

MINUTES OF THE HOWEY IN THE HILLS TOWN COUNCIL
HELD NOVEMBER 9, 2020

Mayor MacFarlane called the Town Council Meeting of November 9, 2020, to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor MacFarlane led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Mr. Jim Steele read his poem "Blessings".

Roll Call

Present: Mayor MacFarlane, Pro-Tem Conroy, Councilor Nebel, Councilor Rick Klein, and Councilor Gallelli

Also in chambers are: Chief Thomas, Director Ernest and Lt. Brown

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **The approval of the minutes and ratification and confirmation of all Town Council actions at the October 26, 2020 meeting**

Councilor Conroy moved to approve the October 26, 2020 Town Council minutes and Councilor Nebel seconded. Mr. Llewelyn commented he cannot see the Council. Mayor MacFarlane advised we don't have webcam set up yet. Will be using Cares funding to purchase webcam for Town Council Meeting and the public in attendance here at Town Hall.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Town Council Election of Mayor – Pro-Tem Conroy made motion for Mayor MacFarlane to be Howey-in-the Hills mayor for next 2 years. Councilor Gallelli seconded.

Mayor said "Let's talk about this". We as a group have inherited a lot to fix. Will consider to continue being mayor but not at 60 hours per week. Need more participation. Have had many volunteers. There is filing and scanning that has not been done for years. Wiring to be done for webcam in Town Hall and the new developments. Talichet will be 97 homes. Whispering Hills, Lake Hills with new wells, Drake Point wants to be annexed into Howey. Need PT or FT Manager. Pro-Tem Conroy agrees and the Charter does not prohibit us from hiring a manager. Councilor Klein said Manager could generate more revenue than cost of their salary. Cannot afford not to hire a manager.

Public Comments: Donna Klein (701 N Lake Shore) - I can do filing to assist in getting things cleared up. Mr Llewelyn said did not want to direct at certain people but will send Martha email with comments.

Roll call vote providing for Martha for Mayor – passed unanimously.

3. Mayor sworn in.

4. Town Council election of Mayor Pro-tem – motion by Councilor Nebel nominated Councilor Conroy and Councilor Gallelli seconded. Councilor said will handle CIP Water study.

No Public comments.

Roll call for election of Pro-Tem Ed Conroy passed unanimously.

5. Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Conroy sworn in.

6. Discussion and Action – Second reading of the Charter Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2030-005: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA, PERTAINING TO THE TOWN CHARTER; PROVIDING FINDINGS OF TOWN COUNCIL REGARDING THE CURRENT CHARTER AND A PROPOSED REVISED CHARTER; ADOPTING A NEW CHARTER FOR THE TOWN AND REPEALING THE FORMER CHARTER IN ITS ENTIRETY; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE FILING AND PUBLICATION OF THE NEW TOWN CHARTER; DECLARING THE LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR ENACTMENT OF THE ORDINANCE; CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM FOR ELECTORS OF THE TOWN TO VOTE ON WHETHER TO APPROVE THE NEW CHARTER; PROVIDING THE BALLOT TITLE AND BALLOT SUMMARY FOR THE REFERENDUM; PROVIDING FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS; PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES.

Pro-tem Conroy made a motion seconded by Councilor Gallelli. Approval for this ordinance to be on the 02-09-2020 ballot.

Public Comment: Mr. Llewelyn commented Section 1-C and 5-B should correlate better. Be more parallel. Section 1-C is a recommendation and no mention of termination. Section 5-B states what will be on ballot and termination not mentioned.

Roll Call –Motion passes unanimously.

7. Discussion and Action: URE Proposal for Meter Maintenance Program – Mr. Ernest to take each meter in town (approx. 1900) and install back flow regulators to all. Motion to accept by Pro-Tem Conroy and Councilor Gallelli seconded. Will help with billing system continuity and better monitor water breaks. Councilor Klein asked if this would help with water we are losing. The water study showed over 11% loss. Per John Ernest may be true, but that number moves constantly. Additional clerk would help to handle and monitor this issue. Once on-line may not need to be repaired for 5-10 years. This is capital improvement.

Public Comments: Sal Gallelli (1104 N Tangerine) – Asked if need to install backflow valves to all residents? Only those that do not have one. One will be installed to those who don't have one.

Roll call – Passed unanimously.

- 8 Discussion and Action: GEO Sciences, Inc. (Sara Whitaker) Contract for CUP Renewal – contract for renewal. Mr. Ernest says we need her help. Will be contract for next 20 years and it will take 2-3 months to finish this process. Pro-Tem Conroy made motion to approve this contract and Councilor Gallelli seconded. Need someone with skills as this includes all new developments. Tom Harowski updated all land use maps to help in this process.

Public Comments: None

Roll Call – passed unanimously.

- 9 Discussion: ICWA – Stormwater funding available – received notification funding is available for stormwater and sewer. We are approved to receive \$400M for west side of central and Tom Harowski will resubmit to state for additional funds to have additional lift station for current and new business on east side of Central. Need stormwater mapping – may be able to get funding for this also. Mr. Griffey is working on stormwater project. Need better communication across departments. Ed will communicate with Tom Harowski on this.

Public Comments – None

Roll Call Vote – passed unanimously.

