



Town of Ponce Inlet
Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 17, 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
18 Councilmember Villanella, Seat #4
19 Vice-Mayor Smith, Seat #5

20
21 **Staff Members Present:**

22 Mr. Barber, IT Technician
23 Ms. Cherbano, Town Clerk
24 Mr. Disher, Town Manager
25 Ms. French, Cultural Services Manager
26 Ms. Gjessing, Permit Technician
27 Chief Glazier, Police Department
28 Mr. Griffith, Public Works Director
29 Ms. Hall, Accountant/Grants Coordinator
30 Mr. Hooker, Code Compliance Manager
31 Chief Scales, Public Safety Director *pro tem*
32 Attorney Shephard, Town Attorney
33 Ms. Stewart, Assistant Deputy Clerk

34
35 **4. ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS, OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA.** Mr. Disher
36 noted that the budget presentation will be included with the July 18, 2023 Town Council budget
37 workshop minutes.

38
39 Mayor Paritsky moved to approve the agenda as amended; seconded by Councilmember Caswell.
40 The motion PASSED 5-0, consensus.

41
42 **5. PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND AWARDS:** Mayor Paritsky
43 introduced Volusia County Councilmember Matt Reinhart; he provided an update on the
44 Transform 360 Program and \$328 million federal grant the County is receiving to transform the
45 area post-Hurricane Nicole. The grant provides opportunities for individuals countywide to request

46 funds to improve and repair their personal property as well as for infrastructure issues that need to
47 be addressed. His priorities are Midtown Daytona and SR A1A due to the flooding issues; ideas
48 are being discussed and he will keep the Town informed as things progress. The County held
49 several “Town Hall” meetings to inform people how to submit applications and the requirements
50 that must be met. He announced that his project is to make the County parks safer; he had a meeting
51 earlier today to see if the 911 call boxes can be included with the repairs to the parks along the
52 coast. Mayor Paritsky thanked him for coming and reminded everyone Councilmember Reinhart
53 is available by phone or email.
54

55 **A. Proclamations:** Mayor Paritsky reported that in recognition of Patriot’s Day, she
56 will be presenting a proclamation to Ponce Inlet’s first responders on Monday, September 11, 2023
57 at the Fire Department, declaring September 11th as a Day of Remembrance; she will present a
58 proclamation to Randy Okum in recognition of Information Technology Professionals, declaring
59 the week of September 18 – 22, 2023 Information Technology Professionals Appreciation Week
60 with Tuesday, September 19th as National IT Professionals Day.
61

62 **6. CONSENT AGENDA:** Mayor Paritsky asked if there was any item Council would like to
63 remove from the consent agenda; Councilmember Caswell requested removing Item D. Mayor
64 Paritsky asked for public comments – hearing none, she closed public comments.
65

- 66 **A. Town Council Budget workshop meeting minutes – July 18, 2023.**
- 67 **B. Town Council regular meeting minutes – July 20, 2023.**
- 68 **C. Authorizing disposal of the fixed assets identified in the Finance Director’s**
69 **August 8, 2023 report as surplus items, in accordance with Town policy.**
- 70 ~~**D. Request for co-sponsorship – Coffee, Cake, and Conversation with Sheriff**~~
71 ~~**Chitwood.**~~ – *Moved to Agenda Item 13-D.*
72

73 Mayor Paritsky moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended; seconded by Councilmember
74 Caswell. The motion PASSED 5-0, consensus.
75

76 **7. OLD/NEW BUSINESS ITEMS PREFERRED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE**
77 **MEETING**
78

79 **A. Presentation from Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc. on Water Utility Rates**
80 – Mr. Mike Rocca provided a [presentation](#) on water utility rates. He noted the last water rate
81 adjustments were in 2018. His firm conducted a revenue sufficiency review to see if the town
82 receives enough funds based on the same rate structure; a computer rate model was created that
83 forecasts fiscal requirements and revenue based on alternative rate adjustments. The findings
84 resulted in three scenarios; Scenario 1 has no adjustment; Scenario 2 adjusts to generate sufficient
85 revenues; and Scenario 3 has a rate adjustment with a rate structure modification. He provided a
86 review of the town’s customer water usage and a comparison of Ponce Inlet to other local utilities.
87 He noted that the town is currently using reserves to meet the coverage requirements. Scenario 2
88 accomplishes revenue sufficiency with minimum impact on customers; adjustments should be
89 effective the first full billing cycle after October 1, 2023. Councilmember Villanella commented
90 that Scenario 2 is the most viable option to consider. Councilmember Caswell had several
91 questions regarding the presentation; how frequently a water study is conducted; why October 1

