

**Minutes of the Howey-in-the-Hills Town Council Meeting
Held December 13, 2010**

Mayor Sears called the Town Council Meeting of December 13, 2010 to order at 6:00 p.m.

Cub Scout Troop No. 254 led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Councilor Hall led the Invocation.

Present: Mayor Sears, Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel, Councilor Ernest, Councilor Richardson, Councilor Hall, Town Attorney Blom-Ramos and Town Clerk Brasher.

Absent: None

CONSENT AGENDA-*Only one motion is needed to approve the Consent Agenda Minutes of the Town Council Work Session Held September 27, 2010 and August 25, 2010.*

Councilor Ernest, seconded by Councilor Richardson, moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Bid Opening for Water Treatment Plant Expansion

Town Engineer Shira presented the Bid Opening Spread Sheet and said 13 bids were received but the bids came in higher than anticipated. The State Revolving Fund loan (SRF) is for \$1.7 million with the low bid came in at 2.3 million. The Town has some decisions to make such as smaller storage tank, retrofit existing building for high service pumps and reduce or eliminate building. A lengthy discussion ensued. **Mayor Sears** suggested reducing to a 250,000 storage tank for current use as future growth will be required to pay their fair share and the metal building previously discussed may not be an option.

No action was taken on this item.

Consideration of Land Development Regulations Re-Write Proposal from B&H Consultants, Inc. in the Amount of \$27,585 Plus Reimbursable Costs, Including but not Limited to Copying Costs, Materials, Postage and Mileage

Mayor Sears gave detailed background on this item and said the Town needs to move forward with the re-write. **Town Planner Shira** gave background on this item and said the re-write had been put on hold due to the Comprehensive Plan re-write, which has been found to be in compliance. Discussion ensued. **Mayor Sears** proposed bringing this back and decide where to take the money from, suggesting paying for ½ this year and ½ next budget year and to have this complete by December 2011.

Work Authorization No. 11, Traffic Engineering Services Agreement from Neel-Schaffer to Attend MPO Meetings for 2011 in the Amount of \$2,240

Traffic Engineer Watanabe gave background. Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel thanked Traffic Engineer Watanabe for his attendance at the MPO meetings. Mayor Sears suggested using funds from contingency or from paving. He also said when Lakeshore Boulevard is being paved; the Town may want to have a road or two at that time to pave money.

Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel, seconded by Councilor Richardson moved to approve the Traffic Engineering Services Agreement, Work Authorization No. 11 by Neel-Schaffer for 2011 MPO meetings in the amount of \$2,240 with funds to come from the Transportation Account which will reduce paving by \$2,240. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

Little Lake Harris Pre-Construction Meeting and Bridge Closure Update

Traffic Engineer Watanabe gave a detailed update on the bridge work and said he will make sure the State of Florida stays in contact with the Town with regards to this project.

Consideration and Approval of Three Appointments to Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Applicants are Judy Pearce, Pat Miller and Katonya Yochum
Chairman Gainer introduced the applicants and each applicant gave their background.

Councilor Ernest, seconded by Councilor Richardson, moved to appoint Judy Pearce, Pat Miller and Katonya Yochum to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

Councilor Richardson said this is a powerful and energized board and thanked them for their contribution to the Town.

Discussion: Division of Forestry Tree Grant

Chairman Gainer said the Town needs to move quickly on this item and the citizens concerns with planting. Councilor Richardson presented a new contact with Legacy Scapes. He said this will get them under contract and with using \$4,000 for pruning. He suggested that the location of the planting go back to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee for placement. Chairman Gainer said the Town will lose more trees when development occurs. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Pat Miller asked if the plan can be changed once the proposal is approved. Councilor Richardson said only the location of the trees.

Councilor Hall, seconded by Councilor Richardson, moved to approve the proposal form Legacy Scapes subject to legal counsel review of the Code of Ordinances, re: bidding. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

It was the consensus of the Town Council to appoint Councilor Richardson as the liaison to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.

Reappointment of Richard Llewellyn to the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization for a term ending December 31, 2012

Councilor Ernest, seconded by Councilor Richardson, moved to appoint Richard Llewellyn to the MPO Citizens Advisory Committee. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

Appointment to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee of the Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization for a term ending December 31, 2012
Town Clerk Brasher said there are no applications on file for this opening and the opening is posted on the website. Discussion ensued. **No action taken on this item.**

Resolution 2010-020 Amending Cemetery Fees

Town Attorney Blom-Ramos read by title, Resolution 2010-020, Amending Cemetery Fees.

