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CITY COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2015

Mayor Weller called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Invocation by Commissioner Evans

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Mayor Sue Weller – Present
Vice Mayor Scott Jamison – Present
Commissioner Jason Evans – Present
Commissioner Gloria James –Present
Commissioner Byran Williams – Present-Arrived at 6:48 p.m.

Staff Present: Ed Booth, City Manager
Jenny L. Parham, City Clerk
Angela N. Stone, Assistant City Clerk
Jennifer Stull, Finance Director
Bruce Gillingham, Fire Chief
Jack Anterio, Police Chief
Scott Thomason, Building Official
David Benton, Public Works Superintendent
Courtney Johnson, City Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion Vice Mayor Jamison to move Item #4 under New Business to Item #1 under New Business.

Second Commissioner James.

Motion carries 4-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion Commissioner James to approve the minutes of the Budget Workshop of August 25, 2015 with the correction of Commissioner James being absent and the minutes of the Commission Meeting of August 27, 2015.

Second Vice Mayor Jamison.

Motion carried 4-0.

BUDGET

DISCUSS UTILITY RATES.

Mr. Booth gave an overview of the past rate increases. Staff is proposing a \$1.00 increase in water and \$3.00 increase in sewer. Spoke of the number of grinder pumps that have needed repair this year, how many are out of warranty and the ones going out of warranty.

Commissioner Evans stated he thinks that this is something we need to do.

Attorney Johnson gave an overview of the process for increasing rates.

Bob Barnas spoke of the city going down this road before. He states Florida Statutes do not allow this. Stated that they are considering an increase and that they did not notice it; that this is a meeting before the meeting.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2015-N, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS, FLORIDA; DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF AND FIXING THE TENTATIVE RATE OF AD VALOREM TAXATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015/2016; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Resolution 2015-N was read by title only by Attorney Johnson.

Mayor Weller stated this is the passing of the final rate.

**Motion Vice Mayor Jamison to adopt Resolution 2015-N as read.
Second Commissioner Evans .**

Roll call vote:

**Mayor Weller – yes
Vice Mayor Jamison – yes
Commissioner Evans - yes
Commissioner James – yes**

Motion carried 4- 0.

CONSIDER ORDINANCE 2015-11, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2015/2016 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET OF THE CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS, FLORIDA; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Ordinance 2015-11 was read by title only by Attorney Johnson.

Mayor Weller opens the public hearing and as there was no public input closed the public hearing.

Mr. Booth advised that they worked in the fourth fireman per shift. He states we took money from the Parks and Recreation budget, but we will receive grant funds, which will supplement some of this. He

adds that the across the board increase for employees has been taken out; the increase for the commission was taken out; the attorneys agreed to reduce their fees or do more for their fees. He stated everyone gave for this budget in order to have everything we needed. He states that we put in \$175,000.00 into the reserve in this budget.

Mayor Weller states that this budget is not balanced. She states that the commission has the ability to direct staff to bring back a balanced budget.

Mrs. Stull stated in the Parks and Recreation Budget some of the line items will change but the bottom line is still the same. She advised that both the water and sewer are short. She stated that the revenues are very conservative, we can increase those and after three months if we do not see we are getting the revenue we can then do a budget amendment and take from the reserve if needed.

Attorney Johnson stated that increasing the projected revenue does not mean your increasing the rate.

Attorney Johnson gave a time line and procedures for a rate increase.

**Motion Commissioner Evans to adopt Ordinance 2015-11 on first reading with the amendment to direct staff to increase the projected revenues of the Water and Sewer Funds to balance the budget.
Second Commissioner Williams.**

Bob Barnas stated that he would not have had a problem with this if they had not discussed the increase of the rates. He stated you are making no other discussion on how to balance the budget. He spoke of a \$75,000.00 transfer from the Water Fund to the General Fund. He states you are balancing your budget on a projected rate increase. Stated he is glad you took care of the Fire Department, but is concerned with the Police Department budget and taking away from patrol for a Sargent position.

Roll call vote:

**Vice Mayor Jamison – yes
Commissioner Evans - yes
Commissioner James – yes
Commissioner Williams – yes
Mayor Weller – yes**

Motion carried 5 – 0.

