

## **Minutes of the Howey-in-the-Hills Town Council Meeting Held May 10, 2010**

**Mayor Sears** called the Town Council Meeting of May 10, 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 Nebel, Councilor Ernest, Councilor Crowder, Councilor Green, Town Attorney Blom-Ramos and Town Clerk Brasher.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

**Donation to Cub Scout Troop No. 254**

**Mayor Sears** presented a donation check to Cub Scout Troop No. 254.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held March 8, Special Session held April 6, Town Council Meeting held April 12, Work Session April 26, Special Session held April 26 and Department Director Meeting held March 17, April 14, and April 21.**

**Councilor Green, seconded by Councilor Crowder, moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Appointment of Planning and Zoning Commission Member. Applicants are: David Nebel, Judy Pearce and Patricia Ritson.**

**Councilor Crowder moved to appoint Patricia Ritson as she is one of two females who applied for the Planning and Zoning Commission. Motion died due to the lack of a second.**

**Councilor Crowder** voiced his concerns with the lack of a female appointment to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

**Judy Pearce**, as an applicant stated she said she feels the Planning and Zoning Commission made the best recommendation to the Town Council.

**Patricia Ritson** said she was told by the Nebel's to apply to the Planning and Zoning Commission. She said it has been mentioned that she would profit from being a member on the Planning and Zoning Commission and she does not have any relationships with any developers in or out of Town.

**Del Pearce** said the Planning and Zoning Commission made the recommendation and Town Council has always reaffirmed the recommendation of P&Z.

**Robert Olsen** said he felt the Planning and Zoning Commission picked the person with the most experience.

**Councilor Ernest**, seconded by **Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel**, moved to appoint David Nebel to the Planning and Zoning Commission, per the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission. Motion carried 4-1 with Councilor Crowder voting no.

**Resolution 2010-008, Traffic Signal Maintenance and Compensation Agreement with Florida Department of Transportation.**

**Councilor Ernest**, seconded by **Councilor Crowder**, moved to approve Resolution No. 2010-008. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

**Appointment of Town Councilor to Serve as a Rotating Member on the Lake County Arts and Cultural Alliance for a One-Year Term Beginning August 1, 2010**

**Councilor Crowder**, seconded by **Councilor Crowder**, moved to appoint Councilor Ernest to the Lake County Arts and Cultural Alliance and Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel as an alternate member. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

**Discussion: Interlocal Agreement with Lake County School Board Relating to the Baseball Field and Property Located at N. Georgia Avenue**

**Mayor Sears** gave background information. He said he was approached by the School Board to see if the Town would like to utilize the building. He said he is meeting with someone from the school to discuss their surplus property and asked the Town Council is they would like to move forward.

**Mayor Sears** said there is a baseball field between SR 19 and Lakeshore Blvd. and a resident came forward to spearhead leasing the property from the school board. **Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel** asked if this would count towards the Town's green space. **Mayor Sears** said that is being looked into. **Councilor Crowder** asked with the tough budget years ahead and asked how Public Works would be able to take on additional tasks such as a ball field. Discussion ensued.

**It was the consensus of the Town Council to move forward with discussion with the School Board.**

**Discussion: Meeting with Downtown Merchants**

**Mayor Sears** gave background on this item and said this is the time to talk to the downtown merchants to help attract business and to help grow their business. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding a building permit submitted by Mr. Roosevelt.

**Councilor Ernest** said the Building Official is not authorized to assist the businesses in Town. **Mayor Sears** said he has went over the Building Permit Application with Mr. Roosevelt and during that conversation Mr. Roosevelt is trying to be owner-builder, since he is not the owner, he needs to hire a general contractor. He has turned in a building permit but there are still outstanding items not addressed in the permit application. **Councilor Ernest** said it is the building permit applicant's responsibility to follow through. **Mayor Sears** said there is general contractor work that needs to be done due to the insurance and liability issues.

**David Nebel** said Mr. Shannon is doing two parts, a wine retail and selling wine and cheese which changes all the requirements.

**Mayor Sears** said Mr. Shannon, the Building Official and himself need to meet to discuss these items. **Councilor Ernest** said he has never seen a Town be involved in a building permit and the Town needs to tread lightly with that regard.

**Bob Morse** said Mr. Shannon needs engineered plans and he does not want to hire an engineer and a contractor. **Mayor Sears** said he can't supersede the Florida Building Code and there is a disconnect between the two parties and the disconnect needs to be fixed.

**Mayor Sears** asked the Town Council if they wanted to move forward with the downtown merchants. **Councilor Crowder** said he thought it was a waste of time because the Town has nothing to offer the downtown merchants. **Councilor Ernest** said maybe the merchants can offer the Town something. **Councilor Green** said the merchants may have some suggestions for improvements.

***No action was taken on this item***

**Discussion: Red Light Cameras**

**Mayor Sears** said this item is to be continued to a later date.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Discussion: Ordinance 2008-005, Relating to Signage**

**Mayor Sears** said this item went before the P&Z Commission and it was denied by the P&Z Commission.

***It was the consensus of the Town Council not to take any action on amending the sign ordinance.***

## **MAYOR/COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Mayor Sears** said the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the month for May will be discussion of Public Works and their staffing level, etc.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel- None**

**Councilor Ernest** - Said he met with John Reece with the Silver Springs Citrus Plant re: annexation and an executive are against the plant from annexing into the Town. Discussion ensued.

**Councilor Crowder** - None


**Councilor Green** - None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

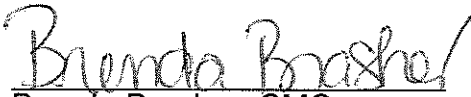
**Bob Olsen** said the gentlemen in management said the Town is being sued and he is afraid for the plant to annex in.

**Patricia Ritson** said the Town has spent all kinds of money on the website and wants the website kept up to date. **Town Clerk Brasher** clarified for the record that the website is up to date and explained that not all boards meet monthly.

**ADJOURNMENT AT 7:35 P.M.**

  
Chris Sears, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
Brenda Brasher, CMC  
Town Clerk