Councilor Hall, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel, moved to adopt Resolution 2010-020, Amending Cemetery Fees. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

Consideration and Approval of Taylor Memorial Cemetery Certificate of Interment Right Buy-Back from Earl & Carolyn Tracey in the Amount of \$330
Town Clerk Brasher gave background on this item.

Councilor Ernest, seconded by Councilor Hall, moved to approve the cemetery interment right buy-back for Earl & Carolyn Tracy in the amount of \$330. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

Discussion: Christmas Eve Employee Holiday

Mayor Sears gave background on this item and said he feels the Town should be closed on Friday only. A lengthy discussion ensued. **Councilor Hall** said typically municipalities would close ½ day on Thursday and all day on Friday.

Councilor Hall, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel, moved to close at noon on December 23 and all day on Friday, December 24. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

Discussion: Recycling Workshop by Veolia Environmental Services on January 5, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall

Town Clerk Brasher announced that Veolia in conjunction with the Town will be holding a Recycling Work Shop at Town Hall on Wednesday, January 5 at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Sears said the Town needs to do a better job of recycling and the State mandates are getting stricter.

Parks & Recreation Chairman Gainer said Lake County is at a 30% recycling rate and Veolia is trying to step up with recycling as Lake County no longer has a Public Education Specialist. Public education is the key and we need to get the word out. She further stated the tonnage is going up for the paper dumpster behind the Police Department. Discussion ensued.

Finance Report –No questions

Town Attorney Blom-Ramos said an indemnification clause needs to be added to the Legacy Scapes contract and she will email that to Town Hall tomorrow.

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Sears

1. Interlocal Service Boundary Agreement (ISBA) Meeting with Groveland at October 20 and discussed wastewater. He will be meeting with Tavares and Leesburg to request a letter for the CUP.
2. Public Works cleaned out the storage room and moved the items into the POD.
3. The Library met with an architect and a recommendation will come back to the Town Council. Gave background on the remodel of the Library.
4. Thanked everyone for their hard work on the Christmas Festival including the Police Department, Public Works, Town Hall, Katonya and Councilor Ernest.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Ernest

1. Said the Town needs to obtain the port-o-let at the park from Veolia.
2. Said he will try to get the Howey Tribune out every month.
3. Said the power panel at the boat dock needs to be fenced with a gate and additional recessed outlets are needed on each side of the curb. He further stated additional ampage is needed at the gazebo as the breakers continue to blow.
4. Thanked Public Works, Police Department, Katonya and the Community Church for their work on the Christmas Festival.
5. Would like more involvement from the Council next year.

Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel

1. Gave update on the proposed four (4) lanes through the Town and a traffic analysis will be done. **Mayor Sears** said he met with Town Planner Shira and F.D.O.T. and the four (4) lanes are still on the plans but the Town's Comprehensive Plan shows the two (2) lanes through Town. Discussion ensued.

Councilor Hall

1. Said he will fulfill his campaign promises and the citizens want more Town get togethers such as a chili cook-off and he suggested something in February or March.

Councilor Richardson-None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Nebel congratulated Councilor Hall and Councilor Richardson. He handed out copy of the current LDR's and read into record Article IV-15, Section 1-4.2A-2(c) of the LDR's and said "The Reserves" is dead. The Planned Unit Development (PUD) has gone away and they will have to submit new plans.

Katonya Yochum said the "Party in the Park" was a success and thanked Town Clerk Brasher for her assistance that evening and suggested the Town hold a Memorial Day Picnic.

Mayor Sears suggested an ice cream social and asked what is holding people back from participating in Town functions. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Sears said he and the Town Council has to do a better job of communicating.

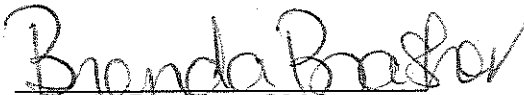
Parks & Recreation Chairman Gainer said communication is the key and using email would be beneficial. She suggested the Town get a Face Book page.

ADJOURNMENT AT 8:06 P.M.



Chris Sears, Mayor

ATTEST:



Brenda Brasher, CMC
Town Clerk