

MINUTES OF THE HOWEY IN THE HILLS TOWN COUNCIL
HELD April 27, 2020

Mayor MacFarlane called the Town Council Meeting of April 27, 2020 to order at 6:00p.m.
Mayor MacFarlane led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA

The approval of the minutes and ratification and confirmation of all Town Council actions at the following Town Council Meeting(s) March 23, 2020.

Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy seconded by, Councilor Nebel moved to approve the minutes and ratification and confirmation of all Town Council actions at the following Town Council Meeting(s) March 23, 2020. Motion passed 3-1 with a roll call vote. (Councilor Scott voting no).

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion: Venezia Sidewalk Path.

Councilor Scott provided background and shared recent updates on progress. He noted the possible drawbacks and legal responsibilities.

Mr. Wilkes asked for the Town Council to provide direction and they could provide the documentation needed and bring it back before Town Council.

Clerk Burke suggested it go before the Development Review Committee.

Councilor Nebel also suggested it go to the committee before coming to the Mayor. Then final action would come from the Mayor.

Mayor MacFarlane clarified she would take it to the DRC and P&Z so they can make a recommendation.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Marie Gallelli, 1104 North Tangerine asked if there was any specific cost to Venezia.

Mayor MacFarlane said it would be treated like a town project.

Discussion: Update on water study RFB.

Mayor MacFarlane gave background on the options and the possibility of rejecting the bids at this time.

Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy noted he wanted to be sure what the study would include and that he wanted to include deliverables that would actually tell the town what could be done.

Mayor MacFarlane agreed the study had to be more robust than what was previously done.

Councilor McGill asked if there was a timeline so it could be obtained prior to discussing the 2020-2021 budget.

Mayor MacFarlane stated she was told as soon as the requested information could be given to them they would begin the study.

Councilor Scott seconded by, **Councilor McGill** moved to reject the water study RFB's. Motion passed 5-0 with a roll call vote.

Discussion: 211 E Laurel Ave, AK 1762758 Donation to Howey in the Hills from Lake County, FL.

Mayor MacFarlane gave background on the donation and noted the town has the ability to decide what to do with it.

Councilor Nebel provided additional background regarding the property acquisition and work completed.

Councilor McGill asked how much money was already tied up in the property.

Councilor Scott asked if there were any liens on the property.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Berniece Hower, 444 Bellissimo asked if there were unpaid taxes.

Marie Gallelli, 1104 North Tangerine asked about taxes and if they would have to be paid until it sold.

Councilor McGill seconded by, **Councilor Scott** moved to accept the property on Laurel and sell it. Motion passed 5-0 with a roll call vote.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Councilor McGill wanted to bring to everyone's attention items he shared with Clerk Burke that he felt were left out involving the approval and ratification of the first topic item. He also commented on ADA compliance and the town's responsibility.

Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy requested to make a motion from the floor. He provided information and background regarding concerns brought forth to him from residents. He mentioned performance issues by the Town Clerk. Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy made a motion to remove the Town Clerk.

Councilor McGill noted it was not on the agenda and action could not be taken.

Councilor Nebel agreed it should be listed as an item on the agenda. He also noted the Town Clerk had not done a good job and spoke of her performance issues. He suggested her dismissal or retention be discussed with proper notice.

Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy withdrew his motion but noted he felt laws had been violated and recommended suspension of the Town Clerk until it could be investigated.

Conversation continued between council members and the town attorney regarding the release of signatures on a recall petition and the requirements by law.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Janice McLain, 109 South Lakeshore asked about the school mentioning building a road off 19 in 2009 within five years so they wouldn't have to use Lakeshore.

Councilor Nebel said he recalled something was mentioned but that it was not a binding agreement.

Perry Davis, 223 Messina Place commented he felt the Town Clerks employment rights had been violated by Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy's motion.

Town Attorney Wilkes commented he disagreed with Mr. Davis's statement. There were no employment rights discussed.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.



Mayor Martha MacFarlane