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**Town of Ponce Inlet  
Town Council  
Special Meeting Minutes  
March 10, 2020**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Pursuant to proper notice, Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers at 4300 South Atlantic Avenue, Ponce Inlet, Florida.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL:**

**Town Council:**

Mayor Smith, Seat #1

Councilmember Milano, Seat #2 (arrived at 9:45)

Vice-Mayor Hoss, Seat #3

Councilmember Perrone, Seat #4

Councilmember Paritsky, Seat #5

**Staff Members Present:**

Mr. Baker, Chief Building Official, Planning & Development

Mr. Disher, Assistant Director of Planning & Development

Ms. Hunt, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Joulani, Director, Planning & Development

Ms. Pierce, Administrative Supervisor, Planning & Development

Ms. Witt, Town Manager

**Others Present:**

Ms. Billie Wheeler, Volusia County Councilwoman

Mr. Ernie Audino, District Director, Congressman Waltz's office

Ms. Ginger Adair, Director; Volusia County Environmental Management

**4. ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:** Ms. Witt stated there were no changes.

*The agenda was adopted as presented.*

**5. PRESENTATIONS:**

**A. Presentation 1: East Central Florida Regional Planning Council:** Tara McCue, Director of Planning & Community Development - Ms. McCue reviewed the presentation "Resilient Ponce Inlet" (Attachment 1) by discussing community resiliency, acute shocks (natural and/or man-made disasters), vulnerabilities, and the benefits of having goals and an action plan.

43 Ms. Adair, Director; Volusia County Environmental Management, noted that there is a coastal  
44 department that, on a small scale, monitors and assists with dune re-nourishment and restoration  
45 projects. She noted that they need ideas, assistance, and input from municipalities to determine  
46 what steps could be taken to protect and restore the dune system.

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48 **B. Presentation 2: American Flood Coalition:** Dr. Alec Bogdanoff, Florida Lead;  
49 Anne Baker, Outreach Manager; Annabel Cryan, Outreach Associate - the presentation “American  
50 Flood Coalition” (Attachment 2) explained the types of services the agency provides, including  
51 education, in-kind engineering, funding and financing assistance and resources; the agency also  
52 advocates for national solutions to flooding and sea level rise. It was noted that there are over 900  
53 federal grant programs available across 26 federal agencies and urged the Town to use every  
54 available resource. Ms. Cryan referenced Sanibel Island as a model to look at.

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56 Mayor Smith opened public comments - James Barrow, 88 Buschman Drive, thanked Council for  
57 setting up this meeting. He encouraged Council to take the ideas from both groups and formulate  
58 a policy immediately; adding that the residents are interested in this issue, based on the turn-out,  
59 and they understand that they will have to pay for it. He offered to assist in any way necessary.  
60 Skip White, 4885 S. Atlantic Avenue, thanked Council for looking into this matter and noted that  
61 nearly 10 feet of dune area has been destroyed within the past two weeks due to a couple of  
62 nor’easter storms. He expressed concerns that there is no automatic dune restoration program for  
63 the County and there is no plan to fight erosion. He noted the storm surge from Hurricane Dorian  
64 and stated his opposition to the County taking the sand out of town by the truckload and wondered  
65 where it went. He offered to assist in any way necessary. Mark Valerien, Dixie Drive, shared his  
66 story of watching a beach re-nourishment effort on Cape Hatteras and suggested the parties  
67 involved study that project and how the sand was retained by constructing seawalls on the beach  
68 fronts. Robert Bullard, 4802 S. Peninsula Drive, expressed concerns of the five-inch sea level rise  
69 that has occurred in the last forty years and that something is wrong. He suggested creative  
70 planning adjustments be made in our Comp Plan. Mayor Smith closed public comment. He added  
71 that there is a problem and if you visit Murrell’s Inlet, SC, many of the beachfront homes were  
72 built on stilts; and over the years, the homes have been slowly disappearing due to the loss of over  
73 six feet of sand. Councilmember Milano stated that if you look at the lifeguard stand in the County  
74 park you can see where we lost about four feet of sand just last week.

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76 **6. ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Smith thanked the members of each organization for their  
77 presentations and the members of the public for attending. The meeting was adjourned at 10:38  
78 a.m.

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80 Respectfully submitted by:

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85 Jeaneen Witt, CMC, Town Manager/Town Clerk  
Peg Hunt, Board Secretary