure money recently appropriated in the 2022-2023 budget for a patrol vehicle and use the \$40,000.00 to replace the department's body cameras with Axon body cameras. The cost of \$36,541.75 includes twelve body cameras, and software for Five years. The plan was to continue to use the Wolfcom system if they replaced the cameras as per the contract until it ends in 2023 and then switch entirely to the Axon system.

If Wolfcom does not honor their contract, he requested that the town switch immediately to the Axon cameras and seek legal action against Wolfcom. He added that he also needed to consider that manufacturing and shipping delays may come into play in getting the new cameras and was therefore asking for the new Axon cameras to be ordered now instead of waiting until the contract with Wolfcom expires.

He added that Axon was the chosen provider as the Lake County Sheriff's Department and that they also match with the police radios and the CAD system. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Teeters.

MOTION by Councilman Teeters to appropriate the funds and amend the budget for \$36,541.75 to Axon Enterprises, Inc. for the twelve camera system; SECONDED by Councilwoman Issartel.

Cross YES
Sikkema YES
Issartel YES
Teeters YES
Mack YES

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT REVIEW

The Clerk gave an overview of the town's financial position as of the end of August 2022. The General Fund revenues were over budget by \$111,122 and taking out the \$41,437 of miscellaneous income, it left an over budget position for Ad Valorem Taxes, Utility Tax and Franchise Fees, Planning Fees, State Revenue Sharing, Sales Tax and Solid Waste Collection of almost \$70,000. GF expenses were \$50,190 under budget even allowing for the increase cost of fuel (\$6,129) and the Audit Compliance for ARPA funding (\$4,465).

Transportation Fund Revenues were up by \$13,131 and Expenses were \$457 below budget. The Infrastructure Fund Revenues were \$31,710 over budget. The expenditures were \$47,969 over budget having paid off the remaining leases on the police vehicles (\$28,650) and the engineering for the water plant expansion (\$18,900).

The Enterprise Fund revenues fell short by \$80,166 and expenditures were \$87,711 below budget. There was a cost of \$51,134 for the installation of water pipes and meter which was added to the town's asset schedule. The net result is that it has cost the town \$43,589 to operate the water system.

The Bank balances on August 31, 2022 are shown below.

General Fund:	521,730.66
Impact Fees:	37,198.59
Transportation Fund:	78,214.66
Infrastructure Fund:	47,485.14
Enterprise Fund:	6,132.63
Cash Drawer:	150.00

STAFF REPORTS

Town Attorney – Heather Ramos – ABSENT

Police Department – Chief Hoagland – NONE

The chief gave an update on the Residual Grant for \$140,000 which has been approved. Once the contract is signed, the town can begin to purchase the items in the grant for reimbursement. He updated council on the code enforcement issues in the town and the impending foreclosure on the building behind town hall.

He outlined the dates for the upcoming events; Halloween, Thanksgiving Dinner, Light up Astatula, Range Party and Movie Nights which will be held on the 4th Saturday of each month. The Chief gave details of what he was proposing to do for the citizens of Astatula on Thanksgiving day. The plan was to cook several Turkeys and provide food and a football game on the big screen.

Town Clerk – Graham Wells – NONE

Public Works – Wally Hoagland - NONE

COUNCIL DEPARTMENT & COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORT

Councilman Cross (Finance)

He updated council on the funding for the broadband grant and added that the contract should come any day.

Mayor Mack (Public Works)

He gave an update on the CDBG grant for Phase II of the water plant for tanks and pumps to improve fire flow. The CPTA GIS grant was waiting on the contract. DEO had accepted the Evaluation and Appraisal Report for the Future Land Use Element of the comprehensive plan.

Councilwoman Sikkema (Public Safety/Code Enforcement) - NONE

Councilman Teeters (LDR’s, Ordinances, Legal, Grants) – NONE

Councilwoman Issartel (Economic Development) – 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 – NONE

ADJOURNMENT


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

Respectfully submitted,



Mitchell Mack, Mayor

ATTEST:



Graham Wells, Town Clerk