

110 NW 1st Avenue
High Springs, Florida 32643



Telephone: (386) 454-1416
Facsimile: (386) 454-2126
Web: www.highsprings.us

CITY COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
APRIL 14, 2016

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 7:26 p.m.

Invocation by Mayor Byran Williams

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
Angela Stone, Assistant City Clerk
Scott Walker, City Attorney
Courtney Johnson, Assistant City Attorney
Joel Decoursey, Police Chief
Jennifer Stull, Finance Director
Bruce Gillingham, Fire Chief
Amanda Rodriguez, CRA Executive Director
Robert Basford, Recreation Director
Jamie Yakubsin, Police Officer

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. Booth asked that we add discussion of the Interlocal Agreement for Fire Suppression and First Responder services with Alachua County.

Motion Commissioner Evans to approve the agenda with addition of the discussion of the Fire Contract with Alachua County.
Second Commissioner Weller.
Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**Motion Commissioner Weller to approve the minutes of March 24, 2016 Commission Meeting.
Second Commissioner Evans.
Motion carried 5-0.**

PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2016 AS “CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION” MONTH.

Attorney Walker read the Proclamation Declaring the month of April 2016 as “Child Abuse Prevention Month.

**Motion Commissioner Weller to approve the proclamation declaring the month of April 2016 as “Child Abuse Prevention” month.
Second Commissioner Evans.**

Carol Tate thanked the commission for the proclamation and thanked everyone who helped make their campaign for Child Abuse Prevention successful

Motion carried 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CONSIDER ORDINANCE 2016-03, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, RELATING TO THE REZONING OF LESS THAN TEN CONTIGUOUS ACRES OF LAND, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION Z-0569 BY THE PROPERTY OWNER OF SAID ACREAGE, UNDER THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3248, FLORIDA STATUTES AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR REZONING FROM RESIDENTIAL-1 (R-1) TO COMMERCIAL-2 (C-2) OF CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT.

Attorney Walker advised that this is a Quasi-Judicial Hearing, and anyone speaking on this item will need to be sworn in.

Attorney Walker read Ordinance 2016-03 by title only.

Mayor Williams opened the Public Hearing for Public Input.

Mike Kearney asked if this is for one or two parcels. Mr. Booth stated that this is the rezoning of two parcels to make it more contiguous. Mr. Kearney stated that the one parcel is in the covenants of a neighborhood. Attorney Johnson stated that the City would not enforce the covenants for the neighborhood.

Judy Kearney spoke of issues with the owner of the property. She asked what the consequences for not following procedures. She asked the commission to wait for a report from Fish and Wildlife regarding Gopher Tortoises. She asked that the commission deny the request for rezoning.

Attorney Walker swore in the previous two speakers and all other remaining speakers that would like to speak on this topic.

Teresa Martin spoke on the importance of the trees and Gopher Tortoises. She stated there should be consequences.

Mr. Booth stated that this came as a recommendation from the Planning Board.

Elaine Womble stated that this property was at the front of her neighborhood and they were promised a buffer. She spoke of the demolition to the buffer, that was promised to the neighborhood.

Kristen Rubin spoke of the trees being cut down without a permit and Fish and Wildlife coming in. She spoke of the concern of the ethics of the property owner.

With no one else coming forward, Mayor Williams closes the Public Hearing.

Attorney Walker spoke of the City's Code of Ordinances on trees, and the process. He spoke of the Gopher Tortoise removal permit being governed by the State.

Attorney Walker spoke of the process on rezoning. He spoke of the categories in C-2. He states that once the applicant gets the zoning category, he will then go through the Site Plan Approval Process.

Attorney Walker gave an overview of the Site Plan Approval Process.

Mayor Williams asked what the property next to this property is zoned. Mr. Booth advised that it is R-1.

Mayor Williams stated that the applicant cannot move forward without the approval of the Commission.

Motion Commissioner Evans to approve Ordinance 2016-03 on second and final reading by title only.

Second Commissioner Weller.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Evans-yes
Commissioner Jamison-yes
Commissioner Weller-yes
Mayor Williams-yes
Vice Mayor James-no

Motion carried 4-1 with Vice Mayor James opposing.

CONSIDER ORDINANCE 2016-05, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS RELATING TO THE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY; PROVIDING FOR A COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT.

Attorney Walker read Ordinance 2016-05 by title only.

Mayor Williams opened the Public Hearing for Public Input; with no one coming forward, Mayor Williams closed the Public Hearing.

**Motion Commissioner Weller to approve Ordinance 2016-05 as read into the record.
Second Commissioner Evans.**

Roll Call:

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

Motion carried 5-0.

REPORT ON COST OF DISPATCH SERVICES FOR FIRE CALLS.

Mr. Booth stated that this was done by the request of the commission. He states that the cost to the city, if we do not renew the agreement with the County for Fire Services, would be \$225,000.00. He states that staff is actively negotiating the Fire Service Contract with the County.

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

Teresa Martin spoke of an ongoing land dispute with her neighbor.

NEW BUSINESS

UPDATE ON FRDAP GRANTS BY RECREATION DIRECTOR.

