

**MINUTES OF THE HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD SEPTEMBER 12, 2011**

Mayor Sears called the Town Council Meeting of September 12, 2011 to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Councilor Ernest led the invocation

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

CONSENT AGENDA – Only one motion is needed to approve the Consent Agenda Minutes of the Town Council Budget Work Sessions held August 3 and August 4 2011, Town Council meeting held August 8, 2011 and the Town Council Work Session held August 22, 2011.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion: Professional Services Proposal from B & H Consultants, Inc. for Renderings for Possible Downtown Streetscape Improvements in the amount of \$2,650.00

Mayor Sears stated that he had been talking with Town Planner Shira about bringing some beautification and accent improvements to the downtown area. He suggested that the funds come from the 2010-2011 budget year funds which has a remaining balance of \$20,308.00. **Town Planner Shira** stated to Council that these are just renderings, which would include a gateway structure on Central Avenue just off Palm Avenue headed toward the lake, signage to the government building locations and possible commercial locations in the future, landscaping and possible decorative hardscaping. This would be five (5) renderings including hand drawings and computer generated drawings.

Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel stated that before voting on the millage rate it was difficult for her to vote for extraneous items.

Councilor Richardson, seconded by Councilor Hall, moved to approve the expenditure of funds for renderings of the downtown area. Motion carried 4 to 1 with a roll call vote with Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel voting against.

Discussion: Roundabout at CR 48 and SR 19

Town Planner Shira spoke of a Development Review Committee (DRC) meeting that included Bouis-Cline developer representatives. The developer representative had heard that there was going to be a possible round about. Town Planner Shira said she and Mayor Sears had a meeting with FDOT and their operations members stated it is their feeling that the plans look like it work. The FDOT study will end at the intersection and will not continue through the downtown area. **Town Planner Shira** also stated that FDOT informed them that there was money available for the replacement of the current

two lane bridge. There is new information that there is money for the replacement of the two lane bridge and not a four lane bridge. She further stated that it is critical that the Town become involved with FDOT, the County and the MPO to determine the best solution for that intersection. The Town needs to be concerned with the well that is on right of way as it may need to be relocated and come up with alternatives that work for the Town. She reiterated that the Town needs to be involved in all of the meetings regarding this intersection.

Greg Beliveau, representing the Bouis-Cline developers stated they are against a roundabout at that intersection as it greatly decreases the visibility. He also expressed that with the number of semi trucks and sand trucks that go through that intersection will make it very dangerous and they support of a full traffic signal.

Consideration and Approval of Preliminary Architectural Design for Library Expansion

Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel asked about the suggestion of the board about the signage for the building only saying "Library". **Library Director Merchant** explained that the current plans call for the sign to read "Howey Library" but the Library Board does not feel it necessary to include "Howey" on the signage. **Councilor Ernest** stated and **Library Director Merchant** confirmed that this does not include scope of work that will come if Council approves the current designs.

Councilor Ernest, seconded by Councilor Richardson, moved to approve the preliminary architectural design. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

Consideration and Approval of Second Addendum to Interlocal Agreement Between Lake County, Florida and the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills for Lakeshore Blvd. and East Revels Road Project.

Councilor Hall, seconded by Councilor Ernest moved to approve the Second Addendum to Interlocal Agreement between Lake County, Florida and the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

Discussion: Purchase of One (1) Line Locate Wand and Approximately 88 Radio Read Registers Not to Exceed \$12,999.000

Public Works Director Padgett expressed that Public Works is in need of a line locate wand for ease of locating buried lines and that the funds not used for the purchase of a new vehicle this year could be used to fund this. **Councilor Richardson**, asked for detail as to how this would help with reducing labor costs and decrease expenses.

Public Works Director Padgett, stated that it can take numerous hours to locate lines. **Mayor Sears** said he was in favor of purchasing a line locate wand, that he was in favor of expensing the funds from the transportation (541000-650) and Public Works (539000-650) but is against spending funds from the Utility (401-533000-650) department as the Town Utility fund will need every bit of money that it can conserve for the upcoming Water Plant.

Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel, seconded by Councilor Hall, moved to approve the Purchase of One (1) Line Locate Wand and approximately 44-47 Radio Read Registers without using the funds from the Utility Fund. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

Consideration and Approval of Piggy-Backing on Pasco County NCSPlus Cash Recovery System.

Mayor Sears spoke about the staff report that was prepared by **Town Clerk Brasher** about working with this collection agency in order to collect past due utility accounts. **Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel** stated that she is concerned that this collection agency gets to pick and choose which accounts they try to collect on. **Councilor Ernest** was concerned about the 10% fixed fee. **Town Attorney Blom-Ramos** suggested that the Town get a contract to review before further decisions.

Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel, seconded by Councilor Hall, motioned to table this until further information can be provided. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

PUBLIC HEARING

Resolution 2011-006, Relating to the State Revolving Fund Loan Program

Mayor Sears stated that the Town has finally been approved for the loan for the Water Plant Expansion. Discussion ensued about the Water Treatment Plant Expansion and the timeline associated with the bidding process.

Town Attorney Blom-Ramos read by title only, Resolution 2011-0069.

The Public Hearing was opened. As no one wished to speak, the Public Hearing was closed.

Councilor Hall, seconded by Councilor Ernest, moved to approve Resolution 2011-006, A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Howey in the Hills Relating to the State Revolving Fund Loan Program. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

First Reading of Ordinance 2011-003, Pertaining to the Maintenance of Right-of-Way; Revising Chapter 127 of the Town's Code of Ordinances Entitled "Property Maintenance" to Require Property Owners to Maintain the Right-of-Way Located Between Property Owners' Property and the Street; Providing for Codification; Repealing All Conflicting Ordinances or Resolutions; Providing for Severability; Providing an Effective Date.

Mayor Sears spoke to council to remind them of the council decision to ask residents to maintain the right of way at the resident location. **Town Attorney Blom-Ramos** noted that she added a line to Chapter 127 to allow the Mayor to send out a notice to Abate.

Town Attorney Blom-Ramos read by title only, Ordinance 2011-003.

The Public Hearing was opened. As no one wished to speak, the Public Hearing was closed.

Councilor Richardson, seconded my Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel, moved to approve Ordinance 2011-003. Motion carried 5-0 with a roll call vote.

OLD BUSINESS – NONE

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Ernest stated that the right side of the Town Hall building landscaping looked rough. **Mayor Sears** stated that he talked to Public Works employees about adding knock out roses to that area. **Mayor Pro-Tem Nebel** stated that the Garden Club spent a large amount of money to make the area easy to upkeep and questioned why we couldn't just replace the mulch. **Deputy Public Works Director Smith** stated that replacing the mulch will not work as there needs to be an edging around the bed areas as they are high and the mulch will run off the beds as soon as there is a rain. **Councilor Richardson** stated that he would get with the Public Works department to see what will work in that area and was given permission to go ahead with what is decided.

Councilor Richardson asked if there was going to be any updates from Public Works at this meeting. He expressed that he would like to hear at every meeting as to what Public Works is doing. **Public Works Director Padgett** stated that his reports are supposed to come to Council at the last meeting of the month. **Councilor Richardson** stated that he would like to be updated at every meeting by Public Works Director Padgett. **Councilor Richardson** stated that he wants to be updated or will be very disappointed.

Councilor Hall stated that since fall is arriving he would like to continue with the Lake Illinois clean-up project. He is hoping to obtain pricing for spraying the weeds and growth in the area. He is seeking the permission slip from DEP to allow us to do the clean-up in that area.

MAYOR REPORT - None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

ADJOURNMENT AT 7:40 PM



Chris Sears, Mayor

ATTEST:



Brenda Brasher, CMC
Town Clerk