



MINUTES OF THE HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS TOWN COUNCIL
HELD JANUARY 25, 2021

Mayor MacFarlane called the Town Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
Mayor MacFarlane led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
Mr. Jim Steele read a poem (The Snowflake).

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Martha MacFarlane, Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Conroy, Councilor George Lehning, Councilor Rick Klein, and Councilor Marie V. Gallelli

Also present: Town Attorney Mr. Thomas Wilkes (virtually), Public Service Director Mr. John Ernest, and Town Clerk Mr. John Brock, Chief Thomas (virtually)

Roll Call was performed, and it was determined that a quorum was present.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **The approval of the minutes and ratification and confirmation of all Town Council actions at the January 11, 2021 Town Council Meeting and the January 19, 2021 Town Council Workshop Session.**

Motion made by Pro-Tem Conroy to approve the minutes; Councilor Gallelli seconded the motion. Motion approved by roll call vote.

Councilor Lehning	YES	Councilor Gallelli	YES
Council Klein	YES	Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy	YES
Mayor MacFarlane	YES		

NEW BUSINESS

2. **Discussion: Introduction of new Howey Mansion staff and discussion of future events.**

Martha MacFarlane, Mayor introduced Carlyn Bone, Venue Manager for the Howey Mansion. Ms. Bone introduced herself and discussed future dates of events that the Howey Mansion is hosting including the Citrus Festival in early May.

The Mayor stated that there have been complaints from citizens about the venue being too loud, late at night during wedding reception events. Also, that the city was speaking with the Town Attorney about creating a town ordinance or to see what the county noise ordinance covers. The Town does not want to stifle activity at the mansion at all, but the town also must protect the

residents and see that their property values are not negatively impacted. Ms. Bone stated that on their contracts it states that music is not allowed after 11pm and that alcohol is not served for more than 5 hours. Ms. Bone also stated that if there is a problem that town officials or Town Police Officers could contact her directly.

3. Discussion: Potential “Adopt a bump-out on Lakeshore” Program

Mayor MacFarlane asked Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy to present this topic. Pro-Tem Conroy stated that residents had suggested to him that the Town create a program, similar to the “adopt a highway” programs, in which citizens could adopt one of the seven Town bump-outs along Lakeshore Blvd. to keep them clean. This program would allow a family, or individual, to adopt one of these bump-outs for a year and help clean and maintain it.

Mayor MacFarlane was concerned that if someone is not actually taking care of their bump-out that the town can reclaim it and also that no one is trimming any trees or climbing any trees, only Public Services will trim the trees. Signs for the bump-outs would be provided by Public Services. Registration should be kept at Town Hall. The Mayor was going to speak with Chief Thomas to see if we would need to run background check on volunteer for this program. Pro-Tem Conroy was going to make changes to the sheet about the program and put it on letterhead. The Mayor committed to doing a resolution about this program for the next Town Council meeting. The Mayor also said that she would talk to Mr. Wilkes about creating an agreement and a “do not hold the town liable” document.

Public Comments:

Donna Klein, 701 N Lakeshore Blvd.- Likes the idea and suggested maybe we could have more than one family for each bump-out.

4. Discussion: Placing the sanitation fee (WCA) on the tax roll

Mayor MacFarlane explained some of the benefits of putting the sanitation fees on the tax rolls.

Mayor MacFarlane asked Graham Wells, the Town Clerk for Astatula to speak about this topic since The Town of Astatula currently does this. Mr. Wells discussed his experience with this process and the benefits to the Town. Mr. Wells also recommended hiring a contractor to help set this up with the county. Commercial sanitation would have to be billed separately.

This Council agreed to move to the next steps for placing the sanitation fee on the tax roll.

5. Discussion: Date for public meeting for review of the 2021 Downtown Sewer Project

Mayor MacFarlane said we need to have one or more public meetings for residents that will be affected by the project. Mr. John Ernest, Public Services Director and Mr. Don Griffey, Town Engineer should be at these meetings to discuss the schedule and scope of the project.

The meetings are for residents that live along the affected alley. The council decided to hold a Saturday physical meeting on February 6, 2021 at 10 am. We will need to have handouts for residents. Mr. Ernest committed to getting an estimate from a contractor for the cost for a resident along the alley to hookup to the sewer. We will have a backup date of February 13, 2021 if it is decided that we cannot get everything ready for the meeting to be on February 6th. The Town Council will also need to come up with a plan about how much the Town hookup fee will be and how it will be billed to the resident.

Public Comments:

Sal Gallelli, 1104 N. Tangerine Ave. – Discussed a past experience where he owned a home in another city that had septic and he had it moved over to sewer.

Council Members

Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy

Nothing to report.

Councilor Lehning

Nothing to report.

Councilor Gallelli

Councilor Gallelli wanted to make sure water trucks were not going on the Town's boat ramp. Mr. Ernest said that if Public Services catch them there, then they run them off. Councilor Gallelli also wondered if we need to have a resolution for Zoom meetings. Lastly, Councilor Gallelli announced a date for her next Social Distance Meet; it would be on February 20, 2021 at 10 am and it would cover water conservation and promotion of local businesses. The Meet up would be at the gazebo at Griffin Park.

Councilor Klein

Nothing to report.

Mayor MacFarlane

Mayor MacFarlane stated the town is still working on the audit.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.


ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Lehning seconded the motion.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m. | **Attendees: 30**


Mayor Martha MacFarlane

ATTEST:


John Brock, Town Clerk