



MINUTES OF THE HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD JULY 26, 2021

Mayor MacFarlane called the Town Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.  
Mayor MacFarlane led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.  
Mr. Jim Steele read a poem.

**Members Present:**

Martha MacFarlane, Mayor  
George Lehning, Councilor  
Rick Klein, Councilor  
Ed Conroy, Mayor Pro-Tem

**Staff Present:**

Sean O'Keefe, Town Administrator  
John Brock, Town Clerk  
Thomas Wilkes, Town Attorney (Virtual)  
Thomas Harowski, Town Planner (Virtual)  
Tara Hall, Library Director

**Members Excused Absent / Attending Virtually:**

Marie V. Gallelli, Councilor (Virtual)

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

**Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy to approve the agenda; Councilor Lehning seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. The approval of the minutes and ratification and confirmation of all Town Council actions at the July 12, 2021, Town Council Meeting.**

**Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy to approve the minutes; Councilor Klein seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

- 2. Consideration and Approval: Ordinance 2021-005.**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS,  
FLORIDA, PERTAINING TO TOWN BOUNDARIES; ANNEXING INTO  
THE TOWN PURSUANT TO SECTION 171.044, FLORIDA STATUTES,  
AN ENCLAVE PARCEL OF APPROXIMATELY 10.04 ACRES  
LOCATED GENERALLY WEST OF FLORIDA AVENUE AND SOUTH**

**OF NUMBER 2 ROAD; PROVIDING FOR RECORDING AND FOR  
NOTICE TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LAKE  
COUNTY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Mayor MacFarlane read the Ordinance out loud.

Public Comment:

None

**Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy to approve Ordinance 2021-005; Councilor Klein seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

<b>Councilor Lehning</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>Councilor Klein</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>Councilor Gallelli</b>	<b>Excused Absent</b>
<b>Mayor MacFarlane</b>	<b>YES</b>		

**3. Consideration and Approval: Ordinance 2021-006.**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS,  
FLORIDA, PERTAINING TO LAND USE; AMENDING THE FUTURE  
LAND USE MAP OF THE TOWN'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR A  
10.04-ACRE PARCEL LOCATED WEST OF SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE  
AND SOUTH OF NUMBER TWO ROAD, AS LEGALLY DESCRIBED IN  
THE ORDINANCE, FROM LAKE COUNTY DESIGNATION OF  
"URBAN LOW DENSITY" TO THE TOWN'S DESIGNATION OF  
"MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL"; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS,  
SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Mayor MacFarlane read the Ordinance out loud.

Public Comment:

None

**Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy to approve Ordinance 2021-006; Councilor Lehning seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.**

<b>Councilor Lehning</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>Councilor Klein</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>Councilor Gallelli</b>	<b>Excused Absent</b>
<b>Mayor MacFarlane</b>	<b>YES</b>		

**NEW BUSINESS**

#### **4. Consideration and Approval: Proclamation – Citrus Label Tour**

The Mayor explained that this Proclamation was there for the Town to show its support for the Citrus Label Tour. The Citrus Label Tour was created to showcase the history of the beautiful packing labels that were used by different groups in the local citrus packing industry. Two of the labels were purchased and placed on signs for the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills and would be dedicated on August 25<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at the Griffin Park gazebo. The Mayor read the Proclamation out loud.

Public Comment:

Fran Wagler, 409 W Central Ave. – Ms. Wagler explained that one of the two Labels that the Town was sponsoring, Apshawa, actually came from Minneola and that the town should sponsor a Howey label instead of Apshawa.

**Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy to approve of the Proclamation; Councilor Lehning seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.**

#### **5. Presentation: Sheldon Lucien, CEO. Lucien Wireless - Potential Howey Broadband Wireless**

Mayor MacFarlane asked Sheldon Lucien, CEO of Lucien Wireless, to give his presentation. Sean O’Keefe, Town Administrator, gave a brief introduction to the topic of the E-rate and the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) available grants that Howey-in-the-Hills would try to use to fund this project. Mr. Lucien explained how the Town could utilize his company to create a high-speed wireless internet entity to service the Town’s residents and surrounding people that are underserved for broadband / high-speed internet access.

Public Comment:

Doug Hower, 444 Bellissimo Place - Mr. Hower asked what frequencies this technology would be utilizing.

Peter Tuite, 300 E Croton Way – Mr. Tuite asked if the town had completed a survey as to who needs internet that does not have it and what the purpose of the grant was and if weather would affect the technology.

