

**MINUTES OF THE HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD FEBRUARY 22, 2016**

**Mayor Sears** called the Town Council Meeting of February 22, 2016 to order at 5:45 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: Lt. Brown, Public Services Supervisor Ernest, Library Director Hall and Town Clerk Brasher.

**Mayor Sears** gave an update on the Data Flow System and said he is waiting on the proposal.

**Public Services Supervisor Ernest** gave an update on the Sarah Maude Nature Preserve.

**Councilor Conroy** asked for an update on Island Drive. **Public Services Supervisor Ernest** gave background on this item. **Mayor Sears** said there are culvert problems as well. Discussion ensued.

*Recess 5:55 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.*

**BOARD REPORTS**

**Library Board Report** – **Library Director Hall** gave a Library update.

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

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Chairman Ernest** gave detailed background on the report and requested moving \$3,500 from the "Market Park" to "Blevins Park" for improvements. A lengthy discussion ensued.

**Pat Miller** said the maintenance for Blevins Park is irrelevant since the park was already donated to the Town. **Councilor Mabry** asked for clarification with regards to this expenditure request.

**Councilor Conroy**, seconded by **Councilor Kearney**, moved to approve \$3,500 from the "Green Space Park" to "Blevins Park" for improvements. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

## **TOWN BUSINESS**

### **Discussion: Proposal and Agreement for Civil Engineering & Surveying Services for the Alley Design**

- a. **BESH Initial Proposal**
- b. **BESH Revised Proposal**
- c. **Lassiter Transportation Proposal**

**Mayor Sears** gave detailed background on this item.

**Dwayne Booth**, representing BESH, gave background and also provided details on the alley proposal, which will require a storm water retention pond to capture storm water.

**Mayor Sears** said there are other pressing issues such as paving N. Lakeshore Blvd., Lakeview Ave. He said FDOT is not concerned with the storm water since it is their storm water running off SR 19 down Central Ave to Lake Harris.

**Councilor Mabry** voiced his concern with doing only half of the project. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the costs and storm water retention requirements.

**Mayor Sears** discussed the costs of the alley. He said when the spaces are put in; the delivery truck will not be able to park. Last week a delivery truck parked on the pavers in the Plaza last week. He said the alley was an idea last year and now the project is urgent and said to go down the ally and asking the property owners to provide parking spaces for their employees as they are using valuable loading areas and valuable parking spaces. He further said he would like to do the whole project his year.

**Councilor Kearny** asked if the alley could be gravel or another product. **Mr. Booth** said you could use gravel/rock but you will evidentially loose the gravel/rock.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel** asked if the Town does this project, what happens to the streets that in need. **Mayor Sears** said he wanted to include those streets in the budget but it was removed from the budget.

**Mayor Sears** said the engineering should be done this year. A lengthy discussion ensued. **Councilor Mabry** asked Mr. Booth in his professional opinion that SJRWMD would approve any impervious surface. **Mr. Booth** said the survey will be done for the whole project and it can be constructed in phases.

**Councilor Mabry** said the parking is a safety issue. **Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel** said doing half of the project is not going to solve the problem. **Mayor Sears** said he thought doing part would satisfy SJRWMD or the whole thing could be done next year.



**Councilor Kearney** said to get the engineering done this year and do the project next year's budget and **Councilor Mabry** agreed with Councilor Kearney. **Mayor Sears** said the W. Central Ave. project time frame is approximately 60 days. He suggested removing the tree and having the deliveries on the grass in the alley. A lengthy discussion ensued.

**Mayor Sears** asked how long it will take to get a set of stamped plans. **Mr. Booth** said it would take at least six months and if the short version is done, it will take 60 days.

**Peggy Ernest** asked how deliveries and emergency vehicles would work at the same time. **Mayor Sears** it probably will not work but it is better than what the Town has now.

**John Scott** asked if the Town has offered the Doctor anything to use his property. **Mayor Sears** said he is meeting with the doctor on Wednesday.

#### **Discussion: Proposal and Agreement from CW Roberts for Downtown Parking Improvements**

**Mayor Sears** gave detailed background on this item. He said he asked CW Roberts for a proposal and it came in at \$98,000 and there is \$75,000 in the budget. He said the cost of paving would go down if N. Lakeshore Blvd. and Lakeview Avenue are paved while CW Roberts are already in Town. He provided paving costs in the amount of \$80,368 with a total \$178,819. He said there is \$75,000 budgeted this year and budget \$75,000 next year due to the cost savings. He said if CW Roberts is brought back next year, the Town will more than likely pay more.

**Mayor Sears** suggested having CWS Roberts coming back out to get firm numbers. He said we would be piggy backing off of Lady Lake and Leesburg's paving projects.

