

**Minutes of the Howey-in-the-Hills Town Council Meeting
Held November 23, 2009**

Mayor Sears called the Town Council Meeting of November 23, 2009 to Order at 6:00 p.m.

Cub Scout Troop No. 254 led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Councilor Ernest led the Invocation

Present: Mayor Sears, Councilor Ernest, Councilor Nebel, Councilor Crowder and Town Clerk Brasher.

Absent: Mayor Pro-Tem Green

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion: California Boutique Wines, Inc. Promotional Wine Tasting Event to be held December 12, 2009

Roosevelt Shannon gave background on this item and said all legal documents will be in place before the Wine Tasting Event or the event will not be held. **Lt. Thomas** gave legal information on alcoholic beverage samples and sales. Procedures of the wine tasting were discussed.

Del Pearce voiced his opinion on the date of this event.

Discussion: Water Plant Improvements and Financial Plans Update

Mayor Sears gave background on this item. **Town Engineer Shira** presented a layout design of the proposed water plant expansion. Financials for the water plant expansion were discussed. **Mayor Sears** said the State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan documents are ready to be signed and returned for the pre-construction portion of the project. There will be debt service for that portion of the expansion project once the loan documentation is submitted. Discussion ensued.

Discussion: Public Works Vehicle

Mayor Sears gave background on the need for the current vehicle to be repaired or to trade in two (2) un-operational vehicles for a 2003 Ford pick-up truck from Ramos Auto Repair. Discussion ensued.

Councilor Ernest, seconded by Councilor Crowder, moved to authorize the purchase of the Ford F150 from Ramos Auto Repair which includes the trade-in of the two (2) non-operational vehicles. Motion failed 2-2 with Councilor Nebel and Mayor Sears voting no in a roll call vote.

Discussion: 2010 Goals and Planning

Mayor Sears discussed his proposed goals and said he would like specific goals for 2010 from the Town Council, Town residents and Department Directors.

Discussion: F.D.O.T. Public Workshop for SR 19 Bridge Maintenance Plan and Process

Town Clerk Brasher gave an update on the Public Meeting to be held on January 14, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. which will be held at the Lake County Agriculture Center located at 1951 Woodleaf Road in Tavares.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Works Report – Deputy Public Works Director Smith was present to answer questions.

Code Enforcement and Police Department -Letter of Commendation and Police/Code Report – Lt. Thomas Police Chief Robbins was present to answer any questions.

Judy Pearce read into the record a letter of commendation on behalf of the Police Department.

Town Clerk Report- Email from Les Deatherage and Finance Report – Town Clerk Brasher was present to answer any questions.

Town Clerk Brasher read into the record a letter of thanks to Town Clerk Brasher and from Town resident Les Deatherage. **Town Clerk Brasher** also asked that no expenditures be made in the beginning of each budget year from the General Fund until money from the State and tax monies are received.

Library Board Minutes – No questions

Planning & Zoning Board Minutes – No questions

MAYOR / TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

Mayor Sears – Discussion ensued on the status of Town email. He said new server quotes will be forth coming.

Councilor Ernest – Thanked John Hunt for making benches for the Christmas Festival.

Councilor Nebel – said she would like to go back to holding the second meeting of the month as a Work Session.


Councilor Crowder – Asked if the letter from Lykes Brothers or Venezia regarding the parcel adjacent to the water plant had been delivered to the Town. **Mayor Sears** said it had not.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Pam Hunt voiced her opinion on the road widening project.


Richard Langley informed the Town Council of a pending lawsuit he filed against the Town, a former board member and Town Councilors.

ADJOURNMENT AT 8:10 P.M.



Chris Sears, Mayor

ATTEST:



Brenda Brasher, CMC
Town Clerk