

MINUTES OF THE HOWEY IN THE HILLS TOWN COUNCIL
HELD JUNE 22, 2020

Mayor MacFarlane called the Town Council Meeting of June 22, 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) June 8, 2020.

Councilor Nebel seconded by, Councilor Scott moved to approve the minutes and ratification and confirmation of all Town Council actions at the following Town Council Meeting(s) June 8, 2020. Motion passed 4-0 with a roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion: WCA

Mr. McCall said how much they appreciate the public-private relationship they have with the Town of Howey. They appreciate the efforts of the town, the staff and mayor and the elected officials by continuing to cultivate and strengthen our relationships with these amazing people and WCA has decided to withdraw their request for this year's CPI request.

Discussion: Bishops Gate Wastewater Agreement

Mayor MacFarlane we have been discussing how to be successful at managing the sinking fund. I spoke with Ben and he suggested we do a one time a year, annual payment.

Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy said have a prompt pay discount so they pay not in arrears, they pay going forward. He also commented we would have that money at our disposal the whole year. He thinks it is a good idea.

Mayor MacFarlane said she would need to speak with Ben but believes that would be appropriate.

Councilor Nebel said he thinks it is a reasonable deal based on the number.

Mayor MacFarlane said we are going to continue with the sinking fund as it was established in the agreement.

Discussion: Inter-local agreement with Lake County to provide addressing services

Mayor MacFarlane gave a summary of how the addressing process works

Councilor Scott said he always assumed it was their job to bring with and he is all for letting them do it.

Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy said he agrees, it sounds like if we can pass that on to the county, why not?

Councilor Nebel said that's a simple way to do it. If somebody else wants to take care of it, let them do it.

Mayor MacFarlane said she will then contact Greg Holcomb and his associate and work on the inter-local agreement with them and come back to the council for execution.

Discussion: Purchasing Policy

Mayor MacFarlane said the purchasing policy ordinance has come about because when we passed the update to the purchasing policy, it was in conflict with the ordinances. She stated that this ordinance had not been advertised but wanted to give the council an opportunity to look at it.

Mr. Wilkes said we need to make sure the policy is consistent with the town code. He stated the code needs to refer to the policy.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Bernice Hower, 444 Bellissimo Place said she thinks it's a great idea just to have a reference to the file, so as the policy is changed, it doesn't cost us a lot of money. The policy is based on whatever happens each year, so I think just referencing to the policy is a good idea.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion/Update: Audit Status

Mayor MacFarlane gave a brief update on how the audit process was going as well as thanks to Russ Casson as he has given us several Saturdays to come in and make the appropriate adjustments in the system.

Councilor Scott commented that as far as he can remember in the last four years, we have not even been this far along at this point in time. So that is a big progress.

Discussion/Update: Budget

Mayor MacFarlane said she has sent out the draft of the budget to the councilors at this time. It does not include the expectation of the revenues for Bishops Gate, so she will go back and do that. She is also working on a reduction of the millage rate.

Discussion/Update: Commercial Irrigation Water Rate

Mayor MacFarlane said Mr. Robert's was being charged the commercial potable rate for his work, and he should have been billed the commercial irrigation rate. She has now corrected his account to reflect the correct rate.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

REPORTS

Town Hall – Mayor MacFarlane provided updates about the audit and finance reports.

Finance – No comments.

Police Department – No comments.

Public Services –. said are working on several items with the school board in Lake Hill School. They have some breaks in their line, and we're working on that. Otherwise, it is a matter of doing an inventory of the product that we currently have in preparation and coordination with Flagship and it's either Dreamfinder or Meritage Homes, the builder that is going to be taking on the initiative.

Code Enforcement –. He stated that the parking ordinance is a big issue he is working on, he has received our amendment to that and has reviewed it. He had some questions about whoever we're going to get to finalize a draft that's going to work for the citizens. He thinks it would be beneficial ASAP, so we can get past the argument of what people can park and where they can park it and what they can have and how many of what they can have, because that's one of the biggest issues that he has run into is the parking ordinance.

Library – **Mrs. O'Keefe Wagler** gave the library report. The library opened on May 11th. We were the first in the county to reopen. It began slow, but has increased each day. June 1st, an additional 11 libraries opened. Lady Lake and Montverde remain closed, but they hope to open on July 1st. Our total holdings number of 1,200 items.

Mrs. O'Keefe Wagler gave the Boy Scouts report. Boy Scout summer camps have opened, but our scouts are not going. The boys plan to camp in town, and are going to test of the equipment that we have, and do an inventory of all the things that the scout troop in Howey owns. I'd like to thank the residents for their continued support of the Boy Scouts, and if you know of any boys that would like to be members of the Boy Scouts, next week I will drop of applications at Town Hall and at the library, so you can pass it out to your neighbors.

Town Attorney – No comments.
Council Members:

Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy said he has talked to our department heads, that they've worked really, really hard on getting the budget to some semblance of order, and finding things that may have been mis-coded here and there. He just wanted to thank you, and make sure all of the citizens know how valuable the department heads have been in this process in the last six weeks in getting things around Town Hall up to speed and things like that.

Miles Wagler noted that Councilor Scott had rejoined the meeting

Councilor Scott stated that he was contacted via a text by Councilor McGill, who said he's trying to get into the meeting, but he keeps getting dropped.

Mayor MacFarlane said she had that same text from him, she was trying to call him. He said he was going to restart his phone. She sent him a text to try to call her rather than him trying to call the Zoom so, hopefully, he'll be able to join us.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Bernice Hower, 444 Messina Place wanted to thank the Mayor very much for all of her hard work in getting the budget together and getting Town Hall straightened out, and I think it's absolutely wonderful for all of the effort and time that she put into it. Thank you again.

Beverly Abdenour, 401 East Camilia Way said she had a question really for Councilor Scott and McGill about the photo that has been making the rounds. She asked, If you and your minions hate Howey and don't approve of the way it is run, why don't you and the few of you leave Howey to the majority of us who love Howey and the way it is run? We support Mayor MacFarlane and what she does, all she does for our town. Thank you for your time.

Donna Klien, 781 North Laksehore Drive just wanted to say, Mayor MacFarlane, you have just rocked it. You're just rolling right along. You've been working hard and it shows. Thank you so much for everything that you're doing. We love you.

Russ Keaten-Reed and Julie Keaten-Reed, 1011 North Lakeshore Drive wanted to say thank and show their appreciation for the Town Council, and especially Mayor MacFarlane, for controlling the order of the meetings and just making it work well and this being a pleasant place to live. Thank you very much for all your work and we really appreciate it.

Simon Ambrose, 307 Dupont Circle noted that in light of the fact that Councilor Scott has left the meeting, Councilor McGill can't call into the meeting and Councilor Nebel is unobtainable, did we have the required amount of people with councilors there to continue?

Mayor MacFarlane stated that Councilor Nebel was still on the call

Simon Ambrose said he's unresponsive. She just want to make sure you're not being set up with two councilors suddenly not being available.

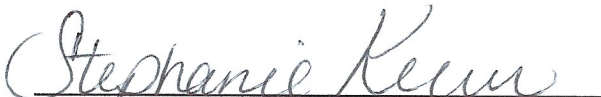
Mayor MacFarlane said there are no more items to be voted on, she asked Mr. Wilkes if they were still allowed to do public comment.

Mr. Wilkes said yes absolutely

The Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

ATTEST:


Martha MacFarlane, Mayor


Stephanie Kernan
Town Clerk