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CITY COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
OCTOBER 22, 2015

Mayor Weller called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Invocation by Second Class Scout Cody Tapanes, Troup 69.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Mayor Sue Weller – Present
Vice Mayor Scott Jamison – Absent
Commissioner Jason Evans – Present
Commissioner Gloria James –Present
Commissioner Byran Williams – Present

Staff Present: Ed Booth, City Manager
Angela N. Stone, Assistant City Clerk
Jack Anterio, Police Chief
Jennifer Stull, Finance Director
Scott Walker, City Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Weller stated that we need to table Item #3 under New Business as Ordinance 2015-13 needed to be advertised on first and second reading.

**Motion Commissioner Evans to approve the agenda tabling item #3 under New Business, Considering Ordinance 2015-13.
Second Commissioner Williams.
Motion carried 4-0.**

PRESENTATION OF LIFE SAVING AWARD TO OFFICER VERNON HIGGINBOTHAM.

Chief Anterio presented a Life Saving Award to Officer Higginbotham.

Officer Higginbotham stated that he accepts this on behalf of the other officers at our agency that would have done the same, and also all the fire department personnel on scene.

PRESENTATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXCELLENCE AWARD/COORDINATOR OF THE 1ST ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT TO OFFICER ADAM JOY.

Chief Anterio presented Officer Adam Joy for spear heading the National Night Out Event. He stated that the event was a great success.

Officer Joy thanked the Chief for assigning this task to him.

PRESENTATION OF FRDAP GRANT CHECK BY MORGAN TYRONE, OLENO STATE PARK.

Morgan Tyrone gave an overview of the grant. He presented a grant for \$100,000.00 for Catherine Taylor and the Civic Center Park for phase one of these projects.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF POSITION CONCERNING THE EXTENSION OF THE ALACHUA COUNTY FOREVER PROGRAM REFERENDUM.

Mayor Weller gave an overview.

Commissioner Williams spoke of monies we have received in the past and what we used the money for.

Mr. Booth stated it would be nice to finish the Old School and maybe put in a kitchen to help hold other events.

Motion Commissioner Williams to support proposed extension of the Alachua County Forever Program Referendum.

Second Commissioner Evans.

Motion carries 4-0.

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

Bob Barnas stated that he received a copy of the letter from Rowe Well Drilling on Well #1. He stated that Well #2 had coliform. He suggested that the commission read this letter. He spoke of there being a problem with both wells.

Mr. Booth stated that Mr. Barnas is trying to upset the citizens. He stated that the letter he is referencing by Rowe is from a Well Driller and they did not test the water. He stated that he has a problem with the public being miss informed.

Mr. Barnas stated he never said contaminated. He spoke of the letter that the city sent out and read a portion.

Mr. Booth stated that the new test came back in a positive manner.

Mayor Weller stated that Well #1 was taking down for maintenance, as we should. She stated that during this maintenance we found issues.

Mr. Barnas states they need to read the letter.

Paul Barcia spoke of his zoning issue for his proposed boat and RV storage he has been working on.

Richard Daughtery spoke of his bill being \$200 over his normal bill.

Mark Sexton, Alachua County Forever Program, arrived late but answered the commission's questions regarding the extension of the Alachua County Forever Program Referendum.

Betty Cooper spoke of her water issue. She has conducted an independent test and it did not pass. She is waiting for the results from DEP. She stated that Alachua County Health Department came out and tested the water and was told not to drink the water.

Mayor Weller stated we will send someone out to test the water.

Mrs. Cooper stated she wanted to know what we are doing to clean the water.

Mr. Booth advised we are flushing the line.

Dave Tucker stated he has been working on a house on 1st Avenue; he has had issues with the water. He stated that he has replaced all the plumbing and the water heater. He stated that he does not see the point of raising the water bill if the water is not safe. Spoke of other cities water rates. He spoke of the grinder pumps and his being replaced three times. Spoke of the grinder pump running up his electric bill. He suggests that the city pay the electric and have sewer meters installed and charge that way.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2015-R, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS ADOPTING INCREASED RATES FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Attorney Walker read by title only Resolution 2015-R.

Mayor Weller gave an overview of the increase.

Mr. Booth advised that we received a letter from USDA that the customers are paying 40% Less than they should for the sewer system to be self-sustaining. He states that he is hoping that this increase satisfies USDA bond requirements. He states as we grow we add more to the system.

Commissioner Evans states the grinder pumps are a bad system. He states the maintenance is

far greater than a gravity system. He states that it is \$3.00 additional a month and \$1.00 for water per month. He states there has been a lack of maintenance on the water system and we are trying to get things where we need to be. He speaks of the grant funds to replace water lines.