#### **6. Presentation: Chief Rick Thomas – Howey Police Department**

Mayor MacFarlane asked Chief Thomas to give his presentation. Chief Thomas’ presentation discussed the Howey-in-the-Hills Police Department, its purpose, structure, and members of the staff.

Public Comment:

None

#### **7. Presentation and Discussion: Pine Bike Trail Park**

Mayor MacFarlane asked Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy to make his presentation. Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy explained that the town has piece of land that was given to the Town in conjunction with the development of Venezia South. Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy also explained that he had reached out to people with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) about the Town utilizing this property as a park to be used in conjunction with bicycle trail. Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy felt that the Town should put picnic tables, bike racks, and water fountains to try to create a bike park that the MPO would help support.

Public Comment:

Berniece Hower, 444 Bellissimo Place - Mrs. Hower asked where this land in question was located.

#### **Old Business:**

#### **8. Discussion: Replacement of Deck on Howey Pier.**

Mayor MacFarlane asked Town Administrator, Sean O'Keefe, and Public Services Director, John Ernest, to explain what is being done about the deteriorating fishing pier. Mr. Ernest explained that an RFP has been issued to replace the pier and he expected that Town would have some bids. Councilor Gallelli spoke to a Ms. Eileen from the Trout Farm, and she recommended having composite vinyl placed over any wood decking or wooden handrails. Councilor Gallelli also spoke with Bob Tweedie of Tavares Economic Development. Mr. Tweedie recommended using Trex material.

Public Comment:

None

#### **9. Discussion: Sara Maude Mason Boardwalk Closure and Plan of Action**

Town Administrator, Sean O'Keefe, explained that the Town would using a two-pronged approach to getting the park reopened as quickly and safely as possible. The Town has issued an RFP for cleaning the boardwalk and Town employees would be replacing damaged boards after

the boardwalk was pressure washed. The Town would also replace a section of railing that was destroyed after a tree fell.

Mayor MacFarlane stated that Town Administrator O'Keefe needed to reach out the Town Attorney to discuss the area of property on the south side that was in contention.

Public Comment:

None

#### **10. Discussion: CDBG-CV Grant Update for Well #5**

Mayor MacFarlane explained that the Town has passed the pre-application portion of the grant and was waiting for the window to open so that the Town could submit the full application for the grant. For the application, the town would need to have a public hearing/workshop to discuss the project and grant. Also, a Saturday presentation for the public should also be done.

Public Comment:

None

#### **11. Discussion: Town Hall Report of Development Status**

Mayor MacFarlane asked Sean O'Keefe, Town Administrator to give this report. Mr. O'Keefe gave a status on all the tentative developments that are working on coming into the Town. In the future, this update would occur during the Town Hall's monthly report. Mr. O'Keefe stated that he was creating a map of the developments that he would present during a future meeting.

Public Comment:

None

#### **Council Member Reports:**

##### **Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy**

Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy stated that he believed that the Town should be looking into acquiring an electric car charging station at the library. He believed that this would be a benefit to the Town. Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy also stated that there are streets in Howey-in-the-Hills with low hanging trees that Public Services needs to have trimmed so that trucks, cars, and school buses do not hit the tree branches.

##### **Councilor Lehning**

Councilor Lehning thanked Public Services Director, Mr. John Ernest, for fixing the pothole on Citrus Ave.

### **Councilor Gallelli**

Councilor Gallelli wanted to remind residents not to dump chemicals or trash in storm water drains. She also stated that residents should not fertilize their yards during the summer months.

### **Councilor Klein**

Councilor Klein explained that he was happy with his experience with WCA/GFL picking up the bulk waste at his house.

### **Mayor MacFarlane**

Mayor MacFarlane stated that the Town was working with Howey Mansion because of problems that relate to the mansion's trash dumpster placement. Mayor MacFarlane also stated that the Town should have a tree replacement program.

### **Public Comments**

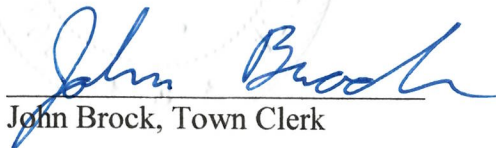
Sal Gallelli, 1104 N Tangerine Ave - Mr. Gallelli stated that he liked the idea of chargers for electric vehicles at the Howey library, but he did not like the idea a charger at the Howey Police Station.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Lehning seconded the motion.**

The Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m. | **Attendees: 28**

ATTEST:

  
John Brock, Town Clerk

  
Mayor Martha MacFarlane