

**MINUTES OF THE HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD MARCH 23, 2015**

**Mayor Sears** called the Town Council Meeting of March 23, 2015 to order at 5:45 p.m.

**Mayor Sears** lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

**Mayor Pro-Tem Ernest** led the Invocation

**Present: Mayor Sears, Mayor Pro-Tem Ernest, Councilor Nebel, Councilor Conroy, and Councilor Mabry.**

**Also Present: Town Engineer Richardson, Police Chief Robbins, Public Services Director Smith, Library Director Hall and Town Clerk Brasher.**

**PROCLAMATION: HONORING WOODROW BLEVINS ON HIS 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**

**Mayor Sears** read the Proclamation Honoring Woodrow Blevins on his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday and Presented the Proclamation to Mr. Blevins.

Refreshments were served.

**PRE WORKSESSION  
BOARD REPORTS**

Library Board Minutes – No comments  
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Minutes – No comments  
Events Subcommittee Minutes – No comments  
Planning & Zoning Board Minutes – No comments

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWN BUSINESS**

**Update: St. Johns River Water Management District Grant**  
**Town Engineer Richardson** gave update on the SJRWMD Grant. Discussion ensued.

**Discussion: Revised Wastewater Collection Retrofit to Town Buildings**  
**Town Engineer Richardson** gave detailed background on this item. **Mayor Sears** discussed the ERU cost from the CDD and financing of the collection line. A lengthy discussion ensued.

**Town Engineer Richardson** said she will break down the costs and provide the benefits of connecting to wastewater and bring the information back to another Town Council Meeting.

**Discussion: Minimum Residential Floor Areas**  
a. **Memo Dated March 6, 2015 Minimum Residential Floor Areas**  
b. **Memo Dated February 3, 2014 Minimum Residential Floor Areas Revisited**

**Councilor Nebel** said originally the 2,000 sq. ft. was simply to make certain what came into Town was quality. He said subtracting the setbacks, adding a 2,000 sq. ft. home in TC-R, doesn't leave much on a lot. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding minimum residential floor areas.

**Mayor Sears** clarified that these minimum residential floor areas are for in-fill lots only. As a builder, he said it is difficult to install a septic tank and a drive way for a 2,000 sq. ft. home. **Councilor Mabry** asked if the current requirements are restricting construction. **Mayor Sears** gave detailed background on in-fill lots in Town and said if the requirements are not changed, the Town will have a lot of lots sitting empty. **Councilor Conroy** said a 1,800 sq. ft. well made home would be acceptable. A lengthy discussion ensued.

***It was the consensus of the Town Council to bring an ordinance back for discussion.***

#### **Update: Town Grants**

**Town Clerk Brasher** gave an update on the Rails to Trails Grant for Sarah Maude Mason Nature Preserve as well as the FRDAP Grant for Central Park.

#### **Consideration and Appointment of Charlotte Maffia to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**

**Councilor Nebel, seconded by Councilor Conroy, moved to appoint Charlotte Maffia to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.**

#### **Consideration and Discussion of Sign Proposals/Quotes from CTI Signs for Gateway Signage and Wayfinding Signage**

**Parks & Recreation Chairman Ernest** gave detailed background on this item and asked for approval.

**Councilor Nebel** said that something you hold in your hand, like a magazine ad but looks like the devil on a billboard. He said asked what the design was on the small plans. He further said he does not feel that this is a good move for the gateway signage as no one will know what the logo is as it looks like a bottle rocket.

**Parks & Recreation Chairman Ernest** said her board was tasked to change the image and the Heron was too universal and the board was looking for something that is unique to Howey. She said a mission bell looked too much like Mission Inn and they liked the look and will negotiate with CTI Signs with other suggestions.

**Mayor Sears** said the signs need to be tweaked and he would like to work with the Business Community and continue to work on this. A lengthy discussion ensued.

#### **Consideration and Approval of Lake County Library Impact Fee Application and Distribution Process (Revision of LCC-63)**



**Lake County Library Representative Breednen** said Lake County Impact Fees are about \$192.00 and the application needed to be updated to be easier for the applicants and gave detailed background on the changes.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Ernest**, seconded by **Councilor Mabry**, moved to approve the **Lake County Library Impact Fee Application and Distribution Process (Revision of LCC-63)**. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

#### **Discussion: Library Bandwidth & E-Rate Increase**

**Library Director Hall** gave background on this item.

**Lake County Library Representative Gary Earl**, explained what bandwidth the Library has now, which is running through a phone line. He said the proposed fiber optic will be 100 times better. A lengthy discussion ensued.

