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CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 18, 2016

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 6:21 p.m.

Invocation by Vice Mayor James.

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
Angela Stone, Assistant City Clerk
Amanda Rodriguez, CRA Executive Director
. Jennifer Stull, Finance Director
. David Benton, Public Works Director
Joel Decoursey, Police Chief
Antoine Sheppard, Police Lieutenant
. Scott Thomason, Building Official

DISCUSSION ON CURRENT AND FUTURE GOALS.

Staff Goals

Mr. Booth stated that we would like to work with the engineer and grant writer to put together a plan and apply for grants to complete the High Springs wastewater system.

Commissioner Evans asked if we could apply to switch the grinder pumps to gravity. Mr. Booth stated we are stuck with them, as we are bonded out and they have different piping systems.

He stated in the new budget year he would like a small economic development budget. Spoke of the need to get broadband to our city. Commissioner Weller stated that getting broadband access to our businesses here in High Springs is essential, for businesses to come. She suggested going to the legislature or the grant writer to see if we can find funding to apply for to bring in broadband. Mr.

Booth stated we have contacted Cox Communications and showed them around. He would like to go to other companies to see if they want to come in somewhere Cox could come in.

Mr. Booth stated that we are getting information for large lots that are available, for Economic Development. He states that we would like to have a hotel come in.

Mr. Booth stated that he would like a community improvement budget, and this would be for dilapidated properties to be clean up and sell. He states we want to buy properties that need to be cleaned up, we clean them up and sell them; this will help to clean up our city. He speaks of seeing how the City of Perry had cleaned up their town.

Mr. Booth stated he would like to implement on-line access to water accounts for those wishing to pay on-line. Commissioner Weller stated since it is modal to buy we would need to budget that.

Mr. Booth stated that he would like to request additional funding from Alachua County for Fire Services. He states that our department does a lot of calls for the County.

Mr. Booth stated the funds have gone up in the Building Department, and the funds collected have to stay within that department and we would like additional clerical position for them. He states that the Building Official is becoming overwhelmed. Commissioner Jamison asked if this would be in the upcoming budget. Mr. Booth advised it would be.

Mr. Booth states that he spoke to John Power, the Alachua County Tax Collector, and Mr. Powers stated that we will be getting additional funding, and that we do a great job. He states that we would like to open a window for just water bills or city business.

Mr. Booth stated that we are doing a flushing program, and now the hydrants need to be painted.

Commission Goals

Commissioner Jamison asked about the CDBG Grant. Mr. Booth stated that we have taken the second bidder, as the first one dropped out.

Commissioner Jamison asked about the playground equipment grant. Mr. Booth stated we are moving forward, and the third should be awarded very soon. Mr. Booth stated we should be moving forward in the next 30 days on the first grant project.

Commissioner Jamison stated he would like to see the city perusing funding for a sewer expansion and future water line replacement.

Commissioner Jamison asked about the water tower, at what point in time do we look into another for sufficient pressure to the subdivisions not in the core of the city. Mr. Booth spoke of other alternatives to increasing pressure.

Commissioner Jamison states that if we cannot supply the appropriate infrastructure then development does no good.

Commissioner Weller stated she wants professional job description done, so they are legally sufficient. She states that we cannot do this in house, we need a company. If funds are available, she would like to see in next year's budget.

Mr. Booth stated that he thinks we need a master plan for all the parks.

Mayor Williams asked if the park by the cemetery is used regularly. Commissioner Evans stated they use it for softball, soccer, and hopefully football this year. Mayor Williams spoke of leagues always looking for places to practice and play.

Commissioner Evans stated he would like to see us expand Memorial Park, maybe like Alachua, with indoor gym for volleyball and basketball.

Mayor Williams stated he would like to see economic development, encourage and support social equality for all High Springs citizens and working on a program to help reduce crime in our community for safer neighborhoods.

Commissioner Weller spoke of the need to find the man power to clean up the properties; even if we purchase they need to be cleaned up.

Mayor Williams would like to have well cleaned sidewalks and streets.

Mayor Williams stated we need unity and to work with other organizations; we need to come together as a community.

Vice Mayor James stated that her big thing is, and has been, the dilapidated houses. She stated that there should also have a place for kids that do not play sports to come together. She talks of coming together as a community.

Motion Commissioner Weller to adjourn.

Second Member Evans.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.