

MINUTES OF THE HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD MARCH 28, 2016

Mayor Sears called the Town Council Meeting of March 28, 2016 to order at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Sears led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Services Supervisor Ernest led the Invocation.

Present: Mayor Sears, Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel, Councilor Conroy, Councilor Mabry and Councilor Kearney.

Also Present: Police Chief Thomas, Public Services Supervisor Ernest, Library Director Hall and Town Clerk Brasher.

OLD BUSINESS

Status of Water Plant Improvements

Rob Ern with Booth, Ern, Straughan & Hiott, Inc. gave detailed background on this item. He said there is no reliability of the Data Flow system but his company and Steve Bailey are working together to get the items to work together and properly.

Public Services Supervisor Ernest asked what the electrical cost is. **Mr. Ern** said he didn't not have the actual cost but said the cost would be minimal. **Mr. Ern** said BESH submitted a proposal for the plant expansion but was not selected. He said had his company been selected, the Town would not have these problems. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Discussion and Approval of Proposal from Data Flow Systems for Water Plant Improvements

Councilor Conroy, seconded by **Councilor Kearney**, approving Data Flow proposal for all the items except the training. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

Update and Discussion of Downtown Wastewater Project

Mayor Sears gave background on his meeting with Senator Hays requesting funding for wastewater in the amount of \$800,000. He said the Town expects to receive \$400,000 with no matching funds. **Rob Ern** gave detailed background on the funding on the spreadsheet provided.

Mayor Sears asked the approximate cost to replace the water line while the street is under construction. **Mr. Ern** said he would provide a proposal and it would cost approximately \$50,000. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Discussion and Approval of Conceptual Design Services for Street Scape Improvements

Mayor Sears gave detailed background on this item.

Councilor Conroy suggested selling the park property between the Howey Market and the Dr. office. **Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel** agreed with Councilor Conroy but said to wait until the sewer line is run.

Mr. Ern discussed on making SR 19 more attractive, parking, walk able downtown community and holding meetings with the public. He said the pocket park is a small park but it may be more commercial viable.

Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel, seconded by **Councilor Kearney**, moved to approve the proposal for Conceptual Design Services for Streetscape Improvements. Motion carried 4-1 with Councilor Mabry voting no.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Chairman Ernest said the board had CTI Sign provide a sign proposal and asked for clarification. **Mayor Sears** gave background and said the proposal provided was not much different from what the Town has now and a change in the Town's signage is what the Town Council is looking for. **Mrs. Ernest** said the Town needs to be mindful of the spending of money. **Mayor Sears** agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

Mid-Year Budget Review

Mayor Sears gave detailed background on this item.
Discussion ensued on various line items.

Councilor Kearney said the Town a Council needs to think about the budget in a realistic manner. A lengthy discussion ensued.

BOARD REPORTS

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Report and Minutes – Parks & Recreation

Chairman Ernest said the board would like clarification several items. **Mayor Sears** said he would make contact with Mrs. Ernest regarding the boards' questions.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Chairman Ernest said the Board would like to move the remainder of funds that were budgeted for the park between the Howey Market/doctors office to Blevins Park for a sign.

It was the consensus of the Town Council to approve **Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Chairman Ernest**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Code Enforcement/Police Department Report – Chief Thomas gave details on some Code Enforcement cases.

Finance Report – No comments

Library Director Report – Library Director Hall gave an update on the currier service from

Lake County Library Services. She also said the Lake County IT Tech support will change in April. She said there will be a progressive dinner April 14, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. She said plants will be plants for sale on April 29th, which is Arbor Day and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Library.

Public Services Report – No comments

Town Hall Report – Town Clerk Brasher said Utility Clerk Burke complied the monthly report. Two new items have been added to the report, number of monthly telephone service calls and the number of lien requests.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Sears said the yard waste pick up day will begin on April 11th. He gave background on the post card for the homes/business having the correct size of numbers on their property.

Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel – None

Councilor Conroy – None


Councilor Mabry – None

Councilor Kearney –

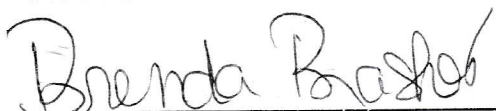
PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Scott, 503 N. Palm Ave. said there are way too many restrictions. The Town does not have signage for the parks. He said he understands what Councilor Kearney is saying about the Police Department and as a former law enforcement officer, the costs are high and gave detailed background.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm


Chris Sears, Mayor

ATTEST:


Brenda Brasher, MMC
Town Clerk