92 is the goal for any change; and an explanation for 30% of the estimated adjustment mostly going
93 to personnel. Mr. Disher noted the last water utility study for Ponce Inlet was conducted five years
94 ago. Mr. Rocca explained that labor costs are escalating at a higher rate. Councilmember Caswell
95 noted that the City of Port Orange is raising their rates to Ponce Inlet by 20% over the next five
96 years. She asked what the R&R transfer is; Mr. Rocca explained that R&R (Renewal &
97 Replacement) is a reserve account for repairs and replacement of necessary items. Also discussed
98 was a cost-of-service study for the future. Mayor Paritsky opened public comment. Mr. Charles
99 Burge, Harbour Links South, asked for an explanation of “debt service” and asked if once that is
100 paid, will the town be even? Mr. Rocca explained that is the mortgage payment and yes, the loan
101 with the state would be paid. Mr. Burge had several other questions regarding the rate adjustment
102 that Mr. Rocca addressed.

103
104 Arun Iyampillai, 1 Mar Azul, commented he has heard the word “profit” repeatedly and noted that
105 the town should not be making a profit; the town should only charge enough to pay the bills. Mr.
106 Rocca responded that this is a water enterprise fund which means it is an on-going business. No
107 one can say how much revenue is needed each year because it fluctuates; therefore, rates must be
108 set to generate a modest surplus. Mr. Disher added that Ponce Inlet purchases water from Port
109 Orange but owns the pipes and valves that must be maintained; rates must be set to cover those
110 costs. Councilmember Villanella commented that the town is not looking to make a profit but to
111 anticipate future maintenance, repair, and replacement needs. Mayor Paritsky stated that staff is
112 looking for direction from the Council on one of the three proposed scenarios; she asked when it
113 would take effect. Mr. Disher replied the earliest is November due to notification requirements; it
114 will come back to the Council in the form of a resolution that the Council to officially change the
115 fees [*Editor’s note: the resolution would take effect October 1st; customers will see the change on*
116 *their water utility bill beginning in November*]. Mayor Paritsky commented that Scenario 2 appears
117 to be the most appropriate way to move forward with the understanding of the need for a future
118 cost-to-rate study. Councilmember Caswell stated she would like to see Scenario 2 refigured with
119 a net/surplus definition and the R&R moved above the line. Mayor Paritsky re-opened public
120 comment. Mr. Michael Lang, 4366 S. Atlantic Avenue, referred to the water comparison table and
121 noted that under Scenario 2, the town will be paying double that of Port Orange. Mr. Rocca replied
122 that Port Orange recently had a rate increase. Mr. Lang asked if the other classifications are
123 subsidizing the condominiums. Mr. Rocca replied that the condominium billed usage is 14%.

124
125 *A consensus was reached to accept Scenario 2 as presented; 5-0.*

126
127 **8. PUBLIC HEARINGS / QUASI-JUDICIAL MATTERS:** None.

128
129 **9. PUBLIC HEARINGS / NON-QUASI-JUDICIAL MATTERS:**

130
131 **A. Second reading and adoption of Ordinance 2023-03, amending the Code of**
132 **Ordinances Chapter 51 regarding Special Event Co-Sponsorship - Attorney Shepard read the**
133 **ordinance by title only. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PONCE INLET, FLORIDA;**
134 **AMENDING CHAPTER 51 OF THE PONCE INLET CODE OF ORDINANCES TO**
135 **PROVIDE STANDARDS AND CRITERIA GOVERNING REQUESTS FOR THE TOWN**
136 **TO CO-SPONSOR SPECIAL EVENTS OR OTHER EVENTS; PROVIDING FOR**

137 **CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN**
138 **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

139
140 Councilmember Caswell moved to adopt on second reading, Ordinance 2023-03 as presented;
141 seconded by Councilmember Milano. The motion PASSED 5-0, with the following vote:
142 Councilmember Caswell – yes; Councilmember Milano – yes; Mayor Paritsky – yes;
143 Councilmember Villanella – yes; Vice-Mayor Smith – yes.

