

**MINUTES OF THE HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD MARCH 27, 2017**

Mayor Sears called the Pre-Work Session of March 27, 2017 to order at 5:45 p.m.

Present: Mayor Sears, Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel, Councilor Mabry and Councilor Scott

Absent: Councilor Conroy

Also, Present: Chief Thomas, Public Services Director Ernest and Administrative Assistant II Burke

PRE-WORK SESSION 5:45 – 6:00 p.m.

Councilor Scott asked the Town Council if they would be willing to look into possibly purchasing some property. **Mayor Sears** replied that he would be open to almost anything as long as there was a master plan.

Mayor Sears gave detailed background on Resolution No. 2017-005. He said that Town Planner Harowski attended a grant workshop directly related to this grant. The grant would allow the Town to bring formalized parking to the boat ramp. The total cost for the project would be \$84,000. He added that that the town will have to match twenty-five percent (25%) or fifty percent (50%). He said that the question tonight is how much should the Town Council match if Resolution No. 2017-005 passes.

Councilor Mabry asked if the Town had \$42,000 to match at fifty percent (50%). **Mayor Sears** replied that the Town would include that into next year's Budget or take half out of reserves and Budget it for next year.

Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel said if the Town wants the chance to receive the grant then the Town should match fifty percent (50%).

Mayor Sears said that a fifty percent (50%) match would be \$42,000 and a twenty-five percent (25%) match would be \$21,000.

Councilor Mabry said he is hesitant to take money out of the reserves. **Mayor Sears** said there is roughly \$500,000 - \$600,000 in the reserves. **Councilor Mabry** asked what the beginning balance for the reserves were at the beginning of the FY 2016 – 2017 Budget and how much monies have been spent from the reserves. He then stated that he would be more comfortable at a twenty-five percent (25%) match for the grant.

Mayor Sears said that he believes the Town Council is more comfortable with a twenty-five percent (25%) match, so that is what he will instruct Town Planner Harowski to go with if

Resolution No. 2017-005 passes.

Mayor Sears gave detailed background on possibly inquiring about the Howey Mansion.

Councilor Mabry said the initial idea of the possible purchase is intriguing but once the Town owns the Howey Mansion then what.

Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel said if the Town purchased the Howey Mansion at least the Town can slow down the deuteriation. He then added that the Town should get in contact with a Broker or realtor to negotiate on the Towns behalf.

Mayor Sears said he wouldn't do any negotiating until an inspection was conducted.

Public Services Supervisor Ernest said that seven (7) years ago the estimated cost to renovate the Howey Mansion was 1.9 million.

Mayor Sears said that he would gather more information on the Howey Mansion and bring the information he received back to the Town Council at the April 10, 2017 Town Council Meeting.

The Pre-Work Session adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Mayor Sears called the Town Council Meeting of March 27, 2017 to order at 6:16 p.m.

Mayor Sears led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Public Services Supervisor Ernest led the Invocation

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of the March 13, 2017 Town Council Meeting

Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel, seconded by Councilor Mabry, moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration and Approval of Resolution No. 2017-005, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM THE FLORIDA BOATING IMPROVEMENT FUND; PROVIDING FOR MATCHING FUNDS AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel, seconded by Councilor Scott, moved to approve Resolution No. 2017-005, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM THE FLORIDA BOATING IMPROVEMENT FUND; PROVIDING FOR MATCHING FUNDS AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Discussion: Funding for proposed park at NW corner of Dixie Drive and Palmetto Ave. (Councilor Scott)

Councilor Scott gave background on why he believes the North-West corner of Dixie Drive and Palmetto Ave should be turned into a park. He said that he would like to get with Town Planner Harowski on a possible idea he has come up with.

Councilor Mabry asked if the area was dry. **Councilor Scott** replied no, that it is a retention pond. He further explained that it would stay a retention pond but he would like to add sidewalks, a water aerator and some attractive landscaping.

Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel asked who owned the property. **Councilor Scott** said the Town does. **Mayor Sears** said he believes it is part of the residential property.

Mayor Sears said he would research who the owner of the property was and bring back the information to the Town Council at the April 10, 2017 Town Council Meeting.

Discussion: Funding for Town Hall server (Councilor Scott)

Councilor Scott said he had spoken with Town Clerk Brasher and she stated that the server was acting up.

Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel said that the server was discussed at a Staff Meeting and yes, it is outdated but it is not in this year's Budget.

Mayor Sears said he would collaborate with Town Clerk Brasher to secure estimates.

Status of Police Chief vehicle (Councilor Scott)

Chief Thomas said that the truck has been produced and is sitting on a lot in Mexico. He then stated that the truck should be ready for pick up in the next two (2) – three (3) weeks.

Discussion: Status of Town Hall Uniforms (Councilor Scott)

Administrative Assistant II Burke said that Uniforms for the Library, Public Services and Town Hall were purchased on March 27, 2017. She added that all departments got solid color polos with the Town logo.

Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel said that the uniforms weren't budgeted for and did the Mayor approve the purchase. **Mayor Sears** said he believed the Town Council wanted to purchase uniforms for the Departments, so he instructed Administrative Assistant II Burke to order them.

