

110 NW 1st Avenue
High Springs, Florida 32643



Telephone: (386) 454-1416
Facsimile: (386) 454-2126
Web: www.highsprings.us

CITY COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
February 12, 2015

Mayor Weller called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Mayor Weller held a moment of silence for two honored citizens, Dr. Joe Dowdy and Rev. Freddie L. Hickmon, which we lost this week.

Invocation by Youth Pastor Nick Carter of the First Baptist Church.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Mayor Sue Weller – Present
Vice Mayor Scott Jamison – Late- Arrived 6:40 p.m.
Commissioner Jason Evans – Present
Commissioner Gloria James – Present
Commissioner Byran Williams - Present

Staff Present: Ed Booth, City Manager
Jenny Parham, City Clerk
Angela Stone, Assistant City Clerk
Jennifer Stull, Finance Director
Scott Walker, City Attorney
Courtney Johnson, City Attorney
Jack Anterio, Police Chief
Antoine Sheppard, Lieutenant Police Department
Bruce Gillingham, Fire Chief

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Weller stated that she had a request to remove New Business Item #2 and add an agenda item under New Business to donate a police vehicle to Center Hill Police Department.

Motion Commissioner James to amend the agenda to Remove Item #2 under New Business and Add an Agenda Item under New Business Item #9 to declare 2004 Crown Victoria as surplus and to donate to Center Hill Police Department.

Second Commissioner Williams

Motion carried 4 – 0.

**AGENDA
COMMISSION WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 12, 2015
PAGE 2 OF 8**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion Commissioner Williams to approve the minutes of January 20 & 22, 2015.
Second Commissioner James
Motion carried 4 – 0.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE

CITIZEN REQUESTS AND COMMENTS – FOR ISSUES NOT ON AGENDA

William R. Hobby spoke on placing railroad tracks in front of depot to remind people of the past history.

Mayor Weller stated they can have the City Manager look into it.

Paul Regensdorf spoke of the city and Historic Preservation. He stated that Historic Preservation has been stagnant for the last few years. He stated it is time for the city to build on the past to build for the future.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. CONSIDER A SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST TO HOLD BMX STATE LEVEL RACE/SSA CUP QUALIFIER EVENT FROM MARCH 4 - 8, 2015 AT THE SPORTS COMPLEX.**

Mr. Booth presented a Special Event request for a BMX event to be held on March 4 – 8.

Commissioner Williams asked how the parking of the RVs workout last year. Mr. Booth stated it worked out well.

Mayor Weller asked about the insurance being on file. Mr. Booth stated that we do.

Motion Commissioner Williams to approve the special event request to hold the BMX State Level Race /SSA qualifier event March 4-8, 2015 at the Sports Complex.

Second Commissioner Evans.

Motion carried 5 – 0.

- 2. REVIEW AND CONSIDER AWARDING BID FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE HIGH SPRINGS FARMER’S MARKET PAVILION.**

Item withdrawn from agenda.

- 3. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTION REGARDING POLICE DISPATCH SERVICES.**

Mr. Booth spoke of the previous workshop on this topic. Mr. Booth stated his biggest concern is safety. Gave an overview of our options of having two dispatchers on a shift or turning services over to the Alachua County Combined Communications (CCC).

**AGENDA
COMMISSION WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 12, 2015
PAGE 3 OF 8**

Commissioner James asked what it would take to hire the additional dispatchers. Mr. Booth stated it would cost about \$120,000.00.

Commissioner Williams asked about the change of addresses and signs. Mr. Booth stated that the original proposed date to change the addresses has been modified.

Chief Gillingham spoke of the need to address addressing separate then dispatch. He spoke of the need to seriously look at the addressing. He stated with the contract we do have a March 31, 2016 deadline. He stated they do have a draft map of what it would look like.

Chief Gillingham spoke of having a community forum. He stated he would like to get the information out to local businesses as soon as possible. He stated with the technology they have now he does not foresee the problems we had in 2000.

Commissioner Williams asked about our current dispatchers. Mr. Booth gave an overview of our PBA Contract in this regard. He stated that the Sheriff's Office is willing to hire our certified telecommunicators as long as there are no problems.

Commissioner Williams asked if we have the funds to pay out the severance. Mr. Booth stated we do.

Commissioner Williams stated that it is a safety issue for him not about money. He spoke of touring the CCC and its operation.

Mr. Booth stated he has spoken with most of our police officers, they have always said they are safer with the county versus our own dispatch. He spoke of citizen's concerns with the dispatchers knowing them, but when you call 911 it goes through the CCC first and our dispatchers do not live in town.

Commissioner Evans stated he called around to other counties, besides Alachua, and there are several positions available and feels that our employees will be able to work. Commissioner Evans stated either way we go we cannot continue to operate with one dispatcher. He stated he spoke of having to take money or funds from another department and that department suffering.

