

110 NW 1st Avenue
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CITY COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
DECEMBER 10, 2015

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Invocation by Pastor Terry Hull, High Springs Church of God.

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Staff Present: Ed Booth, City Manager
Jenny L. Parham, City Clerk
Jennifer Stull, Finance Director
Scott Walker, City Attorney
Courtney Johnson, Assistant City Attorney
Amanda Rodriquez, CRA Executive Director

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion Commissioner Weller to add under New Business Item # 8, Discussion on Holding a Special Meeting in January on renaming NW 1st Avenue.

Second Commissioner Evans.

Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion Commissioner Weller to approve the minutes of October 8 & 22, 2015.

Second Commissioner James.

Motion carried 5 – 0.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER REQUEST FROM WCA FOR A 1.4% CPI INCREASE IN RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL SOLID WASTE SERVICES AND AN EFFECTIVE

DATE AMENDMENT TO SECTION 10.2(A) OF CURRENT AGREEMENT.

Brad Avery, WCA, outlined their request for a CPI increase in rate charges to the city for solid waste services that would be effective from December 1st, 2015. Mr. Booth stated we will take care of this in the budget process next time.

Commissioner Weller clarified there would be no increase to residents, just the charge to the city.

**Motion Commissioner Jamison to approve the request from WCA for a 1.4% CPI increase in Residential and Commercial Solid Waste Services.
Second Commissioner Weller.**

Commissioner Weller states she had received a complaint from a citizen regarding service.

Linda Hewlett spoke of an issue with her yard waste service.

Motion carried 5 – 0.

Commissioner Jamison asked if there was a specific person to call for complaints. Mr. Avery stated to call customer service.

Discussion on the type of container customers can use for yard waste.

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

Judy Kearney spoke of an individual who cut down 8 acres of large trees. Mr. Booth stated that the city is aware and is looking into this.

Kristin Rubin, also spoke concerning the removal of trees.

Bruce Borders spoke of Standing United as Americans wanting to put vegetation around monument at Police Department. Mayor Williams requested Mr. Borders to bring back plans so they can put this on an agenda so the commission can review and vote on . Mr. Borders requested funding for his part of the Christmas parades in Alachua, High Springs, and Newberry.

Linda Hewlett requested the plant plan include the names of the plants.

Elaine Gudbransen spoke concerning her former complaint regarding trash in the parking lots at Family Dollar and Alice's Parkside, states she called them and they cleaned it up but the trash is now back. Requested help from city. Mr. Booth stated he will look into.

NEW BUSINESS

RANKING OF TOP FIVE CITY ATTORNEY CANDIDATES.

Commissioner Weller suggested to determine whether to move forward after receiving the cost.

Attorney Walker spoke of how the fees for his office's services have gone down, since the time they started. He spoke of the commission determining if this is the way they would like to go before ranking the candidates.

Commissioner Evans states the cost savings is not there with an in-house attorney, and he does not feel we need to proceed any further.

Commissioner Weller feels we need a staff attorney, we do have pending litigation and feels this will be costly for the city. She states that the in-house attorney would be here on a day to day basis and feels things could be addressed prior to becoming an issue.

Commissioner Jamison states that he feels the timing is wrong as we don't have the money for it. Feels we should leave as is, then plan for it.

Commissioner James does not see that it is worth it.

Mayor Williams states he does not think the time is right, it should be done during the budget process so that there are appropriate funds available.

General consensus to direct staff to contact applicants and inform them the commission is no longer seeking a staff attorney position at this time.

Eyvonne Andrews states she has worked with both in house and outside attorneys, and it is much better with in house.

DISCUSS AND DETERMINE EMPLOYEE CHRISTMAS GIFT.

Mr. Booth pointed out there were no raises this year.

Commissioner Weller pointed out there could be issues without negotiating with unions.

Mr. Booth advised that he will notify the unions and have them sign off that this is a onetime gift.

Motion Commissioner Jamison to give a Christmas gift of \$200 for full time \$100 for part time with the Unions approval.

Second Commissioner Weller

Motion carried 5 – 0.

REVIEW AND DISCUSS FLORIDA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION'S WATER AND WASTEWATER RATE STUDY.

Mr. Booth states the study was put in to show that the \$3 increase was minor; feels we need a workshop to establish a policy for the sewer.

Commissioner Jamison states that he agrees that equitable rates need to be established.

Mr. Booth to schedule workshop date.

