



**Town of Ponce Inlet
Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2023**

4

5
6 **1. CALL TO ORDER:** Pursuant to proper notice, Mayor Paritsky called the meeting to
7 order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 4300 South Atlantic Avenue, Ponce Inlet, Florida.

8
9 **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Paritsky led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor
10 Paritsky then reviewed the protocol for filling out the Citizens' Participation request forms for
11 agenda item #10.

12
13 **3. ROLL CALL:**

14 **Town Council:**

15 Mayor Paritsky, Seat #1
16 Councilmember Milano, Seat #2
17 Councilmember Caswell, Seat #3 - Absent
18 Councilmember Villanella, Seat #4
19 Vice-Mayor Smith, Seat #5

20
21 **Staff Members Present:**

22 Attorney Brackins, Town Attorney
23 Ms. Cherbano, Town Clerk
24 Mr. Disher, Town Manager
25 Mr. Dunlap, Public Works Assistant Director
26 Ms. French, Cultural Services Manager
27 Ms. Gjessing, Permit Technician
28 Ms. Hall, Accountant/Grants Coordinator
29 Ms. LaGreca, Museum Educator
30 Lt. Corey Mead, Police Department
31 Ms. McColl, Finance Director
32 Mr. Okum, IT Manager
33 Ms. Rippey, Senior Planner
34 Chief Scales, Public Safety Director *pro tem*
35 Ms. Stewart, Assistant Deputy Clerk

36
37 **4. ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS, OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA.** There were
38 no changes.

39
40 Mayor Paritsky moved to approve the agenda as presented; seconded by Councilmember Milano.
41 The motion PASSED 4-0, consensus.

42
43 **5. PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND AWARDS:**
44

- 45 **A. Proclamations:** Mayor Paritsky reported she signed one proclamation declaring
46 the month of July 2023 as Recreation and Parks Month.

47
48 Mayor Paritsky acknowledged Mayor Don Burnette, Port Orange, who was in
49 attendance. Mayor Burnette stated he is appreciative of the relationship between Port Orange and
50 its neighbors of Ponce Inlet, South Daytona, and Daytona Beach Shores; working together makes
51 us all stronger. Mayor Paritsky thanked Mayor Burnette for being a strong friend and available to
52 the town as needed.

53
54 **6. CONSENT AGENDA:** Mayor Paritsky asked if there was any item a Council member
55 would like to remove from the consent agenda; hearing no requests, Mayor Paritsky asked for
56 public comments – hearing none, she closed public comments.

- 57
58 **A. Approval of the Town Council regular meeting minutes – May 18, 2023.**

59
60 Mayor Paritsky moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; seconded by Councilmember
61 Milano. The motion PASSED 4-0, consensus.

62
63 **7. OLD/NEW BUSINESS ITEMS PREFERRED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE**
64 **MEETING**

65
66 **A. Request for Co-Sponsorship – Ponce Inlet Christmas Parade (continued from**
67 **the May 18, 2023 meeting)** – Ms. French announced the 13th Annual Christmas Parade will be
68 held on Saturday, December 2, 2023. This event had been spearheaded by the event’s founder, Jim
69 Hinson, until his retirement this past December. Two town residents, Mark Oebbecke and Cherise
70 Wintz, have offered their services to organize this event and met with the town’s special event
71 review committee in April to discuss the proposed changes. The Ponce Inlet Veterans Memorial
72 Association (PIVMA) would like to take on this responsibility and host this event, which staff
73 supports. Mr. Oebbecke submitted a financial plan which was provided to Council for review. The
74 event coordinators have addressed all criteria for a written co-sponsorship request and are present
75 to answer any questions. Attorney Brackins noted that the only substantive difference with this
76 proposal from past years is that the event would be run by an outside organization and the plan to
77 distribute any leftover proceeds which would be distributed to non-profit organizations instead of
78 being left in the town’s account for the following year’s expenditures. He recommended that if an
79 outside organization wants to take over responsibility for the event, do so next year; the co-
80 sponsorship is for this year as recommended by staff and any leftover proceeds would remain in
81 the town’s account. Mayor Paritsky clarified that Council can move forward with the request as it
82 exists now but per the attorney, cannot authorize any funds generated to go to any non-profit
83 organizations as tax-payer funds are being used to waive most of the fees; or the organization can
84 withdraw their application and make the request in the manner suggested by the attorney.

