

MINUTES OF THE HOWEY IN THE HILLS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD NOVEMBER 26, 2018

Mayor Nebel called the Work Session to order at 5:45 p.m.

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

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

No Comments.

Mayor Nebel adjourned the Work Session to order at 5:49 p.m.

Mayor Nebel called the Town Council Meeting of November 26th, 2018 to order at 5:49 p.m.
Cub/Scout Troop 245 led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
Public Services Director Ernest led the Invocation.

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of the October 22nd 2018 Town Council Meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tem MacFarlane seconded by Councilor Scott moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

PUBLIC HEARING

First Reading Ordinance No. 2018-012 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA, PERTAINING TO THE COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE AND TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS; REVISING THE COMPENSATION IN SECTION 42-10 OF THE TOWN'S CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION RATIFICATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Nebel read *First Reading Ordinance No. 2018-012 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA, PERTAINING TO THE COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE AND TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS; REVISING THE COMPENSATION IN SECTION 42-10 OF THE TOWN'S CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION RATIFICATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.*

Councilor Scott asked if the Town Councilors owed the Town money back. **Mayor Nebel** replied that the Town could deduct the difference and pay the Town.

Councilor Sears said that the Ordinance was retro active the effective date back to January 22, 2018 when the motion was adopted.

Councilor Conroy seconded by **Councilor Scott** moved to approve the First Reading Ordinance No. 2018-012 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA, PERTAINING TO THE COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE AND TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS; REVISING THE COMPENSATION IN SECTION 42-10 OF THE TOWN'S CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION RATIFICATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration and Approval of Resolution 2018-009 Amending the General Fund For the Budget Year 2017-2018 for the Town of Howey in the Hills.

Mayor Nebel said that we need to reschedule or cancel the December 24, 2018 at the next meeting. Also, Town Attorney Ramos will be giving a Sunshine Law presentation at the next Town Council Meeting.

Mayor Nebel said that the resolution is to balance the Fiscal year 17/18 Budget.

Mayor Nebel seconded by **Councilor Scott** moved to approve Resolution 2018-009 Amending the General Fund For the Budget Year 2017-2018 for the Town of Howey in the Hills. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion: Hiring an in-house Building Inspector (Mayor Nebel).

Mayor Nebel asked why the Town Couldn't hire an in house building official.

Councilor MacFarlane said that in the past meetings it didn't seem cost effective to hire an in house Building Official.

Mayor Nebel said that the Town needed to get with Alpha regarding pricing.

Councilor Sears said that this isn't a last-minute thing and has been advertised with no response. So, he reached out to Alpha to bid and also talked to the Lake County Building Department. When he talked to Alpha Inspections, they were looking at an 80/20 split. **Mayor Nebel** who is the 80%. **Councilor Sears** replied Alpha Inspections. **Councilor Sears** then said that the Town has three options at this point. They could go with an outside inspection company, hire an in house building official or go with Lake County.

Councilor Scott said that the Town needed to look into the future. Use a contract for the next couple months then hire someone.

Councilor Conroy said that it wasn't easy to just hire someone.

Councilor Sears said that he has one person reach out to him interested in being hired by the Town as a building official and was looking to start out at \$65,000 to \$67,000.

Mayor Nebel said that it is the senses of the Town Council to let it ride for now and convey in January or February.

Councilor Sears said that Alpha Inspections has Fruitland Park who services The Villages. How will they service Howey with that kind of volume? Then with Lake County it becomes the control factor. For example the Town used them years ago and they didn't adhere to the Town's shed zoning.

Consideration and Approval to Expend \$52,556.70 on Police Body Cameras.

Councilor Conroy said that \$12,000 was budgeted this year and that the agreement is a five year expenditure. **Chief Thomas** replied yes.

Councilor Scott said that in his own experience the body cameras are worth it. He called the company and discussed the agreement and was pleased with what they had to say. He then said that he doesn't agree with the number of cameras but he talked to Chief Thomas and that all 14 were needed.

Mayor Nebel asked if they were better than a car camera. **Chief Thomas** said that they are the same price however the body cameras will reduce complaints and liability due to mobility.

Mayor Nebel asked if the Lake County Sheriff's Department had car cameras. **Chief Thomas** replied yes but different agencies do different things.

Mayor Pro-Tem MacFarlane said that she needs justification for the body cameras. **Chief Thomas** replied that the body cameras help if people make complaints about the officers. He already ran into a group who tried to accuse an officer of something and the video proved them wrong. **Mayor Pro-Tem MacFarlane** asked if Chief Thomas had documentation of these allegations. **Chief Thomas** replied that he keeps a ledger.

