

**MONTVERDE TOWN COUNCIL
WORKSHOP/SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 23, 2025, AT 7:30 PM**

TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Joe Wynkoop, Mayor

Carol Womack, Vice Mayor

Allan Hartle, Councilmember

Joe Morganelli, Councilmember

STAFF PRESENT

Paul Larino, Town Manager

Anita Geraci-Carver, Town Attorney

Caroline Trepanier, Admin

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING CEREMONIES

Mayor Wynkoop called the meeting to order and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEM

Authorization for Town Manager to return the remaining ARPA Funds

Finance Director Mai Yang, Town of Montverde, went over the PowerPoint slide reflecting the ARPA Grant(s) received, the expenses and the final amount to be returned to the county.

Town Manager Larino provided additional details on the ARPA Funds PowerPoint slide. He also asked for a motion to return the final amount to the county.

Vice Mayor Womack moved to return \$1,557,307.78 to the county. Councilmember Hartle seconded the motion.

Motion to return the remaining ARPA funds to the county approved 4-0.

Review of the 2025 Budget

Mayor Wynkoop highlighted the 2025 Budget and invited all to bring any ideas to the Town Meetings.

Town Manager Larino provided a lengthy explanation of the Budget Worksheet included in the council packets.

Councilmember Hartle asked Town Manager Larino if he could provide project completion updates.

Town Manager Larino said that we could track the projects and provide updates and asked if he wanted a general update.

Councilmember Hartle stated that a general overview would be great.

Councilmember Morganelli communicated that he had discussed with Town Manager Larino the idea of creating a new item to the Town Council Agendas to track ongoing projects where Town Manager Larino would provide a brief update and description of each ongoing project. He also mentioned that he had seen the City of Minneola do this at every Regular Meeting and brought a sample for the council to view.

Mayor Wynkoop commented that Town Manager Larino has been providing updates, but he could go into detail about all of them and asked how long this would take to put together.

Vice Mayor Womack asked Town Manager Larino how many open projects he currently had.

Town Manager Larino asked for clarification on the type of open projects and provided brief updates on the current projects. He stated that he currently has three (3) active water projects; the bid documents were recently put together for the water tower & the well. He stated that he is working on the water line extensions and on the planning study for the storm water project. He is working on the library project, the butterfly project, he mentioned that the Lakeside project's contract was just finished and signed, and construction would possibly start in May of 2025. He also shared that he had a meeting on the Porter Avenue & First Street project. He explained that the stormwater project that goes from Fourth Street down to First Street on Porter and then First Street would be broken down into two (2) separate bids and that he plans to get the street portion done as the hurricane changed the scope of the project due to trees having been wiped out and that there are erosion issues. This project will be ready to go out to bid in the next forty-five (45) days and possibly be active in July or August 2025.

Vice Mayor Womack asked Councilmember Morganelli how much info he wanted to see.

Councilmember Morganelli stated that he did not want to take up too much time but would like to see a template for the projects or possibly add it to the minutes.

Town Manager Larino stated that a verbal update may be the easiest due to the time window for getting the council packets ready and out to the council. He also stated that at times we work on the packets a couple of weeks prior to the Town Council Meetings, and it is possible that the status of each project is likely to change by the time of the meeting.

Mayor Wynkoop stated that he would be okay with a verbal update.

Vice Mayor Womack stated that she is also fine with a verbal project update and asked if Town Manager Larino may need to take on a part-time person to assist.

Town Manager Larino stated that he would have to look into this and mentioned that he has a wonderful staff and that fifty (50) percent of the staff is training for their new position and that it

takes time to get them to the level needed. At times, new staff adds more work, however this is something he will look into as well as hiring a new public works employee.

There was a brief discussion.

Councilmember Hartle thanked Councilmember Morganelli for the document provided showing the projects that the City of Minneola had listed and commented regarding our fast construction time. He also mentioned that John Arellano did a great job with our library.

Councilmember Morganelli stated that a verbal update would be fine and asked if the list of projects could be added to the Agenda.

Town Manager Larino agreed and will add the list of projects to the Agenda, under his Town Manager Report section.

There was a brief discussion

Town Manager Larino asked if there were any other questions on the budget and reminded the Council that at the next meeting he will ask about their budget priorities. He also said that at times it could take three (3) to four (4) years to program things into the budget.

Councilmember Morganelli inquired about the salary section of the Budget.

