

February 27, 2025

## Village Council Meeting

### Attendance:

Mayor Yardley

Mr. Tomlinson

Mr. Hodgson

Mr. Borshchukov

Mr. Robichaux

### Also:

Sean Swartz

Starr Paton

The roll was called and a quorum was determined.

Mayor Yardley asked the council to amend the agenda to accept the resignation of Chief James O'Brien. Motion made by Mr. Tomlinson and seconded by Mr. Borshchukov to accept the Chief's resignation. Mayor Yardley thanked Chief O'Brien for his 31 years of honorable service to the Village of Sea Ranch Lakes and presented him with a plaque and gift from the Village.

Mayor Yardley asked Mr. Swartz to draft a resolution of the council for the March meeting to honor Chief Jim O'Brien to recognize his 31 years of service to the village. It will be published and circulated to the village. Motion made to do so by Mr. Tomlinson and seconded by Mr. Borshchukov.

Mayor Yardley wants to assure the Village that proper care was taken in the appointment of a new chief. Each council member had the opportunity to meet with and interview Fernando Gajate and the council held a special meeting to discuss and unanimously agreed to approve the hiring of Capt. Gajate for the Chief's position. Motion by Mr. Hodgson and seconded by Mr. Robichaux to approve the hiring of Fernando Gajate as Chief of Police. The roll was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Yardley swore in Chief Gajate. Mayor Yardley congratulated Chief Gajate and told him he had big shoes to fill.

The minutes from the January 9, 2025, meeting were reviewed. Motion made by Mr. Tomlinson and seconded by Mr. Robichaux to approve the January 9, 2025, minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

#### Police Report:

Chief Gajate stated police will be more visible in the Village as well as handling calls in the plaza. We have been addressing issues with Evolution next to the plaza as well. Chief will be concentrating on patrols and time in front of the gate during morning entrance times, between 8-9 a.m. by placing an officer there for more visibility. No crimes to report and there have been no break-ins or crimes to report since August last year.

Mr. Tomlinson reviewed the accounts payable for February. All the bills were ordinary and necessary. Motion made by Mr. Hodgson and seconded by Mr. Borshchukov to approve the accounts payable for February. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tomlinson reviewed the January financial statement. Cash balance is \$3,490,000 which is the total of the investment accounts and Centennial account. We are earning over 4% on the FMIVT investment account and more funds were transferred from the Centennial account into the FMIVT account this month. We have not been able to plug in the 2024-25 budget numbers as the audit has not been completed at this time. This should be completed by the next meeting. As this is the first audit by Grau & Associates it has been more rigorous and has taken more time. The council discussed the possibility of the elimination of property taxes by the State legislature and possible consequences. The council discussed the use of sales and gas tax receipts. Motion made by Mr. Hodgson and seconded by Mr. Robichaux to approve the December and January financial statements. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Yardley stated Mr. Tomlinson is the Chief Village Financial Officer. He is term limited on the council and the Mayor suggested the council consider having Mr. Tomlinson continue to be the Chief Financial Officer of the Village. Motion made by Mr. Hodgson and seconded by Mr. Borshchukov for the continuance of Mr. Tomlinson to serve as Chief Financial Officer. Motion passed unanimously.

#### Code Compliance Report:

Bernard Pita provided a list of properties which were inspected this month. Starr is making calls for properties that need attention prior to violations being issued. The council wants to make sure there is a proper notification trail and asked emails be sent for compliance purposes.

There were no Beach Club board members present to discuss Beach Club matters.

#### New Business:

The Mayor asked the council to consider the landscape plan for 32 Seneca Rd. Calvin Giordano has reviewed and approved the landscape plan. Motion made by Mr. Hodgson and seconded by Mr. Robichaux to approve the landscape plan for 32 Seneca Rd. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Swartz presented the resolution approving and ratifying the Cyber Security policy which is now a state requirement for every municipality. Mr. Swartz read the resolution by title only. Motion made by Mr. Borshchukov and seconded by Mr. Tomlinson to approve the resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Yardley asked the council to consider the engagement letter from Hinkle, Richter & Root for the 2024-25 fiscal year. Mr. Tomlinson stated they have been our firm for many years and recommended continuing our relationship with them. The council approved the engagement letter.

Mr. Tomlinson discussed the need for a conflict-of-interest policy which was brought to our attention by the auditors and is under state statute. Mr. Swartz discussed this with the council and stated he will bring back an ordinance to establish the baseline for the village for the March meeting.

The next council meeting will be held on Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

Adjourn.