85
86 Mr. Oebbecke, 4758 S. Peninsula Drive, President of the PIMVA, stated they have
87 suggested a co-sponsorship to allow the town to separate itself from any involvement with the
88 parade aside from providing in-kind support. Currently, funds from the parade registration go into
89 a town account which covers the expenses associated with the parade, specifically, the bands. The
90 PIVMA would create a separate account for the parade and registration fees would be deposited

91 there. The current fund in the town’s budget (less than \$500) for the parade would be liquidated to
92 provide support to one of the bands participating in the parade. The thought was that establishing
93 a separate account under a charitable entity would eliminate risk to the town. Discussion ensued
94 regarding co-sponsorship, registration fees, and donations to non-profit organizations.
95 Councilmember Milano addressed his concerns regarding the proposed changes to the parade,
96 including: the number of registrants, number of bands, start time at hottest part of the day, not
97 providing water or refreshments to participants, and eliminating Harbour Village from the parade
98 route among other concerns.

99
100 Mr. Oebbecke addressed Councilmember Milano’s concerns and noted the PIVMA will
101 ensure refreshments are provided at Davies Park. He explained the change in route was to provide
102 tree canopies to shade the parade route. He noted participation and attendance for the parade has
103 declined over the last five years and he has received input that it needs to be revitalized. Discussion
104 continued regarding Harbour Village, the parade route, staging location and start time. Ms. Cherise
105 Wintz, 92 Jana Drive, provided additional information regarding the parade changes; she explained
106 the change to the start time was made so that the bands can participate in other parades on the same
107 day. She has spoken with Atlantic High School; they are happy with the time change. Racing’s
108 North Turn restaurant will provide food and drink to band members. Vice-Mayor Smith disclosed
109 that he is a member of the PIVMA and was previously advised to abstain from voting on issues
110 regarding the PIVMA. Mayor Paritsky opened public comment – Skip White, 4885 S. Atlantic
111 Avenue, thanked the parade committee and Council for how the parade is being handled. He agreed
112 with Councilmember Milano that Harbour Village should be included on the parade route. Mayor
113 Paritsky asked if there is any flexibility with including Harbour Village. Lt. Meade stated traffic
114 is always a concern and there has been a lot of congestion at Harbour Village the last few years
115 during the parade; the decision to try a different route was to alleviate that congestion. The police
116 department will support whatever decision Council makes. Discussion continued regarding the
117 parade route, traffic congestion, and how to include Harbour Village. Attorney Brackins asked for
118 clarification regarding the “hold harmless” agreement in the co-sponsorship application; he asked
119 if the applicants are asking the town to insure them for the event. Mr. Oebbecke was unsure but
120 will get clarification. Mayor Paritsky noted that Council could vote on the application as is, or the
121 applicants can resubmit an application to be discussed at the next meeting. Mr. Disher noted that
122 this is a significant change to how the parade has been managed before; the concerns need to be
123 addressed with the applicant. Mayor Paritsky suggested adding language that the start time and set
124 up is what the bands would like; what the DJ will do; and whatever is reasonable to include
125 Harbour Village.

126
127 Mayor Paritsky moved to table this item; seconded by Councilmember Milano. The motion
128 PASSED 3-0, consensus, with Vice-Mayor Smith abstaining.

