



February 28, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Date: 02/28/2024,

Time: 3:00 PM

Opening

- Welcome
- Call to Order
- Full membership gave the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag.
- Pastor Jack Martin led the opening prayer.

Roll Call

- President Joe Wolff – Present
- Vice-President Mark Cioffi – Present (Running for School Board)
- Recording Secretary Sandra Apone – Present
- Treasure Julie Karpovich – Present
- Sergeant-at-Arms Charlie De Cosa Jr – Present

Elected Officials/Invited Guests Recognized

- Amy Blackburn – Hernando County Chief Deputy of Finance & Administration
- Mark Johnson – Hernando County School Board Member
- Marvin Baynham - running for BOCC – District 3 Candidate
- Elizabeth Hattos, Congressman Bilirakis's Chief of Staff
- Randolph Dawson Mazourek – running for HC Property Appraiser
- Frankie Davis – running for HC Tax Collector

Club Business

- Treasurer Report – given by Treasurer, Julie Karpovich
 - Reviewed report – end balance = \$1,624.33
 - Motion to accept – Mark Cioffi
 - 2nd to accept – Joe Wolff
- **Julie announced that Club President, Joe Wolff, was newly elected to the Master Board of Wellington. He was congratulated by all.**
- Recording Secretary Report – January Meeting Minutes were emailed and can be viewed on Wellingtonrc.com. Members are asked to read them and be ready to approve the Minutes at the March meeting.

President's Report – given by President Joe Wolff

- Joe gave an update on the progress of the Awareness Group, organized by Matteo and Sandra Apone. The group went before the Planning and Zoning Commission who voted to uphold the HC Comprehensive Plan so the Seven Hills Golf Course could not be re-zoned. They did however, refer the case to the BOCC. Joe reiterated that it is vitally important that a large number of residents attending the BOCC meeting, yet to be



scheduled, attendance makes a big impact. A video of the P & Z meeting is available on Wellingtonrc.com.

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Mr. Wolff spoke about a proclamation adopted by the HC BOCC in support of Israel. A similar Proclamation was presented to the HC School Board, sponsored by Mark Johnson. It was suggested because some anti-Israel students were seen protesting on school grounds. After much discussion, the Proclamation was adopted by the School Board, all members signing it except for Susan Duval.

President Wolff then introduced the Guest Speaker, Amy Blackburn.

Guest Speaker – Amy Blackburn, running for HC Tax Collector. The current Tax Collector, Sally Daniel, is retiring, creating the vacancy. Highlights of Mrs. Blackburn's presentation:

The Office of Tax Collector was formed in 1885 in the Florida Constitution. There are 67 counties in Florida each with its own Tax Collector. There are two locations, the main office is in Brooksville and a branch office is in Spring Hill. A new office is in the works – a 15,000 square foot building scheduled to open in 2025.

Functions of The Tax Collector:

- Titles and Registration for Motor Vehicles
- Issuance of License Plates -
- Issuance of Handicap Parking Cards
- Collection of Real Estate, Personal Property, and Ad Valorem Tax
- Issuance of Drivers' Licenses and I.D. Cards
- Issuance of Hunting & Fishing Licenses
- Processes Applications for Carrying Concealed Weapons

There were 290,000 Motor Vehicle transactions in Fiscal 2023 and they even printed 600 Birth Certificates for babies born in the state of Florida. Mrs. Blackburn advised us that the Tax Collection offices, employing more than 50 people, operated under budget for the past several years. She ended her presentation with a question- and-answer period and advised the group to visit the website Hernandotax.us for further information.

Mark Johnson – Hernando County School Board Member

- Mark announced that a new High School is needed. He stated that 1100 students living in the east side of the county are bussed from their neighborhoods to Brooksville each day. The trip takes one and one-half hours each way.
- Mark is sponsoring a "Fishing Club" and possible scholarship opportunities from same.

Door Prizes

- Mike Freshower is the Raffle winner – a \$25.00 gift certificate for the Wellington Bar & Grill.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn -
- 2nd meeting adjournment = Joe Wolff



- Meeting adjourned at 4:45PM

Signatures

Joe Wolff
President

Date

Sandra Apone
Recording Secretary

Date