Update: Zoning ordinance for marijuana dispensary (Councilor Scott)

Mayor Sears said he would get with Town Attorney Ramos on the status of the zoning ordinance for a marijuana dispensary.

Discussion: Proposal for Code Enforcement to transfer to civilian as soon as possible (Councilor Scott)

Mayor Sears said he has been discussing this item with Chief Thomas and he agreed that someone coming in one day a week would be appropriate.

Chief Thomas said he would get on right on it.

Update on the Water System (Councilor Scott)

a. Cleaning of water tank

Public Services Supervisor Ernest said the water tanks were cleaned two (2) weeks ago.

b. Status of Data Flow System

Public Services Supervisor Ernest said he called John Peterson, Public Services Director for Mt Dora and he stated that he did not like Data Flow System (DFS).

John Peterson told Public Services Supervisor Ernest that Data Flow System (DFS) told him that Mt. Dora isn't large enough to merit a record response time. **Public Services Supervisor Ernest** said to the Town Council so where does that leave Howey in the Hills.

c. Change 6-inch water line to 12-inch water line for post chlorination

Mayor Sears said there was a meeting on Thursday March 30, 2017 with the Town Engineer, Public Services and Himself to discuss the timing of the upgrade in the water lines.

Discussion: Post weight limits on all streets due to street damage as well as street signs (Councilor Scott)

Chief Thomas said there is a weight limit in the Towns Ordinance's or Land Development Code. He added that some vehicles are exempt from the weight limit restrictions.

Mayor Sears asked if Councilor Scott wants every street in Town posted. **Councilor Scott** replied that he believes the weight limit signs should be posted where vehicles would be making an entrance.

Councilor Mabry asked what other vehicles besides a fully loaded garbage truck or emergency vehicle would exceed the weight limit.

Councilor Scott answered that eighteen wheelers go down Magnolia Ave to dump or unload in the maintenance section of Mission Inn. **Chief Thomas** said he would talk to the maintenance people and ask them to re route their eighteen wheelers.

A lengthy discussion ensued.

OLD BUSINESS

Consideration and approval of title change and salary review for John Ernest for FY 2017-2018 Budget (Councilor Scott)

Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel said that the item came up two meetings ago and was going to Town Attorney Ramos and Town Hall to configure a job description.

Mayor sears said that there is an existing job description it just need to be adjusted a little more. He added that Public Services Supervisor Ernest and Himself needed to get together and discuss the job description. He then said that he would get everything together and come back to the Town Council by the April 24, 2017 Town Council Meeting.

BOARD REPORTS

Library Board Minutes – None

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Report & Minutes – None

Planning & Zoning Board Minutes – None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Code Enforcement/Police Department Report

Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel said that there is a serious problem with work crews, concrete trucks, etc. using Revel Rd. as an entrance to Venezia. There is no street or driveway from that side and this is causing rutting and will soon break up the sidewalks. **Mayor Sears** said he had talked to Ron Roberts about the situation and Ron Roberts said that they will be fencing in the back property.

Finance Report

Mayor Sears gave detailed background on the report.

Impact Fee Balance- No Comment

Library Director Report

Library Director Hall thanked Jenny Deschenes for a job well done on the Blevins Park dedication. She also announced that there is a meet and greet with the Town Council and Police Officers on April 10, 2017 from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. She also told the Town Council that she is attending a grant workshop on Wednesday, March 29, 2017.

Public Services Report – See Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel’s Report

Town Hall Report- No Comments

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Mabry- No Comment

Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel-No Comment

Councilor Scott said he is putting items on the Agenda that he hasn’t gotten a clear answer for.

Mayor Sears thanked Parks and Recreation, Public Services, The Police Department and Town Hall for the wonderful Blevins Park Dedication on Saturday, March 25, 2017. He said it was an amazing turn out and he had a wonderful time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sal Gallelli, 1104 N Tangerine, asked what would happen if a driver had a specific address to deliver to and he exceeded the weight limit. He also stated that he believes purchasing the Howey Mansion would be a big risk for the Town. He then asked if the Mayor and Police Chief were working on a plan to secure the Police vehicles due to the recent car burglary.

Mayor Sears said that he and Chief Thomas were working on some new safety precautions.

Elwis Benson, 406 S Florida Ave, said that he came before the Town Council at the January 9, 2017 Town Council Meeting and wanted to know if the traffic study would come before the Town Council on an Agenda. Chief Thomas said that a traffic study was done and there were some violators. He then added that the stop signs would be installed on March 28, 2017. Mayor Sears also added that he had to get with the Town Attorney to discuss the legality of the stop signs.

A lengthy discussion ensued.

David Kilmartin, 128 E laurel Ave, asked that the Minutes under Public Comments have more detail included. He also added that he was not in favor of the Town purchasing the Howey Mansion. **Mayor Sears** said it was a preliminary discussion. David Kilmartin then asked if there will be new protocol for the Police Department due to the recent car burglary. Chief Thomas replied that the Mayor and himself are currently working on policy changes.

Jenny Deschenes, 207 E Orchid, said that she believes the Howey Mansion is a historical site and asked if the zoning for the Howey Mansion would stop someone from buying the property and tearing down the Mansion to build a Publix. **Mayor Sears** said they would have to abide by the Town's zoning restrictions.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Chris Sears, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dairian Burke
Administrative Assistant II