129
130 **B. Hurricane Recovery and Preparedness update** – Mayor Paritsky introduced
131 Volusia County Council Member Matt Reinhart to provide an update on hurricane recovery efforts.
132 She stated Council Member Reinhart is a consistent presence in the town; he has made himself
133 available to the Town Council, and his willingness to work on behalf of the residents of Ponce
134 Inlet’s citizens is greatly appreciated. Council Member Reinhart noted that Volusia County has
135 been working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
136 (FWC), the state Department of Emergency Management, and the Department of Environmental

137 Protection (DEP) regarding the hurricane damage to the beachside; they have been able to continue
138 construction past the May 1, 2023 deadline as long as no sea turtle nesting activity is witnessed.
139 That requirement has been amended to allow a 20-foot radius for construction and equipment. The
140 challenge is finding contractors, engineers, and obtaining construction materials, especially
141 concrete to reconstruct the seawalls. FWC and DEP are allowing rock revetment which is being
142 trucked in. The first \$5 million the county received from the state went to trap bag barriers; as of
143 May 1, 2023, 14,136 linear feet of trap bags have been placed. Over 8,000 cubic yards of debris
144 has been removed; the existing debris is due to the now vacant destroyed homes. The Army Corp
145 of Engineers has a dredging project along the intercoastal waterway; that sand will go to a central
146 location and to Ponce Inlet. Some of the \$326 million received from the state will be used to dredge
147 Rattlesnake Island. Over \$350 million was granted to the county for infrastructure feasibility
148 studies through a federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant; the focus will be on the
149 Daytona Beach Midtown area. The county is exploring new technology to rebuild sea walls. He
150 reviewed other hurricane repairs and noted the public restrooms at Frank Rendon Park and the
151 Dunlawton Avenue beach approach must be reconstructed. Vice-Mayor Smith commented that
152 there have been questions as to why the county has the beach access at North Turn is blocked; it
153 is so that contractors can access the beach to make repairs. Council Member Reinhart explained
154 that although beach driving brings in a lot of revenue, any violation of the incidental take permit
155 would pull it; FWC made it clear that it would affect the permit, which is up for reconsideration
156 by a federal judge within the next few years; therefore, the county is not taking any unnecessary
157 risks. Mayor Paritsky opened for public comment; hearing none - she closed public comment.

158
159 Chief Scales explained that staff took notes immediately after the storm; staff has used that
160 information to create a list for the next storm to ensure things are done correctly and to provide
161 more efficient documentation to FEMA. Educating the public is important; there was a lot of
162 misunderstanding about how things work and the limits to what the Town can do. Information will
163 be placed on the website as well as sending information regularly to residents on storm
164 preparedness. Although the town has great relationships with the county and neighboring cities,
165 the communication was not what it could have been, especially regarding opening and closing the
166 bridge. The Public Information Officers (PIOs) have since met to discuss how to manage that going
167 forward to ensure communication is consistent. Many operational items have been put into place
168 including additional pumping capacity; all stormwater pipes on the south end of town have been
169 cleaned; that effort will be continued on the north end next fiscal year provided the budget supports
170 it. Staff is sending information out early to inform the public so questions and concerns can be
171 addressed now. Vice-Mayor Smith asked what the cost was for the last two hurricanes; Chief
172 Scales noted that the Finance Manger will address that later in the meeting. Councilmember
173 Villanella referred to Chief Scales memo and noted the number of things staff did during the
174 hurricanes was outstanding. This is an opportunity to change procedures or acquire equipment that
175 may be needed in the coming years. Chief Scales added that even though staff is small, we are
176 flexible; lessons were learned so we will be better prepared for the next storm. Mayor Paritsky
177 opened for public comment; hearing none - she closed public comment.

