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CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 28, 2016

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Invocation by Pastor Patrick Gimenez, Victory Springs Baptist Church.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Mayor Byran Williams – Present  
Vice Mayor Gloria James – Present  
Commissioner Jason Evans – Present  
Commissioner Scott Jamison – Present arrived at 6:37 p.m.  
Commissioner Sue Weller – Present

Staff Present: Ed Booth, City Manager  
Jenny L. Parham, City Clerk  
Jennifer Stull, Finance Director  
Angela Stone, Assistant City Clerk  
Scott Walker, City Attorney  
Courtney Johnson, Assistant City Attorney  
Amanda Rodriguez, CRA Executive Director  
Antoine Sheppard, Lieutenant Police Department

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion Commissioner Evans to approve the agenda as presented.**

**Second Commissioner Weller.**

**Motion carried 4-0.**

Mayor Williams spoke of the passing of former Commissioner and Mayor William Coughlin and asked for a moment of silence.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**CONSIDER ORDINANCE 2016-01, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR BUDGET FOR 2015-2016 FOR THE**

**HIGH SPRINGS CRA; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION.**

Attorney Walker read Ordinance 2016-01 by title only.

**Motion Commissioner Weller to approve Ordinance 2016-01 on second and final reading.  
Second Commissioner Evans.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Motion carried 4-0.**

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

No one came forward.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTION IN THE RE-NAMING OF US HWY 27.**

Commissioner Weller stated that at the last meeting a citizen recommended using the name of Wes Skiles as a name for US HWY 27 to honor him.

**Motion Commissioner Weller to rename NW 1<sup>st</sup> Ave (US HWY 27) to Wes Skiles Blvd.  
Second Commissioner Evans.**

Mayor Williams stated that he spoke to Keith Godwin and Mr. Godwin suggested that we use a railroad name.

Commissioner Weller stated that Mr. Godwin stated at the last meeting that it was not required.

Commissioner Jamison stated he said that the railroad name would be reflective of our city.

Commissioner Evans asked if everyone was in favor of changing from US HWY 27 to a name.

Discussion on whether to keep US HWY 27 or using a named street.

Attorney Walker stated that the city has a complex procedure on naming a road per city ordinance. He gave an overview of the procedure. He recommended that they follow the process per city code.

Paul Regensdorf spoke of the road from the light to US HWY 441 not being Alt. 27. He stated that it is important to follow the procedure. He spoke of the issues that the current address change has caused for

the Grady House. He spoke of the issues with Google and navigation not having the information to route them to the Grady House. He spoke of having a street sign with the former street name under the new street signs. Commissioner Evans asked if he just wanted the name changed from US Hwy 27. Mr. Regensdorf stated that a name would be better.

Mr. Booth stated we can put up brown signs to indicated the former street names.

Attorney Walker explained the process and gave a timeline. He stated that this is for honorarium street naming, it would be slightly different for a railroad name.

**Motion failed 2-3 with Mayor Williams, Vice Mayor James and Commissioner Evans voting against.**

Consensus to have staff bring back cost to have signs put up with the former street name on them for US Hwy 27.

Discussion on railroad names liked by the commission.

Mike Kearney stated that the railroad tracks were taken out and our logo shows the river; maybe we should have something that represents the springs. Mayor Williams stated the history of this city is the railroad.

Mayor Williams spoke of the citizens having to change their driver's licenses and businesses having to make additional changes as well. Mr. Booth stated if they have to change for a second time, we can give them a credit on their bill.

Commissioner Evans stated that he would like to have a name, but would like to wait until the next meeting to actually change the name so that there could be input.

Commissioner Weller suggested we come up with the name and then notify the 125 or so addresses of the new name.

Paul Regensdorf suggested names of Roundhouse, Whistle, and Gandy Dancer.

**Motion Commissioner Weller to propose the name, which is now US Hwy 27, be Junction Avenue and notify the businesses and residents along US Hwy 27 and have on the next meeting's agenda for adoption.**

**Second Commissioner Evans.**

**Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Jamison asked that something be put into the letter that the name of their street may be changing and not to yet change their license, if they have not already.

Commissioner Weller asked that the additional street blades with the former street name also be added to the letter.

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ITEMS FOR THE WILDSPACES, PUBLIC PLACES FUNDING**

Mr. Booth advised that this is a list of potential items for funding from the 1% sales tax. To secure the funding we must present a list to the county. Mr. Booth advised that Commissioner Jamison recommended the purchase of the property by Memorial Park that is for sale.