144
145 **10. CITIZENS’ PARTICIPATION:** Mayor Paritsky opened citizens’ participation. Arun
146 Iyampillai, 1 Mar Azul, stated he is concerned about tax increases for the citizens of Ponce Inlet.
147 Mark Oebbeke, 4758 S. Peninsula Drive, asked Mr. Disher to elaborate on what is included in
148 the Town’s submission for the Transform 386 grant. Mr. Disher explained the list includes those
149 items previously submitted to the state legislature for appropriations but were vetoed from the state
150 budget, including generators for the Fire Department and Public Works Department, backflow
151 prevention devices for storm drains on low-lying streets, and drainage improvements on S. Atlantic
152 Avenue. The Transform 386 grant is to address any unmet needs related to storm damage that
153 could not be reimbursed by FEMA or insurance.

154
155 Barbara Davis, 4871 Sailfish Drive, referred to the management plan for Ponce Preserve; she
156 referenced pages from the plan, stating it is important to maintain, as it is the last river-to-ocean
157 park in Ponce Inlet and possibly Volusia County. The Town is required to maintain the Preserve
158 and remove all invasive species. This item has gone before the Cultural Services Board who
159 recommended an environmental company, Young Bear Environmental. The Environmental
160 Supervisor from the Department of Agriculture, Ray Jarrett, also recommended it as did the Native
161 Plant Society. The invasive plants have not been removed on a regular basis. Don Spence, the
162 former “town arborist” was in Town Monday and submitted a report to move the timeline forward;
163 she urged Council to start now and not wait. She provided articles from the University of Florida
164 and the Department of Agriculture that explain when to remove Brazilian peppers; the two invasive
165 species in the preserve are Brazilian Peppers and Air Potatoes. The Town needs this company in
166 by November before the air potatoes begin to fall. The Brazilian Peppers have been located and
167 marked for removal; they also must be removed prior to November before they mature. She said
168 Mr. Spence identified eight total invasive and non-native species; she showed a map of the
169 Preserve and the locations. Five of the species are easy to remove. Volunteers can help to remove
170 these plants, which was recommended by the Cultural Services Board, and remove all the ground
171 invasive and non-native species within Ponce Preserve. She explained how the volunteer groups
172 would work and asked for the Council’s support to form them. Councilmember Caswell
173 volunteered to help. Mr. Disher noted that Ms. Davis is organizing this effort herself; the Town
174 appreciates it and will ensure she has what she needs.

175
176 Skip White, 4885 S. Atlantic Avenue, addressed the phrase use of the phrase “wasteful spending”;
177 each Ponce Inlet department submitted a list of items essential to continue to maintain the high
178 quality services the residents of Ponce Inlet expect. He encouraged residents to review each line
179 item for the Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments to form their own opinion of what is
180 wasteful spending. There are a few items that could be deferred to a future budget year that he
181 recommended at the July 18, 2023 budget workshop; he encouraged residents to review those
182 minutes. He attended the Essential Services Advisory Board (ESAB) meeting back in March where
183 the material line items for the proposed 23/24 budget were reviewed; they determined the priority

184 of the budget items which are then reviewed by the Town Council. The next budget meeting will
185 be September 6, 2023, and he encouraged residents to attend and participate in the proposed budget
186 discussion. Mayor Paritsky closed public participation.

187

188 **11. ORDINANCES (FIRST READING) AND RESOLUTIONS:**

189

190 **A. Resolution 2023-07.** Attorney Shephard read the resolution into the record by title
191 only. **A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PONCE INLET, VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA GRANTING FULL CO-SPONSORSHIP TO CERTAIN**
192 **LONG-STANDING ANNUAL EVENTS PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 51 OF THE PONCE**
193 **INLET CODE OF ORDINANCES AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY;**
194 **PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN**
195 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** – Ms. French stated that at the July 20, 2023 Town Council meeting,
196 Council passed Ordinance 2023-03 upon first reading, and tonight on the second reading, which
197 amends the Code of Ordinance Chapter 51 regarding special event co-sponsorship. This
198 modification provides a process for the Council to designate specific long-standing events by
199 separate resolution for full co-sponsorship. If approved, this resolution would take effect
200 immediately upon adoption. Staff are requesting the Council’s adoption of Resolution 2023-07 or
201 suggestions for modifications. She noted that the North Turn Legends Beach Parade is contingent
202 on the co-sponsorship of Volusia County in any given year. Councilmember Caswell asked if that
203 was a 50/50 sponsorship and how the town decides on how much to cede to other entities. Ms.
204 French explained that in general, and for the historical beach racing parade, the North Turn
205 typically asks for staff from the county; it may be different this year due to the Sheriff’s Office
206 having control of the beach. Their request usually is for staging on the beach, waiving beach tolls,
207 permit fees, etc.; the county has separate insurance coverage for county property. Councilmember
208 Milano commented that Votran has typically provided buses to transport people into the town for
209 the parade and asked if that will still be the case. Ms. French replied that would be between the
210 county and the applicants.

