



Town Council Members Present

Zane Teeters, Jr. – *Mayor*
Cheryl Marinelli – Vice-*Mayor*
Kay MacQueen, Councilwoman
Susan Richert, Councilwoman
Kim Hanawalt, Councilwoman

Town Staff Present

Kelly Edwards, Deputy Town Clerk
Wally Hoagland, Police Chief
David Langley, Attorney

1. Opening

- Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM.
- Invocation by Kay MacQueen; Pledge of Allegiance.
- Quorum and proper notice confirmed.

2. Public Comment

Farmer Banks Helfrich

- Spoke on statewide discussions about eliminating property taxes and potential impacts on local services.

3. Agenda Adjustments

- Item 4 moved to Item 1 under New Business.
- No other changes.

4. Staff Reports

Police Department – Chief Hoagland

- Code enforcement: No new cases; special magistrate hearing upcoming.
- Annual stats delayed; will be presented next month.
- December DUI task force: ~100 stops, multiple arrests.
- Community appreciation noted; Astatula Baptist Church School provided gift cards.
- 75th Anniversary initiatives underway.
- Monthly reporting can resume if the council desires.

Public Works – Andy Stamper

- Routine maintenance; PD flooring repaired.
- Preparing equipment for warmer season.

Town Attorney – David Langley

Active Case: Astatula v. Theresa Rayford et al.

- Property now in compliance but significant fines and costs remain.
- Prior agreement (April 2024) to sell property and pay town costs was not fulfilled.
- Foreclosure action proceeding; summary judgment hearing set for February.
- Owner proposed \$500/month repayment; council expressed no confidence.
- Formal decision to be placed on next month's agenda.

5. New Business

Item 1 (formerly Item 4): Wreaths Across America Recognition

- Presentation by American Legion Post 55 (Steve Oter).
- Town issued Certificate of Appreciation.

Item 2: Imagination Library Presentation – Debbie Weiner

- Overview of Dolly Parton's early-literacy program.
- Astatula has ~170 eligible children; estimated annual cost ~\$4,000–\$6,000 depending on enrollment level.
- Council interest strong; item to return next month for funding consideration.

Item 3: Volunteer Landing – Final Subdivision Approval

- Seven-lot subdivision; engineering and P&Z approved.
- **Approved 5–0.**

Item 4: “The Gathering” Senior Program – Hours Extension

- Requested extension from 1–3 PM to 1–4 PM.
- **Approved 5–0.**
- Public Works to report back in 2–3 months on facility impact.

Item 5: Impact Fee Study Proposal (Raftelis)

- Proposal cost: \$70,000 (significant increase from prior study).
- **Tabled 5–0** pending alternatives.

Item 6: Resolution 2026-01 – Fee Schedule Update

- Requires further review.
- **Tabled 5–0.**

Item 7: Resolution 2026-02 – SRF Loan Application (Water Treatment Plant)

- Enables placement on the state revolving loan eligibility list.
- **Approved 5–0.**

Item 8: Ordinance 2025-19 – Certified Recovery Residences (Second Reading)

- Limits to Level 1 residences in R-2 zoning; includes spacing and operational standards.
- **Approved 4–1.**

6. Council & Department Updates

Police

- School zone speed cameras active; warnings only for first 30 days.
- Cameras operate only during school hours.

Councilwoman MacQueen

- Beautification projects ongoing; watering assistance needed.
- Food distribution event being coordinated.
- “Astatula Reads” youth literacy initiative progressing.

Councilwoman Hanawalt

- Encouraged to meet with the Finance Director for onboarding.

Councilwoman Richert

- Attending P&Z meetings; assisting with plat review.

Vice Mayor Marinelli

- No additional report.

7. Additional Items

- Charter review workshop to be scheduled.
- Town Clerk hiring update: Candidate identified; offer expected soon.

8. Adjournment 8:38 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Zane Teeters Jr

ATTEST:

Charles Jacien Town Clerk