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CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

Mayor James 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 Gloria James– Present  
Vice Mayor Jason Evans – Absent  
Commissioner Byran Williams–Absent  
Commissioner Scott Jamison –Present  
Commissioner Linda Jones – Present

Staff Present: Ed Booth, City Manager  
Jenny Parham, City Clerk  
Angela Stone, Assistant City Clerk  
Scott Walker, City Attorney  
Jennifer Stull, Finance Director  
Joel Decoursey, Police Chief  
Antoine Sheppard, Deputy Police Chief

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion Commissioner Jamison to approve the agenda as presented.  
Second Commissioner Jones.  
Motion carried 3-0.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion Commissioner Jones to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2017 and August 24, 2017  
Budget Workshops.  
Second Commissioner Jamison.  
Motion carried 3-0.**

**BUDGET**

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**CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2017-O, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS, FLORIDA; DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF AND FIXING THE TENTATIVE RATE OF AD VALOREM TAXATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

Attorney Walker read Resolution 2017-O in its entirety.

Bob Barnas stated that he has looked at what the County has done with the assessments. He speaks of the area growing. He thanked the commission for this not going up, but suggested it could be better next year.

**Motion Commissioner Jamison to approve Resolution 2017-O as read in its entirety.  
Second Commissioner Jones.**

**Roll Call:**

**Mayor James-yes  
Commissioner Jamison- yes  
Commissioner Jones- yes**

**Motion carried 3-0.**

**CONSIDER ORDINANCE 2017-10, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2017/2018 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET OF THE CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS, FLORIDA; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Attorney Walker read Ordinance 2017-10 in its entirety.

Bob Barnas spoke of watching most of the budget meetings. He spoke of the last four Management Letters from the last four years of audits. He spoke of the Maximus study, and reducing the transfer. He spoke of the recommendation made by Powell and Jones to reduce the transfers to realistic numbers and James Moore ignoring the recommendation. He stated he will look into what the requirement is for James Moore coming into this year's Management Letter.

Jennifer Stull, Finance Director, spoke of changes from the workshops, some housekeeping numbers of Public Works Facilities, Building Improvements Capital Outlay, went from \$15,800.00 to \$29,300.00 for replacements of Air Conditioners and the money was moved from the Uniforms which had \$15,000.00 and should have been \$1,500.00. The only other change is in the CRA, the reduction in salary for the Service Worker, and that difference was put in Grants to Others.

Commissioner Jamison commended the staff for the work on the budget, getting grants, working on the Sewer System becoming self-sustaining.

**Motion Commissioner Jamison to approve Ordinance 2017-10 as read in its entirety.  
Second Commissioner Jones.**

**Roll Call:**

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**Commissioner Jamison-yes  
Commissioner Jones-yes  
Mayor James- yes**

**Motion carried 3-0.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR MULTI-USERS ON CITY UTILITIES.**

Mr. Booth advised that this has to do with twenty businesses, businesses that have more than one store front. He stated we were trying to make it fair. He states that staff is open to any recommendations.

Commissioner Jamison spoke of only a certain number of people carrying the burden of the sewer system. He suggests that there be no change in the water, but suggests that the change be in the base rate of the sewer. He suggests for the sewer base rate to go up for each additional user, business, about 15%, about \$7.42 per month. He speaks of the need for the system becoming self-sustaining as soon as possible.

Nancy Linkous stated that it does sound fair and equitable. She suggested that the businesses get billed separately instead of to the landlord, so the landlord is not burdened with collecting.

Bob Barnas stated if there is only one bathroom, even if there are multiple businesses, it is not fair. He asked how much revenue this brings in. Commissioner Jamison states that amount is irrelevant. He states it gives all businesses a stake in the game. Mr. Barnas states that this raise is less than the raise the City Manager received. He asked if the people that paid in already will receive a refund, will there be an additional agenda item. He states he does not think this is a good idea. Mayor James stated that there will be an agenda item regarding this.

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

Betty Schumpert spoke of her daughter's yard having a hole. She stated they called the City and two men came out and said that the hole was due to an old septic tank. She spoke of the sewer system being put in at her daughters, and not being complete. She spoke of when the sewer system was put at her residence the septic tank was filled in. She asked what the City can do about the septic tank at her daughters not being filled in. Mr. Booth stated that he will look into this, Monday or Tuesday next week.

Nancy Linkous thanked the Police Chief, Fire Department and Emergency Services for the wonderful work they have done this week.

Bob Barnas stated he went out the day after the storm and saw all the Police out keeping an eye on the business and traffic, he thanked the police for their work. He speaks of his problem with the City Water. He compares it to Flint. He states the water is good coming from the source, but not at the tap. He spoke of data that he has collected on our system. He spoke of over chlorinating. He stated that the water is getting better; he states that the calcium has risen and he will find out why that is.