Councilor Conroy said that he was on the fence about it until he talked to Chief Thomas and he agreed with his reasoning.

Chief Thomas said that the body cameras work with the tasers that the officers have.

Councilor Conroy asked for the best practices.

Councilor Scott said that the Police Department needs a body camera policy.

Mayor Pro-Tem MacFarlane asked if the contract was annual. **Chief Thomas** said that the contract can be canceled at any time.

Chief Thomas said that they are provided new body cameras every two years and if they go the length of the contract they get new body cameras at the end.

Marie Gallelli, 1104 N Tangerine, said the policy should be that they automatically turn on. Also if signing the contract for five years does it hold the price. **Mayor Nebel** said that he would have Town Attorney Ramos review.

Matthew McGill, 119 E Croton Way, Have a policy in place for all of it.

Elwis Benson, 406 S Florida Ave, agrees with the body cameras however not with the amount of cameras being purchased. (14 body cameras). Who downloads the video? Chief Thomas replied that it is the officer's duty. **Elwis Benson** said so there is no extra personnel or time needed.

Bernard Alimenti, 205 E. Magnolia Ave, agrees with the body cameras but would like discipline in the policy if not followed.

Councilor Scott asked if Chief Thomas would bring back the policy to be reviewed by the Town Council in January. **Chief Thomas** replied yes.

Councilor Conroy seconded by Mayor Nebel move to approve expending \$52,556.70 on Police Body Cameras. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

BOARD REPORTS

Library Board Minutes-No Comment

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Report & Minutes - None

Planning & Zoning Board Minutes-No Comment

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Code Enforcement/Police Department Report

Councilor MacFarlane asked if Chief Thomas could include more detail in the Police Activity Log. **Chief Thomas** replied yes.

Councilor Scott said that he doesn't see a report on burglary and that there was one mentioned. **Chief Thomas** said that the residents didn't want to report it so it has been categorized under suspicious activity.

Councilor Sears asked if there was a pattern for burglary. **Chief Thomas** replied no.

Councilor MacFarlane asked if there was a way to document the incidents to establish a pattern if need be. **Chief Thomas** replied yes and that it is that time of year so please lock your cars and homes.

Finance Report

Mayor Nebel asked if the finance report was needed on the Agenda. Councilor MacFarlane replied no.

Impact Fee Balance- No Comment

Library Director Report – No Comment

Public Services Report (Staff Meeting Minutes) –No Comment

Town Hall Report-No Comment

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Scott- No Comment

Councilor Sears-No Comment

Councilor Conroy-No Comment

Mayor Pro-Tem MacFarlane-No Comment

Mayor Nebel-No Comment

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Matthew McGill, 119 E. Croton Way, asked if there was a policy on how the Town conducts the Agenda. Mayor Nebel replied no but it could be your first assignment. **Matthew McGill** replied thank you. He then said that he was hoping the Town Council would be voting on the Building Official tonight. Also, that he spoke with Town Attorney Ramos regarding the Sunshine Law. He again stated that the Town Charter needed to be reviewed and was disappointed in the Town Council voting for Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem.

Bernard Alimenti, 205 E. Magnolia Ave, stated that the Town Council illegally received a pay increase back on January 22, 2018. Then expressed his disappointment in the Town Council.

Sal Gallelli, 1104 N Tangerine, said that the Town's people are not represented by this Town Council and that the citizens need to pick the Mayor.

Tracey Alimenti, 205 E. Magnolia Ave, asked Mayor Nebel to follow the layout of the Agenda and to allow public comment on every item. **Mayor Nebel** said that there is no policy to follow.

Marie Gallelli, 1104 N. Tangerine, agreed that the Town shouldn't hire an in house building official but recommends hiring Lake County for one year. Also, agrees about Town Council increase but not retro activating it.

Elwis Benson, 406 S. Florida Ave, said that the residents need to be heard and that the Town Council and residents need to become one group doing good for the Town.

Graham Wells, 718 Calabria Way, said that the Town Council Meetings are ran proper in Howey. He said that Mt. Verde may have more money but their Mayor makes \$1,500 a month. Mt. Dora has a city manager who makes \$135,000 a year and the Mayor here has the same responsibilities and the City Manager there.

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

ATTEST:

David Nebel, Mayor

Dairian Burke
Town Clerk