211

212
213 Councilmember Caswell moved to approve Resolution 2023-07 as presented, seconded by
214 Councilmember Villanella. The motion PASSED, 5-0 with the following vote: Councilmember
215 Caswell – yes; Councilmember Villanella – yes; Councilmember Milano – yes; Mayor Paritsky –
216 yes; Vice-Mayor Smith – yes.

217

218 **B. Resolution 2023-08.** Attorney Shephard read the resolution into the record by title
219 only. **A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PONCE INLET, FLORIDA AMENDING**
220 **RATES IN APPENDIX A OF THE TOWN CODE OF ORDINANCES, PART XIII (SOLID**
221 **WASTE, RECYCLING, AND BULK WASTE COLLECTION); PROVIDING FOR**
222 **CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS; PROVIDING**
223 **FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.** – Mr. Disher
224 stated this resolution will increase the fees of solid waste collection pursuant to the contract the
225 town has with Waste Pro; the town is entering the fifth year of a five-year contract. The rates for
226 the first two years of the contract remained the same, and the subsequent increases to the town
227 where per a formula defined in the contract. However, due to inflation, it is necessary to raise the
228 garbage collection fees. Staff are recommending raising the fee to \$35.00 with no increase next
229 year, or alternatively to \$33.50 this year with an additional increase next year. Councilmember

230 Caswell asked if staff had researched other scenarios such as trash pick-up once per week. Mr.
231 Disher replied staff has not looked at changes in service, but the contract provides for modification
232 if the Council so advises. Mayor Paritsky asked why the town shifted from Waste Management to
233 Waste Pro. Mr. Disher explained that the town had used Waste Management for years, but they
234 withdrew from their agreement with the Town in 2018. The Town then put it out for bid, and Waste
235 Pro was the lowest bidder. The town set the \$30 fee in 2019 and that has not changed.
236 Councilmember Milano provided background on waste pick-up at his townhome development;
237 they went to a once per-week pick-up which decreased the cost by 30%. He commented that at
238 any time the town has the right to change to once per-week pick-up, but we need to hear from the
239 community. An increase is needed now to cover the town's cost, but we also need to find out if
240 there would be a decrease if a change is made to once per week. Vice Mayor Smith noted that we
241 are in the final year of a five-year contract and that to change the terms, the contract would have
242 to be opened, which would give them the opportunity to raise rates even more. He explained that
243 changing to a once per-week pick-up would take longer to get through town, it would likely be
244 more than one truckload, yard trash will collect on sidewalks and streets which will affect the
245 appearance of the town. He noted that Waste Pro picks up trash from vacant lots.

246
247 Mayor Paritsky agreed and commented that this was discussed at the conferences she attended;
248 everyone is in the same situation in terms of the cost; she could agree to the \$33.50 to cover the
249 town's cost but she is open to options. She opened public comment. Mr. Charles Burge, Harbour
250 Village Links South, stated he had 35 years with the New York City Department of Sanitation; he
251 asked if Waste Pro does seasonal changes with the number of trucks assigned to the town; there
252 are less people here in the summer so the number of trucks should be less. He noted landscapers
253 should take yard waste with them. We do not want a pick-up once a week because trash could
254 attract rats, bugs, and other animals unless it is containerized. He referred to the commodities of
255 garbage: recycling, and bulk; and asked if the contract includes any rebates for paper, metal, etc.
256 Vice Mayor Smith explained there is only one truck, and it was purchased for Ponce Inlet; the
257 question is how many trips to the dump it must make on one run through town. He noted that
258 Waste Pro only picks up at single-family homes and that most snowbirds are in the condominiums;
259 he noted that residents pay the garbage pick-up fee through the water bill. Amy Wurst, 150 Bounty
260 Lane, commented that some communities have the option of choosing once or twice per week and
261 asked if that could be an option. Mayor Paritsky stated the town would need to meet with the Waste
262 Pro representative. The ideas discussed tonight will be researched by staff. She noted that Council
263 needs to address the rate increase of either \$35 or \$33.50; she would prefer the \$33.50.
264 Councilmember Milano stated he could not agree on the \$33.50 as the town still has fees it must
265 cover. Mr. Disher clarified that the contract renews automatically; the town must provide a one-
266 year notice if we want out of the contract and rebid it; however, it can be renegotiated at any time.
267 The \$33.50 is the minimum amount the town needs to pay its bill to Waste Pro plus the obligations
268 for debt service.

