

March 27, 2025

Village Council Meeting

Attendance:

Mayor Yardley

Mrs. Bryan

Mr. Volkert

Mr. Hodgson

Mr. Borshchukov

Also:

DJ Doody

John Tomlinson

Chief Gajate

Starr Paton

The roll was called, and a quorum was determined.

Mayor Yardley stated Mrs. Bryan, Mr. Volkert and Mr. Hodgson were sworn in as newly elected council members prior to the meeting.

The minutes from the February 26, 2025, special council meeting and February 27, 2025 council meeting were reviewed. Motion made by Mrs. Bryan and seconded by Mr. Hodgson. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Yardley stated Mr. Tomlinson is still the Chief Financial Officer and will be giving the financial reports at the meetings. Mr. Tomlinson reviewed the accounts payable for March. All the bills were ordinary and necessary. Motion made by Mr. Hodgson and seconded by Mr. Volkert to approve the accounts payable for March. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Tomlinson reviewed the financial statement for February. This is the fifth month of the fiscal year. Cash balance at the end of February was \$3,341,259. Ad valorem collections to date are \$2,000,000 and we should still receive approximately \$300,000 to \$400,000. Once the audit is completed, we will update the budget numbers on the financial statements. Motion made by Mrs. Bryan and seconded by Mr. Volker to approve the February 28, 2025, financial statement. Motion passed unanimously.

Police report:

Chief Gajate reported that they have been keeping tabs on the plaza and reducing the number of vagrant/homeless people. The officers have been giving special attention to the gatehouse entrance area in the mornings as vehicles have been running the stop sign at the entrance. There are many walkers during this time of day, and he is requesting the Beach Club to consider adding a crosswalk on the west side of Winnebago for pedestrian safety.

Chief Gajate stated he will address concerns regarding the intruder that was in the village this week following public comments. Mr. Yardley stated the chief will contact people whose properties border the south wall along Pine Avenue. A railing has been installed behind 6 Minnetonka Rd. and if property owners are interested, we can have additional railings installed.

Code Compliance Report:

Starr Paton reported that Bernard Pita had provided a report to the council on affected properties. Starr has followed up with phone calls and emails to the residents on the list. Most are minor issues and are coming into compliance.

Beach Club Liaison Report:

Mr. Soto and Mrs. Barker reported on Beach Club projects including road work, new street signs, the new electric community sign, shade structure for the playground and the new website.

New Business:

Mayor Yardley asked the council to consider Resolution 2025-02 honoring the service of Chief James O'Brien. Mr. Doody read the resolution by title only. Motion made by Mr. Hodgson and seconded by Mrs. Bryan to adopt the resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Yardley asked the council to consider Resolution 2025-03 authorizing the Mayor and the City Clerk to submit the required documentation to Broward County to be certified for tree preservation regulation. Mr. Doody read the resolution by title only. Motion made by Mrs. Bryan and seconded by Mr. Volkert to adopt the resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Yardley asked the council to consider Ordinance 2025-01 regarding establishing a policy for conflict of interest to prohibit certain conflicts and interest contracts of officers and employees. Mr. Doody read the ordinance by title only. Motion made by Mrs. Bryan and seconded by Mr. Hodgson to approve the ordinance on first reading. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Yardley has asked the attorneys to address the seawall issue and see what adjacent cities, Lauderdale by the Sea, Fort Lauderdale, Pompano are doing. He believes the issue for the dock at 21 Saranac has been resolved.

Mayor Yardley asked the council to consider who would be able to serve as the delegate and alternate to the Broward League of Cities. Mr. Borshchukov volunteered to serve as the delegate and Mr. Volkert will serve as an alternate. Motion made by Mrs. Bryan to nominate Mr. Borshchukov to serve as delegate and Mr. Volkert to serve as alternate. Motion passed unanimously.

Public comments opened:

Ms. Lara Aranoff, 5 Tahoe Ln., read an email from Ms. Joyce Virga to the council regarding the attempted entry into her home this week. Ms. Virga's email will be attached to the minutes.

Mr. Bradd Barker, 27 Winnebago Rd., spoke regarding non-resident commercial traffic and independent delivery contractors. Mr. Barker has had three encounters with this type on contractors, one who was speeding and very discourteous and another who was delivering to the incorrect address and did not understand any English. Mr. Barker questioned the need for after-hour delivery and the gate's process for entry of these types of contractors.

Mr. Bryan Phegley, 10 Winnebago Rd. spoke regarding other communities' requirement for contractor license and tag information on the vehicle. Mr. Phegley also discussed the Village wall ownership and would like the Village to push forward with the additional railings. Perhaps the railings could be installed without an easement from the street side.

Ms. Mary Fanizzi Krystoff, 5 Oneida Ln., asked why we do not have armed personnel on duty at the gate. Ms. Fanizzi Krystoff asked why the gate does not ask for identification of all the people entering the village, why we do not keep their identification at the gate until they exit the village.

Mr. Charles Urso, 34 Minnetonka Rd, discussed his need for additional bright security lighting at 6 Winnebago Rd. property and asked the code requirements. His neighbor at 8 Minnetonka removed hedges and they would like code enforcement to determine if they need to replace. The backyard is open, and they have previously come over the wall there. Mr. Urso did see the police going by his home during the evening of the intrusion. He would like to see the drivers license information recorded. Perhaps have a trade lane in the morning dealing with contractors. We need to identify entries.

Mr. Alex Soto, 28 Cayuga Rd., discussed during his tenure as Mayor, the gate personnel had a driver's license reader that hooked up to a computer that confirmed the name, address and information persons entering the village. Mr. Soto stated that today people want instant gratification and desire Amazon, food, and other deliveries at all hours. We might want to consider restricting delivery times to be more manageable. Can the railing be attached to the outside of the wall so that the village does not need to get resident permission for installation?

