

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

Mayor MacFarlane called the Town Council Meeting of July 27, 2020 to order at 6:00p.m.

Mayor MacFarlane led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and moment of silence.

CONSENT AGENDA

The approval of the minutes and ratification and confirmation of all Town Council actions at the July 13, 2020 Town Council Meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Conroy seconded by, Councilor Nebel moved to accept and approve Town Ordinance 2020-002. Motion passed 3-1 with a roll call vote (Councilor McGill voting no).

NEW BUSINESS

Process for temporary filling of Town Council Seat 5 and qualifying for candidacy for the November General Election Seats 4 and 5.

Mayor MacFarlane provided requirements and timeline.

Discussion and action/first reading on an ORDINANCE of the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida, pertaining to the compensation of the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore and Town Council members; revising the compensation to be paid to the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore and Councilors in Section 42-10 of the Town's Code of Ordinances; providing for severability, codification and an effective date.

Mayor MacFarlane gave background and read the ordinance. She suggested roll back of compensation because of the current budget cycle and looking to lower the milage rate further.

Councilor McGill commented he was in support and questioned what has changed since the raise was passed last year; he suggested removing all salary and council members volunteering time.

Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy agreed with the reduction of salary and stated that would still help cover some of the costs.

Councilor Nebel explained the history of Town Council raises and that he is in support of the reduction due to the current circumstances.

Second reading ORDINANCE 2020-002. An ordinance of the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida adopting a purchasing policy; repealing sections 5-1 through 5-6 of Chapter 5 of the Town's Code of Ordinances titled "bids"; adopting a new section 5-1 to provide for the adoption, amendment and revisions to the town's purchasing policy to be done by resolution; repealing the current purchasing policy and adopting a new purchasing policy pertaining to purchasing and contract award procedures, contract administration, rights of the Town Council, town procurement records, and ethics in public contracting; providing findings; providing severability, codification, and an effective date.

Mayor Pro Tem Conroy seconded by, Councilor Nebel moved to accept and approve Town Ordinance 2020-002. Motion passed 3-1 with a roll call vote (Councilor McGill voting no).

RFB 2020-04 – Police Department – ADA Compliance.

Mayor MacFarlane explained the hazardous situation regarding a previous leak and the need to repair a door for ADA compliance.

Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy asked about John Ernest's opinion and about the contractor providing the work. He also suggested this come from reserve funds as done previously.

Councilor McGill asked if the amount would cover all of the work including the bathroom, door, and securing technology. He also asked about other contractors and if other bids were received.

Councilor Nebel spoke to previous contractor payments and the pattern set by the Town.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Berniece Hower, 444 Bellissimo commented on the long-standing problem and that she is in support of repair.

Sal Gallelli, 1104 North Tangerine asked if someone else has looked at the rest of the roof to mitigate future potential problems.

Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy seconded by, Councilor Nebel moved to take \$36,400.00 from reserve funds for the repair of the police department building. Motion passed 3-1 with a roll call vote (Councilor McGill voting no).

OLD BUSINESS

None.

REPORTS

Town Hall – Mayor MacFarlane announced the new utility billing clerk, Stephanie Piermont. She also commented on the utility billing system and challenges that were being worked through.

Finance – Mayor MacFarlane announced the Town has not been charging late payment fees during the pandemic. Also announced everyone has the preliminary budget report (latest). Next budget meeting has been set for August 4, 2020.

Police Department – Chief Thomas shared the department has been very busy with traffic stops and drug arrests. He also shared Officer Bannick would be moving on in her career to another agency.

Public Services – Mayor MacFarlane shared Public Services is working on the finalization of the permit with the Department of Environment. They are also still working with Talichet on professional services. They are also working on a lot of meters.

Code Enforcement – Mayor MacFarlane shared Code Enforcement has been busy and working one on one with them to educate prior to sending out letters. She indicated it is working well.

Library – Fran Wagler shared the library construction is going well and there would be a grand opening celebration at the appropriate time. She also commented on the Library Facebook page and encouraged residents to follow. Additionally, the summer reading program is going well and she also requested the donation of school supplies.

Town Attorney – No comments.

Council Members:

Councilor Nebel commented on the Mayor's excellent job and what great comments he has heard about the new town staff.

Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy suggested Officer Brown reach out to other cities for best practices regarding code enforcement since it is always such a tough topic.

Councilor McGill asked about professional conduct during Town Council Meetings and he asked Mayor MacFarlane to take action. He also mentioned an issue regarding parking on SR 19 and the opinion of FDOT. He will provide an email reference the topic. He also commented about a complaint regarding Public Services and ADA emails.

Attorney Wilkes spoke to the topic regarding ADA and that the office had reached out to the resident's attorney to reach an acceptable solution.

Councilor McGill asked for an update on the current amount of the Town's legal fees.

Mayor MacFarlane commented she received notification about a new CaresAct program (federally funded) that will assist citizens infected with COVID-19.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Marie Gallelli, 1104 North Tangerine asked about the replacement of Officer Bannick.

Sal Gallelli, 1104 North Tangerine stated he appreciated the attention to Town Council compensation. He also commented about the SR 19 issue and his understanding it was a Howey Code Enforcement issue. He believes it is a hazard. He also commented about his neighbor's grass and thoughts about selective code enforcement.

Christine Graf, 10904 Elwood Terrace discussed her concern about the parking on SR 19 and the potential hazards. She inquired if there is anything residents can do.

Fred Drabik, 524 Bellisimo Place placed a comment in the Zoom chat regarding a hazard he witnessed with a vehicle being parked on SR 19. He also commented on Councilor Nebel's meeting conduct.

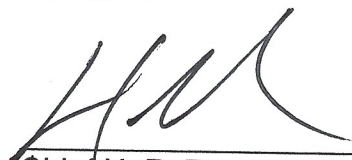
David Miles, 33 Camino Real comment, repeated by Mayor MacFarlane, regarding the election on August 18, 2020 and that he suspects the SR 19 parking issue will resolve shortly thereafter.

Christine Cloud, 121 East Pine Street commented on an ADA compliance and her thoughts on what is an acceptable accommodation. She also requested a recording of the meeting.

Attorney Wilkes clarified for the Town Council how legal representation works and that the town attorney and the resident's attorney have been communicating between one another, rather than the resident directly to the town. He also commented on the lack of response from the resident's attorney causing a delay.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

ATTEST:



Chief H. R. Thomas



Martha MacFarlane, Mayor