269
270 Councilmember Milano moved to approve Resolution 2023-08 increasing the rate to \$35,
271 seconded by Vice Mayor Smith. The motion PASSED, 5-0 with the following vote: Councilmember
272 Milano – yes; Vice-Mayor Smith – yes; Councilmember Caswell – yes; Councilmember Villanella
273 – yes; Mayor Paritsky – yes.

274

275 Mayor Paritsky stated staff will research and bring this back at the appropriate time; a resident
276 survey will be conducted if deemed necessary. Councilmember Milano noted that when this
277 contract began, waste bins for residents were considered but voted down because residents were
278 not sure they had room for them. There is an ordinance that states residents are not supposed to
279 put trash bags out but have it in bins; he asked if anyone had approached the homeowners who do
280 this. Mr. Disher replied that code enforcement contacts them; he explained the requirement is
281 garbage must be in a bin or enclosed in some way. Councilmember Caswell asked if the town
282 should look for a longer agreement; we should be proactive and look at next year's rates. Mr.
283 Disher replied that the direction is to see what the residents want. Councilmember Villanella asked
284 if re-opening the contract voids the existing terms and conditions. Mr. Disher noted the town and
285 the contractor may negotiate the type, method, and level of service at any time.

286
287 **C. Resolution 2023-09.** Attorney Shephard read the resolution into the record by title
288 only. **A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PONCE INLET, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING**
289 **THE OFFICIAL LOGO OF THE TOWN OF PONCE INLET TO BE USED ON THE**
290 **CITIZENS FOR PONCE INLET (C4PI) NEWSLETTER; PROVIDING FOR**
291 **CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND**
292 **PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.** – Mr. Disher explained that the Citizens for Ponce
293 Inlet (C4PI) has been using the town's logo on its newsletter since 2010; however, in 2013 the
294 town, in accordance with state law, passed a rule that the town's permission is needed. There have
295 been no complaints, but the town wants to ensure that as a distributor of content of the town and
296 elected officials, that C4PI is allowed to continue using the town logo on its newsletter cover.

297
298 Councilmember Caswell moved to approve Resolution 2023-09 as presented; seconded by
299 Councilmember Villanella. The motion PASSED 5-0, with the following vote: Councilmember
300 Caswell – yes; Councilmember Villanella – yes; Mayor Paritsky – yes; Councilmember Milano –
301 yes; Vice-Mayor Smith – yes.

302
303 **12. OLD BUSINESS:** None.

304
305 **13. NEW BUSINESS:**

306
307 **A. Lien abatement request – Kohlweiss – 42 Jana Drive** – Mr. Hooker stated Mr.
308 Kohlweiss, owner of the property at 42 Jana Drive, is requesting a reduction/lien abatement of a
309 \$15,660 code enforcement lien that was imposed on April 22, 2019; the lien amount includes a
310 fine of \$20 per day, accruing for 783 days of noncompliance until June 14, 2021. Mr. Hooker
311 provided the background information and evidence regarding the lien, and indicated that Mr.
312 Kohlweiss is present to speak on his own behalf. Mr. Kohlweiss stated he is in the process of
313 retiring full-time to 42 Jana Drive from California. He has owned the property for 17 years and
314 never had issues with his home. He flipped the boards on the rear deck that is attached to the second
315 story bedroom with the intention of painting a fresh surface but ran out of time and was unable to
316 finish; there is no access to the deck except through the house. He stacked the remaining boards
317 and returned to California; however, prior to leaving, a neighbor asked if he was interested in
318 selling the home; he told them he was not interested. A few days later, he received the letter from
319 Mr. Hooker that a complaint that was being investigated. He was in California and made plans to
320 return to Ponce Inlet to take care of this; however, his wife suffers from MS and is now in a

