



Minutes

Town Commission
Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Tuesday • December 13, 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 Present
 - Michael Berkowitz Present
 - Virginia Mance, Mayor Present
 - Timothy Parker Present
 - Mike Roberts, Mayor Pro-Tem Absent with notice

 - 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 November 8, 2016 and Special Meetings of November 15, 2016 and December 1, 2016
 - C. Review & Acceptance of Financial Transactions & Reports
Motion made and seconded (Berkowitz/Aufmuth) to accept the consent agenda as submitted; passed 4-0
5. Guests:
 - A. Gus Olmos, Alachua County Stormwater Manual – Absent as he had to do a presentation in Gainesville.
6. Citizen’s Forum: None
7. Citizen Board and Committee Reports:
 - A. Planning & Historic Preservation Board – Unavailable
 - B. Tree Committee:
 - Christine Steurer, Chair, stated that the committee met last Thursday; it was their first meeting after the new members joined, and minutes will be provided to Town Hall when available.
 - Commissioner Aufmuth provided a digitized map of the Town’s tree canopy using a 35’ buffer on which he mapped road centerlines according to the property boundaries. Discussion ensued. Mayor Mance would like the tree ordinance added to the next agenda.
8. Town Attorney Report:
 - A. Resolution 2016-12 Adopting Employee Handbook – Attorney Lee read Resolution 2016-12 on short title. Discussion ensued.
Motion made and seconded (Aufmuth/Parker) to adopt Resolution 2016-12 as submitted; passed 4-0
 - B. Final Reading – Ordinance 2016-11 Revisions to Code – Attorney Lee read Resolution 2016-11 on short title. Discussion ensued.
Motion made and seconded (Berkowitz/Aufmuth) to accept Ordinance 2016-11 as submitted on final reading; passed 4-0
9. Town Administrator Report – Mrs. Gonano wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy and Peaceful New Year.

10. New Business:
- A. Street Light Installation on NW 7th Terrace – Commissioner Roberts will discuss this topic next month.
 - B. Citizen Committee Term Expirations on December 31, 2016:
 1. P&HPB: Fro Warren & David Massey
Motion made and seconded (Aufmuth/Berkowitz) to approve the P&HPB applications for Fro Warren and David Massey; passed 4-0
 2. Code Enforcement Board: Buddy Barnard & Stephen Elder
Motion made and seconded (Berkowitz/Aufmuth) to approve the Code Enforcement Board applications for Buddy Barnard and Stephen Elder as submitted; passed 4-0
 - C. Park Rules Signs – A resident is concerned with the fire house playground safety as he feels that the basketball court is cracked and dangerous. He questioned if we can post additional signs warning of danger or a sign directing people to the current sign which is posted on the side of the Fire Station near the picnic table? Discussion ensued. Attorney Lee stated that as a land owner you must give notice of danger that is not obvious but you cannot totally protect yourself from liability. The more you warn the better off you are. Discussion ensued. Bud DesForges considered the possibility of renting a machine to grind down the cracks to correct the problem. Commissioner Parker considered using an asphalt expansion filler that may smooth out the cracks. Town Administrator Gonano doesn't believe that more signs are the answer and reminded all that the Town has applied for a grant to repair the playground including the basketball court.
Motion made and seconded (Berkowitz/Aufmuth) to approve purchasing an additional sign to place near the bus stop in the firehouse playground; passed 4-0
 - D. Medical Marijuana Amendment Discussion – Mayor Mance stated that City of Alachua already has an ordinance regarding this subject and questioned if we, too, should have an ordinance. Attorney Lee stated that in the three years since medical marijuana became legal, there are very few growers in the State. The question will be what zoning will be allowed for medical marijuana. The Commission agrees to hold off until the State of Florida takes action. The Planning & Historic Preservation Board is directed to wait to discuss this topic until further notice.
11. Unfinished Business:
- A. Downtown Landscaping Project Update – Mrs. Gonano presented. Per direction of the Commission, Mrs. Gonano met with the Public Works crew; and they picked benches, light fixtures, a flag pole, brick, and concrete to complete the downtown project. The light poles are ordered and will be delivered after the first of the year. The total cost is about \$21,000 to be funded from the unspent 2008 Wild Spaces and Public Places money. All project details had previously been sent to the Commission; with no comment. DeDe DesForges questioned if the landscaping will interfere with the two-day Fall Festival booth areas and the answer is there should be no interference. Commissioner Aufmuth suggested that, other than concrete, things can be changed or moved around. Commissioner Berkowitz questioned if the downtown design had been sent to the P&HPB; but Town Administrator Gonano answered that the Commission, after numerous failed attempts to complete the project, had taken a vote in November to have the Public Works crew choose landscaping and complete the project using WSPP funds. The Town decorated the medians for the Christmas holiday and they look great. Thank you to the Morris' for their decorations.
 - B. Firehouse Upgrades and Repairs – Mayor Mance pointed out that the firehouse building needs renovation as it is not an acceptable living area for our firefighters. Previously, Mrs. Gonano and David Holton walked through the fire station building, and Mr. Holton drew up a floor plan showing an office for the Chief, three bunk rooms, and two bathrooms with showers. The dormitory side should be reworked to make it livable. Mayor Mance would like to move forward with this renovation as soon as we know our proposed ISO rating. Discussion regarding Town Hall ensued. Mayor Mance stated that \$90,000 had previously been authorized to renovate the HVAC, but this may not be the best place to start. Mayor Mance suggested that we hire a general contractor to look over this building and see what needs to be done. Commissioner Aufmuth questioned how much of our capital improvements budget would this cost? Jerry Morris mentioned that the upstairs of Town Hall is nasty and stinks and hopes this can be addressed real soon.
12. Town Commissioner Reports:
- Commissioner Joseph Aufmuth: Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year. Pleasure working here.
 - Commissioner Berkowitz: Happy Holidays. Great to be back.
 - Commissioner Timothy Parker: It is great that we celebrate a lot of things. We should try to be closer and nicer to each other. Merry Christmas.
 - Commissioner Mike Roberts: Absent with notice

13. Mayor Ginny Mance Report:

- Welcome Tara Lowe-Phillips, Principal of our Middle School. She has been at the school for 1 ½ years and is doing a great job. Tara has been instrumental in a rise in the school ranking, has a great staff, and everyone is welcome to visit and tour the school at any time. Is glad, as a Town, to see the school thriving.
- The Mayor's thoughts and prayers go out to the Crawford family as David passed away recently. The Crawford's are very active in this community, and we will miss him.

14. Adjourn: 9:56 pm

MINUTES APPROVED:

As submitted _____ as amended _____ at Town Commission Meeting _____

Virginia Mance, Mayor

Patty S. Polk, Recorder