

TOWN OF OCEAN BREEZE
MINUTES REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, December 11, 2023 10:30AM
Ocean Breeze Resort Clubhouse, Pineapple Bay Room
700 NE Seabreeze Way, Ocean Breeze, FL

- 1. Call to Order** – President De Angeles called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.
 - Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Ostrand led the Pledge of Allegiance
 - Roll Call – Present: Mayor Karen M. Ostrand, President Kenneth De Angeles, Council Members Kevin Docherty, Sandy Kelley, Gina Kent, and Liz Reese
 - Staff Present – Town Management Consultant, Terry O’Neil; Town Attorney, Rick Crary;
Attorney Nicole Laliberte; Town Clerk, Kim Stanton; Permit Processor, Pam Orr

- 2. Approval of Minutes** –
 - Council Member Docherty, seconded by Council Member Kent, made a motion to approve the minutes of the Tentative Budget and Proposed Millage Rate Hearing, Wednesday, September 13, 2023.
All in favor: Yes: De Angeles, Docherty, Kelley, Kent, Reese, No: None; Motion Passed – 5-0
 - Council Member Reese, seconded by Council Member Kent made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Final Budget and Proposed Millage Rate Hearing, Wednesday, September 20, 2023.
All in favor: Yes: De Angeles, Docherty, Kelley, Kent, Reese, No: None; Motion Passed – 5-0
 - Council Member Docherty, seconded by Council Member Kelley and Reese, made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting, Monday, November 13, 2023.
All in favor: Yes: De Angeles, Docherty, Kelley, Kent, Reese, No: None; Motion Passed – 5-0

- 3. Comments by outgoing President, Ken De Angeles** - President De Angeles expressed his gratitude during his time serving on the Town Council over the past ten years and acknowledged the past accomplishments of the Town.

Mayor Ostrand presented President De Angeles with a plaque in recognition of his service.

4. Oath of Office – Attorney Crary administered the Oath of Office to Kevin Docherty, Michael Heller, and Matthew Squires.

5. Selection of Council President and Vice President; and Review of Board and Agency Memberships – Attorney Crary requested that a motion be made for Town Council President.

Council Member Reese, seconded by Council Member Squires, made a motion to nominate Council Member Kelley for President.

Attorney Crary asked if there were any other nominations.

Council Member Kent made a motion to nominate Council Member Docherty for President. Motion failed due to no second.

Council Member Docherty, seconded by Council Member Heller and Council Member Reese, made a motion to close the nominations.

Roll Call: Yes: Heller, Docherty, Reese, Squires, Kent, Kelley; No: None; Motion Passed 6-0

Roll call for nomination of President.

Roll Call: Yes: Heller, Docherty, Reese, Squires, Kent, Kelley; No: None; Motion Passed 6-0

President Kelley asked for nominations for Vice President.

President Kelley, seconded by Council Member Heller, nominated Liz Reese for office of the Vice President.

Council Member Kelley asked for other nominations.

Council Member Kent, seconded by Council Member Squires, made a motion to close the nomination for Vice President.

Roll Call: Yes: Kelley, Heller, Kent, Squires, Docherty, Reese; No: None; Motion Passed 6-0

President Kelley asked for public comments not on the Agenda.

Town Management Consultant, Terry O'Neil, remarked that on Item #5, after the selection of President and Vice President reorganization, it was customary to discuss memberships on various Boards and Agencies.

Mayor Ostrand stated the importance of being involved in the Boards and Agencies. She took questions from the Council.

Mr. O'Neil recommended that at the January 8, 2024 meeting, staff would provide more detail about the agency functions and meeting times to make it easier.

It was agreed by the Mayor and Town Council Members that this item be brought back before the Council at the January 8, 2024 meeting.

6. Comments from the public on topics not on the Agenda – There were none.

7. Comments from the Council on topics not on the Agenda – Council Member Heller stated that the two biggest issues facing the Town were train noise and completing the close-out of the Seawalk Community project. He requested a briefing on the status of both issues.

