

Village of Wellington

*12300 Forest Hill Blvd
Wellington, FL 33414*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

6:30 PM

Village Hall

Public Safety Committee

Mohammad Junaid Akther

Michael Arena

John Archambo

Richard Christmas

Jacqueline Hutman

Brad Johnson

Michael Weil

I Call to Order

Chair Michael Weil called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

II Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Michael Weil led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III Roll Call

Members present: Chair Michael Weil, Michael Arena, Jacqueline Hutman, John Archambo, Richard Christmas, Brad Johnson, and Mohammad Junaid Akther

Staff Present: Nicole Coates, Gloria Kelly, and Michael O'Dell

Guests: Captain Rolando Silva, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office; Lt. Eli Shaivitz, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office and District Chief Philip Olavarria, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue

IV Opening Comments

All committee members welcomed each other and stated they are glad to be here at this evening's meeting.

V Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Michael Arena, seconded by John Archambo, and unanimously passed (7-0), to approve the agenda as presented.

VI Approval of Minutes**A. [PSC-169](#) APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 22, 2021 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

A motion was made by Michael Arena, seconded by Jacqueline Hutman, and unanimously passed (7-0), to approve the September 22, 2021 regular meeting minutes as presented.

VII Old Business

Chair Michael Weil thanked everyone who attended the Top Cop and Top Firefighter presentation at the last Council meeting.

VIII New Business**A. [PSC-177](#) WELLINGTON'S GOLF CART ORDINANCE**

The Golf Ordinance PSA was shared with the Committee. At the conclusion of the PSA, Nicole Coates shared the map of the designated multi-modal pathways and designated Village roads.

Ms. Coates shared the timeline for public outreach on the golf cart ordinance. She introduced Michael O'Dell, the Assistant Planning, Zoning, and Building Director, who was present to answer any golf cart ordinance questions.

Mr. Johnson asked whether there were minimum age requirements to passengers on the golf carts.

Mr. O'Dell responded that under the age of 7, they can sit on the lap of anyone but the driver.

Chair Michael Weil inquired about the school zones and whether the golf carts would be allowed.

Mr. O'Dell responded that staff had met with all of the schools and that during school hours, golf carts would not be allowed in those areas. He reminded the committee that golf carts are not allowed on school property.

Mr. Johnson asked whether staff had observed speedometers on the golf carts. Mr. O'Dell explained that he had not seen one but was informed that an app could be used.

Mr. Junaid Akther asked that, in the event the \$100 fine continued, would the operator continue to be in violation. Mr. O'Dell responded affirmatively.

Mr. Arena asked whether all equestrian paths were clearly marked as equestrian. Mr. O'Dell responded that they had been identified and that the majority were near the showgrounds.

B. [PSC-176](#)

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE 2022 ESSAY CONTEST DISCUSSION

Ms. Coates discussed the 2022 Public Safety Committee Essay Contest which had been drafted by the committee and mentioned that this year both the Public Safety and Education Committees would review and select winning essay submissions at the upcoming joint meeting. Students submitting essays would receive 10 hours of community service hours and that she would coordinate with Jet Hauling for other prizes for the winning students. Essay topics were discussed and it was determined that there would be a 1st Place winner for each grade level of elementary, middle and high school along with runner-ups. The committee further agreed that the topic for the elementary schools would be "What Do You Feel Makes Your Neighborhood's Safe". The topic for the middle schools and high schools would be "What Has the Village of Wellington or You Done to Keep Wellington Safe".

IX Reports

A. [PSC-173](#)

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Coates shared Palm Beach County COVID updates, Wellington COVID testing site information and general Wellington updates.

B. [PSC-178](#)

PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE DISTRICT 8 WELLINGTON REPORT

Lt. Shaivitz welcomed everyone and introduced Captain Silva.

Captain Silva thanked the committee for all they do and the support they have given to District 8 during the past year. He stated that this support has helped with the efforts of keeping public safety a top priority in Wellington. Captain Silva stated he would share a brief 2021 annual report.

He went on to report that District 8 had met many of the performance measures set in 2021. One of their top priorities was the reduction of traffic crashes. In 2021, there had been an increase of 17% from 2020. He stated this was juxtaposed since in 2020 there were not many people on the road due to the Covid-19 pandemic and associated shut downs. Captain Silva also shared statistics on other issues including shoplifting which had experienced a 100% increase. He reminded the Committee that although Wellington was considered low crime, that did not mean no crime. He shared the top priorities for 2022 which included property crime and traffic crash reductions which would be addressed by responsiveness to public safety concerns, participation in traffic enforcement initiatives, continued use of the Village's LPR camera system, continued collaboration with the Real Time Crime Center and the South Florida Task Force and continued engagement in neighborhood watch groups and community outreach. He also shared information on the various operations they had been involved with during the past year and thanked Lt. Shaivitz for always stepping in to ensure that District 8 maintained its culture every day.

Ms. Hutman inquired about speeding in the Village to which Captain Silva responded that the increase in speeding that had been observed was the catalyst for the creation of Operation Bent Metal.

C. [PSC-172](#)

PALM BEACH COUNTY FIRE RESCUE REPORT

District Chief Phillip Olavarria introduced himself to the committee as this was his first meeting since being promoted in October 2021. He provided an overview of Palm Beach County Fire Rescue and noted that they were an All-Hazards team able to assist in any type of emergency. He reported that the vast majority of their calls were medical, having received 4,360 in Wellington last year with an average response time of 6 minutes 42 seconds. They had also received 681 alarm calls, 346 vehicle accident calls and 102 fire calls with a total of 5,300 calls in 2020 and 5,791 calls in 2021. They had also been seeing longer wait times for crews at area hospitals. Fire Rescue had also assisted with Covid vaccination initiatives at testing and vaccine sites or homebound vaccine initiatives.

Mr. Akther noted the increase in response time to which Chief Olavarria responded the main reason for that increase was hospital wait times causing delays.

X Public Comments

Resident Bart Novack at 15670 Cedar Grove Lane commented on the golf cart ordinance.

XI Closing Comments

Mr. Johnson thanked everyone for a good meeting.

Mr. Archamo thanked PBSO and Fire Rescue for keeping us safe and Wellington for the outstanding communication he receives.

Ms. Hutman and Mr. Weil thanked everyone for a productive meeting.

Mr. Akther wished everyone a Happy New Year and to stay safe and healthy.

Mr. Christmas stated that Wellington was an amazing place to live and over time felt that the golf carts would be very beneficial for Wellington.

Mr. Arena thanked everyone for their hard work and agreed that the golf cart ordinance was good for the Village, noting that there would likely be tweaks made over time.

XII Adjournment

Mr. Weil adjourned the meeting at 7:43pm.