



Village of Highland Park, Florida
Regular Meeting
June 5, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
VHP Administration Building, 1650 Highland Park Drive North

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND PARK**

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND PARK, FLORIDA MET IN REGULAR SESSION AT THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND PARK ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 1650 NORTH HIGHLAND PARK DRIVE, ON TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2024, AT 6:00 P.M. WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMISSION MEMBERS AND STAFF PERSONS PRESENT:

Brandon McWhorter, Mayor-Commissioner (Seat 2)
Amanda Updike, Commissioner (Seat 3)
Ric Busbee, City Manager (via telephone)
Andrew Hand, City Attorney (via telephone)
Lita O’Neill, Village Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor-Commissioner Brandon McWhorter called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The Village Clerk called the roll. The following commissioners were present:
Mayor-Commissioner Brandon McWhorter, Commissioner Amanda Updike
A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor McWhorter opened the floor for public comment. The Village Clerk read an email that Mr. Paul O’Neill, 1351 South Highland Park Drive, sent prior to the meeting (attached).

City Manager, Ric Busbee read a letter from Tammy MacCurrach, 1252 North Highland Park Drive, thanking the Commission for taking care of posting the no fishing because she has noticed and appreciated the reduction in traffic and noise level.

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Mayor McWhorter made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the March 26, 2024 Regular Meeting and the April 24, 2024 Work Session. Commissioner Updike seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mayor-Commissioner McWhorter – yes. Commissioner Updike – yes. The minutes were adopted as written.

VILLAGE TREASURER'S REPORT (BUDGET-TO-ACTUAL)

Mayor McWhorter noted that he received the Treasurer's report prior to the meeting. He commented that the only item over budget were ad valorem tax revenues. The Mayor asked Commissioner Updike if she had any questions or comments to make. She had none.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Busbee noted he had nothing to report. The Mayor asked Commissioner Updike if she had any questions or comments for the City Manager. She had none.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) VHP Historical Marker – The Village Clerk told the Commission that it will take 6 to 8 months for manufacture of the metal sign. The application fee has been paid, so all that needs to happen is letting the Polk County History Center know the final copy that is decided. The Commission was presented with two versions (attached). The Commission preferred the second version, as did Blair Updike, who has spent a good deal of time researching the history of the Village of Highland Park. The Clerk will forward the final text to Shannan Graham at the Polk County History Center.
- 2) Commissioner Updike noted that some residents have reached out to state that they do not like the permitting process for fishing. The goal would be to keep low traffic. She asked the City Manager about how the permit would be enforced. Mr. Busbee stated that the Village has four options, which are: a) Let everybody fish, b) Keep things as they are today with no fishing, c) Create an ordinance, which is necessary if we want a permit that requires a fee, or d) Create a resolution for having a permit process that does not require a fee. Attorney Hand commented that it could be a problem to issue only a certain number of permits or registrations. Commissioner Updike asked for clarification, and Mr. Hand gave an example. He stated a problem could arise if the Village issued 10 permits, but in the case when all 10 permitted individuals would not be fishing, but another resident or individual wanted to fish. In that case, a resident could be prevented from fishing due to the permit process.

Mayor McWhorter noted that the discussion could continue when Commissioner Camann is back. Commissioner Updike agreed. The Mayor also stated for the record that there are no ordinances or resolutions that prohibit fishing in Lake Amoret. He added that the resolution prohibits fishing from the banks of the park lands.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor McWhorter read Resolution #2024-02 (Preliminary Assessment Resolution) by title, "A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND PARK, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES, FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS; PROVIDING AUTHORITY, PURPOSE, AND DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS; DESCRIBING THE METHOD OF ASSESSING FIRE PROTECTION ASSESSMENT.

"COSTS AGAINST PROPERTIES WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND PARK; DETERMINING THE FIRE PROTECTION ASSESSED COST AND INITIAL FIRE

PROTECTION ASSESSMENTS; DIRECTING THE PREPARATION OF AN ASSESSMENT ROLL; AUTHORIZING A PUBLIC HEARING AND DIRECTING THE PROVISION OF NOTICE THEREFOR; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Mayor opened the floor to public comment. There was none. The Mayor opened the floor for discussion about the resolution. There was none.

The Mayor made a motion to adopt Resolution #2024-02. Commissioner Updike seconded the motion. The Clerk took a roll call vote:

- Mayor-Commissioner McWhorter – yes
- Commissioner Updike – yes

Resolution #2024-02 was adopted by the Commission at 6:17pm.

Commissioner Updike raised a question for the City Attorney regarding the Ordinance regarding sex offenders living within the Village limits. Discussion ensued regarding what the existing Ordinance states. Mr. Hand asked some questions about recent occurrences, and Mr. Busbee explained. Mr. Busbee also referenced Ordinance 2018-01. Mr. Hand stated that he would speak with the City Manager. Commissioner Updike stated that she would be interested in learning how the entire Village limits could be included. The Mayor asked the City Attorney to work with the City Manager to understand the previous ordinances and how the Village should move forward.

The Mayor asked if there was any other new business. There was none.

QUESTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor McWhorter opened the floor for questions or announcements. The Village Clerk asked whether a decision was made about the June work session. The Commission decided to cancel the June work session. The next meeting of the Commission will be the July regular meeting on Tuesday, July 23, 2024 at 6:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor-Commissioner McWhorter adjourned the meeting at 6:26pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lita O’Neill, Village Clerk