



Minutes

Town Commission

Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Tuesday • February 9, 2016 • 7:30 pm

1. Call to Order: 7:30 pm
2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance to Flag
3. Roll Call:
Commissioners Attending:
 - Joseph Aufmuth On Sabbatical – Joined meeting via Skype
 - Michael Berkowitz, Mayor Pro-Tem Present
 - Virginia Mance, Mayor Present
 - Richard Shutterly Present
 - Mike Roberts Present

 - Debbie Gonano, Town Administrator Present
 - Stephen Lee, Town Attorney Available via telephone
 - Patty Polk, Deputy Town Clerk Present
4. Consent Agenda Approval:
 - A. Agenda Approval
 - B. Minutes of Regular Meeting January 12, 2016
 - C. Review & Acceptance of Financial Transactions & Reports
Motion made and seconded (Shutterly/Mance) to approve the consent agenda as submitted; passed 5-0
5. Guests: None
6. Citizen's Forum (public comments limited to 5 minutes per speaker, please)
 - A. Dede DesForges, Micanopy Fall Harvest Festival member, requests permission to allow fall festival vendors to camp at the ball park during the fall festival October 29 and 30, 2016.
Motion made and seconded (Mance/Shutterly) to allow 2016 fall festival vendors to camp at the ball park on Friday and Saturday night; passed 5-0
 - B. Julie Penrod-Glenn would like Mayor Pro-Tem Berkowitz to discuss the FDOT task force meeting during commissioner comments.
 - C. Ralph DisPagno would like an update on the tree in the middle of Easy St., which is on the agenda under unfinished business.
7. Citizen Board and Committee Reports:
 - A. Planning & Historic Preservation Board – Unavailable
 - B. Tree Committee – Karen Hill, Chair, discussed recent tree permits and approval or denial.
 - Harris permit on Tangerine St. was approved.
 - Nady permit on Livingston St. was denied – healthy sweet gum tree with no threats or issues.
 - Ward permit on Rally Ave. was approved – dying sycamore.

The Tree Committee had a meeting last week and covered several topics. The trees donated by Duke Energy have been planted with most of them at the Micanopy Native American Heritage Preserve (MNAHP). An Arbor Day celebration is planned for later this month, and Christine Steurer will discuss this. A brochure to be prepared for residents regarding trees was discussed. Mayor Mance commended the Tree Committee for all their time and effort with tree permits and the new Tree Ordinance.

(Interruption by Attorney Lee via telephone stating that he cannot hear and if we need his advice on any topics to call him to discuss; and he is sorry that he is not present.)

8. Town Attorney Report: Nothing to report
9. Town Administrator Report: Town Administrator presented.
 - A. FRWA GPS Mapping – Water Distribution System is in the process of being mapped by FRWA and it is going well.
 - B. Election Update March 8th (Seat 1: Aufmuth/Glenn and Seat 2: Berkowitz/Parker) – Absentee ballots will be sent out as soon as we have more information from the Supervisor of Elections.
 - C. Landscaping Contest *Intent to Compete* Due February 8th – We have five entries who have submitted their Intent to Compete.
 - D. Arbor Day Proclamation – Debbie Gonano read the proclamation and Christine Steurer stated that Arbor Day will be celebrated by planting a tree.
 - E. Micanopy Great American Cleanup – April 30th or April 2nd were offered as the dates to choose from. Discussion ensued. MACS school Fun Run is April 30th; so April 2nd was chosen as Cleanup Day.
10. New Business:
 - A. MACS Request for Removal of Covenants – Brenda Maynard, MACS Director, discussed that the Strobles Center was donated to the school with restrictions on the deed. Mrs. Maynard stated that the restriction factor on the deed has limited the school's loan capabilities. Jim Walkup discussed that for twenty years the school has been able to stand alone and would like to have the reverter clause changed or removed to make it possible for MACS to obtain a loan to pay for the remaining upgrades, including the cafetorium. The school is looking for a solution that will work for their loan agency and for the Town. Mr. Walkup questioned if the Town would consider changing the deed restrictions, and if so, the school will prepare a formal proposal.

Steve Elder, who was the Mayor at the time the property was donated to the school by the Town, would like to preserve the town's history regarding the Strobles Center. He would support the Commission reviewing the original donation paperwork, ensuring that the reverter clause was a safety measure designed to protect the town from losing the building and its history in the event of failure of the charter school. Stanley Strobles stated that the Strobles building is historic to Micanopy, as it had been the high school for blacks. When the building was donated to the school, the center was meant to be used during the week for school and was meant to be available on weekends for citizen functions; but the building hasn't been available for twenty years.

Commissioner Shutterly stated that he is looking out for Micanopy's interest and that the entire Commission is here to protect the town. Shutterly stated that he would like the Strobles Center to be available on weekends for citizen events, and he recommended that Town Attorney Lee be present for future discussions regarding the school. Layton Glenn stated that the school should come up with a proposal and present it to the Commission. Commissioner Roberts stated that the Strobles Center is an historic building originally intended to be used by citizens, but has not been available for citizen use for a long time. This school was never intended to grow to the extent that it has grown, and this Commission should protect the interests of the Town and not change what the original Commission had in mind when they put this restriction on the property. Shutterly suggested that Mrs. Gonano work with school officials and Attorney Lee to set up a date for a meeting and Mayor Mance will call the meeting.

11. Unfinished Business:
 - A. Easy Street Survey Estimates, Safety Issues, and Tree Removal – Mrs. Gonano presented estimates for a survey of the road from Lucky Ave to Hwy 441 and a picture of the tree. The picture of the tree was passed around the audience. The road survey estimates ranged from \$2500 - \$6185. Commissioner Shutterly expressed his opinion that this is not a specimen tree, and the tree is in the middle of the road. The fire department cannot get past the tree safely with their equipment, and they cannot take the time to access an emergency in that area from Hwy. 441.
Motion made and seconded (Roberts/Mance) to remove the tree;
Mike Campbell thought that the owner of the property and tree should be asked for permission for removal.
Amend above motion (Roberts/Mance) to ask the property owner if it's his tree and let him know that the tree has been approved for removal; passed 5-0
 - B. Draft Tree Ordinance & LDC Amendment – Discussion ensued. Mrs. Gonano to work with Attorney Lee on the changes proposed and will bring to the next meeting.

- C. Draft Ordinance – Municipal Park Rules – discussion ensued. Mrs. Gonano to make proposed changes discussed tonight and bring to the next meeting.
- D. Generator Installation – Engineered Drawing Cost Estimates – We are waiting on another estimate which may be more detailed, and Ms. Gonano will bring to the next meeting.

12. Town Commissioner Reports:

- Commissioner Joseph Aufmuth: Commissioner Aufmuth agreed with tonight’s Commission discussions. He was happy to hear previous Commissioners’ comments. It will be two degrees on Sunday and he is trying to stay warm.
- Commissioner Mike Berkowitz: FDOT task force meeting scheduled for March 3rd in Ocala at the Live Stock Pavilion, and he will keep us updated.
- Commissioner Mike Roberts: Would like to use the grant writer that the City of Hawthorne uses, they are getting a new water system. Mr. Fox is a very pro-active grant writer.
- Commissioner Richard Shutterly: To add to the discussion on grant writers, awarded grants and monies are related to the legislature. Representative Clovis Watson, who Commissioner Shutterly knows personally, has not supported Micanopy by fighting for the Town in Tallahassee, and Watson has not returned Shutterly’s phone calls. Commissioner Shutterly urged all present at the meeting to call Rep. Watson and invite him to meet with Micanopy. Commissioner Roberts answered that he and Rep. Watson had worked together as police officers; Roberts will call Rep. Watson and invite him to a meeting.

13. Mayor Virginia Mance Report: Nothing to report today and is thankful for our citizens’ participation tonight.

14. Adjourn: 9:45 pm

MINUTES APPROVED:

As submitted _____ as amended _____ at Town Commission Meeting _____

Virginia Mance, Mayor

Patty S. Polk, Recorder