



MICANOPY, SEMINOLE CHIEF

# Minutes

Town Commission  
Regularly Scheduled Meeting  
Tuesday • March 14, 2017 • 7:30 pm

1. Call to Order: 8:25 pm (following Canvassing Board Meeting)

2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance to Flag

3. Roll Call:

Commissioners Attending:

- Joseph Aufmuth, Mayor Pro-Tem Present
- Michael Berkowitz Present (Interim)
- Virginia Mance, Mayor Present
- Timothy Parker Present
- Mike Roberts Present
  
- Debbie Gonano, Town Administrator Present
- Stephen Lee, Town Attorney Present
- Patty Polk, Deputy Town Clerk Present

4. Consent Agenda Approval:

- A. Agenda Approval
- B. Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 14, 2017
- C. Review & Acceptance of Financial Transactions & Reports

***Motion made and seconded (Aufmuth/Parker) to adopt the consent agenda as submitted; passed 4-0***

Commissioner Aufmuth would like to extend, on behalf of the Commission, a great thanks to Commissioner Berkowitz for once again stepping in and maintaining his vigilance here. Thank you for your service and it has been a pleasure serving with you over numerous years. Mayor Mance also thanked Commissioner Berkowitz for his years of service and for temporarily filling in with this Commission seat.

5. Micanopy 2017 Town Commission Election – Swearing in of Commissioners

Town Administrator Gonano officiated the swearing in of Commissioners Roberts and Blakely, using Mr. Blakely’s bible at his request; the newly sworn-in Commissioners took their seats at the dais.

- A. Town Administrator Gonano requested nominations for Mayor.  
Commissioner Aufmuth nominated Commissioner Mance with a second from Commissioner Roberts.  
Nominations closed. Commissioner Mance is unopposed as Mayor for fiscal term 2017-2018

Mayor Mance accepted nominations for Mayor Pro-Tem.  
Commissioner Blakely nominated Commissioner Aufmuth with a second from Commissioner Roberts.  
Nominations closed. Commissioner Aufmuth is unopposed as Mayor Pro-Tem for fiscal term 2017-2018.

6. Guests: None

7. Citizen’s Forum:

- A. Joanne Denning discussed numerous concerns and ideas.
  - When will the annual report be posted on the website? – This report is prepared by our auditor and upon completion; it will be posted on the website and available by public request.
  - Is the occupational license tax money available to finance a small project? – This money is deposited into the general fund and is not ear marked. – Any ideas for projects can be brought before the commission.
  - Was money made on the cedar trees removed from the third island? – No
  - Can the bulletin board that is near the post office be repaired and moved to the Gazebo area? – The poorly-

designed bulletin board was a shared project of the Historic Society and the Friends of the Library. If the sign is repaired by the Town, it would need to be placed on Town property; the Gazebo is owned by the Friends of the Library. Commissioner Roberts suggested that Ms. Denning research bulletin board designs and bring information to the next meeting.

- Is it possible to have the ‘Basketball Cops’ foundation or our Fire Department personnel come out and play a game with our children? Possible potluck to get people together. – Sounds like a good volunteer opportunity and Ms. Denning was asked to come up with some community ideas.
  - Where is roundup sprayed to kill the weeds? Absolutely not in the Firehouse Playground. Possible solutions to weed control are students, parents, and children pulling the weeds. Please let staff know if repairs are needed at the playground.
  - Is it possible to get a ‘wild life crossing’ sign on Tusawilla Rd where a whooping crane crosses often? Possibly a sign near 441 on Cholokka Blvd and one near 441 on Tusawilla Rd?
- B. David Massey, Seminary Ave, is concerned with speeders on some streets and questioned if there are any control measures that can slow them down? – Possibly see if Alachua County Sheriff’s Deputy can patrol more often.
- C. Carol Young, Seminary Ave, would like a speed hump in front of her house on Seminary Ave as people drive way to fast down this road. Commissioner Blakely recommended a 4-way stop which was discussed years ago. Commissioner Parker recommends a study to see how many cars use the road and how many are speeding. Grace Fuller discussed the paint wearing off of the speed humps and Mayor Mance will have this addressed. Beth Allerton, Librarian, discussed speed limits in Micanopy, possibly making them 20 mph throughout Town. Attorney Lee *corrected* that the state statute provides for a maximum municipal speed limit of 30 mph; however after investigation, a maximum speed limit of 20-25 mph within residential districts may be set. Mayor Pro-Tem Aufmuth recommends a workshop to discuss these topics. We will invite sheriff’s department, our zone deputy, and whoever else may be helpful in this matter.

Mayor Mance scheduled a Traffic Issues Workshop for April 11 @ 6:30pm.