Town Manager Larino explained that the actual budget will be on an excel spreadsheet, it will reflect the previous two (2) years as well as the proposals for this year based off the discussions. He will also have each staff position, with the salary, the recommended increase and how it is broken down in each department. The benefit factor will also be provided as to program in the spreadsheet.

Mayor Wynkoop asked if this could be done under each department, listing a percentage for each person, and stated that this would help and that this would also help Councilmember Morganelli better understand the budget.

Town Manager Larino explained that we are reaching full-sewer capacity, the need for another staff position and further elaborated on that topic.

Mayor Wynkoop opened the public discussion.

Bryan Rubio 16548 Magnolia Terrace, Montverde, FL stated that he has two (2) things to address; he wanted to know if the salary of each employee as well as the breakdown, that is to be provided to each council member, could also be posted on the Town's website.

Mayor Wynkoop stated that the content of the packets is always posted.

Town Manager Larino stated that once he does the 2026 Budget, he will make sure it is in the packet and posted to the website.

Mayor Wynkoop mentioned that they have asked to have all information received in the packets to also be posted to the website.

Bryan Rubio declared that the information is limited and would like to see all the salary information.

Mayor Wynkoop asked Bryan Rubio to view the information once it is posted and bring forward what he cannot see at that time.

Bryan Rubio asked about the future needs of the Town, current projects and hiring of staff and if the staff will be needed once the projects are completed. He also questioned if it would be wise to hire project managers to handle specific projects.

Mayor Wynkoop stated that we can talk about it.

There was a discussion on the staff and projects.

Town Manager Larino provided an extensive explanation of the different steps of the current projects and spoke about the staff and the recent audits.

FEMA Update

Town Clerk Sandy Johnson, Town of Montverde, provided a FEMA update. She mentioned that she had two (2) requests sent in, one (1) for a new generator at the water plant, FEMA has awarded the Town \$145,042.00 and that it is a 75%/25% split and once the project is finalized, FEMA will reimburse \$7,200.00 for the management cost.

Town Manager Larino stated that he wanted to give Sandy Johnson kudos for handling everything with FEMA, from the meetings to the paperwork, and providing the Town with the amount of \$145,000 through FEMA.

Town Clerk Sandy Johnson explained the second request, for damages from Hurricane Milton reimbursement, for all of the debris removal, for some of the damages, and that the current total amount is \$236,785.00. She said that this does not include Truskett Park and that she is still working with FEMA, she said that our insurance declined redoing the walkway and provided additional FEMA update information. She also stated that it had been nine (9) months since Hurricane Milton and that it took twenty-two (22) months to get reimbursed the amount of \$56,000.00 for Hurricane Ian damages.

Mayor Wynkoop praised Town Clerk Sandy Johnson.

Town Manager Larino shared that the front and back parts of the fence at the park were broken, and the fence would be replaced, concrete will also need to be added to the fence, and that this will be an additional \$43,000.00. This would be in the budget amendment.

Mayor Wynkoop asked if they would do the property lines in the back.

Town Manager Larino stated that the property lines would be marked.

PUBLIC HEARING AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Resolution No. 2025-172 A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Montverde, Florida, increasing the residential and commercial solid waste fees resulting from increases charged by the service provider to the Town; providing for conflicts, severability and an effective date.

Town Attorney Geraci-Carver read the resolution by title only.

Platt Loftis, Waste Pro of Florida, Inc. introduced himself and also introduced Mike Conley, the Division Manager.

Mike Conley stated that he has been with Waste Pro for the past year and that he has been in the business for 25 years. States that Montverde is a priority and he will make sure that great service is given.

Platt Loftis communicated that they are here for a CPI (Consumer Price Index) increase request of 2.95 %. The raise is 0.78\$ per home, or 2.5 cents a day.

Councilmember Morganelli stated that this is \$9.36 for the year and stated that recycling costs \$4.53 a month and \$54.36 a year. He communicated recycling concerns and stated that he observed a garbage truck picking up a recycling can.

Mike Conley stated that this was done in error. He also shared that Mondays & Thursdays are garbage days and Wednesdays are recycling days, and garbage and recycling should not be out together and further explained the outcome.

Councilmember Morganelli asked if it was possible to remove recycling services from the contract.

Platt Loftis stated that he can remove it from the contract if this is the Town's request.

There was a brief discussion regarding recycling.

Mayor Wynkoop said that he feels many people would be upset if the recycling service was stopped.

Councilmember Morganelli said that he would like to hear from residents about this.

