

MINUTES OF THE HOWEY IN THE HILLS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD OCTOBER 09, 2017

Mayor Sears called the Town Council Meeting of October 09, 2017 to order at 6:00 p.m.  
Boy and Cub Scout Troop 245 led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.  
Public Services Director John Ernest led the Invocation.

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

Also Present: Town Planner Harowski, Town Attorney Ramos, Town Clerk Burke, Public Services Director Ernest and Chief Thomas.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Minutes of the September 25, 2017 Town Council Meeting.**

*Councilor Mabry, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.*

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The Town Council sitting as the Board of Adjustment as set forth in Section 9.03.00 of the Land Development Code to hear and decide on a Variance Application to relieve setbacks from the Land Development Regulations for a Single Family Residence located at the corner of East Oak St. and North Lakeshore Blvd.

Mayor Sears read the Public Hearing Title.

Town Planner Harowski said that the Variance would be tabled until November 13, 2017 Town Council Meeting.

*Councilor Mabry, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel moved to table the Public Hearing until November 13, 2017 Town Council Meeting. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

**First Reading of Ordinance 2017-004 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE TOWN'S ZONING MAP FROM MDR-1 MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL TO MDR-1-H MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL PROPERTY OVERLAY DISTRICT FOR 4.06 ACRES OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1001 CITRUS AVENUE AND WHICH IS KNOWN AS THE "HOWEY MANSION"; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING ORDINANCES, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Town Attorney Ramos read by title Ordinance 2017-004.

**Town Planner Harowski** said that the following land uses shall be allowed as permitted principal uses along with their customary accessory uses:

- a. Bed and Breakfast Inn
- b. Event venue for activities such as weddings, corporate meetings, community meetings for social and civic groups, and similar activities
- c. The Garden Club annual meeting
- d. Individual and group tours of the historic buildings on site
- e. Tents are permitted as accessory spaces for events
- f. Catered food service is permitted as an accessory activity for events

**Councilor Mabry, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2017-004 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE TOWN'S ZONING MAP FROM MDR-1 MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL TO MDR-1-H MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL PROPERTY OVERLAY DISTRICT FOR 4.06 ACRES OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1001 CITRUS AVENUE AND WHICH IS KNOWN AS THE "HOWEY MANSION"; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING ORDINANCES, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**Consideration and Approval of Resolution 2017-011, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD MAKE TEXTING WHILE DRIVING A PRIMARY OFFENSE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel** said that you can't fix stupid.

**David Kilmartin, 128 E Laurel Ave,** said that the Resolution should be expanded to any phone use while driving.

**Councilor Conroy** asked if not wearing a seat belt was a first or second offense. **Chief Thomas** said it is a first offense.

**Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Conroy, moved to approve Resolution 2017-011, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD MAKE TEXTING WHILE DRIVING A PRIMARY OFFENSE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**Consideration and Approval to appoint Interim Town Clerk Burke to Town Clerk.**

**Mayor Sears** said that he wanted to see how the summer went and he believes that the Town should promote Interim Town Clerk Burke to full time Town Clerk.

**Councilor Scott** said Interim Town Clerk Burke did a great job during Budget.

**Councilor Conroy** said that Interim Town Clerk Burke has a get it done attitude.

**Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel** said that under the Charter Mayor Sears has the authority to appoint Interim Town Clerk to Town Clerk. **Mayor Sears** said that he was aware but wanted to have the Town Council's involvement in doing so.

**Don Ellis, 135 E Magnolia Ave,** said that it was a fine choice.

**Councilor Scott**, seconded by **Councilor Conroy**, moved to appoint Interim Town Clerk Burke to Town Clerk. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

### **Consideration and Approval for the Town of Howey In The Hills Water & Waste Water Master Plan.**

**Mayor Sears** said that the last Water Master Plan was done about five to six years ago. The Master Plan will identify who we are serving, our rates, future growth, future needs and a hydraulic model. The Master Plan will help us consider a business plan regarding the Town's utility. Mayor Sears asked Rob Ern from Booth, Ern, Straughan and Hiott (BESH) to prepare the Water and Waste Water Master Plan but would put it out to bid if the Town Council wanted to.

**Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel** asked if the Town was required to put it out to bid. **Mayor Sears** said no.

**Councilor Conroy** said that he has crunched some numbers and is in favor of the Master plan. However if it cost \$34,800.00 maybe we use that money to value engineer the Sewer Plan. He also encouraged whoever is working on the Master Plan to work closely with Public Services Director Ernest.

**Mayor Sears** said he encourages a Master Plan for the entire utility.

**Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel** said he agreed with the Master Plan.

**Councilor Scott** said that he agreed but had a lot of questions regarding the sewer system. **Mayor Sears** said that one of the sections will be the sewer master plan which will probably answer a lot of his questions.

**Councilor Conroy**, seconded by **Councilor Mabry** moved to approve the Town of Howey in the Hills Water & Waste Water Master Plan. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

### **Consideration and Approval to create a Town Facebook, Twitter and Instagram Page.**

**Mayor Sears** said that Town Clerk Burke approached him about creating a Facebook, Twitter and Instagram page for the Town and he supported it but wanted the Town Councils thoughts.

**Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel** said that only one person should have access to the Facebook account and for that person to be very careful about what they post.

**Councilor Mabry** said that you have to be careful with using social media and that the pages have to be kept up to date.

**Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel** said that he was going to bring it up under Council comments but since we are talking about keeping sites up to date. There are no minutes on the Website for the Planning & Zoning Board and that it looks very unprofessional.

**Mayor Sears** said that the first step is to revamp the Town's Website and then we can build social media sites that are easily linked to it.

**Jenny Deschenes, Howey Events**, said that Town Clerk Burke can take control of the current Howey Events Facebook Page.

**Councilor Mabry**, seconded by **Councilor Scott**, moved to approve a Town Facebook, Twitter and Instagram Page. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

**Councilor Scott** recognized Jenny Deschenes for her successful event at the Library.

### **Red Ribbon Week Proclamation**

**Town Clerk Ramos** read the HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS MAYORAL PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING OCTOBER 23-31 AS RED RIBBON WEEK.

### **MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Councilor Mabry** said that he may not be able to attend the October 23, 2017 Town Council Meeting.  
**Councilor Conroy**-No Comment

**Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel** said that every department did an outstanding job before and after Hurricane Irma. He also wanted to thank Chief Thomas and Public Services Director Ernest for taking action in Venezia regarding the problems that are going on in there. He recommends using the money we collected from the lien on the Howey Mansion to pay for a new mower in our Public Services Department as they have one that is breaking down. Lastly, to all his fellow Town Council Members the Mayor is the only one who has the authority to talk to the Town Staff. He added that Town Staff didn't need five managers.

**Councilor Scott** said that he also agreed that Public Services Director Ernest and Chief Thomas did an excellent job preparing for Hurricane Irma.

**Mayor Sears**-No Comment

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Carnee Merritt, A Little Bo-Tique and Spa Owner**, wrote a letter to the Town Council to commend and recognize Officer Scott for all his kind efforts in preparation for Hurricane Irma and to the Town Residents.

**Martha Macfarlane, 210 E Cypress**, Special Events is starting all the fall events so having a Town Facebook page will be a huge help.

**The Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.**

  
Chris Sears, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Dairian Burke  
Town Clerk