

**REVISED**  
MINUTES OF THE HOWEY IN THE HILLS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD MARCH 12, 2018

Mayor Sears called the Town Council Meeting of March 12, 2018 to order at 6:00 p.m.  
Boy/Cub Scout Troop 245 led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.  
Public Services Director Ernest led the Invocation.

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

Also Present: Town Clerk Burke, Chief Thomas, Public Services Director Ernest and Library Director Hall.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

***Routine items are placed on the Consent Agenda to expedite the meeting. If Town Council/Staff wish to discuss any item, the procedure is as follows: (1) Pull the item(s) from the Consent Agenda; (2) Vote on the remaining item(s); and (3) Discuss each pulled item and vote.***

**Minutes of the February 26, 2018 Town Council Meeting.**

**Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel, seconded by Councilor Mabry moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Discussion: Update on Library Landscape**

**Mayor Sears** said that he met with the concerned citizens and then the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to discuss the Library landscape. He said that all agreed the Library should be a show case. He said that they all agreed to use a landscape architect. The idea they had discussed was a sustainable, drought tolerant, colorful idea. He said everyone was comfortable letting a professional come up with a design.

**Councilor Conroy** asked what the scope of work was. **Mayor Sears** said that it would be the front of the Library. Maybe even receiving a proposal to do the entire municipal complex.

**Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel** asked if they would be ripping out or moving the plants that were put in by the Garden Club. **Mayor Sears** said that the Garden Club definitely has a say in the decision.

**Mayor Sears** said that the Town must have a native, educational garden per the consumptive use permit (CUP). He said that everyone is in agreement that the Library needs to look good. Whether it is with native plants, nonnative plants or a mix of both.

**Councilor Scott** said the Town has always relied on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Garden Club regarding the vision for the Town and they have done a great job.

**Councilor Conroy** said that setting a scope needs to be done.

**Mayor Sears** said that he has tasked Town Clerk Burke with completing the request for proposals (RFP).

#### **Discussion: Update on St. Johns Water Management Grant regarding wastewater**

**Mayor Sears** said that St. Johns Water Management has received the grant application and the results for the funding will be announced in the late summer.

**Councilor Scott** said that waiting to hear the results puts us in close proximity to when we have to use the \$400,000, right? **Mayor Sears** replied that we have until June of 2019.

**Councilor Scott** asked why the Town wouldn't use the \$400,000 now and when the rest of the money is received continue the project. **Mayor Sears** said that it is not a good idea to use the money to run the pipes and let them sit for a while until the project can be completed.

**Councilor Scott** then said that Public Services Director Ernest came up with a plan that would only cost the Town \$191,000. Why not use that until the Town can expand? **Mayor Sears** replied that the plan didn't include a lift station and would only be able to service the municipal complex as the system would run off of grinder pumps.

**Councilor Conroy** said that the Town needs to wait.

**Councilor Scott** said that his worry is the Town waits too long and loses the \$400,000.

**Councilor Conroy** asked if Rob Ern from BESH was working on a revenue plan. **Mayor Sears** said that it's a part of the sewer master plan. **Councilor Conroy** asked if he could meet with Rob Ern to discuss that information. **Mayor Sears** replied yes.

**Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel** said that the bad news is it will cost everyone money to hook up to the sewer however it will end the polluting of the lake caused by the septic tanks.

**Mayor Sears** said that he would have Rob Ern from Booth, Ern, Straughan and Hoitt (BESH) come to the next meeting to explain the ideas they have regarding the sewer system.

#### **Discussion: Central Avenue Paving**

**Mayor Sears** said that the Town has waited on the sewer project to kick off to repave Central Avenue but it can no longer wait. Public Services Director Ernest met with C.W. Roberts who has multiple municipal contracts and has done work for the Town in the past. BESH did a study and came up with straight parking spaces instead of angled. The sidewalks would be replaced from the Howey Market down to Dr. Clark's Office with brick pavers to give the walkable downtown feeling to Howey. The proposal also includes the removal of the old asphalt and replacing it as well as completing all sidewalks and sidewalk replacements. The cost for this would be \$126,936.83.

**Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel** said that the traffic easing at State Road 19 and Central Avenue would look nice but the semis will crush the landscape and curbing. **Public Services Director Ernest** replied that it is not a part of the plan.

**Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel** said that the bump-outs are nice but a great alternative is to have the bump-outs in the sidewalk. Which would hold the landscape but wouldn't take away from the parking spaces.

**Mayor Sears** said that the pocket park is included in the plan but won't be tackled at this point. The alley way is also owned by the Town and could be paved to allow deliveries and parking to the Howey Market and Dr. Office. **Councilor Mabry** asked if this was included in the price. **Public Services Director Ernest** said that the pocket park is included but not the alley way. However he did have a quote for the alley way.

**Councilor Mabry** said that it needs to get done. He then asked if the width of the parking spaces were going to stay the same size. **Public Services Director Ernest** said that they will be the standard nine foot spaces.

**Councilor Mabry** asked if the price for mobilization was normal. **Public Services Director Ernest** replied that it is a certain percentage of the job price.

**Mayor Sears** asked the Town Council if they wanted to put it out for bid or if they wanted to piggy back off another municipality.

**Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel** asked if this price is still good. **Public Services Director Ernest** replied that it was two weeks old.

**Mayor Sears** said that there was \$106,000 budgeted over the last two years for paving but wasn't used.

**Councilor Mabry** said that the Town would have to gap the \$20,000 difference but agreed to have it come before the Town Council as another Agenda item.

**Mayor Sears** said that the Town is already paying for the mobilization so you can get as much paved as you would like since they are already here.

**Councilor Conroy** asked if before the alley way was paved could a sewer line be placed in the ground. **Mayor Sears** said that he would talk to Rob Ern but was told before that it wasn't a good idea.

**Councilor Mabry** asked how long it would take to complete. **Public Services Director Ernest** replied about a month.

**Public Services Director Ernest** said that the Town would go through a major interruption and would need all staff personnel to cooperate as well as talk to Dr. Clark's office about parking on the empty lot next to them. **Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel** said that with proper signage it can be done.

**Mayor Sears** said that it would be on the next Agenda.

## MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

**Councilor Mabry** asked when the street lights would be changed to Light Emitting Diode (LED). **Councilor Scott** replied that it would be in April latest May of 2018.

**Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel** asked when the light fixtures would be changed. **Mayor Sears** said that they were going to change the bulbs first and then worry about the fixtures. **Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel** said that there are some period lighting fixtures in the villages that were nice.

**Councilor Conroy** asked when the hydrilla in the lake would be sprayed. **Public Services Director Ernest** replied March 19, 2018. **Councilor Conroy** said that at the MPO Meeting they were informed that five miles of the Wekiva Parkway will be opening on March 31, 2018. The five miles stretch will be from State Road 46 to County Road 435.

**Councilor Scott-No comment**

**Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel-No Comment**

**Mayor Sears-No Comment**

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

**Marie Gallelli, 1104 N Tangerine Ave**, asked if there were three seats opening on the Town Council. **Mayor Sears** replied yes. **Marie Gallelli** said that she would like to see the candidates have a forum at the park or maybe another place to talk about their platform. **Councilor Mabry** asked when they have to declare they are running. **Town Clerk Burke** replied that she was going to Supervisor of Elections on March 19, 2018 to gather all that information.

**Kathleen Ormsbee, 301 N Lakeshore Blvd**, said that when hiring a landscape architect she got in contact with St. Johns Water Management Authority, Lake County Water Management Authority and the Agriculture Center and was able to get a Landscape Architect for free. As far as the landscape that the Garden Club funded around Town Hall and The Police Department they would like it to remain as is.

**Peter Tuite, 300 E Croton Way**, asked if the Town wanted to repave Central Ave. **Mayor Sears** said that Lake County owns the road and that the proposal is to repave the parking lots on each side of the road. **Peter Tuite** asked if it would all be ripped back up to put in the sewer lines. **Mayor Sears** replied that the sewer lines would be placed down the middle of the road.

**Jo-Jo Lowe, 139 E Central Ave**, said that there is a lot of events happening at the Library this year and doesn't want to see it put off until next year as Mayor Sears stated. **Mayor Sears** said that he was talking about next budget year as it wasn't budgeted this year. However the Town Council could do a budget amendment this year if that's what they wanted to do.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Chris Sears, Mayor

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Dairian Burke  
Town Clerk