321 wheelchair. This was during COVID, and he was in California on lock-down and unable to return
322 to Ponce Inlet to finish the repairs. He was finally able to return the following year and met with
323 Mr. Hooker and Mr. Baker to find out what his neighbor was complaining about. While he was
324 making the repairs, that neighbor complained that he was doing work outside the scope of the
325 permit. They lodged another complaint regarding him working on a Sunday; he is the homeowner,
326 not a contractor, and is allowed to work on Sunday. The lien was placed because he did not get the
327 work done in time, but the repairs were completed. He did not receive all the notices regarding the
328 lien that were sent but was in communication with Mr. Hooker. He is requesting the lien be
329 dismissed as he does not feel it was justified. Councilmember Caswell asked if the town did not
330 communicate to him regarding the town's ordinances. Mr. Kohlweiss replied no; his argument is
331 that there was nothing dangerous about the situation. Councilmember Caswell noted it was against
332 the law. Councilmember Milano stated that there was a six-month period before he contacted Code
333 Enforcement – and asked why Mr. Kohlweiss did not pull the permit and have someone do the
334 work for him. Mr. Kohlweiss stated his sister tried to apply for a permit for him but was unable to
335 do so because she is not on the title. Vice Mayor Smith noted that at the time this issue began,
336 Councilmember Villanella was serving on the Code Enforcement Board and has full knowledge
337 of the case. Mayor Paritsky stated that even if Mr. Kohlweiss was not here, he is still responsible
338 for his property. A significant amount of time passed as well as five courtesy letters sent to him;
339 she understands there was a lockdown in California from March 2020 through June 2021 but that
340 does not relieve him of his obligation to take care of his property in Ponce Inlet. Council members
341 discussed the case in detail and allowed Mr. Kohlweiss to defend his lack of action. They reviewed
342 the correspondence between Mr. Kohlweiss and the town and the timeline of the project. Mr.
343 Kohlweiss stated he returned as soon as he was able and completed the repairs within six days.
344 Mayor Paritsky referred to the fact that Councilmember Villanella was serving on the Code
345 Enforcement Board when the order was issued, and that he lives in the same development and
346 asked Attorney Shephard if there was any issue. Attorney Shephard explained the request for
347 abatement is a discretionary item; there is no conflict and no financial benefit. Councilmember
348 Villanella stated he is aware of this situation; Mr. Kohlweiss is a responsible individual and this
349 situation is out of character for him. Mayor Paritsky stated the town acted appropriately, did what
350 was required under our ordinances regarding safety and the welfare of our citizens. Notifications
351 were sent to Mr. Kohlweiss; Mr. Kohlweiss did not return and address the issue as he told Mr.
352 Hooker he would in 2018. She does not see the basis for relinquishing the lien.

353
354 Mayor Paritsky stated in the matter of the lien abatement request by Frank Kohlweiss of 42 Jana
355 Drive, in the amount of \$15,660 which is comprised of \$20 per day, accruing for 783 days plus
356 the administrative fee of \$250: based upon the report of staff dated August 4, 2023 and the exhibits
357 incorporated as set forth at length on the record and the statements of Town of Ponce Inlet Code
358 Compliance Manager David Hooker, and the applicant Frank Kohlweiss, she moved to deny the
359 lien abatement request in the total sum of \$15,660; seconded by Councilmember Caswell. The
360 motion PASSED 4-1, with the following vote: Mayor Paritsky – yes; Councilmember Caswell –
361 yes; Councilmember Milano – yes; Councilmember Villanella – no; Vice-Mayor Smith – yes.

362
363 **B. Approval of Vendors for Various Trade Services** – Mr. Griffith stated that the
364 town advertised for trade contractors to assist with necessary repairs and replacements in town.
365 The town advertised for 30 days in the local newspaper and received four responses; he is
366 requesting approval to enter into a contract with each of these contractors. Competitive quotes will

367 still be required. Councilmember Caswell clarified that he is asking to add these contractors as
368 approved vendors and not to enter into a specific contract; Mr. Griffith stated “correct”. Vice
369 Mayor Smith commented that this gives the Town flexibility and allows us to respond faster.
370 Councilmember Milano agreed.

371
372 Councilmember Caswell moved to approve the vendors for various trade services and authorize
373 the Town Manager to execute contracts with each; seconded by Councilmember Villanella. The
374 motion PASSED 5-0, with the following vote: Councilmember Caswell – yes; Councilmember
375 Villanella – yes; Mayor Paritsky – yes; Councilmember Milano – yes; Vice-Mayor Smith – yes.