178
179 Ms. Kathy Harvey, 41 Loggerhead Court, asked if the town will include neighborhood door
180 knocks to check on residents and if volunteers are needed. She asked if the Ponce Inlet Community
181 Center or another location will be used for residents to assemble in one place to volunteer to help.
182 Mayor Paritsky noted that Ms. Harvey made two excellent points and she will speak with the Town

183 Manager on how to do it. Chief Scales agreed those are excellent ideas and asked for Ms. Harvey’s
184 assistance to facilitate it. Mr. Disher noted that the first responders, public works, and high-level
185 administration are here during a storm event but not all staff; staff that does not live in Ponce Inlet
186 or on the island may not be able to get here if the bridges are closed. Mr. Skip White, 4885 S
187 Atlantic Avenue, stated there was discussion regarding utilizing PICC as a staging and sleeping
188 area for FPL and other companies. He asked if there is a storm pre-check list and when the town
189 goes on alert. Chief Scales explained the town follows Volusia County Emergency Management’s
190 lead; there are different levels of activation, depending on the department. A general checklist is
191 completed at the beginning of the storm season; because we are a coastal community, there are
192 things we do every day. Public Works has the most items on their checklist to prepare the town for
193 a storm. Additional preparation begins 5 to 7 days prior to the storm. Mr. White asked when
194 pumping of retention ponds begins. Chief Scales explained depends on the level of the ponds.
195 Mayor Paritsky noted that the town is considering Mr. White’s suggestion to provide the public
196 information from each department head on what they do for hurricane preparedness. Mr. Disher
197 added that preparation is not only before the storm but being also being prepared to act after the
198 storm passes.

199
200 No action was taken.

201
202 **8. PUBLIC HEARINGS / QUASI-JUDICIAL MATTERS:** None.

203
204 **9. PUBLIC HEARINGS / NON-QUASI-JUDICIAL MATTERS:**

205
206 **A. Second reading and adoption of Ordinance 2023-02, amending Section 3.23 of**
207 **the Land Use and Development Code regarding Home-based Businesses.** Attorney Brackins
208 read the ordinance by title only. **AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PONCE INLET,**
209 **FLORIDA, AMENDING THE LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT CODE, ARTICLE 3**
210 **USE REGULATIONS, SECTION 3.23 HOME OCCUPATIONS TO COMPLY WITH**
211 **FLORIDA LAW; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS AND STANDARDS; PROVIDING FOR**
212 **CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR**
213 **CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.** Mr. Disher confirmed that
214 there were no changes.

215
216 Mayor Paritsky opened public comment – seeing none, she closed public comment.

217
218 Councilmember Villanella moved to adopt on second reading, Ordinance 2023-02 as presented;
219 seconded by Councilmember Milano. The motion PASSED 4-0, with the following vote:
220 Councilmember Villanella – yes; Councilmember Milano – yes; Mayor Paritsky – yes; Vice-Mayor
221 Smith – yes.

222
223 **10. CITIZENS’ PARTICIPATION:** Mayor Paritsky opened citizens’ participation.
224 Mr. Skip White, 4885 S. Atlantic Avenue, stated he was approached by a Ponce Inlet resident, Ms.
225 Andrea Forlick who asked if he was running for Town Council; he shared his platform with her
226 which includes encouraging citizen participation. She works for Duke Energy and explained that
227 employees with her company who volunteer receive money to give to charitable organizations of
228 their choice. She asked via email if there are charitable organizations associated with Ponce Inlet

229 other than the Marine Science Center. He would like direction from the Council for a list he can
230 provide Andrea of non-profit organizations associated with Ponce Inlet that she could contribute
231 to. Mr. Disher suggested they review the towns newsletter which includes information from each
232 of the town clubs.
233

234 Mr. Mark Oebbecke, 4758 S. Peninsula Drive, stated people are not disposing of dog waste,
235 especially south of Harbour Village. Volusia County has an ordinance with a fine of \$55 if an
236 owner does not dispose of dog waste in a park. He is seeing waste on Peninsula Drive and on the
237 side streets. He expressed appreciation on behalf of the Ponce Inlet Community Center for the
238 town's support for a new air conditioning unit in the kitchen. He also expressed appreciation for
239 the Public Works Department for their assistance on maintenance issues around the community
240 center. On behalf of the Ponce Inlet Veterans Memorial Association, he thanked the town and
241 Mayor Paritsky for the ceremonies they have; Memorial Day had the largest crowd of attendees.
242 Mayor Paritsky asked if there is a dog ordinance in Ponce Inlet. Lt. Mead noted there is an
243 ordinance; however, they must witness the violation occurring before they can enforce it.
244

