

Minutes of the Howey-in-the-Hills Town Council Meeting Held January 11, 2010

Mayor Sears called the Town Council Meeting of January 11, 2010 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, Mayor Pro-Tem Green, Councilor Ernest, Councilor Nebel, Councilor Crowder, Town Attorney Blom-Ramos and Town Clerk Brasher.

NEW BUSINESS

Traffic Engineering Services for 2010 MPO TAC Meetings in the Amount of \$2,400.00 (Fund 1 Account No. 541340)

Mayor Pro-Tem Green, seconded by Councilor Nebel, moved to approve the Traffic Engineering Services for 2010 MPO TAC Meetings in the amount of \$2,400.00. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

Consideration Conditional Approval of Venezia Right-of-Way Dedication at the Corner of SR 19 and Revels Road

Traffic Engineer Watanabe gave detailed background on this item.

Councilor Nebel, seconded by Councilor Ernest, moved to accept the conditional approval of Venezia Right-of-Way dedication at the corner of SR 19 and Revels Road and for Traffic Engineer Watanabe to take the necessary steps with Lake County. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

Consideration and Approval of Engineering Services Proposal for Downtown Redevelopment Area Stormwater Management Plan from B&H Consultants, Inc. in the Amount of \$15,750.00 which does not include copying, postage, courier service and mileage costs. (Fund 405 Account No. 538631)

Town Engineer Shira gave detailed background on this item. Discussion ensued.

Councilor Crowder, seconded by Councilor Nebel, moved to approve the Engineering Services Proposal for Downtown Redevelopment Area Stormwater Management Plan from B&H Consultants, Inc. Motion carried 4-1 with Mayor Pro-Tem Green voting no.

Consideration and Approval of Proposal for Preparation of 10 Year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan from B&H Consultants, Inc. in the Amount of \$8,200.00 which does not include copying, postage, courier service and mileage costs. (Fund 1 Account No. 519341)

Town Engineer Shira gave detailed background on this item.

Mayor Pro-Tem Green, seconded by **Councilor Crowder**, moved to approve the 10 year Water Supply Facilities Work Plan by B&H Consultants, Inc. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

Discussion: Property Located at 707 S. Dixie Drive

Jim Schluraff gave detailed background on this item and said the wall on the property is a problem. He stated he has obtained quotes to bring the wall into compliance at the cost of approximately \$25,000. He further stated there are numerous walls and fences in the Town that are in non-compliance. He offered the following:

- Pay water bill, \$2,000 legal fees and sign hold harmless agreement in the amount of \$10,000 for a 10-year period.

Mayor Sears said he met with Mr. Schluraff to discuss this issue and the property owner is here to get direction from the Town Council. **Councilor Nebel** said a variance could be considered and she feels this issue should be resolved. **Town Attorney Blom-Ramos** said this is a policy decision and the applicant can file for a variance. **Councilor Ernest** said a variance stands for itself. **Code Enforcement Mobley** said there are no fines accruing on the wall violation. **Councilor Crowder** said he would like to dispose of the item. **Town Attorney Blom-Ramos** said the item must come forward for a variance. Discussion ensued.

Janice McClain voiced her opinion on this subject.

Appointment of Liaison to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Parks & Recreation Chairman Richardson asked for a liaison to be appointed to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

Councilor Ernest, seconded by **Councilor Nebel**, moved to appoint Councilor Crowder as liaison as the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

Parks & Recreation Chairman Richardson further asked the Town Council to amend the Chapter with regards to changing the board membership from 7 members to 5 regular members and 2 alternate members. He discussed a tree planting grant, irrigation revisions at all parks and Florida Water Star Program.

Councilor Nebel said she sees vehicles parking along Lakeshore Blvd. crushing the sprinkler heads so if the Town revises the irrigation, penalties need to be in place. Discussion ensued.

Councilor Crowder, seconded by **Councilor Nebel**, moved to approve the submittal of a Tree Planting Grant. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

Discussion: Update on Status of Public Works Maintenance Records

Mayor Sears gave detailed background on this item and said a complete list will be submitted to the Town Council when complete.

Discussion: Joint Work Session with Town Council and Planning and Zoning Commission on Thursday, January 28th, 2010 from 5:00 – 8:00

Mayor Sears gave detailed background on this item.

It was the consensus of the Town Council to hold the Joint Work Session on January 28th.

Mayor Sears said the 2nd meeting of April will be to review budget.

Consideration and Approval of Fitness for Duty Certification Form

Mayor Pro-Tem Green, seconded by Councilor Ernest, moved to deny the Fitness for Duty Certification Form. Motion carried 3-2 with Councilor Nebel and Councilor Crowder voting no.

Discussion: Staffing at Public Works Department

Councilor Crowder gave detailed background on this item. He further asked what the plan is for when the mowing season begins. Discussion ensued.

Discussion: Staff Performance Reviews

Councilor Crowder said performance reviews are to be completed each year. Discussion ensued.

Discussion: Server Update, Quotes Will Be Available For February 8th Town Council Meeting

Town Clerk Brasher gave detailed background on this item.

PUBLIC HEARING

Variance Application Craig and Valera Palmer, 1104 Hamlin Ave for Side Entry Garage

Town Planner Shira gave detailed background on this item and said the applicant cannot access their garage as it currently sits. The applicant has a non-conforming structure and they did not meet the front set back requirements.

Planning and Zoning Member Pearce said the applicant was not present at the Planning and Zoning Meeting.

Applicant Craig Palmer was present to answer questions and gave detailed history of the application.

The Public Hearing was opened.

Dennis Thompson said he has no objection to the variance application.
Charlie Richardson asked if the motion should include the hardship.

The Public Hearing was closed.

Councilor Nebel, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Green, moved to approve the Palmer Variance Application subject to submittal of a signed survey, signed and sealed plans with setbacks included. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

MAYOR/COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Sears discussed replacing signs in Town, moving forward with the SRF Loan, commend the Town Council and Staff with the paperless packets, Charter amendments will be coming in the future, update on meeting with City of Groveland with regards to the 180 Utility District, policies for discussion in February, will be using his personal cell phone and to cancel the 2nd meeting of the month in January.

Mayor Pro-Tem Green thanked Staffs efforts with the auditor and the Staff who have been working well together. He said due to employment issues, he would be stepping down as Mayor Pro-Tem.

Councilor Ernest – None

Councilor Nebel – None

Councilor Crowder thanked the Staff at Town Hall as well as the Police Department and Public Works.

Police Chief Robbins reminded the Town Council and the public about the January 14, 2010, F.D.O.T. Meeting regarding the Lake Harris Bridge.

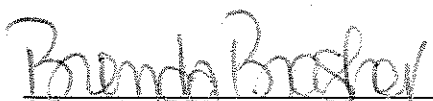
PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

ADJOURNMENT AT 8:48 P.M.



Chris Sears, Mayor

ATTEST:



Brenda Brasher, CMC
Town Clerk