376
377 **C. Fire Training Facility Agreement with the City of Port Orange** – Chief Scales
378 stated this is a “hold harmless” agreement with the City of Port Orange to use their new fire training
379 facility. The facility is nearby, it will allow the Town’s firefighters to train with neighboring
380 municipalities, and it is free. He noted that the Essential Services Advisory Board (ESAB)
381 recommended approval of this agreement. Councilmember Caswell asked if Port Orange or
382 Volusia County was paying for this facility. Chief Scales explained Port Orange built the facility
383 and allows neighboring departments to utilize it for free. Mayor Paritsky opened public comment.
384 Ryan McConaughy, 66 Seawinds Circle, stated he is a member of the ESAB and explained it is
385 important for our departments to train together so they work seamlessly together when they are on
386 the same scene. Mayor Paritsky closed public comment.

387
388 Councilmember Caswell moved to approve the Fire Training Facility Agreement with the City of
389 Port Orange seconded by Councilmember Milano. The motion PASSED 5-0, consensus.

390
391 **D. Request for Co-Sponsorship – Coffee, Cake, and Conversation with Sheriff**
392 **Chitwood** – Ms. French explained this item is a citizen request from Ms. Paritsky for advertising
393 use; it is not a special event and does not require a permit. The ordinance passed tonight had not
394 yet gone into effect when she applied, and she is following proper protocol. Councilmember
395 Caswell commented that her understanding is that Sheriff Chitwood is running for re-election and
396 there may or may not have been one or more public events where he was circulating petitions for
397 his re-election campaign. She wants to ensure that if he comes for coffee and refreshments that our
398 citizens will not be exposed to any type of campaigning. Mayor Paritsky explained it is exciting to
399 have Sheriff Chitwood come because of all the changes with law enforcement on the beach, new
400 state statutes regarding guns and permits, and new software and technology the Sheriff’s Office
401 has. She understands Councilmember Caswell’s concerns and will speak with his office so that
402 there is no misunderstanding. She announced it will be Saturday, September 23, 2023, from 10:00
403 am to 12:00 pm; the doors will open at 9:30 am. There will be coffee and refreshments available.
404 Sheriff Chitwood will speak and Chief Glazier will be there. The town will be advertising this
405 event and she will be mailing postcards to residents.

406
407 Councilmember Caswell moved to approve the co-sponsorship request for Coffee, Cake, and
408 Conversation with Sheriff Chitwood; seconded by Councilmember Milano. The motion PASSED
409 5-0, consensus.

410
411 **14. FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL:**

412

- 413 A. **Vice-Mayor Smith, Seat 5** – Noted a lot was completed tonight.
- 414
- 415 B. **Councilmember Villanella, Seat #4** – Stated it was another great meeting.
- 416
- 417 C. **Councilmember Caswell, Seat #3** – Stated her insurance rate went up over 16.5%
- 418 on a Jeep kept in her garage; she noted that homeowner’s insurance is also on the rise and hopes
- 419 residents are prepared for that increase. She spoke with the Office of Consumer Advocacy for the
- 420 state of Florida’s Insurance Commission; they are required to notify homeowners in writing of any
- 421 rate changes 45 days prior to renewal. She explained that 30 days after you bind a contract, if you
- 422 decide to shop for a better rate, the insurance company you then bind with has the right to come
- 423 back with a higher rate. She does not believe they should be allowed to raise the rate once the
- 424 contract is bound and will be working on a legislative solution to this issue; she has an extensive
- 425 background in insurance. She noted that Volusia County is considering a 13.1% increase in their
- 426 overall budget; recent estimates have Volusia County property at just under \$100 billion. Because
- 427 property values have escalated 15% per year, they have that 15% to spend based on the ad valorem
- 428 taxes we pay and are now going to increase it an additional 13%. The taxes of Ponce Inlet make
- 429 up one-third of our bill and she asked everyone to contemplate the entire tax strain when they are
- 430 reviewing the line items in the budget. In addition to the tax rates going up, there is the water rate
- 431 and waste increases as well as a possible stormwater fee. She also thinks that when times are hard,
- 432 we can say no to some things and defer them. This is the lens she uses in these meetings; where to
- 433 cut expenses, when to defer items and what will we get out of it. If she cannot get a quantifiable
- 434 answer, then she is inclined to pass on it for this year’s budget. She announced the Town Hall
- 435 meeting on August 24, 2023, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm; Mayor Paritsky will provide a presentation
- 436 on the budget and the tentative millage rate. Senator Wright and Representative Tramont will
- 437 present a check to the town for a grant we received for a generator for the community center. She
- 438 noted that the grant match for the generator for the community center has not yet been approved
- 439 in the new budget; if the \$20,000 grant funds are for that, we do not get to use them until next
- 440 year’s budget is approved. Volusia County Emergency Management Director Jim Judge will also
- 441 be giving a presentation on hurricane preparedness.
- 442
- 443 D. **Councilmember Milano, Seat #2** – provided an update on the First Step Shelter;
- 444 977 individuals have entered the shelter since December 2019; of those, 513 completed the
- 445 program and 467 are still in housing, which is significantly higher than the national average; 633
- 446 of the 977 have incomes. The August 11, 2023, *Daytona News-Journal* edition included an article
- 447 regarding the 2023 Mayor’s Gala; he provided the article to Ms. French to include on the town’s
- 448 website. The gala generated a lot of money last year and the shelter was able to increase attendance
- 449 from 60 to 70; the goal this year is to increase it to 80 people. They are in the process of selling
- 450 tables for next year’s gala; the Copper Bottom Distillery is holding a function to buy tickets for
- 451 next year’s gala; the tables are \$1,000 and seat eight. Tables can be purchased by phone as well.
- 452 He noted the town has recently installed two signs that instruct you how to help instead of giving
- 453 money to panhandlers; one is at Town Hall and the other is at Ponce Preserve. He gave kudos to
- 454 the Port Orange Elks as they come to the shelter each month and provide a bar-b-que luncheon for
- 455 the shelter members; and they provided a check to replace all the computers the Catholic Charities
- 456 left when they left the shelter in 2020. He showed a video of the first sea turtle nest that opened
- 457 this year; hundreds of turtles made it out.
- 458