Commissioner Weller stated that the list must be a priority list with costs, and the city has the possibility of receiving \$2,000,000.00 over 8 years. She suggested the Rails to Trails be indicated as a joint project with the county.

Commissioner Weller stated the county needs this list by February 15, 2016.

Commissioner Evans stated that it would be nice to have a centralized location like Alachua with a gym.

**DISCUSS AND DETERMINE DIRECTION TO STAFF IN REGARDS TO THE COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT UTILITY ACCOUNTS.**

Mr. Booth stated that staff recommends that we write off all bills prior to 2010. He stated that the Attorneys have vetted the company.

Jennifer Stull, Finance Director, stated that the contract with the company was approved back in May 2015. She stated that it needed to come back to the commission to start with the collection company.

Commissioner Jamison stated he is in favor. He suggested that we try to collect in house for 60 days then turn over to the company.

Commissioner Weller stated if we do not do this the money owed will continue to grow.

Commissioner Evans stated he agrees but thinks we should do 90 days in house collection.

Mrs. Stull stated a majority of the outstanding accounts are with citizens that no longer live in the city. Commissioner Evans asked if we can say 90 days if they still reside in the city and 60 days if they no longer reside within the city. Mrs. Stull stated that we can try to work out payment plans before sending to collections.

**Motion Commissioner Weller to authorize the City Manager to enter into the agreement for the delinquent utility accounts and that a ninety-day grace period be given.**

**Second Commissioner Evans.**

**Motion carried 5-0.**

**REVIEW OF DECEMBER 2015 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.**

Mr. Booth stated everything seems to be in line.

Commissioner Weller stated she has a problem with a line item that is over budget in the Finance Department, the audit is \$9,000.00 over budget and would like it to be contained with that budget. Mrs. Stull stated that it was posted improperly and needs to be spread to water and sewer also.

**CONSIDER PLACING ADVERTISEMENT ON THE NEW HIGH SPRINGS  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MAP.**

Commissioner Evans stated the Chamber does a lot for the city. He stated that he would be in favor and feels it would be dually beneficial.

Commissioner Jamison asked if it could be purchased by the CRA. Mrs. Rodriguez stated they can purchase advertising for the CRA not the city.

Paul Regensdorf stated that the map is going to press very quickly and has a two-year shelf life. He stated if we do not know the names of the streets it is going to be difficult to put in anything that is meaningful.

Commissioner Weller stated she suggested a half page for \$550.00.

Commissioner Jamison left room 7:34 p.m., returned at 7:36 p.m.

**Motion Commissioner Weller to place a half page ad on the new High Springs Chamber of Commerce Map for \$550.00.**

**Second Commissioner Evans**

**Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Jamison suggested that in the future we create a line item for this, so we can plan for the future.

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT/UPDATE**

Nothing at this time.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT/UPDATE**

Advised he had a video conference today with staff and Rural Water, and the Hydrogen Peroxide is our best option. Staff will travel to Perry to look at their system, as they have this system.

Is working with Mittauer regarding the water redevelopment project and it came in slightly over budget and we are looking at reducing some costs and see if we can get some extra funds from Suwannee River Water Management District.

Will have a list next commission meeting with 10 properties to sell, and then take the funds to condemn properties that need to be condemned.

Will bring to the Commission a new tree ordinance.

Had a meeting with the County Manager, the county is willing to pay for a water line going across US Hwy 441 going to their Fire Rescue facility; their well is contaminated and need city water.

Has been talking with the City Managers of Alachua and Newberry regarding the interlocal agreement

regarding the boundaries. This is not going really well, as a lot of the commissions do not want to move forward due to boundaries with Gainesville.

**COMMENTS AND CONCERNS:**

**COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Evans spoke of the businesses that have come in 2015, and that this reflects that we are doing what we need to as a commission and as is the CRA.

Commissioner Weller stated that county is looking at producing a Storm Water Manual and want to have by June. She will be requesting a resolution for our commission to ask the county to delay and give more time to review. Mr. Booth stated the county wants to permit the storm water.

Commissioner James spoke of a pot hole out by her, it is fixed every four to five months, but with the rain it is bad. Mr. Booth stated David Benton will soon start using asphalt.

**MAYOR**

Mayor Williams reminds of the goals workshop on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

Advised of the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Cattlemen's Banquet March 22, 2016.

Went to a meeting at the School Board today on concurrency. He stated the concurrency will be at 100% at our local elementary school in 2018.

**Motion Commissioner Evans to adjourn.**

**Second Vice Mayor James.**

**Mayor Williams adjourn the meeting at 7:52p.m.**