- D. Julie Penrod-Glenn, Division St; Brenda Flowers, Ocala Ave; and Dan and Carol Young, Seminary Ave, are requesting some information and action items.
- The four citizens above read questions during this meeting to get them into the permanent record of the meeting; the questions are attached to these minutes. Mayor Mance scheduled a special called meeting on April 18 @ 6:30pm so the Town Commission can respond to these requests. Mayor Pro-Tem Aufmuth stated that he appreciated the group’s change in approach and that many of the items are public record requests and readily available.
- E. Ed Burnett, SW Whiting St, stated that the Tennis Court looks great but the court lights do not work. Mayor Mance asked that such issues in the future be reported to Town Hall. Mr. Burnett also complained that he does not like how the Town public works crew maintains Whiting Road. Town Administrator will discuss this matter with our public works.

8. Citizen Board and Committee Reports:

- A. Planning & Historic Preservation Board – Fro Warren, Chair gave verbal report on the following topics.
1. Murray, 502 NE Cholokka Blvd, approved multiple improvements to the exterior of the house including hand rails and screen door. Tabled a shed and front porch railing until our next meeting for more detailed drawings.
  2. Discussed code violation letter.
  3. A board member recommended adding tables to the downtown islands.
  4. Tree over Livingston St restricting traffic flow.
  5. At the February meeting the Commission stated that it is not easy doing their job, and he agrees. It is not easy doing this job either. He understands that they are an advisory board and the downtown area moved extremely fast and their advisement was not even considered.
  6. Joanne Denning confirmed that the bulletin board would go before the Planning & Historic Preservation Board for consideration.
  7. Don Duer hopes that the Planning & Zoning Board should be discussed and considered.
  8. Debbie Kennedy, Seminary Ave, recommends use of the ball park as a dog park as there is plenty of spaces that could be used. Move the benches and the lights to the dog park. A big community table would be beneficial to the downtown area for the citizens.
- B. Tree Committee – Paul Cohen presented. They have an empty seat on this Committee. Matt Palumbo is the Chair and Paul Cohen is the Recorder. The Burch tree permit is still active and will be discussed at their next meeting. Sanders tree permit has been approved. Mayor Mance stated that we have 3 estimates from tree companies. Town Administrator stated the estimates as follows: Jason Perry \$1,000, A& S Tree Service \$1,600, and Gaston’s Tree Service \$1,900.
- Motion made and seconded (Aufmuth/Roberts) to approve the tree estimate with the lowest bid; passed 5-0***
1. Downtown Island #3 Ad Hoc Committee – Discussion ensued regarding the purpose of this committee and the proper procedure to follow. The committee will consist of 1 member from the Planning & Historic Preservation Board, 1 member from the Tree Preservation Committee, and as many town residents as it deems necessary to complete the purpose of the committee, for a total Committee membership of no greater than seven members.

***Motion made and seconded (Aufmuth/Parker) to have the Tree Committee put together an ad hoc committee with the guidelines provided; 4-0 (Parker stepped out of the meeting for a moment).***

***Motion made and seconded (Aufmuth/Parker) to have one of the merchants added to the ad hoc committee membership; passed 4-0 (Parker stepped out).***

9. Town Attorney Report: Attorney Lee gave report
- A. AT&T Business Local Calling Agreement – Town Administrator Gonano detailed that our telephone bill has doubled after the expiration of our Local Calling Agreement. After the current contract is signed AT&T will give us a credit for the last two months.  
***Motion made and seconded (Aufmuth/Parker) to approve the AT&T Business Local Calling Agreement as submitted; passed 5-0***
- B. Unpaid Occupational License Law Suit – Johnson  
Attorney Lee presented that we have one person who has not paid their occupational license and would like to know if the Commission wants him to pursue this or hold off for the new attorney.  
***Motion made and seconded (Aufmuth/Roberts) to move forward with the law suit; passed 5-0***
10. Town Administrator Report: None
11. New Business:
- A. Livingston Tree Removal Estimates – Completed under 8B.
- B. Water Plant
1. Estimates – Well Casing Video – Town Administrator presented.  
We have two estimates to remove the pump and video log the condition of well #1. Earl's Well Drilling & Pump Service, Inc. estimate is a total of \$4,400+ overages and C.W.D.I., Inc. dba Citrus Well Drilling submitted an estimate of \$4,685 with the final invoice amount to be determined by the exact quantities supplied for each item listed.  
***Motion made and seconded (Roberts/Parker) to have Citrus Well Drilling video the Well Casing; passed 5-0***
- Layla Ruffino, Evans Court, discussed the water at Blue Highway, their family-owned restaurant, where she stated that they have had to repair and replace ice machines at a cost of \$4,000. Ms. Ruffino stated that despite installation of really fancy water filters, two outside water companies have told the restaurant that the water coming out of their faucet is contaminated, illegal, undrinkable, and that it should be reported to the EPA and to the Town. Ms. Ruffino is wondering if the water is testing clean at the source but coming out of her tap contaminated; can the testing be done at the source and also out of faucets? Town Administrator Gonano suggested that the water company might have an ulterior motive by trying to sell unnecessary equipment.
- Town Administrator Gonano responded that the town always tests at the source (well) and in the distribution system (water pipes in the ground). (One testing location is Pearl's, which is next door to Blue Highway.) The Town's water is strictly tested to Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) standards. The Town is responsible for the condition of the water only up to the meter; there is no contamination or anything unhealthy in the water supply coming from the Town's water source or water distribution system. The Town complies with every test and regulation required by the DEP, and the records are kept on file at Town Hall. David Massey stated that these records should be available for public records request; which they are.
- Mayor Mance discussed that we do have very good coverage of our water testing, and we are in the process of checking one of our wells with a camera. Ed Burnett, Whiting St, discussed how his water has cleared up in the past three months but before that the turbidity was very bad. Anytime that you do any type of work in the water lines it will cause problems and must be flushed properly.
2. Engineer Schematic – Table this item until we have the results from checking Well #1. We are operating off Well #2 currently.
- C. Recreational Opportunities (Soccer Shots, Pickleball, Softball) – Mayor Mance presented
1. Currently a group is playing softball at the ball park and invites everyone to join them on Monday and Wednesday evenings (sometimes Thursday). Next year they may sign up with a league.
2. Pickleball resembles tennis, badminton, and ping-pong mixed into one sport. More information coming soon.
3. Soccer Shots is a program for 3 – 8 year old children using our ball park. Joanne Denning questioned if this program would work with the Stokes Community Center. Pastor Stokes has invited Mayor Mance to sit on their board.
- D. Code Enforcement Officer – Phil Howell is a licensed arborist, experienced in land use and code enforcement, etc. He offers his service at an hourly rate. If we had this resource, we would be able to call on him for services that we've needed in the past. Mayor Pro-Tem Aufmuth is interested to see if this service is competitive and suggested that it would curtail some name calling. Commissioner Parker questioned if we can interview him. Mrs. Gonano will invite Mr. Howell to our next meeting.
- E. Citizen Committee Applications – Tabled until next meeting.