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NEW BUSINESS**

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THREE YEAR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION (PBA).**

Mr. Booth advised that this meets all requirements of the Commission and the Personnel Manual. He states that this does include an increase for the Sergeants, and he gave them an overview of this.

Chief Decoursey stated that they must reach goals to go to the next pay step. Mr. Booth stated that staff recommends approval of this.

Commissioner Jamison states the he likes the step program and would like to do this City wide.

**Motion Commissioner Jamison to approve the three-year Collective Bargaining Agreement with North Central Florida Police Benevolent Association.**

**Second Commissioner Jones.**

**Motion carried 3-0.**

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FY 2018 AGREEMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING SERVICES WITH NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL.**

Mr. Booth advised that we have had this agreement over 10 years, and they assist with meeting the requirements of the State.

Attorney Walker stated that with this and in conjunction with Ms. McGrath this puts us in a good place.

**Motion Commissioner Jones to have the appropriate City Officials enter into the FY 2018 Agreement for Local Government Comprehensive Planning Services with North Central Florida Regional Planning Council.**

**Second Commissioner Jamison.**

**Motion carried 3-0.**

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER CHARGES TO THE HIGH SPRINGS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR POLICE SERVICES DURING PIONEER DAYS.**

Attorney Walker stated that the Commission can recommend this to the CRA, but it must be approved by the CRA.

Yvonne Andrews, High Springs Chamber of Commerce, stated that in the past this has never been a problem, and paid by the City. She states she does not understand why this year is a problem.

Bob Barnas stated that he does not remember an invoice ever being sent to the Chamber of Commerce. He states that he thinks that the Commission should absorb these costs and should not be paid by the CRA. He states that the CRA is about the development of downtown and Pioneer Days is not about development of downtown.

Mr. Booth stated the CRA does take care of events. He states that the Police supplies security for

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events.

Jenny Parham states that in the past when the application for an event came in it would go to the Commission and was approved ahead of time.

Gloria James states being the Secretary for the Chamber she will need to abstain from voting, and with that we do not have a quorum so this will need to be put on the next commission agenda.

**CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL MAGISTRATE FOR CODE ENFORCEMENT.**

Attorney Walker stated that there are two applicants that meet the qualifications for the Special Magistrate. He suggests that we select both firms and work out the contracts with the firms; it would be on hourly basis, but we could cap the hours. He states the firms may be busy at first, due to a back log. He states once we get caught up there may not be much after that. He states his recommendation would not to do a monthly retainer, but establish an hourly rate with a cap. He explains that we can rotate out the Magistrate.

Nancy Linkous asked what was the annual budgeted amount, being there is not a lot in Contractual Services for Code Enforcement. Attorney Walker states it will be at the going rate, they will look at that. He states that they will negotiate with the Firms and cap it at so many hours per month. He would estimate about \$2,000.00 a month.

Nancy Linkous asked if the fines levied would be put back into the Code Enforcement budget. She asked if Bill Whitlock will be the Code Enforcement Officer and asks if he has the support staff for that. She states that there is no money in the budget for a Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Booth stated he does have the support staff.

Mary Lynch thanked the commission for staying on top of this.

**Motion Commissioner Jamison to appoint both firms and rotate both firms as Special Magistrate for Code Enforcement and have the Attorney and City Manager work out the contract and bring back for commission for approval.**

**Second Commissioner Jones.**

**Motion carried 3-0.**

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT/UPDATE**

Attorney Walker states he has nothing to report at this time.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT/UPDATE**

Mr. Booth spoke of the water system and having water through out the storm.

Mr. Booth spoke of the storm. He stated the staff was ready, and we had contractors ready after the storm. He stated that we did have 10 grinder pumps that went out during the storm, and that we are in the process of replacing those. He stated that we are pumping grinder pumps that did not have power. He stated staff

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did a great job.

Betty Schumpert asked about when the electricity will be back on.

**COMMENTS AND CONCERNS:**

**COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Jones commended the Emergency Service Staff.

Commissioner Jamison stated that from a Public Works stand point, he states that our Water Operator was there every hour checking on the plant and did everything he could to make sure the plant ran during the storm. He states our Water Operator is there every day, and we have done more with the water than ever before. He speaks of replacing pipes and improving our infrastructure. He speaks of the dedication of our staff. He states that we have done everything possible to do our best. He thanked the Police and Fire, but the Public Works staff also needs to be commended.

**MAYOR**

Mayor James thanked the Police, Fire and Public Works.

**Motion Commissioner Jamison to adjourn.**

**Second Commissioner Jones.**

**Mayor James adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.**