245 **11. ORDINANCES (FIRST READING) AND RESOLUTIONS:**
246

247 **A. Resolution 2023-05, Mid-year Budget Adjustment.** Attorney Brackins read the
248 resolution into the record by title only. **A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE**
249 **TOWN OF PONCE INLET, VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING**
250 **SUPPLEMENTAL AND TRANSFER APPROPRIATIONS TO THE TOWN'S BUDGET**
251 **FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR**
252 **SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.** Mr. Disher stated that
253 each year the town makes mid-year adjustments and a rebalancing of funds. There have been major
254 events such as the hurricanes, the bargaining agreement with the union, and other unforeseen
255 repairs which have had significant effects on the budget this year. He explained that transferring
256 money from one fund to another fund (such as the General Fund) requires Council approval. He
257 reviewed Exhibit A, which reflects how the money is being transferred within the revenue and
258 expense funds; they have tried to not draw from the reserves fund as much as possible. Vice-Mayor
259 Smith asked what the town spent after the hurricanes on clean-up; and what was requested from
260 FEMA for reimbursement. Ms. Hall explained the estimated cost is \$827,000 for both hurricanes;
261 Hurricane Nicole did not cause enough damage to meet the threshold, so everything claimed was
262 with Hurricane Ian which is how FEMA recommended it be done. Of the amount spent, \$673,000
263 was eligible for reimbursement. Vice-Mayor Smith commented that the reserves are referred to as
264 the number of months of operations; he thinks of it as how many hurricanes do we have in reserves.
265

266 Councilmember Villanella moved to approve Resolution 2023-05, seconded by Councilmember
267 Milano. The motion PASSED, 4-0 with the following vote: Councilmember Villanella – yes;
268 Councilmember Milano – yes; Mayor Paritsky – yes; Vice-Mayor Smith – yes.
269

270 **12. OLD BUSINESS:** None.
271

272 **13. NEW BUSINESS:**
273

274 **A. Approval of Vendors for Continuing Engineering Services.** – Chief Scales
275 stated this item is to accept the list of vendors who responded to a bid that was let out in March;
276 the impetus for this is what was experienced after the storms when attempting to procure
277 architectural, GIS, and other specialty services. Mead and Hunt is currently under contract with
278 the town and has served us well; however, they were at capacity after the storms, and it was a
279 challenge for them to meet all our needs. There were instances where the town had to seek other
280 entities to provide services. This is the approved list of contractors to enter into continuing services
281 contracts, so we have a list to choose from if services are needed versus one vendor. Mayor
282 Paritsky agreed that this is practical; she asked if one of these contractors is needed, would it go
283 through the normal process. Chief Scales replied yes.

284
285 Councilmember Milano moved to approve the vendors for continuing engineering services;
286 seconded by Councilmember Villanella. The motion PASSED 4-0, with the following vote:
287 Councilmember Milano – yes; Councilmember Villanella – yes; Mayor Paritsky – yes; Vice-Mayor
288 Smith – yes.

289
290 **14. FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL:**

291
292 **A. Vice-Mayor Smith, Seat 5** – Stated he had nothing further.

293
294 **B. Councilmember Villanella, Seat #4** – Stated he had nothing further.

295
296 **C. Councilmember Caswell, Seat #3** – N/A

297
298 **D. Councilmember Milano, Seat #2** – He provided an update on the First Step
299 Shelter; as of May 2023, 192,873 meals have been served; 906 people have been to the shelter and
300 out of those, 479 (53%) were placed in housing; 90% of them are still in housing; the national
301 average is 70%. The signs for volunteering and donating funds to the shelter will be installed at
302 the following three locations: Ponce Preserve, Davies Park, and the Ponce Inlet Community
303 Center. In May, two people were transported from Ponce Inlet to the shelter. He recently traveled
304 to the city of Plantation; a teacher he hired in 1986 was honored as Teacher of the Year. He noted
305 that he town’s emergency contact, Mr. Jim Judge, Volusia County Emergency Management
306 Interim Director, was one of his students who graduated from Pompano Beach High School; he
307 was also Mr. Judge’s guidance counselor.

