

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
VILLAGE COUNCIL OF NORTH PALM BEACH, FLORIDA
MARCH 10, 2022**

Present: Darryl C. Aubrey, Sc.D., Mayor
Deborah Searcy, Vice Mayor
Mark Mullinix, President Pro Tem
David B. Norris, Councilmember
Susan Bickel, Councilmember
Andrew D. Lukasik, Village Manager
Len Rubin, Village Attorney
Jessica Green, Village Clerk

ROLL CALL

Mayor Aubrey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All members of Council were present. All members of staff were present.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Aubrey gave the invocation and Vice Mayor Searcy led the public in the Pledge.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular Session held February 24, 2022 were approved as written.

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Chris Ryder, 118 Dory Road S, expressed concern regarding the approval of Resolution 2020-64 and the scope of work that was included or not included in the engineering proposal that was approved by the resolution.

These residents addressed the Council with their concerns regarding the proposed 200 Yacht Club Drive Planned Unit Development:

Pat Kelley, 37 Yacht Club Drive
Diane Smith, 36 Yacht Club Drive

Mary Phillips, 525 Ebbtide Drive, reminded everyone that the Community Garden was having its opening on Saturday, March 12th and there was a board that would be planning everything that would be going forward with the Community Garden. A party was being planned to thank everyone involved with its implementation. Ms. Phillips announced Bingo Night at the library on March 17th.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND QUASI-JUDICIAL MATTERS

PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 2022-04 ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

A motion was made by President Pro Tem Mullinix and seconded by Vice Mayor Searcy to adopt and enact on second reading Ordinance 2022-04 entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF NORTH PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, ADOPTING AN ADDITIONAL \$25,000 HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION FOR TAXPAYERS 65 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER WITH LIMITED INCOME AS AUTHORIZED BY FLORIDA STATUTE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Lukasik explained that the purpose of the ordinance was to give an extra \$25,000 of homestead exemption to low income seniors 65 years of age and older. Mr. Lukasik explained that the exemption could go as high as \$50,000 or less than \$25,000. Mr. Lukasik stated that staff had recommended a \$25,000 exemption. The exemption would not be in effect this upcoming fiscal year but would take effect in the following fiscal year 2024.

Mayor Aubrey opened the public hearing.

There being no comments from the public, Mayor Aubrey closed the public hearing.

Thereafter, the motion to adopt and enact on second reading Ordinance 2022-04 passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

Councilmember Norris moved to approve the Consent Agenda. President Pro Tem Mullinix seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The following items were approved:

Motion approving an Interlocal Agreement with Palm Beach County governing Regional Opioid Settlement Funds.

Resolution approving a Contract with All-Site Construction, Inc. for the construction of a Starter Booth at the North Palm Beach Country Club Golf Course at a total cost of \$24,100; and authorizing execution of the Contract.

Resolution accepting a proposal from Proline Vactor Service, Inc. for stormwater pipe line cleaning, inspection and video services for the East alleyway at a total cost of \$24,312.50; and authorizing execution of the Contract.

Resolution amending Resolution No. 2021-75 to increase the purchase of one (1) Mack MD7 Grapple Truck from Nextran Corporation from \$169,938 to \$177,688; and authorizing execution of the budget amendment to fund the purchase.

Receive for file Minutes of the Environmental Committee meeting held 1/10/22.

Receive for file Minutes of the Golf Advisory Board meeting held 1/17/22.

Receive for file Minutes of the Business Advisory Board meeting held 1/18/22.

Receive for file Minutes of the Library Advisory Board meeting held 1/25/22.

RESOLUTION 2022-19 – SIDEWALK REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT

A motion was made by President Pro Tem Mullinix and seconded by Vice Mayor Searcy to adopt Resolution 2022-19 entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF NORTH PALM BEACH, FLORIDA APPROVING A BLANKET PURCHASE ORDER IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000 WITH FLYING SCOT, INC. FOR SIDEWALK REMOVAL, REPLACEMENT AND REHABILITATION UTILIZING PRICING ESTABLISHED IN AN EXISTING CITY OF PALM BEACH GARDENS CONTRACT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Streets and Stormwater Manager Kenneth Hern explained that the purpose of the resolution was to request a blanket purchase order to continue efforts to improve safety and reduce sidewalk trip hazards. Staff had identified twenty-nine (29) areas in critical need of replacement totaling over 13,000 square feet of sidewalk in need of replacement.