President Kelley stated that she would like an update on the closeout of Seawalk at the next Town Council meeting on January 8, 2024. She commented that she did not believe it was necessary to have the Town Engineer or the Building Official at that meeting. She asked if there was a spreadsheet document which detailed items remaining for close-out along with detail concerning the holdup.

Mr. O'Neil answered that there was a document which listed all the items needed for the close-out of the project. He remarked that staff would provide up-to-date information at the January 8, 2024, Town Council meeting.

Council Member Docherty thanked Jensen Beach Chamber of Commerce President, Ron Rose, for arranging the plantings of the flower beds in downtown Jensen Beach. He spoke about the parade, Christmas tree lighting, the Taste of Jensen, outgoing President Ken De Angeles, close-out process of the Seawalk project, close-out process of the Ocean Breeze Resort infrastructure permit, his involvement in the Florida League of Cities, and his work on the tax, finance, and insurance committee. He stated that one of his goals was to assist in bringing down the cost of homeowners insurance.

8. Comments from Town Management Consultant Terry O'Neil – Mr. O'Neil discussed the recent meeting with Seawalk HOA members and Landscape Architect, Mike Flaugh. He commented that the Town had entered a contract with Mike Flaugh to address some of the PUD landscaping issues.

9. Comments from Town Attorney Rick Crary – Attorney Crary gave a detailed description of Florida's Sunshine Law. He encouraged the Town Council members to go online to familiarize themselves with the Government in the Sunshine Law – 2023 version. He also advised them to go onto the State of Florida Attorney General's website to look at past decisions regarding the Sunshine Law. He advised them that all emails and other communications be copied to the Town Clerk for the record. He spoke about the requirement of an annual ethics class usually sponsored by the Florida League of Cities. He spoke about the resources available to the Council Members, namely the Florida Commission on Ethics and Florida League of Cities. He spoke about all records, that were to be copied to the Town Clerk, were subject to the public records laws of the State of Florida.

He took questions from the Council regarding the Seawalk HOA, the Florida Sunshine Law, business coming before the Town Council for a vote, attending HOA meetings with other Council Members and HOA Board Members in attendance. He advised that it would be safer not to be a member of the Town Council and the HOA. He cautioned about the seriousness of the Florida in the Sunshine Law.

Tom Campenni, author of Friends and Neighbors Martin County newsletter, confirmed that Patricia Christiansen, Executive Director of the Treasure Coast Regional League of Cities, would assist by attending a Town Council meeting to give a presentation on the Florida in the Sunshine Law. He spoke about the ethics class annual requirement and Form 6 – Annual Financial Disclosure form.

Council Member Docherty spoke about the new requirement to file Form 6 and term limits.

Council Member Kent spoke about staff and the support that they offer.

Pam Orr, Permit Processor, stated that emails received by each Council Member were automatically sent to the Town Clerk, but sent emails would need to be copied to the Clerk. She added that staff would send out the links to the Elected Municipal Official (EMO) manual and the Government in the Sunshine Law.

President Kelley asked for further comments from Attorney Rick Crary.

There were none.

10. Comments from Mayor Ostrand – Mayor Ostrand directed the Town Council to the Florida League of Cities pamphlet in their packet which outlined the benefits they offer. She explained the importance of getting involved with the State Representatives, Congressional Representatives and State Senate Representatives and stated that she had their contact information. She mentioned the Florida Veterans’ Benefits Guide booklets available for the public and explained some of the benefits offered by the Florida Veterans Foundation.

Council Member Squires stated that he was active in assisting veterans assimilate back into civilian life.

Mayor Ostrand spoke about the topics of discussion at the recent Legislative Conference.

11. Announcements – Regular Town Council Meeting – Monday, January 8, 2024 at 6:00 pm to be held at Ocean Breeze Resort Clubhouse, Pineapple Bay Room, 700 NE Seabreeze Way, Ocean Breeze.

12. Adjourn – Council Member Docherty, seconded by Council Member Kent, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:32 am

All in favor, Yes: Heller, Docherty, Reese, Squires, Kent, Kelley; No: None; Motion Passed 6-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Stanton
Town Clerk

Minutes approved: *January 8, 2024*