

MINUTES OF THE HOWEY IN THE HILLS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD FEBRUARY 26, 2018

Mayor Sears called the Work Session to order at 5:45 p.m.

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

Absent: Councilor Conroy, Excused.

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

PRESENTATION

Howey Men's Club

Rodger Burgoyne, President, gave background on the different events the Howey Men's Club was involved in or were planning. They said that on March 06, 2018 they were hosting a special presentation on manatees at Mission Inn. They also mentioned going to the emergency center in April. They said that anyone interested in joining should email howeymensclub34737@gmail.com

Greg Taffel, Vice President, said that the group was going to a Tampa Bay Rays baseball game and other social outings. He said that they would love to be more involved in the Town. The membership fee is \$20.00 a year. He said he wished every Town Council Member would join.

Mayor Sears adjourned the Work Session at 6:05 p.m.

Mayor Sears called the Town Council Meeting of February 26, 2018 to order at 6:05 p.m.

Mayor Sears led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Sears led the Invocation.

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

Absent: Councilor Conroy, Excused

Also Present: Chief Thomas, Library Director Hall and Town Clerk Burke

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 12, 2018 Town Council Meeting.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration and Approval of Budget Amendment 2017/2018-003 for the sidewalk in front of the Police Department.

Sal Gallelli, 1104 N Tangerine Ave, asked if Chief Thomas got bids for the work to be done on the sidewalk. **Chief Thomas** replied that according to the Town's purchasing policy under \$5,000.00 you don't have to get bids.

Councilor Mabry seconded by, **Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel** moved to approve Budget Amendment 2017/2018-003 for the sidewalk in front of the Police Department. Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.

Discussion: Annexation of property (Councilor Scott)

Councilor Scott said that there is a Groveland sign at Dewey Robbins.

Councilor Mabry said that he had a resident ask if they still lived in Howey.

Mayor Sears said that Groveland has gone as far as they can go.

Councilor Scott said that he has a handout that was passed to all Town Council Members. This is where he would like to see the Town expand too.

Mayor Sears read aloud the handout. The Town's possible expansion west on Number Two Road to Blue Sink; North on State Road 19 to Hickory Point; Buck Hill Road to North Palm Ave; North Palm Ave to Revels Road; State Road 19 south to East Dewey Robbins. Then west on County Road 48 to Yalaha cut off Road. He asked what the benefit is of annexing all that property was. **Councilor Scott** said that in the future we could have more ad valorem taxes.

Mayor Sears said that to annex property there is a cost involved and that takes time.

Chief Thomas said that all the other roads Councilor Scott talked about would be annexing through the County. The only one that would have to go through the State is the road right of way on State Road 19. In 2015 he proposed taking over the Howey Bridge and getting paid as they run all the calls on the bridge anyways. **Mayor Sears** asked how the Town gets paid. **Chief Thomas** replied from the citation.

Chief Thomas said that they have to wait for Florida Highway Patrol to arrive. Which is anywhere from thirty minutes to over two hours. If they had jurisdiction they could clear the bridge in thirty minutes.

Councilor Mabry said that he understands wanting the jurisdiction since the police officers are already working the incident.

Mayor Sears said that he would like to get a plan together and asked how the Town Council would like to proceed.

Chief Thomas said that he thinks the Town should work on the State right of way since it is a timely process. Then take Buckhill to Palm Avenue due to Whispering Hills Subdivision coming in.

Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel said that the first step is to see how much it will cost to annex in the property.

Mayor Sears said ok he will get with Town Attorney Ramos.

BOARD REPORTS

Library Board Minutes-No comment

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Report & Minutes-No comment

Planning & Zoning Board Minutes- No Comment

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Code Enforcement/Police Department Report

Chief Thomas said that they are busy between fences, sheds and trees.

Finance Report

Town Clerk Burke said that she will send out the report on Wednesday, February 28, 2018.

Impact Fee Balance

Councilor Mabry asked how many homes are being built or are approximately built. **Town Clerk Burke** replied 80 homes.

Library Director Report

Library Director Hall said that that the Library was going to do another artist meet and greet. The Library has 25 homeschoolers now and that everything is great.

Public Services Report (Included in Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel's Minutes)

Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel said that it was mostly all good news. The only bad news is that a builder owes some money on water bills.

Town Hall Report

Councilor Scott asked where we were at regarding getting the new Town Website. **Town Clerk Burke** replied that the administration for the Website will be meeting on March 15, 2018.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Sears-No Comment

Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel said that he sent Town Clerk Burke an email regarding a website designer since he was unaware of where we were in the process.

Councilor Scott-No Comment

Councilor Mabry-No Comment

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sal Gallelli, 1104 N Tangerine Ave, said that he agrees with Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel regarding finding out the cost of annexing property. He wanted to know if writing a citation was a negative or positive thing for the Police Department. He then said that he was confused on how many homes were actually being built in Venezia since Councilor Scott said 140 and our Town Clerk said 80. **Mayor Sears** said that there are probably a few different numbers some are under construction, occupied, or permits have only been pulled. **Chief Thomas** said that his officers go to court regarding a written citation. He then said that the benefit may not always be in favor of the Town as the State and Judge impose the fees. He said that he does his best to balance the check book.

Marie Gallelli, 1104 N Tangerine Ave, asked if a resident had to use the Town Building Official. **Mayor Sears** replied no that you can use any other inspector. She then asked if his contract was up. **Mayor Sears** said that in September 2017 it came before the Town Council and the Town Council chose to continue his contract. She then asked what the status was regarding the Special Magistrate. **Mayor Sears** said that it is on his to do list.

Cynthia Smith, 308 N Palm Ave, wanted Mayor Sears to bring the residents up to date regarding the Library landscape. **Mayor Sears** said he met with the party who is interested in the Florida Native Plants and discussed that he would like to bring in a Landscape Architect to come up with a professional design for the front of the Library. He would then meet with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to discuss what the Landscape Architect has proposed and move forward from there. Mrs. Smith commended Mayor Sears for trying to bring the two parties together. She said that the ladies on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board do a spectacular job. That she wished their opinion was respected more and that Town needs to protect our volunteers.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Chris Sears, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dairian Burke
Town Clerk