Chris Ryder, 118 Dory Road S, stated that some sidewalks were being pushed up by tree roots and asked if the property owner would be responsible for paying for those repairs.

Public Works Director Chuck Huff stated that sidewalks damaged by trees on private property would be the property owner's responsibility. If the trees were located in the swale, it would be the Village's responsibility.

Mr. Hern stated that the purchase order would cover approximately thirty-five (35) to forty-five (45) percent of the sidewalks that need repair and that staff would be requesting another purchase order once funding became available.

President Pro Tem Mullinix asked if the sidewalks could be cut instead of milled where the sidewalks meet the asphalt.

Mr. Huff stated that sidewalks that meet asphalt and have a significant lip or height difference would be identified and repaired.

Vice Mayor Searcy asked how many trip hazards would be addressed.

Mr. Hern explained there were twenty-nine (29) areas of sidewalk in critical need and there were another 146 areas that would need to be addressed in the future.

Vice Mayor Searcy stated that there have been complaints of residents not maintaining or cleaning their sidewalks from algae and or other slippery residue that could be a potential trip hazard and asked if those types of sidewalk hazards would be addressed.

Mr. Hern stated that Code Compliance was addressing those concerns.

Councilmember Bickel asked if the section of driveway apron that meets the sidewalk would be the responsibility of the homeowner.

Mr. Hern stated that the driveway would be the responsibility of the homeowner.

Thereafter, the motion to adopt Resolution 2022-19 passed unanimously.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MATTERS/REPORTS

Mayor Aubrey stated that he was relieved that the Village's municipal election had concluded.

Vice Mayor Searcy recommended a social media request for pictures from residents showing how they display their pride of living in the Village of North Palm Beach and to make the request a part of the Heritage Day Festival activities.

Vice Mayor Searcy recommended rearranging the order of items on the Council's meeting agendas since there have been complaints that public comments do not get addressed until the end of the Council meeting.

Mr. Rubin stated that the order of the agenda was in the code of ordinances and would need to be changed by ordinance.

Discussion ensued between Councilmembers about the disadvantages and benefits of the current order of the Council meeting agendas and made suggestions for changing the order.

VILLAGE MANAGER MATTERS/REPORTS

Mr. Lukasik provided a handout to Council which listed and explained short term solutions at the Country Club. Mr. Lukasik discussed and explained a strategy for reorganizing the valet parking. The current valet parking area provides twenty-nine (29) spaces along the east side of the main Country Club parking lot along U.S. Highway 1. Staff was recommending that valet parking be moved back to its original location near the grand staircase. The location would provide greater parking efficiency which would thereby increase parking capacity in the parking lot. The proposed location has an entrance and exit and currently provides eighteen (18) spaces. Due to its square-like configuration and the ability to stack cars, the valet can park an additional fifteen (15) to eighteen (18) vehicles making it thirty-three (33) to thirty-six (36) total. The initial plan would be to reserve the area for valet use only with parking stanchions and cones and staff would continue to monitor the area. Mr. Lukasik discussed and explained the various issues with parking at the Country Club.

Discussion ensued between Council, Mr. Lukasik and Country Club General Manager Beth Davis regarding the details of the various parking strategies at the Country Club.

It was agreed to try the new valet parking strategy for the next two weeks and for staff to return and give a report on the progress.

Tim Hullihan, 840 Country Club Drive, recommended that the valet parking at the Country Club be moved to the area near the driving range since most valet parking lots are far away from the building.

REPORTS (SPECIAL COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY BOARDS)

Chairman Tom Magill congratulated Mayor Aubrey, Vice Mayor Searcy and President Pro Tem Mullinix on their re-election to Council. Mr. Magill stated that the Audit Committee had a meeting with the auditors and that a final audit report would be forthcoming. Mr. Magill congratulated Mr. Lukasik, Finance Director Samia Janjua and staff for receiving the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the thirty-third (33) year in a row.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.



Jessica Green, MMC, Village Clerk