

REVISED

MINUTES OF THE HOWEY IN THE HILLS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD JULY 10, 2017

Mayor Sears called the Town Council Meeting of July 10, 2017 to order at 6:02 p.m.

Boy Scout and Cub-Boy Scout Troop No. 245 led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Lieutenant Roman led the Invocation.

Present: Mayor Sears, Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel, Councilor Scott, Councilor Mabry and Councilor Conroy (via Phone).

Also, Present: Public Services Director Ernest, Lieutenant Roman, Library Director Hall, Town Attorney Ramos and Interim Town Clerk Burke.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was amended to add Resolution 2017-006

Minutes of the June 26, 2017 Town Council Meeting

RESOLUTION 2017-006 A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE SUMTER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMISSIONERS PROPOSED REORGANIZATION OF THE LAKE-SUMTER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilor Mabry, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel, moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion passed 4-0 with a roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration and Approval to formally accept Booth, Ern, Straughan and Hoitt's rejection of current bids for the Down Town Sewer and Lift Station Project.

Mayor Sears said that two bids came in for the Downtown Sewer and Lift Station Project. One bidder was Carr and Collier Inc. who bid \$772,270.00 and Art Walker Construction bid \$902,638.84. He said the appropriation from the State of Florida was around \$400,000.00. The Town's Engineer reached out to the bidders who came to the pre-bid meeting to see why only two bids were received. The bidders said that there were concerns about the depth of the lift station regarding the dewatering process. The Town Engineer has since revised the drawing to include a shallower lift station to lower the bids.

Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel, seconded by Councilor Mabry, moved to formally accept Booth, Ern, Straughan and Hoitt's rejection of current bids for the Down Town Sewer and Lift Station Project .Motion passed 4-0 with a roll call vote.

Discussion: Preliminary Budget for FY 2017-2018

A. Department Directors Submittal

B. Mayor Sear's Balanced Budget

Mayor Sears said that he wanted to get The Town Council and Public the actual Department Director submittals. There was roughly a three percent (3%) increase in ad valorem taxes. When all the Department Directors Budgets were calculated there was about a \$130,000 deficit. Some of the items included in the Balanced Budget are as followed: Central Alley Way Paving, Special Events was fully funded, The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was granted their Budget minus the message board. Chief Thomas asked for a twelve percent (12%) raise and was granted a five percent (5%) raise. Mayor Sears said that one of his goals is to roll back the millage rate every year but no change was made this year. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel said that Mayor Sears did a good job on the Balanced Budget.

Councilor Mabry said that he wouldn't be attending the July 17, 2017 Town Council Budget Work Session.

Councilor Scott said that he would have comments and questions at the Budget Work Session.

Councilor Conroy said he would like to see what the profit would be if the Town purchased Police Vehicles rather than leased them.

Mayor Sears said his job is to balance the Budget and present it to the Town Council.

Councilor Conroy said that a one-page summary of what the reserves can and cannot be used for would be nice.

Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel said that he hates Black Mountain Software and said the Town could use quick books or excel to produce the Budget. **Councilor Conroy** and **Councilor Scott** agreed.

Mayor Sears said that the Black Mountain Software had been used in prior years.

Councilor Conroy said to have Interim Town Clerk Burke do a survey of what the other municipalities use.

Discussion: Venezia regarding Certificate of Occupancy's, Water Issues and Code Enforcement matters. (Councilor Scott) (No Back-Up)

Councilor Scott said that he has had multiple people approach him about issues in Venezia, so he wanted to bring it before the Town Council.

Public Services Director Ernest asked the Town Council to leave it in the hands of staff.

Mayor Sears said that staff was moving forward on the issues and taking care of it.

OLD BUSINESS

Consideration and Approval for Proposed Changes to Street Lighting on Central Ave. and Lakeshore Blvd. to Light-Emitting Diode (LED) from Duke Energy. (Mayor Sears)

Mayor Sears said that Councilor Scott got in touch with Duke Energy about replacing the existing bulbs on Lakeshore to Light-Emitting Diode (LED) bulbs. He said that the Town is in the process of renewing their franchise agreement with Duke Energy. Since the Town is in the negotiating stage he wanted to look into replacing light poles with Sanibel light poles and dark sky lighting.

Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel said that dark sky lighting is ugly.

Mayor Sears said that the proposal is to change out the existing light bulbs in the entire Town to Light-Emitting Diode (LED). He said the only question is does the Town change the light poles on Lakeshore Blvd.

Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel said that The Town Council should see a picture of the Sanibel light poles before approving anything.

Councilor Mabry said that the Town could purchase different light poles specific to the Town's character.

Mayor Sears asked for a motion to replace the existing light bulbs to Light-Emitting Diode (LED).

Councilor Mabry, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel, moved to approve the Proposed Changes to Street Lighting on Central Ave. and Lakeshore Blvd. to Light-Emitting Diode (LED) from Duke Energy. Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Mabry said again that he wouldn't be attending the July 17, 2017 Town Council Budget Work Session.

Councilor Scott said when he spoke with Jarrett Daniels at Duke Energy the quote was to include the bulbs, globes and light poles.

Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel asked if Interim Town Clerk Burke to mark the minutes as revised after he reviews them. He also said that he would like Interim Town Clerk Burke to include all of the Town Councilman when minutes are sent out to be reviewed.

Mayor Sears said he wanted some guidance on how the Town Council would like to proceed in regards to purchasing the nine (9) acres on Number Two Road. He believes that having Town Hall central is an asset but the Police Department could move down Number Two Road. He gave multiple examples of how the Town could finance or use the nine (9) acres. He said that Venezia donated two and a half (2.5) acres to the Town that could be used as a new Police Department. The Lake County Fire Department may even be interested in joining the Town to build an Emergency Operations Center (EOC). He asked if he should put down a deposit and try to get the property or what would the Town Council like the next steps to be.

Councilor Conroy said that the corner where Town Hall is currently located could one day be an attractive parking area for Central Avenue.

Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel said that a Town Hall and Police Department is a part of the Town's image and having them located down Number Two Road wasn't a good idea. He believes that the Town should use the donated property as a new Police Department or work with the Lake County Fire Department to have an Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Councilor Scott said that he sees a lot of issues with the property that was donated to the Town.

Mayor Sears said that maybe the Town Council should conduct a work session regarding this item.

Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel said that a feasibility study should be conducted on the two and a half (2.5) acres.

Councilor Conroy said he wanted to thank Councilor Scott for getting the discussion started.

PUBLIC COMMENTS- No Comments

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

ATTEST:

Chris Sears
Mayor

Dairian Burke
Interim Town Clerk