

Mayor's Report, 26 November 2024

Our November meetings are usually a time of transition for the Town Commission, but this year is different. Instead, we have the benefit of consistency because all 4 open commission seats were unopposed, including mine. Ever the optimist, I believe this indicates that you, the residents, have confidence in those of us sitting around this table; that we are doing well at managing town business and planning for the future while maintaining the character of the Town. This consistency is a boon to the staff as well. We are fully staffed, and everyone is working well together to serve the Town.

Thank you too, to the 387 residents that voted to adopt the new Town Charter. Over the next few meetings, we will address the processes that were removed or superseded by Florida Statute. For example, we will review actions that require an ordinance, the budget process, and creation of boards and committees. In the interim, the validity and continuity of all of these are covered in the new Charter. (sec 10.3, 10.4)

I would also like to understand why 100 residents voted against the new charter. This many nay votes are indicative of why we strive to increase engagement with our residents with workshops, Mayor's Town Halls and meetings. I think we've done a better job of information sharing and public notice, but we will continue to work on new ways of communication and education.

It's the end of November and I'm willing to say it - - we made it through the 2024 Hurricane season relatively unscathed. I think the debris piles were the biggest concern among residents after a few days without power for some of you. I do read NextDoor posts, but ND is not official. It's a social media platform that is often used to gripe and air grievances. If you want to make a difference, come to these monthly meetings; come to the Mayor's Town Hall; contact the Town Office or your commissioners. I'm more than happy to discuss what I know was very good service by WastePro considering the sheer amount of debris from our natural environment, in addition to the large volume of contractor debris piled along the roads instead of hauled away as required by code and our contract with WP.

The next Mayor's Town Hall is at 10AM on Saturday, December 14th. I hope you come and encourage your neighbors to join this opportunity for informal conversation. It's the perfect opportunity to ask tough questions. Come find out what's happening around Town. I want the good, the bad and the ugly. How else can we improve?

As you gather with friends and family this week. I encourage you to take time to reflect on what you are grateful for. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Mayor for another two years. I'm thankful that I live in this beautiful, caring community and for the wonderful friendships developed over the past 20 years. Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

Thank you. Let's keep the conversation going!

Sue Ditty, Mayor