Mrs. Shaili Bansal, 51 Cayuga and 20 Minnetonka Rd., asked if we have or can install a license plate reader and recommended the possible use of drones at night and infrared heat sensor cameras.

Mr. Bill Harter, 17 Saranac Rd., stated he reviewed his security video from 1:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. on the night of the incident and did not see any police vehicles passing his property on

Saranac Rd. Mr. Harter questioned why yesterday morning our police vehicle was going north of the village and then returning south past the village entrance. He wanted to know what this officer was doing. Mr. Harter is very concerned about patrol coverage in the village.

Mr. Keith Aronoff, 4 Tahoe Ln., spoke regarding construction-related entries. Most construction jobs allow entry to everyone coming to the job site for certain periods of time. Mr. Aronoff stated that this practice should be changed, and all entries should be documented.

Mrs. Marina Bland, 8 Gatehouse Rd., spoke regarding the illegal title transfer of her home and the Broward County court and deed office, not properly recording her legal documents. Ms. Bland addressed the Village police and safety in the village and stated she has been personally attacked and harassed by the police and the community in the village and is shocked by the racism and misogynistic behavior that her family and friends have endured.

Mrs. Kay Bulkan, 3 Tahoe Ln., stated she would like to see cameras installed at the major intersections.

Mr. Charlie Urso spoke regarding the fencing/railing installed at 6 Minnetonka Rd., which is great, but sensors could be placed on top of the railing on both north and south walls.

Mr. Yardley replied he believes the repairs made so far have been effective.

Mrs. Jill Moss, 1 Seneca Rd., stated the village owns the wall, why do we need to get permission from the homeowners to install the railing. This is a whole other level – this is a very different matter than a car break in.

Mrs. Mary Fanizzi Krystoff stated there are storage facilities behind the plaza that could allow easy access into the village.

Mr. Bryan Phegley discussed the utility boxes along the wall.

Public comments were closed.

Mayor Yardley asked the council members for their comments.

Mrs. Bryan stated that sensors on the top of the wall are set off by iguanas and other animals and we need to look at a different way to increase security. Regarding the food deliveries, perhaps we can time-stamp when they enter, retain their driver's license and keep their entry time to 5-10 minutes.

Mr. Volkert stated he lives on Seneca Rd. He reviewed his security video from 12:00 a.m. to 6 a.m. the morning of the attempted break-in and did not see any police patrol in his video during that time. He would like the new chief to tighten up the patrols. We spend a lot of time speaking about security. Mr. Volkert would like the council to seek a professional third party for professional advice and assessment of what the village might or might not be doing and look into AI cameras and drones to protect our families. There was a resident who received an Amazon delivery 4-6 a.m. that day and the resident tried to report that but was brushed aside. Mr. Volkert questioned how long they were in the village and did they drop off.

Mr. Hodgson stated he feels residents should create their own security. He has all the confidence in the world in our police force and we have a unique community. We are targeted and challenged by the fact that we have things to steal here. These folks are predatory.

Mr. Borshchukov stated we should implement some of these ideas, particularly regarding the drivers' licenses. All these ideas can be cost effective. Having cameras in placed in locations where we know there have been prior intrusions might be a worthwhile investment.

Mr. Hodgson stated perhaps deliveries can be held at the gate after hours to keep the village secure, similar to apartment buildings in New York. No deliveries allowed after hours.

Mr. Volkert stated that with 3 million dollars in reserves an investment of 6 figures to spend money to provide for weak spots would be a worth investment.

Mr. Tomlinson stated the council approached 5 different residents in areas that were considered weak points, and we were turned down by 4 of the 5. The Urso's were the only ones that accommodated the railing. The others along the north wall and the northeast corner of the village. It is easy to get over the wall on the north side.

Mrs. Bryan stated when the idea of cameras along the wall was previously discussed, residents did not want the cameras to be able to view their backyards for privacy reasons. Perhaps Uber Eats should be picked up at the gate after a certain hour.

Mrs. Terry Gunther asked if the railing can be installed on the outside of the north wall. Mr. Tomlinson stated that the condo to the north would need to approve access and staging.

Mr. Soto stated the Beach Club has installed a camera on the empty lot. These are 5G cameras that require no wiring and run on solar power. The Beach Club would pay to install 5 or 10 cameras on the north and south side of Sea Ranch for better coverage. We would need the authorization of residents to place them on the wall.

Mayor Yardley stated he has 14 issues to address, mostly the about the gate.

Mr. Volkert would like to have an overnight shift armed officer at the gate. Previous chief had stated that the security personnel at the gate did not want confrontation with a potential criminal at the gate. We should investigate spending additional funds on adding an armed officer between 12 a.m. and 6 p.m. with the gate personnel.

Ms. Bland disagreed that it scares her that armed security would be at gate and potential of harm to children.

Mr. Hodgson disagreed and stated the time frame that a police officer to be onsite if needed is seconds.

Mayor Yardley stated the council will further discuss these issues at the next meeting. Mayor Yardley is behind the police force and the police chief. The security of the village is of the utmost importance.

Ryan Hunter- Reay asked to discuss his request for the council to review his unique situation regarding his pier dock into the contour bay and pier docks. They have concerns about the dock at 21 Saranac Rd. and the need to review the Village codes regarding setbacks for docks along the intracoastal waterway. Mayor Yardley & Mr. Doody replied that the Village will research other municipalities and current codes. Mr. Hunter- Reay stated he hopes this will be properly addressed as the neighborhood needs clarity on this subject.

The April council meeting will be held on Thursday, April 24th at 5:00 p.m.

Mrs. Bryan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hodgson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn.