

MINUTES OF THE HOWEY IN THE HILLS TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AUGUST 10, 2020

Mayor MacFarlane called the Town Council Meeting of August 10, 2020 to order at 6:00p.m.

Mayor MacFarlane led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and moment of silence.

CONSENT AGENDA

The approval of the minutes and ratification and confirmation of all Town Council actions at the July 27, 2020 Town Council Meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy seconded by, Councilor Nebel moved to approve the July 27, 2020 Town Council meeting minutes. Motion passed 3-1 with a roll call vote (Councilor McGill voting no).

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Town Council Seat 5.

Mayor MacFarlane reviewed the appointment for Seat 5 to replace Councilor Scott. Each candidate was given an opportunity to speak about themselves.

- a. Marie Gallelli
- b. Tommy Krueger
- c. Rick Klein
- d. Suong Miles
- e. Jimmy Hobby
- f. George Lehning
- g. Liam Wagler
- h. Walter Schaub

Mayor MacFarlane and **Attorney Wilkes** explained the requirements for the process of selecting the replacement.

Councilor McGill questioned if any of the candidates lived in Venezia. He believes the candidate selected should be someone from Venezia.

Councilor Nebel commented any candidate that lives in the town is eligible and does not believe special treatment should be given to certain zones.

Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy commented on the number of candidates and encouraged all to consider running for the upcoming Town Council seats.

Mayor MacFarlane echoed Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy's comments and is pleased with the number of candidates.

First Round:

Mayor Pro Tem Conroy – Rick Klein
Councilor Nebel – Rick Klein
Councilor McGill – Jimmy Hobby
Mayor MacFarlane – Marie Gallelli

Second Round:

Mayor Pro Tem Conroy – Marie Gallelli
Councilor Nebel – Rick Klein
Councilor McGill – Jimmy Hobby
Mayor MacFarlane – Marie Gallelli

Due to lack of majority for any candidate it was determined to move the consideration to appoint the Seat 5 council member to the August 24, 2020 Town Council meeting.

Consideration and Approval: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA, PERTAINING TO THE COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE AND TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS; REVISING THE COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO THE MAYOR, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE AND COUNCILORS IN SECTION 42-10 OF THE TOWN'S CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilor McGill suggested donating the entire salary and become volunteers. Attorney Wilkes agreed any council member could donate their salaries or volunteer. Councilor McGill suggested pushing the vote to the next meeting and researching more on the voting requirements for this topic.

Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy believed the vote should be held during this meeting and not delayed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Sal Gallelli, 1104 North Tangerine believes there should be a reduction in the salaries.

Bernie Alimenti, shared 25-1 in the Town Charter regarding ordinances.

Mr. Lewellen, 508 Bellissimo asked if the savings of the salaries would be passed on to the citizens.

Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy *seconded by, Councilor Nebel* *moved to approve the ordinance regarding reduction of compensation. Motion passed 3-1 with a roll call vote (Councilor McGill voting no).*

Consideration and Approval: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA, PERTAINING TO THE TOWN'S PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE MASTER PLAN; AMENDING THE TOWN'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; AMENDING THE TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT IN CHAPTER 2 OF THE TOWN'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BY AMENDING CERTAIN POLICIES IN GOAL 1 SECTION G ENTITLED "GOALS, OBJECTIVE AND IMPLEMENTING POLICIES", SPECIFICALLY, AMENDING POLICY 1.1.4 OF OBJECTIVE 1.1 TO ADOPT THE TOWN'S SIDEWALK AND BICYCLE TRAIL MAPS; AMENDING POLICY 1.5.1 OF OBJECTIVE 1.5 DEMONSTRATING COMPLETION OF THE POLICY; ADOPTING A NEW POLICY 1.5.1 TO OBJECTIVE 1.5 TO LINK THE SIDEWALK AND BICYCLE TRAIL MAPS TO THE PLAN'S IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS; AMENDING POLICY 1.5.2 OF OBJECTIVE 1.5 TO COORDINATE WITH LAKE COUNTY ON IMPLEMENTING THE LAKE COUNTY TRAILS MASTER PLAN; DELETING POLICY 1.5.7 OF OBJECTIVE 1.5 AS A DUPLICATE POLICY AND ADOPTING A NEW POLICY 1.5.7 TO BE CALLED THE "INFILL DEVELOPMENT SIDEWALK POLICY"; AMENDING SUBSECTION 6 OF SECTION D ENTITLED "ANALYSIS OF EXISTING TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM" TO PROVIDE UPDATED INFORMATION ON THE CURRENT SIDEWALK AND BICYCLE FACILITIES; ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION 6 TO SECTION 8.02.09.C OF THE TOWN'S LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE TO ESTABLISH THE POLICY FOR THE TREATMENT OF INFILL DEVELOPMENTS; AUTHORIZING TRANSMITTAL; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING ORDINANCES, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Planner Harowski gave background on the topic and reviewed the requirements and processes.

Mayor MacFarlane explained this was information received in April and nothing had changed from the first reading of the amendment.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Sal Gallelli, 1104 North Tangerine questioned how the residents in Venezia will use this walkway.

Jamie Troyer, 224 Messina asked if there was a map that could be seen.

Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy seconded by, Councilor McGill moved to approve the ordinance of the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida, pertaining to the Town's pedestrian and bicycle master plan. Motion passed 4-0 with a roll call vote.

POINT OF ORDER to return to the first item listed as new business on the agenda: Appointment of Town Council Seat 5.

Councilor Nebel asked to revisit this topic and clarified his earlier question. He wanted to change his vote from Rick Klein to Marie Gallelli to move on with the reappointment rather than delay until the next meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Lewellen, 508 Bellissimodid not feel past experience or service on boards should qualify any candidate.

Rick Klein, 701 North Lakeshore Blvd believes Mrs. Gallelli is well-qualified and is in agreement with the choice.

*Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy seconded by, **Councilor Nebel** moved to go back to Number 2 on the agenda for a vote. Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy – Marie Gallelli; Councilor Nebel – Marie Gallelli; Councilor McGill – Jimmie Hobby; Mayor MacFarlane – Marie Gallelli. Appointment of Marie Gallelli passed with a majority vote.*

Mayor MacFarlane administered the Town Council member Oath of Office.

Discussion: Beasley Construction contract as a back-up service provider for our utility infrastructure.

Mayor MacFarlane provided the background and shared the need for a backup provider and engineering.

OLD BUSINESS

None

REPORTS

Town Hall – Mayor MacFarlane provided updates about the continued work on the utility billing records. She also commented on interviews for a new Town Clerk and progress being made.

Finance – working on the budget.

Police Department – Chief Thomas shared an update about FDOT regarding the golf cart crossing. He also provided an update about receiving information from FDOT and Duke Energy about lighting the intersection at Number Two Road and SR 19.

Public Services – continuing to work on infrastructure.

Code Enforcement – no report.

Library – Fran Wagler shared we are two weeks out from receiving the certificate of occupancy. She also provided an update on the Summer Reading Program and the library reviews and social media posts.

Town Attorney – No comments.

Council Members:

Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy thanked all of the candidates that applied to fill in for Council Seat 5.

Councilor Nebel commented it was a very good meeting.

Councilor Gallelli thanked everyone and said she was looking forward to working with everyone to make the town even better.

Councilor McGill asked about code enforcement reports. He also asked if Department Heads are required to come to council meetings. He commented on the budget and lowering the milage rate. Last, he asked about the proclamation for the Recall election. **Attorney Wilkes** clarified a proclamation was not required. **Councilor McGill** mentioned his notice of claim filed against the town. He mentioned the Hummer that has been parked on SR 19 and his personal opinion. Discussion continued between the Town Council regarding Councilor McGill's opinion differing from Attorney Wilkes about the proclamation reading. **Attorney Wilkes** advised it would be best to move on with the meeting since it was not necessary.

Mayor MacFarlane discussed the budget and the work being performed toward lowering the milage rate. She discussed the large increase in legal fees due to the recent litigation. She also discussed the expense of roads and infrastructure. Spending needs to be scrutinized and being fiscally responsible.

CITIZEN COMMENTS


Mr. Lewellen, 508 Bellissimo wants everyone to look closely at the tax bill. He also commented on calling the police department and receiving the dispatch number. He also does not understand why there is a recall election.

Fran O'Keefe Wagler, 409 West Central discussed Lake and Sumter Style Magazine and that JoJo Lowe was nominated as one of the "best of the best volunteers" in Lake and Sumter County. She also shared about the Blanket Project that Emma Fox is working on to collect blankets for the homeless.

Jamie Troyer, 224 Messina Place is seeking clarification on the date of the upcoming budget meeting. She also questioned why all of the meeting minutes were not posted and how she could obtain them.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

ATTEST:



Chief H. R. Thomas


Martha MacFarlane, Mayor