- 10 Discussion: TECO Gas – Resident asked why cannot have gas. Is very spotty throughout town. To pressurize is the largest expense. 112 E Cedar has gas but never used it, for example. With request from individual home owners, will do feasibility study based on usage over next 5 years to determine cost. Gas 40% less than electricity. You receive credit based on number of appliances you have connected to gas. Talichet did not ask for it so do not have gas. Lake Shore from Boondocks to Island Drive has gas, for example. 1-800-235-4427 Enilda was Teco contact I spoke with. You can call and ask about your address. Asked for map outline of gas lines that exist in Howey now. John Ernest may have one – will check.

Public Comments – Sal Gallelli (1104 N Tangerine) – perhaps a couple residents can get together to save money for gas installation. Councilor Gallelli will check with TECO.

- 11 Discussion and Action: Town Council Meeting dates for the rest of 2020 – historically have not had meeting Thanksgiving week nor week of Christmas. Motion to have single meeting in November and single meeting in December by Pro-tem Conroy and seconded by Councilor Gallelli.

Public Comments – None

Roll Call – passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Town Hall – Leanda Chinama – AFLAC and Paychex update – sent note to AFLAC rep asking for process. Shooting for first week in January 2021 for benefits to start. Paychex – will not change in 2020 as may require two W2 forms. Plan to start in January 2021. Leanda attended CMC training offered thru FACC couple weeks ago and was very informative.

Finance – Mayor MacFarlane talked about the finance report that was sent out. Not quite ready yet to present. Will have some reserve information and working on audit with Russ. Audit to be completed before end of December.

Police Department – Chief Thomas – have been looking for new lieutenant. Had 3 internal applicants. Panel was held on 10-25 and George Brown was promoted on 10-31-20 to Lieutenant. He is still doing Code Enforcement but are reviewing if that will continue. We participated in annual bed race for charity at Harley Davidson in Leesburg.

Public Services – John Ernest spoke earlier in meeting. Nothing else.

Code Enforcement – Officer Brown - no code report at this time. Many residents are not aware of our code ordinances. For example, cannot park car in driveway on jack stands. Good to talk to residents first and try to resolve issues this way first, then send letters, etc.

Library – Frances O’Keefe, 409 W Central Ave – 1,343 patrons at Howey library. Lake Success School students all have library cards now. LEC finalizing all details. Open for tour. Howey Garden Club having mini sale in LEC until Christmas to raise money for local charities. There are handmade shellac ornaments - \$10 each made by Garden Club member. Boy Scouts participating in “Scouting for Food” this Saturday. Collecting non-perishables for our Community Food Bank. Can drop off food at Town Hall, Library, Howey Market and Mission Real Estate. Fran gave a scouting report. Recapped all events for Halloween, Veterans Day and Christmas events. Thank you to our church for election to be held there. Nov 28 is Small Business Day – please support.

Town Attorney – No comments.

Council Members:

Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy – recent MPO meeting – Central Lake Bike Trail has made list means 0-10 years. Would come down 19. Also 4 lane in 3 phases in discussion of 19 to CR 48 and 19 to CR 48 to 561

Councilor Nebel – personal thanks to Chief of Police, library staff, newly elected pro tem Conroy and Mayor MacFarlane.

Councilor Gallelli – Social Meet Dec 5 at 10 AM at Gazebo – BYOB, BYOM – and bring a comment or question. Sewer project – could Gas be part of installation on Central along with sewer project? Calendar on Howey.org still shows activities that we are not having. Should be corrected.

Councilor Klein – Thank you for coming re: Sara Maude project and thank you for Mayor for being our mayor for 2 more years. Special Election will be Feb 9 and we will vote for Seat 1. Can pick up candidate packet for those wanting to run for Seat 1 at Town Hall.

Mayor MacFarlane – also discussed upcoming Special Election. Ballot information has been approved and needs to be translated to Spanish.

Public Comments – Sal Gallelli (1104 N Tangerine) – “Beautiful Town of Howey In the Hills” signs need to be cleaned up. Many times a neighbor will pass and we don’t know. Would like there to be better to know and be able to give our condolences and/or help.

Deanna Thomas – 84 Camino Real – Thank you Pro-Tem Conroy and Mayor MacFarlane for your leadership. It is appreciated by us in town. Mayor, you are too quiet about what you do for the town. Ordinance review committee – will council approve committee or Graham Wells? Mayor wants informal. Town did approve charter review committee. Council need to approve ordinance review committee members.

Liam Wagler – 409 W Central Avenue – thanks for support for my election. Congratulations to George Lehning.

Jojo Lowe – 139 E Central Avenue – Thanks to Fran Wagler for her library report. Would be great to receive emails about council meetings also. Perhaps try to get new people to attend council meetings.

Fran Wagler – 409 W Central Avenue - I did invite a few hundred friends to next Council Meeting as to contest winners. In Chat box there is vulgarity – were we hacked? When you sign in, can you enter your first and last name so can monitor this situation?

ADJOURNMENT

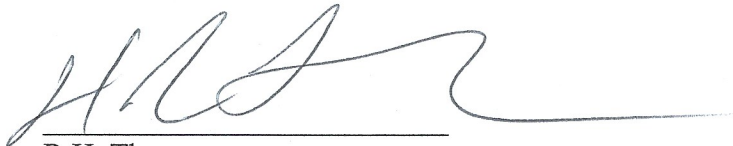
Councilor ProTem Conroy, seconded by Councilor Gallelli moved to adjourn the meeting.

Attendees: 24

The Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

ATTEST:


Mayor MacFarlane



R.H. Thomas
Chief of Police