459 **E. Mayor Paritsky, Seat #1** – stated she had the honor of representing the Town last
460 week at the annual Florida League of Cities Conference in Orlando. They elected Councilwoman
461 Holly Smith from Sanibel Island as second Vice-President; she was Mayor of Sanibel when the
462 hurricanes hit and devastated her municipality and met with President Biden and Governor
463 DeSantis and was very instrumental in helping her region get financial assistance. She announced
464 Daytona Beach Shores Mayor Nancy Miller was voted in as Mayor Elect of the Florida League of
465 Mayors for next year, giving our area a very significant voice. As President of the Volusia League
466 of Cities, she moderated a breakfast meeting where they discussed counties coming together for
467 best practices for communicating with legislators. She is the Chair of the Florida League of Cities
468 Advocacy Committee that had an end-of-session review of bills that passed; sovereign immunity
469 and short-term rental bills will be back. She also sits on a policy committee and wants to bring
470 back the tree removal permitting statutes. She announced our State Legislators will be attending
471 the Town Hall meeting next Thursday; she also expects a couple of Volusia County Council
472 Members to be in attendance along with the Emergency Management Director, Jim Judge. A lot
473 of hurricane preparedness information will be given. Her overview will be brief on the budgeting
474 process, the role of the Essential Services Advisory Board (ESAB), and the process of setting a
475 tentative and final millage rate. She announced the next budget meeting will be September 6, 2023.
476

477 **15. FROM THE TOWN MANAGER** – Mr. Disher announced that as of last Friday, Volusia
478 County has installed 25,000 linear feet of trap bags along the coast; and they have removed over
479 12,000 cubic yards of debris. He announced the town received a check today from FEMA in the
480 amount of \$128,000, completing reimbursement for the Town’s debris removal expenses from the
481 hurricanes. He gave the credit to the Finance Department for their hard work.
482

483 **16. FROM THE TOWN ATTORNEY** – Attorney Shephard had nothing further.
484

485 **17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (on items 14 – 16 only)** – Mayor Paritsky opened public
486 participation. Barbara Davis, 4871 Sailfish Drive, referred to Councilmember Caswell’s comments
487 regarding insurance; the *Daytona News-Journal* had an article this morning about what insurance
488 carriers that homeowners were complaining about; it explains how to file a complaint at the end
489 of the article; she announced that sea turtle nests can be adopted through the Volusia-Flagler Turtle
490 Patrol; she gave a shout-out to Ponce Animal Welfare and Julie Davis for rescuing a mother cat
491 and kittens, who are now safe in homes. Mayor Paritsky closed public comment.
492

493 **18. ADJOURNMENT** – With no further business, Mayor Paritsky adjourned the meeting at
494 8:44 PM.
495

496 Respectfully submitted by:

497 *Kim Cherbano*
498

499 Kim Cherbano, CMC / Town Clerk
500 Prepared by: Debbie Stewart, Assistant Deputy Clerk
501