308
309 **E. Mayor Paritsky, Seat #1** – Mayor Paritsky extended her appreciation to the Ponce
310 Inlet Veterans Association for another superb Memorial Day event; there was an excellent turnout
311 and a full program. Mr. “Deke” Diconstanzo did a great job as emcee. The video is available on
312 the C4PI website. She was honored to participate as a member of the Florida League of Cities
313 Executive Nominating Committee last week in St. Augustine; they interviewed candidates for the
314 position of Second Vice-President of the organization. The individual selected will ascend to the
315 presidency of the League and she is proud that Ponce Inlet has a voice in that decision. On behalf
316 of the Volusia League of Cities, she presented a “Civics 101” class in Orange City last month. The
317 mentorship program that was established has been very helpful; it benefits all the communities
318 with having confidence for the residents in their elected officials; how government runs, what
319 elected officials are supposed to do in their roles as elected officials.

320 **15. FROM THE TOWN MANAGER** – Mr. Disher announced the town hall improvements
321 are complete; the Clerk’s office and Human Resources office has been open for a month and the
322 new meeting room will soon be open; the sidewalk was poured this week. He noted that the
323 calendar of events and meeting calendar are available on the town’s website. He referred to the
324 upcoming Volusia County Council meeting and noted the joint project agreement (JPA) that was
325 approved by this Council will go before their Council on June 20, 2023; he will be attending that
326 meeting. Also on their agenda, they will be reviewing an ordinance that would prohibit vehicles
327 from driving around barricades during a declared emergency; this has been passed in other states.
328 Barricades are put out for a reason, such as flooding, and it would make it a crime for drivers to
329 go around them. This ordinance would apply in unincorporated and incorporated areas so it would
330 apply in the cities; it is something that our law enforcement could use if needed. He announced the
331 shade structures at the Pollard Park pickleball court are finished; and the First Step Shelter signs
332 that were approved by Council have been ordered and are expected to be installed within the next
333 few weeks. The town had requested legislative appropriations for several projects and town
334 improvements related to the hurricane recovery; today the Governor signed the budget but vetoed
335 all of our requests except \$20,000 for a new back-up generator at the Community Center. The
336 other items will be discussed at next week’s budget workshop to decide if they are something the
337 town wants to fund itself or apply for grants. Materials will be sent to Council for the first budget
338 workshop on Friday, June 23, 2023, at 10:00 am; this workshop will be an overview of the big
339 picture. Details and the draft budget will be presented at the second budget workshop in July;
340 needed information has not yet been received from the county and property appraiser yet. The
341 Council has held Town Hall meetings in the last couple of years in January and August; he would
342 like to hold another in August if Council is willing. The past Town Hall meetings have focused on
343 specific issues or projects but this one would focus on each of town’s departments and what each
344 one does. Mayor Paritsky added that if Senator Wright is available on the date selected for the
345 Town Hall, he would like to participate to provide an update any bills that passed that impact us
346 and what he anticipates for the upcoming legislative session. She will contact Senator Wright for
347 his availability when proposed dates are provided; if he is not available for the Town Hall meeting,
348 he will join us at another time.

349
350 **16. FROM THE TOWN ATTORNEY** – *None.*

351
352 **17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (on items 14 – 16 only)** – Mayor Paritsky opened
353 public participation; hearing none - she closed public comment.

354
355 **18. ADJOURNMENT** – With no further business, Mayor Paritsky adjourned the meeting at
356 7:55 PM.

357
358 Respectfully submitted by:

359
360 

361 Kim Cherbano, CMC / Town Clerk

362 Prepared by: Debbie Stewart, Assistant Deputy Clerk

363
364 Attachment(s): None.



SIGN HERE