

**TOWN OF HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2024
9:00 A.M.
OFFICIAL MINUTES**

The emergency meeting of the Haverhill Town Council was held on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at the Town Hall, 4585 Charlotte Street, Haverhill, FL.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Foy called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Foy offered the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Town Administrator Stevens called the roll and Council Members present were Mayor Jay Foy, Vice Mayor Lawrence Gordon, Council Member Ray Caranci, Council Member Teresa Johnson, and Council Member Dennis Withington. Town Staff present included Town Attorney John Fenn Foster and Town Administrator Tracey Stevens. With a quorum present in the Council Chambers, the meeting proceeded.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no public comments.

EMERGENCY MEETING AGENDA

1. RESOLUTION NO. 2024-11: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HAVERHILL, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, DECLARING A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

Town Attorney Foster read Resolution No. 2024-11 by title into the record.

Mayor Foy mentioned that this state of local emergency is in reference to Hurricane Milton and called for public comments. There were no public comments.

Council Member Withington asked if the Council was required to declare a state of local emergency, and Town Administrator Stevens stated that it is not required; however, if the Town is planning to apply for FEMA reimbursements for emergency protective measures or debris removal, a state of local emergency declaration is required. Town Attorney Foster pointed out that the Town's purchasing code requires a declaration in order to suspend the bidding process for contracts as well.

Mayor Foy asked if the Mayor could declare a local state of emergency in extreme emergencies that have limited warning such as a tornado or other disaster and then the Council could ratify it later, or if the Town could automatically be under a state of local emergency if the Governor declares a state of emergency for Palm Beach County, and Town Attorney Foster and Town Administrator Stevens were both in agreement that the Town Charter and Ordinances currently don't allow it. Town Attorney Foster stated that he could research options.

EMERGENCY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 2024

Council Member Caranci asked about the ability to hold a remote meeting, and Mayor Foy indicated that we need at least a quorum in the Council Chambers to proceed with a meeting in accordance with state law.

Council Member Johnson asked if there was an ending date for the declaration, and Town Administrator Stevens responded that the local declaration is for seven days.

Vice Mayor Gordon urged residents to explore flood insurance.


Vice Mayor Gordon moved to adopt Resolution No. 2024-11, declaring a state of local emergency; seconded by Council Member Withington. Motion carried 5-0.


ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Town Administrator Stevens and adopted by the Town Council on October 24, 2024.

Approved: _____


Tracey L. Stevens, Town Administrator


Jay G. Foy, Mayor