

MINUTES OF THE HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD JULY 11, 2011

Mayor Sears called the Town Council Meeting of July 11, 2011 to order at 6:00 p.m.

Cub Scout Pack 254 and Boy Scout Troop 254 led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Councilor Ernest led the Invocation.

Present: Mayor Sears, Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel, Councilor Ernest, Councilor Richardson, Town Attorney Blom-Ramos, Library Director Merchant, Police Chief Robbins, Public Works Director Padgett, Administrator of Financial Services Monday-Bolte and Town Clerk Brasher.

Absent: Councilor Hall (excused)

PRESENTATIONS

Veterans Memorial at Fountain Park, Inc.

Donald Van Beck gave a detailed presentation on the Veterans Memorial. He referenced the handouts and the memorial has room for 30,000 engraved names. The memorial is located behind Leesburg City Hall and the dedication is November 13th at 2:00 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA – Only one motion is needed to approve the Consent Agenda
Minutes of the June 13, 2011 Town Council Meeting**

**Councilor Ernest, seconded by Councilor Richardson, moved to approve the
Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.**

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration and Approval of Parks & Recreation Board Applicant Cory Cloud

**Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel, seconded Councilor Richardson, moved to approve the Parks
& Recreation Board Applicant Cory Cloud. Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.**

**Consideration and Approval of Delinquent Account Write-Offs in the Amount of
\$2,142.85**

Town Clerk Brasher gave background on this item and asked for this item to be tabled until she has an opportunity to meet with a collection agency.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel, seconded by Councilor Richardson, moved to table this item
until a later date. Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.**

**Consideration and Approval of Interlocal Agreement Between Lake County
and the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills Relating to the Provision of Library
Services**

Library Director Merchant noted this agreement is for two years and gave detailed

background. **Mayor Sears** gave detailed background on this item, specifically page 10.

Councilor Ernest, seconded by Councilor Richardson, moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement between Lake County and the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills Relating to the Provision of Library Services. Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.

Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel said these past few years the Town has had to budget \$60,000+ for the Library and she is not comfortable approving this item due to the fact that the Police Department may have to be cut. **Mayor Sears** said the \$116,000 is restricted funds for the Library renovations. He further stated the Town contributes \$20,000+. **Library Director Merchant** advised the Town Council that the Town contributes \$40,000. **Councilor Richardson** asked Library Director Merchant about the "contingent" wording in the Staff Report. **Library Director Merchant** said the funding is always contingent.

Appointment to Florida League of Citities Legislative Committees

Mayor Sears gave background on this item. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel, seconded by Councilor Ernest, moved to not appoint an elected official to the Florida League of Cities Legislative Committees. Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.

Consideration and Approval of Proposed Budget Dates

Councilor Richardson, seconded by Councilor Ernest, moved to approve the proposed budget dates with one change noted. Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.

PUBLIC HEARING -None

OLD BUSINESS

Designation of One (1) Elected Official to Cast Their Vote at the Florida League of Cities Annual Conference, Saturday, August 13 at the World Marriott in Orlando

Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel said she would be available to vote that day.

Councilor Richardson, seconded by Councilor Ernest, moved to nominate Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel as the elected official to represent Howey-in-the-Hills. Motion carried 4-0 with a roll call vote.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel- None

Councilor Ernest

1. At the intersection of W. Cypress and Palm Ave there is a communication cable and something needs to be done with it. **Police Chief Robbins** said he will cut it off. Discussion ensued.
2. Asked about the status of the Lakeshore Blvd. project. **Mayor Sears** said the

survey has been submitted to Lake County but the project has not been put out for bid. Discussion ensued.

Councilor Richardson

1. Said he would like to have the Triangle Newspaper contacted to no longer deliver in Town. **Police Chief Robbins** said he does not think the Town can stop delivery of a newspaper.

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Sears

1. Gave update on SRF loan.
2. **Police Chief Robbins** said the road right-of-way are not being mowed and he would like to see the Town can put out a letter to the residents. **Town Attorney Blom-Ramos** said there may be an ordinance available to require residents to maintain the road right-of-way in front of their homes.
3. He said the Town will have approximately \$96,000 less tax revenue than last year and he will present three or four budget scenarios. Cuts have been made over the past several years and there isn't a lot to cut. If the Town Council's wishes is to raise the millage rate, that is the option of the Council.
4. Said he and Library Director Merchant will be meeting with the architect on Thursday regarding the library renovations.
5. Announced the Town Council and Planning & Zoning Commission Joint Work Session tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the Bouis Coleman-Cline property.
6. He said he received an email from Ms. Zona's son and asked if the Town Council has interest in obtaining the mansion. Discussion ensued. He further stated since the Town has a doom and gloom budget, the Town does not have the funds. **Councilor Ernest** said the budget to bring it to code is approximately \$1.9 million.

PUBLIC COMMENTS-None

ADJOURNMENT AT 7:00 P.M.



Mayor Sears

ATTEST:



**Brenda Brasher, CMC
Town Clerk**