UPDATE ON INTERLOCAL SERVICE BOUNDARY AGREEMENTS WITH CITIES OF ALACHUA AND NEWBERRY.

Commissioner Weller states she feels we need to move forward with the cities of Alachua and Newberry and have this interlocal agreement. She adds that when the Boundary Adjustment Act is gone there is no clear boundaries.

Attorney Johnson states with the repeal of the Boundary Adjustment Act, we are not losing our city boundaries it would be the Urban Reserve Area.

Attorneys to bring back agreements for review.

CONSIDER SURVEYING CITY OWNED PROPERTY (TAX PARCEL 00236-008-000) TO DETERMINE LOCATION OF HIGH SPRINGS "SPRINGS".

Mr. Booth stated that apparently the property that the "Spring" is located on may not be the one acre that the city owns. He adds that the owner of the property were the "Spring" is located would swap property so that the city would own the "Spring".

Motion Commissioner Weller to direct the city manager to proceed with surveying tax parcel 00236-008-000 and if necessary, surveying the one acre property around the High Springs' "Spring" is on.

Second Commissioner Evans.

Motion carried 5 – 0.

DISCUSSION ON HIGH SPRINGS HISTORIC BOARD PROCEDURES.

Attorney Johnson outlined the procedures of the Certificates of Appropriateness in the Land Development Code (LDC).

Commissioner Weller stated that in the past that the Plan Board has acted as the Historic Preservation Board. She adds that since we have a difficult time filling spots on our boards, she thinks that the Plan Board should still serve as the Historic Preservation Board.

Commissioner Jamison stated that when a grant application that needed a Certificate of Appropriateness comes to the CRA Board it will be approved either by the City Manager or the Historic Preservation Board.

Attorney Johnson stated that it would, that the City Manager would review and if it is minor than he would approve, and if not he would send to the Historic Preservation Board for approval, before it came to the CRA Board.

REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF CRA 30 YEAR EXTENSION PLAN.

Amanda Rodriguez presented the CRA 30 Year Extension Plan to the commission.

**Motion Commissioner Weller to approve the CRA 30 Year Extension Plan.
Second Vice Mayor James.
Motion carried 5 – 0.**

DISCUSS HOLDING SPECIAL MEETING ON THE RENAMING OF NW 1ST AVENUE.

Commissioner Weller stated some business owners approached her in regards to the renaming of NW 1st Avenue, they would like a name instead of US HWY 27. She stated she was advised it was too late. She requested a meeting with a county representative, City Manager and Fire Chief. It was suggested that once the readdressing is done, then we could change NW 1st Avenue to a named street, a railroad name of some sort. States she felt it would be best to hold a meeting with the businesses on NW 1st Avenue to hear what they would like.

**Motion Commissioner Weller to hold a special meeting in January and invite the business owners on NW 1st Avenue to discuss the possible renaming of NW 1st Ave (U.S. Hwy 27) to a name.
Second Commissioner Jamison.**

Eyvonne Andrews states there are also residents on the street.

Motion carried 5 – 0.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT/UPDATE

Nothing at this time.

CITY MANAGER REPORT/UPDATE

Advised that we have gone out for bid for the CDBG Waterline Extension.

Gave a reminder of the Christmas party on the 17th.

Advised that we are close to identifying our condemned properties, attorney's working on contract with individual who will be working on this.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS:

COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Evans, wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Commissioner Jamison, wished all the best.

Commissioner Weller, thanked staff, who have worked hard all year. Hopes to see all at the parade. Advised she and the City Manager will be in Tallahassee Monday trying to get funding for the Newberry to High Springs Rails to Trails.

Vice Mayor James asked about a fallen tree on 13th street between 3rd and 4th, whether it is city or property owner responsibility. Mr. Booth to look into.

Mayor Williams states it is not a city tree.

Vice Mayor James stated on the 3rd, she went to a county meeting, they will be ready to start repaving County Road 236 when school is out, from U.S. Hwy 441 to the community school; how far past the school depends on when the money runs out.

Commissioner Weller states the county, in the future, will negotiate with municipalities when they want a county road repaved; and they will put the maintenance on the municipality.

Vice Mayor James stated she was advised that County Road 236 was not included in that and is taken care of.

MAYOR

Next year, let's look into getting a planner. Mr. Booth states we are looking for a as needed planner, which would be paid out of planning fees.

Motion Commissioner Weller to adjourn.

Second Vice Mayor James.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.