

MINUTES OF THE HOWEY IN THE HILLS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD OCTOBER 23, 2017

Mayor Sears called the Town Council Meeting of October 23, 2017 to order at 6:00 p.m. Public Services Director John Ernest led the Invocation.

Present: Mayor Sears, Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel, Councilor Mabry, Councilor Scott and Councilor Conroy (via phone).

Also Present: Rob Urn-BESH, Town Clerk Burke, Chief Thomas and Public Services Director Ernest.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Minutes of the October 09, 2017 Town Council Meeting.**

**Councilor Mabry, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.**

**New Business**

None

**Old BUSINESS**

1. Consideration and Approval of the Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Bids.

Council discussed the upgrades to the Water Treatment Plant, moving from the Dataflow to SCADA systems, pump changes, increased line size, etc. BESH recommended accepting URE hard bid of \$432, 231. Payment for the project includes 2017 budgeted \$90,000, \$166,380 from Water Impact fees and \$175,651 from Water reserves. The remaining Water Reserve balance is \$445,513.

**Councilor Mabry, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel moved to approve the project**

Public Comment:

**Ed Kilmartin – 128 E. Laurel**, questioned whether there would be any service interruptions/impact to the residents. BESH said there would be no impact, Well 3 would be used.

**Ed Smith – 301 N. Palm**, congratulated and thanked the Council for getting the project done.

**Roll-call vote, motion passed unanimously.**

2. Consideration and Rejection of current Downtown Sewer and Lift Station Project Bids.

Mayor Sears said that the Car and Collier bid had a typo. The correct amount should be \$853,570. Mayor Sears explained that the town requested \$1,200,000 but the State allocated \$400,000. BESH explained the project and that the available funds would not even cover the E. Central Ave. portion of the project. The suggestion is that the Town to go back to the State Legislature for additional funds. The current allocation expires June 30, 2019. The Mayor gave an overview of the scope of the project as a basis for economic growth and improving water quality by removing septic systems.

The Mayor, with the Public Services Director recommend rejecting the bids due to economic restrains when considering the Water Treatment Plant Upgrade project. The Town Council discussed the options for the project.

**Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel, seconded by Councilor Scott moved to reject the bids.**

**Public Comment:** None

**Roll-call vote, motion passed unanimously.**

**Board Reports:**

Library: None

Parks & Rec: None

Planning and Zoning: Ms. Burke reviewed the agenda for the October 26, 2017 meeting.

**Department Reports:**

Police Department/Code Enforcement: Chief Thomas reviewed the report, specifically trees

Finance: None

Impact Fee Balance Report: Venezia South balance

Public Service: None

Town Hall: TRIM compliance is complete

**Council Comments:**

Councilor Mabry: None

Mayor Pro-Tem: Announced that it is his birthday

Councilor Scott: Question on 9 acres on No. 2 Road. The Mayor reviewed the possibility of the county moving the Yalaha Fire Station to this site. The list price is \$95,000. If the Town is interested, it should make an offer. Councilor Scott made a motion that the Town purchase the property, Councilor Mabry seconded the motion. Councilor Nebel stated objections and Mayor Sears explained the project would be several years out and we would need a letter from the Lake County Commission to confirm the move of the Fire Station is in the five-year plan. The Councilors continued to discuss the purchase/project. The Mayor will confirm that it fits the county's needs, if it doesn't we will walk away. Councilor Scott amended his motion, seconded by Councilor Mabry, to allow the Mayor to offer a maximum of \$90,000.

**Public Comment:**

Ed Smith – 301 N. Palm Avenue: Asked about the zoning of the property. Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel said that it is zoned residential.

**Roll-call vote, Councilor Scott: Yes, Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel: No, Mayor Sears: Yes Councilor Mabry: Yes. Motion Passed 3-1.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

ATTEST:

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Chris Sears, Mayor

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Dairian Burke  
Town Clerk

*Meeting minutes were completed May 25, 2021, after the Mayor, Town Clerk and majority of the Town Councilors were no longer with the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills.*