**Mr. Booth** said they have done many projects and it's the same everywhere you go and once people realize it's safer, they stop complaining. He further said angle parking and was able to pull in and out and the angled parking is the safest parking to put in place. **Mayor Sears** said Publix uses angled parking for safety reasons.

**Mr. Booth** discussed the plans and since this is parking and suggested using 1 ¼" of asphalt which will reduce the cost. **Mayor Sears** said this item will be back on a future agenda for consideration and approval.

#### **Update: Memo Regarding P&Z Board Training from Town Planner Harowski**

**Mayor Sears** gave background on the modules and said the modules will cost \$350 per module. He suggested combining module two and three together instead of three modules at \$350 per module and gave background.

**Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel** asked how the Town can make the attendance at these meetings mandatory. **Mayor Sears** said he will check with the Town Attorney and see if the Town can require attendance. A lengthy discussion ensued on the process of this training.

#### **Update: Memo Regarding Tree Permit Removal from Town Planner Harowski**

**Mayor Sears** gave detailed background on this item. He said he spoke with the Town Planner with regards to the LDC and the application. He further said he is working with the Town Planner on this item.

**Public Services Supervisor Ernest** gave background on this item and said the trees on Magnolia Ave will be removed. **Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel** said the LDC says the mitigation needs to be addressed and needs to be more systemized.

**Councilor Mabry** asked where the tree mitigation dollars came from. **Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel** said from the P&Z Board in 2010 but the dbh is not what the board recommends. A lengthy discussion ensued.

#### **Update: S. Lakeshore Blvd. at Boondocks**

**Mayor Sears** gave detailed background on this item. He said he is meeting with the owners to get this moving so the road does not get undermined. He said we had Town Engineer Griffey review this. **Mayor Sears** said Town Attorney Blom-Ramos sent an email regarding the process of either moving the wall or leave the wall and obtain a right of way permit.

**Public Services Supervisor Ernest** said they also applied for a Cypress tree removal permit. **Town Clerk Brasher** advised that the State of Florida has to approve the removal of all Cypress Tree.

**Councilor Conroy** said he is going back to the 30% and since they have not used the property in many years. **Mayor Sears** said that is why he had the Town Attorney write a memo.

#### **Update: Septic Tank at Dr. Clark's property**

**Mayor Sears** said he has a meeting with Dr. Clark and he will discuss with them having move the septic tank on their own property on the other side of the building. He said he will also discuss the parking with them.

#### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Code Enforcement/Police Department Report – Officer Brown** gave an update on the Howey Mansion. **Councilor Conroy** asked how this is being monitored. **Mayor Sears** said this is a private issue. **Councilor Conroy** said the Town has spent lots of time at the Howey Mansion.

**Finance Report – Mayor Sears** said the Finance Report has been changed with the balance of the Reserves are shown for tracking purposes.

**Library Director Report - No comments**

**Public Services Report –**This report was presented at the meeting.



**Safety Board Minutes – No comments**

**Town Hall Report – Councilor Conroy**

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Mayor Sears - No comments**

**Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel – No comments**

**Councilor Conroy – No comments**

**Councilor Mabry – No comments**

**Councilor Kearney – No comments**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**David Kilmartin**, 12 E. Laurel Ave, voiced his concerns with the utility and infrastructure. **Mayor Sears** said there is no funding for utilities and infrastructure, which about \$1.5 million is needed. **Mr. Kilmartin** said the Central Ave and alley project should go hand in hand. **Mayor Sears** gave background and said there is a trip hazard now. **Mr. Kilmartin** asked why W. Central is not made a one-way street and use S. Florida for truck traffic? **Mayor Sears** said the W. Central Ave. is owned by Lake County and the citizens voted against using S. Florida Ave as a truck route. **Mr. Kilmartin** said the Town has a lot of parks in Town and have way too many parks that are no being used. He said the Sarah Maude Nature Preserve should be abandoned and reinvest the money into the Town. He said we can't afford to work on Blevins Park. **Mayor Sears** said as the lots filled in and green space needs to be preserved and it collects storm water. **Mr. Kilmartin** also voiced his concerns on the value of Laurel Oak trees.

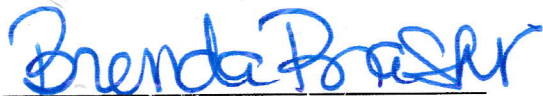
**John Scott** voiced his concern with the minutes not being on the website. He asked what the price is for the asphalt and gave **Mayor Sears** provided a price and a name of a person who does asphalt.

**The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.**



Chris Sears, Mayor

**ATTEST:**



Brenda Brasher, MMC  
Town Clerk