**Councilor Conroy** discussed the other Town buildings hooking up to the fiber optic line as well.

#### **Consideration and Approval of Resolution No. 2015-001, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA; REPEALING RESOLUTION 2011-005 AND PERMITTING RETIRED TOWN EMPLOYEES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TOWN'S GROUP HEALTH PLAN; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**Mayor Sears** read by title only, Resolution No. 2015-001 and gave detailed background.

**Councilor Nebel**, seconded by **Mayor Pro-Tem Ernest**, moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-001. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

**Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 2015-002, AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA AMENDING THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ELEMENT IN CHAPTER 8 OF THE TOWN'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BY UPDATING THE FIVE-YEAR SCHEDULE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO INCLUDE ESTIMATED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF CHAPTER 163 OF THE FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT, CODIFICATION, SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**Mayor Sears** read by title only, Ordinance No. 2015-002.

***The Public Hearing was opened. As no one wished to speak, the Public Hearing was closed.***

**Councilor Nebel**, seconded by **Councilor Mabry**, moved to adopt the second reading and adoption of Ordinance No. 2015-002. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Code Enforcement/Police Department Report – Chief Robbins** gave an update on the Howey Mansion and 500 S. Florida Ave. **Police Chief Robbins** said Pathfinder Development has a sign application permit on the P&Z Agenda this month. He said there is a sign in the SR 19 road right of way and he would like to take the sign in the road right-of-way down.

**Mayor Sears** said the signs got out of control real quick and gave detailed background. He said he urged Code Enforcement to leave the signs up during the Parade of Homes. He said the sign application permit is on the Planning & Zoning Agenda for this month and the board will decide this week. He said Town Clerk Brasher said there is missing information on the sign permit application. **Councilor Conroy** said the builder has blinders on and gave background.

**Finance Report** - No comments

**Library Director Report** – No comments

**Public Services Report** – No comments

**Service Order Report** – No comments

**Town Hall Report** – No comments

**Safety Committee Minutes** –No comments

**Town Goals and Project List** – No comments

**Department Director Meeting Report** -

## **MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Mayor Sears** discussed the following:

- Town have received a check for the boat ramp damage
- Coleman-Cline Property and Bishops Gate Wastewater Agreements will be forth coming to provide wholesale wastewater Bishops Gate
- It was a wonderful celebration with Mr. Blevins. He said the Town increased the water rates for high end users. He said Mr. Blevins bills went up as well as a for sale sign. He requested installing an irrigation meter at no charge at the Blevins lot and to charge him irrigation rates.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Ernest** said Mr. Blevins can afford \$150 a month water bill. **Mayor Sears** said it is the right thing to do. **Public Services Director Smith** asked who is installing the meter to Mr. Blevins irrigation. He said if it is five or six feet within the meter, Public Services Director Smith can hook up the meter.



**Councilor Nebel**, seconded by **Councilor Conroy**, moved to approve an irrigation meter for the "Park" at Mr. Blevins property to be reviewed on an annual basis. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

**David Kilmartin** said the Town Council is setting a precedent for installing a meter for the Blevins residence. He reminded the Town Council of the digital way finding signs. He said there is a lot of traffic that is not stopping at the corner of Temple Ave. and Laurel Ave. He asked if there are requirements of throwing new papers in driveways.

**Police Chief Robbins** announced the "Kitten Season Challenge" and gave background and asked for donations for kittens.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Ernest** – Said the Police Department did training at the Lake Hills School on Saturday and they did an outstanding job.

**Councilor Nebel** said it was nice to Councilor Conroy here.

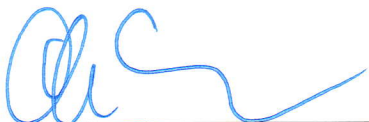
**Councilor Conroy** – No comments

**Councilor Mabry**- No comments

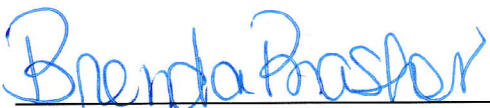
#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**David Kilmartin** voiced his opinion on the square footage reduction. **Mayor Sears** said the garage requirements will be kept separate for the application. A lengthy discussion ensued. **Mr. Kilmartin** encouraged the Town Council to give leniency to the developer

**The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.**

  
Chris Sears, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
Brenda Brasher, MMC  
Town Clerk