CITIZEN REQUESTS AND COMMENTS – FOR ISSUES NOT ON AGENDA (PLEASE STATE NAME FOR THE RECORD – LIMIT COMMENTS TO 5 MINUTES)

No citizens came forward.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDER ORDINANCE 2015-12, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING CONSENT FOR CERTAIN PROPERTIES WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF HIGH

SPRINGS, FLORIDA, TO BE INCLUDED IN A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT FOR A NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT CREATED BY ALACHUA COUNTY FOR ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS TO PORTIONS OF NW 210 AVENUE, NW 205 STREET, NW 218 AVENUE AND NW 202 STREET LOCATED IN ALACHUA COUNTY; PROVIDING CONDITIONS FOR CONSENT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ordinance 2015-12 was read by title only by Attorney Walker.

**Motion Commissioner Evans to adopt Ordinance 2015-12 on first reading.
Second Vice Mayor Jamison.**

Mayor Weller opens the public hearing.

Bob Barnas stated this is approximately \$3200.00. He stated he thinks by doing this you are opening the door for future Special Assessments.

Michael Faye, Alachua County Public Works Department, stated that they received 75% affirmative votes of all affected; only one person in the city responded and it was an affirmative.

Bob Barnas questioned how many responded. Mr. Faye stated 75% of the affected properties.

As there was no further public input, Mayor Weller closed the public hearing.

Roll call vote:

**Commissioner Evans - yes
Commissioner James – yes
Commissioner Williams – yes
Mayor Weller – yes
Vice Mayor Jamison – yes**

Motion carried 5 – 0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING SERVICES FOR FY 15/16.

Mr. Booth gave an overview of the agreement.

Attorney Johnson stated the copy presented does not have the Public Records provision, and the NCFRPC has agreed to the provision.

Commissioner Evans to approve the agreement with North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for Local Government Comprehensive Planning Services for FY 15/16 with the

amendment of the public records provision being added.

Second Commissioner Williams

Motion carries 5-0.

CONSIDER LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE HIGH SPRINGS GARDEN CLUB FOR THE BUILDING LOCATED AT 605 NW 4TH STREET.

Mrs. Stull advised that she had met with the Garden Club and they were in agreement. She stated that staff is recommending a termination clause with or without cause, and if they are the only tenants they would be responsible for the entire utility bill.

Attorney Johnson stated the provision for the utilities is if one of the tenants leaves the other will pay the full bill. Mrs. Stull advised that the bill is a minimum bill and they would only pay for what they use.

Motion Commissioner Evans to approve the Lease Agreement with the High Springs Garden Club with the amendments recommended by staff.

Second Commissioner James.

Vice Mayor Jamison asked if the Rotary Club will have same provisions.

Mrs. Stull advised they would.

Motion Carries 5-0.

CONSIDER A SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT BY THE HIGH SPRINGS LIONS CLUB TO HOLD A BENEFIT FOR THE HIGH SPRINGS POLICE EXPLORERS.

Chief Anterio stated the Lion's Club wanted to have a fundraiser to help contribute to the newly formed High Springs Police Explorers. The Police Explorers will be there with advisors on hand. He states all net proceeds will go to help support the Police Explorers.

Motion Commissioner Williams to approve the Special Event Permit by the High Springs Lions Club to hold a benefit for the High Springs Police Explorers.

Second Commissioner Evans.

Motion carries 5-0.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT/UPDATE

Advised that we will have Ethics Training on October 29th, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. for all commissioners.

CITY MANAGER REPORT/UPDATE

Mr. Booth advised that there was letter sent out to the citizens regarding the water. He explained that this is not exactly the letter he wrote; it is the letter that DEP wanted sent out.

He explained the letter. He spoke of solutions that we are looking into to fix the issues in the levels. He stated there is no real solution offered by DEP. Mr. Booth advised that it was only two sites of six that the tests came back not within the limits.

Vice Mayor Jamison stated the water is safe to drink. He stated that this test was done yearly and is now done quarterly. He stated we are actively working on this.

Elaine Gudbransen asked if the water is safe to drink why do the commissioners have bottled water.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS:

COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner James-nothing at this time.

Commissioner Evans stated the roads off US Hwy 441 and behind the Baptist Church need attention.

Commissioner Williams- nothing at this time

Vice Mayor Jamison asked the Finance Director and City Manager to look at the budget later in the year to see if there is money available to employees for a bonus so it can be considered.

MAYOR

Advised that tonight was the first night of the Santa Fe Classes at the Old School.

Mrs. Parham stated she sent an email out on the naming of a short section of what is currently SE 3rd Street between SE 6th Avenue and SE 8th Avenue to Box Car Court; she was looking to see if there was a consensus on this. No objections from the Commission for Box Car Court.

Motion Commissioner James to adjourn.

Mayor Weller adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.