Motion Commissioner Evans to switch our dispatch services to the Alachua County Combined Communications system and all required items per the contract that has been submitted.

Commissioner James spoke of touring the CCC facility. She stated that as long as the employees are taken care of she is in favor.

Commissioner Jamison stated he has been in favor of the CCC. He stated this to him is the same as any other RFQ. We are looking at the two qualifications. Spoke of what the comparison would be. Spoke of technology and the future. He spoke of the support staff available to the dispatchers at the county. He stated money does matter; \$100,000 less to get a better product. If this was another RFQ; it would be a no brainer. He spoke of the additional costs for the additional staff.

Mayor Weller stated safety is an issue for our officers. She stated that technology every year will need to be updated. She states a concern of the citizens has been the streets changing. She states a year will be sufficient time for businesses and citizens to change their addresses. She states it is in the best

**AGENDA
COMMISSION WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 12, 2015
PAGE 4 OF 8**

interest of the city to go with CCC.

Second Commissioner Jamison.

Sylvia Newcomb spoke of contacting other communities and what information she obtained. She asked if the citizens would get the money back that the city saves. She asked if it was during the interview process Chief Anterio was advised that the city may turn the dispatch over to CCC.

Paul Regensdorf spoke of the cost savings. Spoke of the Fire Department being dispatched by the county. He spoke of naming the roads by name for the main ones.

Commissioner James left the room at 7:18 p.m. and returned at 7:20 p.m.

Chief Anterio spoke of our dispatchers and their dedication. He stated it is not about the dispatchers being better than the other. It comes down to the operations of the two. He stated he has never seen a dispatch with one dispatcher. He stated CCC is one of only three accredited dispatching agencies in the State of Florida and the fifth internationally to achieve a gold standard. He states he would like to have the P.D. accredited. He states if we want to hire more dispatchers; all agencies are hiring from the same pool and talks of the different wages. He states it is in the best interest of the city at this time to go with the CCC. It has nothing to do with the fine dispatchers at HSPD.

Motion passes 5-0.

4. REVIEW AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF ALACHUA POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR COMBINED OPERATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND VOLUNTARY COOPERATION.

Mr. Booth stated this is an interlocal agreement with the City of Alachua.

Chief Anterio stated this is very common.

Motion Commissioner Evans to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement with the Alachua Police Department for Combined Operational Assistance and Voluntary Cooperation.

Second Commissioner James.

Motion carried 5 – 0.

5. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER FOUR DAY WORK WEEK.

Mr. Booth spoke of our community being a working community and needing to do business after their work hours. He stated he had opened on Fridays from 10-2 to appease people. He states he is going to put the city on a four day work week if there is no objection from the commission. He stated most of our business on Fridays is out of town residents.

Jennifer Stull, Finance Director, explained the revenue collected on Fridays from 10-2. She stated we lose money to open on Fridays.

AGENDA
COMMISSION WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 12, 2015
PAGE 5 OF 8

Vice Mayor Jamison stated that sometimes there is only one person down stairs working the counter on Fridays and it is a safety issue. He stated if we stay open those hours we would need to increase the staffing.

Commissioner Williams asked about the new hire at the counter. Ms. Stull advised she is split between two departments. Commissioner Williams stated that he wanted to make sure an employee was not losing their job.

Mayor Weller stated she originally was against a four day work week, but has seen that it benefits the citizens. She also spoke of the safety issue and overtime costs.

Mr. Booth stated you get better productivity with a four day work week.

Jim Werner spoke of energy conservation when closed on Fridays.

Paul Regensdorf spoke of the benefit of keeping offices open later.

Commissioner Jamison asked when it would be effective and how would we advertise. Mr. Booth stated March 1st, 2015. Ms. Stull stated we will start advertising tomorrow on the sign, at the window, on Nixle and on the utility bill.

6. UPDATE BY CITY MANAGER ON POSSIBLE LOCATIONS TO BUILD A NEW POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Booth stated the first phase of a new Police Department building is to find a location. He spoke of a location right next to the current Police Department and Post Office or the property next to the Fire Department. He stated we can plan ahead and know what we need in our Police Department. He said the property next to the Fire Department we would need to put a down payment. Mr. Booth stated it would make a complex with the Police, Fire and City Hall and the Library. He states they are going to look for grant funding. He states the current evidence room barely meets the minimum standards. If we purchased the property next to the Fire Department we could then locate the Public Works maintenance bay there as well. He stated that Public Works offices could move to the old PD Building.

Commissioner Jamison asked for a time line. Mr. Booth stated he has to talk to an agent. Commissioner Jamison stated that in the budget process we can talk about a down payment, plan it and lay it out in a systematic way.

7. CONSIDER APPROVING A SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT FOR LEWIS & CLARK CIRCUS TO HOLD A CIRCUS ON CITY PROPERTY ON MARCH 7 & 8, 2015.

