

Minutes of the Howey-in-the-Hills Town Council Meeting Held April 12, 2010

Mayor Sears called the Town Council Meeting of April 12, 2010 to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel led the Invocation.

Present: Mayor Sears, Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel, Councilor Ernest, Councilor Crowder, Town Attorney Blom-Ramos and Town Clerk Brasher.

Absent: Councilor Green

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of the Town Council Work Session held March 22, 2010, Joint Work Session held January 28, 2010, Department Director Meeting held March 24, 2010 and Department Director Meeting held March 3, 2010.

Councilor Crowder seconded by **Councilor Ernest**, moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Designation of an Alternate Member to the Lake County Library Advisory Board
Library Director Merchant presented background on this item.

Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel, seconded by **Councilor Crowder**, moved to appoint Peggy Ernest as an Alternate Member to the Lake County Library Advisory Board. Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.

Appointment of Denise Gainer to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Councilor Crowder, seconded by **Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel**, moved to appoint Denise Gainer to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.

Discussion: Interlocal Service Boundary Agreement with the City of Groveland
Town Attorney Blom-Ramos gave detailed background on this item.

It was the consensus of the Town Council to hold a Special Meeting on April 26, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss and adopt the Interlocal Agreement Resolving the Utility Service District Boundary Dispute.

Town Planner Shira clarified that a Town Councilor must attend the Interlocal Service Boundary Agreement meetings to negotiate with the City of Groveland. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel, seconded by **Councilor Ernest**, moved to authorize **Mayor Sears** to work with **Town Attorney Blom-Ramos** to draft a responding Resolution in response to the City of Groveland's Interlocal Service Boundary Agreement pursuant to Florida Statutes 171.203 to be held at a Special Meeting to be held April 26, 2010 .
Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.

Paul Crawley asked **Town Attorney Ramos** asked where an Interlocal Service Boundary Agreement exists. **Town Attorney Ramos** said there are municipalities that have these in place. **Mr. Crawley** asked if they are effective. **Ms. Ramos** said she did not know. **Mayor Sears** said the City of Mascotte and the City of Groveland has had such an agreement in place for many years and it has been effective.

Discussion: Mid-Year Budget Review & Items to be Included in Packet

Mayor Sears said the budget numbers will be emailed around the 15th of the month. He asked the Town Council to call or email Administrator of Financial Services Monday-Bolte with any questions they have prior to the meeting. **Councilor Crowder** asked for the FY 2008-2009 budget for comparisons.

Discussion: Ordinance No. 2008-005, Relating to Signs

Mayor Sears said item was discussed at a Department Director Meeting. **Councilor Crowder** said there is a sign advertising the Howey Mansion for sale and it does not meet the requirements of the sign ordinance. He further stated people are often looking for Boondocks. He said he does not know what the Town can implement changes but would like the Town Council to look at this. **Councilor Ernest** asked if this has gone before the Planning and Zoning Commission. **Mayor Sears** said it has not.

Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel asked why this is being changed. **Councilor Ernest** said the Sign Ordinance was adopted and the Town should adhere to the Ordinance or get rid of it. He further stated he understands the economics of today but feels the Town needs to adhere to the adopted Ordinance. **Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel** said the Town has no control over the sale of a home and if the price is right, the house will sell.

Police Chief Robbins said the realtors are using directional signs, which are "snipe" signs which are illegal. He suggested allowing a memorandum of the real estate "snipe" signs for a limited time and the signs will still be prohibited on the State road right-of-ways. He said this will help the economics. **Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel** said when she was a realtor, the realtors could put up an "open house" sign for the duration of the open house only.

Town Attorney Blom-Ramos said when there is an Ordinance and it needs a Code provision. She suggested having the Planning and Zoning Commission come up with an amendment to address signs for realtors.

Mayor Sears asked for clarification with regard to the allowable size of real estate signs. **Councilor Ernest** said a sign in front of a home is one thing but “snipe” signs are a totally different issue.

Planning and Zoning Commission Member Del Pearce said the Commission did not address realtor “open house” signs. He asked that this item be added to the Planning and Zoning Commission agenda for the next meeting to be discussed. **Town Attorney Blom-Ramos** said an amended Ordinance would need to be drawn up with a sunset clause.

It was the consensus of the Town Council for the Planning and Zoning Commission to wordsmith the current sign Ordinance with regards to realty signs and bring back a recommendation to the Town Council.

Update on Annexation Requests

Mayor Sears gave an update on the annexation which is approximately 400 acres.

Councilor Crowder asked how the property is currently zoned. **Town Planner Shira** said the Buois property land use is Urban, Nancy Jeppeson's is Rural Protection, Simpson and Howey Groves are designated as Rural. She said the Aleman's are interested in annexing, however their property is not contiguous.

Mayor Sears announced a Joint Work Session to be held May 18, 2010 to discuss the annexation process and the Comprehensive Plan Amendment. He said that June 14, 2010 will be the first reading of the annexation ordinances and the Comprehensive Plan.

PUBLIC HEARING

Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 2010-001, Relating to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, Adding a New Chapter 49 to the Code of Ordinances Entitled “Parks and Recreation Advisory Board” to Codify the Membership, Terms of Office, Forfeiture and Vacancies, Meetings, Voting, Selection of Officers, and Duties of the Parks And Recreation Advisory Board; Providing for Codification; Providing for Severability; Providing for an Effective Date.

Town Attorney Blom-Ramos read by title only, Ordinance No. 2010-001.

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

Councilor Ernest, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel, moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2010-001, Relating to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.

MAYOR/COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Ernest: None

Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel: Gave background on the Lake County League of Cities Meeting saying the President of the Florida League of Cities/Mayor of Tallahassee was the guest speaker. She asked Town Clerk Brasher to make copies of the flyer for the Town Council.


Councilor Crowder: None

Mayor Sears: Said he will be meeting with the Lake County School Board with regards to the Georgia Avenue property in two weeks. He also said a citizen has come forward and would like to work on the ball fields behind the Administrative Offices of the Lake County School Board. The Mid-Year Budget Review will be held April 26 and June 14 a \$5 Resolution for the Water Facilities Plan will be on the agenda. The Boardwalk has been pressure washed and is looking good. **Councilor Crowder** asked if the spraying on the boardwalk has been completed. **Mayor Sears** said it has not. Discussion ensued.


Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel asked about the status of the playground. **Public Works Director Padgett** said the playground item has been repaired.

PUBLIC COMMENTS-None

ADJOURNMENT AT 7:11 P.M.


Chris Sears, Mayor

ATTEST:


Brenda Brasher, CMC
Town Clerk