

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



**REGULAR SESSION  
TUESDAY JULY 11, 2023  
TOWN HALL**

Having been duly advertised as required by law, Mayor Mack called the Regular Session meeting to order at 6:31pm. He gave the invocation and led the 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, confirmation of the meeting notification was acknowledged, and it was determined that a quorum was present. The Mayor welcomed Karen Smith from the Planning and Zoning Board.

**CITIZENS QUESTIONS AND COMMENT**

*Mr. Banks Helphric* who is running for State House District 25 gave a short talk on community and civility and promoted his farm, orchard, vineyard and vegetable garden at Sams Lake Road in Clermont which is open the second Saturday of each month.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**MEETING MINUTES**

Approval of Minutes for May 9, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.  
Approval of Minutes for June 13, 2023 Workshop Meeting.  
Approval of Minutes for June 13, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.

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

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

**MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

**STAFF REPORTS**

***Town Attorney – Heather Ramos*** – Absent

***Police Department – Chief Hoagland*** – gave a bravery award to Ofc. Tisdell and Ofc. Quandt for their part in saving a man who lost control of his vehicle following a seizure. They rescued him from his burning vehicle awaiting other emergency services arriving.

**Public Works – Wally Hoagland** – Went over trying to bring Heather more into a Public Works role working with Scott. He would update council on the success at a later date.

**Town Clerk & Finance Officer – Graham Wells** – NONE

## **BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT REVIEW**

The Clerk gave his report on the financial health of the town for all funds. The full report is available on the town's website.

The Bank balances on May 31, 2023 are shown below.

General Fund:	874,215.02
Impact Fees:	159,621.43
Transportation Fund:	72,828.88
Infrastructure Fund:	86,054.53
Enterprise Fund:	14,727.88
Cash Drawer:	150.00

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2023-14 ADOPTING THE MAXIMUM MILLAGE RATE FOR FY 2023-2024**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ASTATULA, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A PROPOSED MAXIMUM AD VALOREM TAXATION MILLAGE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 FOR THE TOWN OF ASTATULA, FLORIDA, SETTING THE DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION FOR THE FIRST BUDGET HEARING; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Pursuant to Florida Statutes Section 200.065, the Town Council of the Town of Astatula, Florida, must determine a proposed maximum millage rate and must set the time, date, and place of the first public hearing on the budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 within 35 days of July 1, 2022. Furthermore, the Town Council of the Town of Astatula, Florida, must notify the Lake County Property Appraiser of the proposed millage rate and time, date, and place of the first public hearing on the budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 within 35 days of July 1, 2023.

The Mayor stated that this is just approving the maximum millage rate that can be assessed for FY 2023-24. The clerk said that the proposed rate of 7.5000 mills should be sufficient to balance the budget and that he would have the figure ready for the first budget workshop. Councilman Teeters asked when we would be able to roll back the millage rate to help the long-standing residents now that we have all the building expansion.

The Clerk explained that the town would not see any of the revenues from the buildout of Colina Del Lago in the next fiscal year. It would not be realized until November 2024. He further added that rolling back the rate would not do much to benefit the residents with low value homes because of the homestead exemptions but would greatly impact those with higher valued homes and our commercial and industrial base. Mr. Teeters said that in his opinion, every little helps.

Vice-Mayor Cross said that renters, snowbirds and those without the homestead exemption would be impacted the most from the increase. Vice-Mayor Cross made a motion to read the resolution by title only; seconded by Councilman Teeters. The Mayor read the title and asked for any comments from the public or the board. There being none, he requested a motion to approve.

**Motion by Vice-Mayor Cross to approve Resolution 2023-14; SECONDED by Councilman Teeters**

**A roll call vote was taken.**

**Cross YES**  
**Sikkema YES**  
**Issartel YES**  
**Teeters YES**  
**Mack YES**

**MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

The Mayor read the following sections from the resolution.

SECTION 1. The proposed maximum operating millage rate for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 for the Town of Astatula is 7.5000 mills.

SECTION 2. The first public hearing on the budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 for the Town of Astatula, Florida shall be held at the Council Meeting Room of the Town Hall of the Town of Astatula, at 7:00 pm on September 14, 2023.

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2023-13 AMENDING THE 2022-23 GENERAL FUND BUDGET.**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF ASTATULA, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR THE TOWN OF ASTATULA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023.**

General Fund:

324.000	Police Impact Fees	Increase	\$41,760.00
521.640	Capital Outlay Machine & Equipment (Purchase of 10 Tasers)	Increase Expenditures	\$41,760.00

Vice-Mayor Cross made a motion to read the resolution by title only; seconded by Councilwoman Issartel. The Mayor read the title and asked for a motion to approve.

**MOTION by Councilwoman Sikkema to approve Resolution 2023-13; SECONDED by Councilman Teeters**

**A roll call vote was taken.**

**Cross YES**  
**Sikkema YES**  
**Issartel YES**  
**Teeters YES**  
**Mack YES**

**MOTION CARRIED 5-0**

**DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION TO STAFF CONCERNING CAPITAL PROJECTS AND ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2023-2024 BUDGET.**

The Mayor gave an update on where he was going with the upgrade of the water plant which would be a combination of grant and State Revolving funding. The next phase (phase II) would be above ground storage tanks and high-speed pumps. Mr. Cross asked when it will become necessary to install a third well. Mayor Mack said that would be phase III.

Councilman Teeters requested that the Kirkwood Park parking lot be paved. Councilwoman Issartel wanted a community garden for the citizens to maintain. Chief Hoagland suggested that the project be combined with America in Bloom. Mr. Cross felt that most lots in the town have sufficient space to have their own gardens and was not in favor of using town resources for the project. Mayor Mack talked about his idea of a graduation tree at the school.

The Chief talked about adding sidewalks on CR561 and Councilman Teeters asked about the outdoor kitchen at the community center and putting monuments at the entry of the town on CR561 and CR48. The Clerk was tasked with talking to the county to seek their permission. The Clerk asked whether the council wanted to revisit the pressure washing and painting of town hall which would not be a capital project but would come out of the general fund. Mr. Cross said that he didn't have a problem with including it in the budget. Councilwoman Issartel said that she wanted a different color.

**DISCUSSION ON ACCESSORY BUILDINGS/DWELLINGS – MAYOR MACK.**

Vice-Mayor Cross stated that there was no information on this item sent out with the agenda, which was unfair to the council. An agenda cover sheet with more information should have been provided. Following discussion, it was decided that a future workshop be convened to look at what was allowed in our code and compare that to what was allowed in the county.

**COUNCIL DEPARTMENT & COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORT**

***Councilman Cross (Finance) - NONE***

***Mayor Mack (Public Works) – NONE***

***Councilwoman Sikkema (Public Safety/Code Enforcement) – NONE***

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

***Councilwoman Issartel (Economic Development) – NONE***

**REVIEW**

Items for Workshops and possible dates – First budget workshop set for July 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

Items for Next Regular Council meeting – NONE

Items for Special Meetings and possible dates - NONE

**COUNCIL MEMBER MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS – NONE**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8.12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

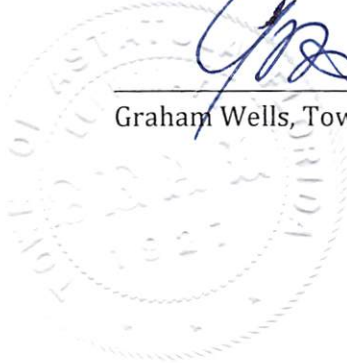


Mitchell Mack, Mayor

ATTEST:



Graham Wells, Town Clerk



STATE OF FLORIDA

IN SENATE