Mayor Weller stated this is an infrastructure issue and effects the entire city. She states we are faced with this because of our bonds and because the rates have not been increased in the past as they should.

Commissioner Williams asked when the last increase was. Mrs. Stull stated 2011. She added that 2006 through 2009 it increased every year then it did not for a few years.

Mayor Weller read a letter from Vice Mayor Jamison since he could not be at the commission meeting. His letter gave an overview of the history of the sewer system. Spoke of the system and the need to implement a plan.

**Motion Commissioner Evans to approve Resolution 2015-R as read into the record.
Second Commissioner James.**

Terry Hull spoke of having trouble from time to time with the smell of the water, but flushing does seem to help. He spoke of being forced into this system. He hopes that the commission will look into means to more equally and equitably spread through out the community.

Bob Barnas asked what the anticipate increase will bring to the budget. Mrs. Stull stated \$60,000 and \$80,000. He spoke of the Sept. 8th meeting and the Finance Director recommending the increase. He spoke of the debt. He stated that you are going to make an increase without a rate study. He spoke of the CPI and that being the reason why there was no increase.

Tom DePeter asked for the reference where it was indicated that the rates needed to be assessed annually. Mr. Booth stated it is in the bond documents.

Betty Cooper spoke of not being in support of the increase. She also sked about the warranty on grinder pumps. Mr. Booth stated that there are many that are no longer under warranty. Mayor Weller added that the company did take care of the ones that had issues that were under warranty.

Paul Ramen asked about the due date changes. Mrs. Stull spoke of the typo on the recent bill. Mr. Ramen would like for the city not to install anymore of the grinder pump with issues.

Commissioner Williams stated that this increase is a need.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Evans – yes

Commissioner James – yes
Commissioner Williams – yes
Mayor Weller - yes

Motion carried 4-0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH MITTAUER & ASSOCIATES FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR BIDDING & CONSTRUCTION PHASE SERVICES FOR CDBG WATER MAIN REPLACEMENTS.

Mr. Booth advised that this is part of the process for the CDBG grant.

Mrs. Stull stated that this is related to the CDBG and it is over budget. She spoke to Mr. Norman of Mittauer & Associates and they are going to look at it to see if they can reduce this.

Attorney Walker gave an overview of the contract. He asked if we should delay until the next meeting. Mrs. Stull stated yes, she has not heard from Mr. Norman.

Motion Commissioner Williams to table the approval of the contract with Mittauer & Associates for engineering services for the CDBG water main replacements.

Second Commissioner James.

Motion carried 4-0.

DISCUSSION ON LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL TO STANDARDIZE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION DATES.

Mayor Weller gave an overview.

Mayor Weller stated that she has an issue with this legislative proposal.

Motion Commissioner Evans to direct staff to express the commission's concerns to the legislature.

Second Commissioner James.

Attorney Walker to prepare a resolution.

Motion carries 4-0.

UPDATE FROM CITY MANAGER ON USDA AUDIT REVIEW.

Mr. Booth advised that he is having a rate study done by Rural Water on the rates.

Mr. Booth spoke of refinancing the sewer bond . He stated that we are going out for a grant with Suwannee River Water Management. He spoke of septic systems. He stated that it will take Rural Development's approval to refinance, since they control the bond.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF INVOICE FROM MUNICIPAL CODE CORPORATION FOR UPDATING AND REPUBLISHING CITY CODES.

**Motion Evans Commissioner to approve the invoice from the Municipal Code Corporation for updating and republishing city codes in the amount of \$5,942.73.
Second Commissioner James.
Motion carried 4-0.**

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT/UPDATE

Attorney Walker advised they have nothing at this time.

CITY MANAGER REPORT/UPDATE

Advised of the cracks in the casing at Well #1. Gave an overview of the plan for Well #1. Spoke of doing maintenance on Well #2. Spoke of the bacteria that Rowe Well Drilling put in their report, and that they did not test the water. He stated that we did have it tested. He stated we will treat the water on a quarterly basis instead of yearly basis on both wells. He states we have talked to many companies on solutions. He spoke of the need of looking for a new well field. He stated the water department employees have been working extremely hard. He states the operator takes it personal, but he cannot control what comes from the aquifer.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS:

COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner James-nothing at this time.

Commissioner Evans-nothing at this time.

Commissioner Williams- nothing at this time.

MAYOR

Advised that High Springs Community School, on October 27th, is having an Altrusa Read In.

She will be sending Santa Fe College's list of classes they will be offering in the Fall B term. She states they are happy with how things are going, and they are preparing for winter classes

**Motion Commissioner Evans to adjourn.
Mayor Weller adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.**