

MINUTES OF THE HOWEY IN THE HILLS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD DECEMBER 09, 2019

Mayor MacFarlane called the Town Council Meeting of December 09, 2019 to order at 6:00 p.m.

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Martha MacFarlane led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
Public Services Director Ernest led the Invocation.

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

Also Present: Town Clerk Burke, Chief Thomas, Town Attorney Wilkes and Public Services Director Ernest.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of the November 19, 2019 Town Council Meeting.

Councilor Scott seconded by Councilor Nebel moved to approve the November 19, 2019 Town Council Meeting. Motion passed 4-1. (Councilor McGill opposing.)

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion: Legal Cost

Mayor MacFarlane voiced her concern regarding the de-annexation cost and keeping the attorney bills under control.

Councilor McGill voiced his concern regarding the documents Mayor MacFarlane provided at the last Town Council Meeting related to attorney fees broken out by Councilor and the validity of the documents.

Mayor MacFarlane advised that the documents were created using the attorney bills and were in fact true. She then said to continue the discussion at a January Town Council Meeting.

Update: Charter Review Board Applicants

Mayor MacFarlane stated that we had only received some applicants and encouraged people to sign up.

Discussion: Eliminating Councilor Salaries for the remainder of 2020 to go toward Contraction legal fees and Charter Review expenses

Mayor MacFarlane led the discussion by reading the title.

Councilor Scott and Councilor McGill agreed that there was money in the budget to offset cost.

Code Enforcement

Public Services Director Ernest stated that there were two applicants and they would be reviewed after the holidays.

Town Council Meetings – Order of Business/Agenda

Councilor McGill seconded by **Councilor Scott** moved to approve that there is a citizen comment in the beginning and end of the Town Council Meetings. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration and Approval to execute an agreement with Native Land and Tree, Inc to lift the canopy of the cypress trees and trim all other trees along Lakeshore Blvd.

Mayor MacFarlane stated that the trimming was done over a decade ago.

Councilor McGill said to add the funding into next year's Budget.

Consideration and Approval to expend \$26,224 on register heads for Utility/Water Meters throughout the Town.

Councilor Scott seconded by **Councilor McGill** moved to approve expending \$26,224 on register heads for Utility/Water Meters throughout the Town. Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.

Consideration and Approval to execute an agreement for auditing service for FY 2018-2019, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

Councilor McGill seconded by **Councilor Scott** moved to approve an agreement for auditing service for FY 2018-2019, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. Motion passed 4-0 with a roll call vote.

Discussion: Ordinance 2002-303, Section 175-2 Code of Ordinances- Construction of wells.

Mayor MacFarlane said that Mr. Benson brought the concern to her and Town Hall regarding the reading of the Ordinance 2002-303 and that we had addressed the concern but were working on reviewing and updating the Ordinance.

Consideration and Approval to appoint Bill Herrington, Trey Purser and Clay Ormsbee to the Police Pension Board.

The Town Council missed the first and second motion regarding the approval and denial of the individual members. The item will go before the Town Council again at the January 27, 2020 Town Council Meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Marie Gallelli, 1004 N Tangerine Ave, voiced her concern regarding the vote for Trey Purser.

Amanda Gallagher, 203 E Croton Way, voiced her concern with the Police Department.

REPORTS:

Town Hall

Fran Wagler, 409 W. Central Ave gave an update on the Boy Scouts and Christmas Festival.

Finance-No Report

- **Budget**

Police Department

Chief Thomas said that Mrs. Gallagher's statement was false.

Public Services

Public Services Director Ernest said that the bids were open, and the closest bid was \$99,000 over Budget and that he was in the process of value engineering with the contractors.

Code Enforcement -No Comment

Library

Jo-Jo Lowe, 138 E Central Ave, gave an update on the library.

Town Attorney

- **Update: Contraction Feasibility Study**

Town Attorney Wilkes stated that the attorneys who are working on the contraction are waiting to meet with Town Staff to gather information.

Council Members:

Councilor David Nebel asked where to drop off the giving tree goodies.

Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy

Councilor McGill asked who the Town used for IT. **Town Clerk Burke** replied SmartWare but was unsure who the Police Department used. **Chief Thomas** replied that nobody was the IT currently. **Councilor McGill** asked for an update on his outstanding Public Records Request. **Councilor McGill** then asked for an update on the police audit presentation. **Mayor MacFarlane** replied that the Sheriffs Office has declined. **Councilor McGill** went over his concerns regarding the audit. He also stated that the 11 offenses need to be on record and have been sent to the State. He then apologized to Mrs. Gallagher.

Councilor Scott said to investigate the incident with Mrs. Gallagher.

Mayor MacFarlane -No Comment

The Meeting adjourned at 7: 24 p.m.

ATTEST:

Martha MacFarlane, Mayor

Dairian Burke
Town Clerk