12. Unfinished Business:

- A. Micanopy Great American Clean-Up Day Saturday, April 1, 2017. Please join us.
- B. RFP Town Attorney – The RFP was sent to many places. Timing was not in our favor to place the RFP in The Florida Bar News. We had one response from Scott Walker who is the attorney for High Springs, Newberry, and Archer. We can put off hiring an attorney for two more months; and it was suggested that we change the RFP to delete our desired flat rate fee and require a statement of attorney proposed billing.

***Motion made and seconded (Aufmuth/Blakely) to advertise the RFP in two issues of the Florida Barr and other places; passed 5-0***

13. Town Commissioner Reports:

- Commissioner Joseph Aufmuth: Happy to see civic involvement. It is great to serve y'all. Thank you to everyone.
- Commissioner Blakely: Welcome back Mr. Blakely. Commissioner Blakely served in the 1970's, loves Micanopy, and he wants the best for all of us with your help. It is a privilege and a pleasure to work with y'all.
- Commissioner Timothy Parker: Is enjoying all the involvement and input from our citizens and is happy to see people attending the meetings.
- Commissioner Mike Roberts: Congratulations Mr. Roberts. Commissioner Roberts thanked the citizens for their trust. He reminisced that three years ago, he was told that it would take three years to understand the job. Thank you to the commission and office staff for all your help for the past three years.

14. Mayor Ginny Mance Report: She has given a lot of thought to Town issues this past month and is sharing them now. She wants to look to the future and keep our town safe from paving over paradise. This has, and hopefully always will be, the goal of our Town, this commission, boards, and committees. Our tree committee is part of that protection plan; trees that must be removed should be replaced and that practice has been, and will be, honored by this commission.

We all treasure our town and seek to protect it and care for its people and resources. Keeping in touch with each other is key. The best method of quick communication is our town message emails. I asked Mrs. Gonano to begin this practice for any public service or emergency information that arose that would be helpful for our residents. The Mayor accepted responsibility for the idea. It was intended to inform about holiday trash removal dates and local wildlife that may endanger the health of our pets. Town Hall began to receive feedback that the messages were not appreciated or that we were sending the wrong kind of information. Town Administrator Gonano and the Mayor agreed that they did not want to do something that was annoying to the town so the practice was immediately stopped. Going forward, it seems that email notification may be a good practice to begin again; it was suggested that residents could opt-in to receive the emails and that maybe a good practice.

Social media and/or email are not mediums for elected officials to answer questions. The sunshine law is all encompassing and answers can only be given when a quorum of commissioners are assembled in a public meeting like this. We can't answer anything on Facebook or email on our own. We, the Commission, are here as servants to the people of this town and we take our positions seriously, and we do it out of love for our town and appreciation of where we live and who lives here with us. That is really the truth. The Commissioners' dedication is apparent and your love of Micanopy shows. The Mayor wished that all the people who were sitting here earlier tonight were still here to listen to her say that because she truly believes that. She's glad that you all are here tonight, and she looks forward to your opinions and ideas and thank you.

15. Adjourn: 10:34 pm

**MINUTES APPROVED:**

As submitted \_\_\_\_\_ as amended \_\_\_\_\_ at Town Commission Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Virginia Mance, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patty S. Polk, Recorder