Mr. Booth presented a special event request from Lewis & Clark Circus. He stated this is coming in at the same time as the BMX event. It will be out by the Civic Center. He stated they will put down a \$250 Damage Deposit. He stated they will pay for police services, as will BMX. He stated we will have public safety in the area.

**AGENDA
COMMISSION WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 12, 2015
PAGE 6 OF 8**

Mayor Weller stated the original application says they will be located by the Police Department. Mr. Booth stated we have changed that.

Mayor Weller asked if Public Works, Fire and Police have approved. Mr. Booth stated yes.

Commissioner Williams asked about parking. Mr. Booth stated BMX is not a problem; he added they will have police out there for that issue.

Commissioner Jamison stated the parking needs to be given thought. He states we need to make sure we have a system. He adds that we should not open the Civic Center Building.

Mayor Weller spoke of the businesses right there and we should not let their parking be taken.

Commissioner James asked if we will have a man power issue with covering both events and covering the city.

Chief Anterio stated we will determine what they need. Mr. Booth stated originally this was going to be in Alachua.

Commissioner Evans stated some Circus Companies are better than others.

Commissioner Williams stated it looks like there is one show each day with one tent.

Motion Commissioner James to approve a Special Event Permit for Lewis & Clark Circus March 7 & 8, 2015.

Second Commissioner Williams.

8. CONSIDERATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH CAPITAL CITY BANK.

Attorney Walker gave an overview.

Motion Commissioner Williams to accept proposed Settlement Agreement with Capital City Bank and for Mayor and City Manager to sign the settlement agreement.

Second Vice Mayor Jamison.

Rick Howe stated a lot of people have participated in getting this done. He thanked the City Attorney and City Manager for their professionalism. He stated he thinks this is a good thing for the city.

Motion carried 5-0.

Attorney Walker stated they would like to request a check in the amount of \$20,720.00 to the Folds and Walker Trust Account so they may apprise one of the other parties to the lawsuit. He adds that they would like to propose settlement with this entity as well, which is North End.

**AGENDA
COMMISSION WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 12, 2015
PAGE 7 OF 8**

Motion Evans to provide payment of \$20,720.00 to Folds and Walker Trust Account for payment for pursuit of a settlement.

Second Commissioner Williams.

Motion carried 5-0.

9. TO DECLARE 2004 CROWN VICTORIA AS SURPLUS TO DONATE TO CENTER HILL POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Booth gave an overview and advised it will give good will to this city. He stated that he does recommend.

Motion Commissioner James to declare the 2004 Crown Victoria as surplus to donate to Center Hill Police Department.

Second Commissioner Evans.

Motion carried 5-0.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT/UPDATE

Attorney Walker stated nothing to report at this time.

CITY MANAGER REPORT/UPDATE

Spoke of going to Labor Union Negotiations Training. He stated there are four classes then a certification.

Advised we will be giving up the MRAP. He spoke of the importance of Community Policing.

Presented, to the Commissioners, pictures of the drying box. Spoke of the drying process.

Presented pictures, to the Commission, of the beds for the Rails to Trails. He advises that he and the Mayor are to take a walk along the trail with the people from the Rails to Trails and the railroad. He stated that he would like to and will ask if we can roll and make the beds hard packed; it will be temporary for a nice walk.

Spoke of grant that we are applying for. He stated that he with Mittauer are going to write a plan for the LDC that outlines the cost to the individual impact fees with or without a grant. He stated we have no consistency what we charge for the sewer. He stated we need to have this and need to put it in an ordinance.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS:

1. COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner James spoke of garbage not being picked up on 180th Street.

Commissioner Evans stated he will put on the agenda the alcohol ordinance.

AGENDA
COMMISSION WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 12, 2015
PAGE 8 OF 8

Commissioner Williams spoke of a meeting he and the CRA Director had with some citizens in High Springs and at the next CRA meeting he will give an update. Advised there will be a unveiling of the Historical Marker awarded by the State of Florida for the Douglas Elementary School that once was here is High Springs. He advised of Dr. Dowdy and Rev. Hickmon services.

Vice Mayor Jamison stated the settlement has been hanging over us and wanted to commend everyone that work on getting this done so we can move forward.

2. MAYOR

Reminded everyone it is President's Day Monday.

Welcomed the new Police Chief, Jack Anterio.

Advised that Music in the Park will be at the Old School this Sunday.

Advised that the Soup and Sweet Relay for Life Event will be Friday the 20th

Advised, as did Mr. Booth, that she and the City Manager along with CSX, the County, and Public Land Trust will be here walking the Rail Trail.

Mr. Booth presented Commissioner James and Commissioner Evans a Certificate of Completion for FLC Training.

Yvonne Andrews asked about the portion of the railroad not currently up that goes across the roadway. Mayor Weller stated they will eventually take it up. Mr. Booth stated they will take up and pave. He will mention at their walk.

Motion Commissioner James to adjourn.
Mayor Weller adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.