Robert Basford, Recreation Director, gave an update on the FRDAP Grants. He stated that we are just waiting on final approval to begin commencement of the projects. He states we have sent in all the information they have requested. He adds that we have received approval for funding for Walter Howard Park.

Commissioner Jamison stated that he is glad to see the basketball courts are being resurfaced.

Mayor Williams asked about the restroom. Mr. Basford stated that they will be repainting and putting doors on the restrooms at the Civic Center.

Mayor Williams spoke of citizens coming in to build a stage at the Catherine Taylor Park. Mr. Basford stated that if they reach out to him, we can work that out.

CONSIDER REPLACING PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER WITH AN ALTERNATE MEMBER.

Motion Commissioner Weller to approve the replacement of the current Recreation Board Member David Beckerink with Richard Daugherty.

Second Commissioner Evans.

Motion carried 5-0.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2016-E, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS FLORIDA UPDATING COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973, ADOPTING A HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY SELF EVALUATION PLAN, ADOPTING A TRANSITION PLAN FOR HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY AND ADOPTING A SECTION 504 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE.

Attorney Johnson read Resolution 2016-E by title only.

Motion Commissioner Weller to approve Resolution 2016-E as read into the record.

Second Commissioner Evans.

Roll Call:

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

Motion carried 5-0.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING STAFF TO PROCEED WITH FILING COMPLAINT FOR UNLAWFUL DETAINER.

Mr. Booth stated this is regarding the house that was deeded to the City by the County.

Ilene Means stated that this is her family home. She states that her husband passed away three years ago. She spoke of falling on hard times. She stated this has been her family home since 1971. She asked for the City to give the property back and time to pay the taxes on this property.

Attorney Walker stated that the property has not had property taxes paid in some time and the City is the record title owner. He states that, with this, we are very limited on what we can do. He states we cannot just give the property away.

Mr. Booth advised that the Tax Collector called and stated that the city will have to pay taxes on this property. He states that we can give her more time to get things together.

Commissioner Weller states unfortunately the City's hands are tied.

Ms. Means states she knows that the taxes are due and wants to pay them. She states due to her hardship she would like an exception. Ms. Means asked for the City to give the property back.

Attorney Walker states as much compassion as the City may have, we cannot give the property away. He states that we can work with her to lessen the impact to her.

Ms. Means stated she did not learn until she received the letter from the City that the City owned the home.

Commissioner Evans stated he has sympathy, but the City's hands are tied.

**Motion Commissioner Evans to direct City Staff to file the paperwork to proceed, but would like staff to work with Ms. Means so she can get her things in order.
Second Commissioner Weller.**

Ms. Means asked what the property would go up for bid for. Attorney Walker stated it will be done by sealed bid process after the process of the declaring the property surplus.

Motion carried 5-0.

DISCUSSION ON THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ALACHUA COUNTY AND THE CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS FOR FIRE SUPPRESSION AND FIRST RESPONSE SERVICES.

Chief Gillingham stated that they would like to add an amendment to the current Interlocal Agreement with Alachua County to extend the termination clause. He states that the earliest that they can get the new proposed Interlocal Agreement on the County Agenda is May 17th, 2016, and the current current termination clause date is May 31, 2016. Chief Gillingham added that he would like to change the verbiage from calendar year to fiscal year.

**Motion Commissioner Weller to have staff execute the Second Amendment with the change from ending on the calendar year to fiscal year.
Second Commissioner Evans.
Motion carried 5-0.**

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT/UPDATE

Attorney Walker introduced Clay Martin, a new Attorney at their firm.

Attorney Clay Martin stated he is happy to be a part of the team. He states they are always there to help.

CITY MANAGER REPORT/UPDATE

Advised they have been given the amended budget for review. Mrs. Stull stated there is more in Reserve in the amended budget.

Advised the CDBG Water Main Project is currently in process.

Advised that the SRWMD has approved Camp Kulaqua sewer project for \$500,000.00.

Advised that he received an ISO report, which has to do with the Building Department. He states this will have a small positive effect on insurance rates.

Advised that he has received the Capacity Analysis report on the sewer; which shows we are at 52% and remained at 52% for the last four years.

Advised that we sold 9 out of the 14 City owned lots that went out for sealed bid and brought in \$25,562.00, which we will use to clean up other properties.

Advised that we will be having a Community Cleanup at Catherine Taylor Park on Saturday at 8:30 a.m. and he will be cooking at 11:30 a.m.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS:

COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Evans asked what happens to the properties that did not sell during the sealed bid process. Mr. Booth advised we will put it back out and try again.

Commissioner Evans reminded of Pioneer Days April 23rd and 24th.

Commissioner Jamison – Nothing at this time.

Commissioner Weller- Nothing at this time.

Vice Mayor James asked about the grants for the parks, did we entertain anyone locally to do the work. Mr. Booth stated we did and there was no interest.

MAYOR:

Mayor Williams –Nothing at this time.

Motion Commissioner Evans to adjourn.

Second Commissioner Weller.

Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m.