Platt Loftis explained that some cities such as the city of Winter Garden have stopped recycling as well as Deltona, Putnam & Lake County have also stopped recycling, as the cost of processing recyclables has skyrocketed.

Mike Conley explained the costs for recycling and garbage disposal.

There was extensive discussion on recycling & yard waste.

Town Manager Larino mentioned that if there are too many pickups, it could hurt the streets.

There was a brief discussion.

Mayor Wynkoop asked about the hydraulic trucks that leak on the Town's roads.

Mike Conley stated that there has not been a hydraulic leak in Montverde in the last year.

Town Manager Larino stated that there are some trucks that are leaking.

Mike Conley asked that the Town keep him informed so that he could clean the road if needed.

Mayor Wynkoop takes responsibility for not having previously communicated this issue and stated that he will be sure to do that in the future. He said that he will send pictures as the hydraulic fluid eats the blacktop on the roads.

Platt Loftis offered to look at it with Mayor Wynkoop.

Councilmember Morganelli asked if there would be a difference in the cost if there was a switch from recycling to yard waste.

Mike Conley & Platt Loftis said that they would have to review, and they would advise of the cost difference.

Vice Mayor Womack asked for further clarification on the costs.

There was an extensive discussion regarding trucks and recycling.

Town Manager Larino discussed the City of Oakland's recent RFP (Request for Proposals), stated that the numbers are recent and are from June to July. He also shared the comparison of our price compared to other companies, he stated that our price is \$27.39, and this is for two (2) trash pickups and one (1) recycling, Coastal Waste & Recycling's price, for the same service, was \$29.29, FCC Environmental Services was \$43.11, Waste Management Inc of Florida was \$41.89, Waste Pro was \$28.95. He explained the City of Oakland's choice.

Mayor Wynkoop added that he does not think the raise request is unreasonable. He wanted to provide information on the current problems.

Councilmember Morganelli said that he still wanted to have the different option information regarding yard waste and recycling.

There was a brief discussion.

Kelly Moore 17029 Florence View Drive, Montverde, FL explained that his wife takes time to recycle and states that he has heard that seventy-five (75) percent of what gets processed ends up in the regular trash. He asked if there was a way for the Town to add a survey to the website as to ask residents if they are happy with recycling being picked up and further explained his thoughts.

Mike Conley explained the process of recycling, the correct way to recycle, and why certain things get thrown away.

Bryan Rubio 16548 Magnolia Terrace, Montverde, FL asked about the weight of the garbage trucks.

Mike Conley provided an answer on the different weights.

Bryan Rubio asked additional questions about the weight of the trucks.

There was a brief discussion regarding recycling.

Mike Conley stated that he just visited the recycling center and saw cardboard and plastic bundled and shared that it is important not to include plastic bags or food waste.

Town Manager Larino asked for an updated Recycling Flyer.

Councilmember Morganelli asked for further clarification of the recycling process.

Kelly Moore asked if the surrounding cities are still recycling, as he wants to compare.

There was further discussion on recycling.

Mayor Wynkoop moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-172. Vice Mayor Womack seconded.

Resolution 2025-172 approved 4-0.

Councilmember Morganelli spoke of his meet & greet and his desire to add a Willow Ridge discussion so that the residents could come in and speak with Council regarding issues that they are having, he said that he would like it to be added as an agenda item.

There was a brief discussion on which upcoming meeting this discussion should be added.

Councilmember Hartle reminded everyone of the Butterfly Garden event coming up.

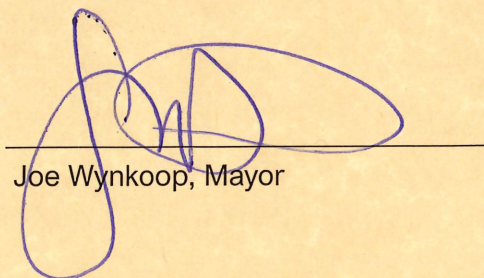
Town Manager Larino also spoke of the Butterfly Garden event and the Centennial celebration at the park.

REMINDERS AND ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Morganelli made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Hartle seconded.

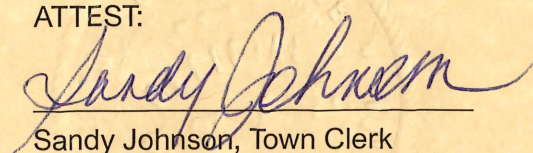
Motion to adjourn approved 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.



Joe Wynkoop, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sandy Johnson, Town Clerk