

**Town Commission**

**Tuesday • January 12, 2021 • 7:00pm**

**Minutes Regularly Scheduled Meeting**

1.Call to Order 7:00pm

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to Flag

3. Roll Call

*Commissioners Attending:*

* Joseph Aufmuth, Mayor Present
* Timothy Parker, Mayor Pro Tem Present
* Troy Blakely Present
* Mike Roberts Present
* Virginia Mance Absent *(with notice)*
* Debbie Gonano, Town Administrator Present
* Patty Polk, Deputy Town Clerk Present
* Andrea Parker, Town Attorney *Via Phone*

4. Consent Agenda Approval

A) Agenda Approval

B) Minutes of Regular Meeting of December 8, 2020

C) Review and Acceptance of Financial Transactions and Reports

***Motion made and second (Roberts/Parker) to approve amending the consent agenda to add Item 9A) Repairs to the Town Truck and 9B) Roof Improvements to the Fire Station; Passed 4-0***

***Motion made and second (Blakely/Roberts) to approve the remainder of the consent agenda; Passed 4-0***

5. Guests

6. Citizen’s Forum – Public Comment

A) 1) Jeffrey Forbes *(206 E Ocala Avenue)* updated the Commission on the status of the December 17th Alachua County Development and Review Committee (DRC) meeting concerning the proposed Dollar General at the corner of Hwy. 441 and Tuscawilla Road in unincorporated Alachua County. The three members of the DRC committee (Forrest Eddleton, Beth Dodd and Chair, Ivy Bell) met and approved the development to go forward in a 2-1 vote *(Eddleton opposed)* at the end of a 4½ hour meeting. Forbes relayed that the CEO of Concept Companies, the development company, suggested that the Board make a motion that Concept Companies should be given Board approval to move ahead with the project under the condition that Concept Companies would speak to the stakeholders in Micanopy about design of the proposed building. Forbes disclosed that Board member, Beth Dodd, had been previously employed by CHW Engineers, the actual applicants for development of the property; and he expressed his opinion that this is a conflict of interest. Additionally, Leslie McLendon, a planner with Alachua County Growth Management, sits on the Urban Land Institute with CHWs Vice President, Gerry Dedenbach. Jeff contacted County Commissioner, Ken Cornell, the other County Commissioners, and County Manager, Michelle Lieberman in an attempt to review a copy of County policy dealing with conflicts of interest.

2) Jeffrey Forbes reported that YMCA Camp McConnell, which is owned by Alachua County, is going to be renamed Camp Cuscowilla and will be improved, including reopening of the pool in April, with Wild Spaces Public Places funding. The County thinks reopening the Camp will be a big benefit to the Town of Micanopy while offering event space and hosting events similar to the Hogtown Medieval Renaissance Fair.

7. Citizen Board and Committee Reports

A) Planning & Historic Preservation Board (P&HPB)

Chair Fro Warren summarized the events of the December 15th P&HPB meeting, including a preliminary review of a minor subdivision, the LED street lights, and potential *Stop* sign and speed hump placement.

1) Commission Recommendation for LED Street Lights

Chair Fro summarized that Kelvin (K) refers to color, wattage (w) is power needed, and lumens refers to light output. Chair Fro stated that the Town has 128 street lights and the P&HPB is considering making a recommendation to replace almost all of them with the 50w 3,000K Micro LED lights, which have a tighter lighting pattern. Otherwise, the LED lights would be replaced with industry standard lights as needed. Various sample LED lights and backshields have been installed on Division Street, Ocala Avenue, Evans Court, and Tuscawilla Road, and residents have been repeatedly asked for comment. The cost to change out all the lights to Micro LED lights given by Duke Energy was $10,915, with annual equipment rental cost of about $13,127. Chair Warren asked to evaluate the Commission’s interest in setting up a workshop to discuss light replacement, and he said that he wanted to go back to the P&HPB with Commission suggestions prior to making a recommendation to the Commission. Answering Mayor Aufmuth, Fro stated that most public comments suggested that the LED brightness was a factor, but the residents preferred the 3000K lights over the 4000K lights. A negative about the Micro lights are that they cannot be shielded. Commissioner Parker asked about the Town picking up costs for lights currently being paid for by private individuals, and Mayor Aufmuth answered that the individual could come to the Commission to make that request. Commissioner Blakely expressed confidence in the P&HPB and welcomed a recommendation. Commissioner Roberts thought that the Town should consider replacing the lights as they needed to be replaced, at no cost to the Town. Responding to criticism from Stoney Slaton *(104 NE Seminary Avenue)* about resolving the matter now, Mayor Aufmuth expressed the desire for the P&HPB members to take the necessary time to make a final recommendation. P&HPB Member, Marian Baron, agreed, as the Micro lights were not presented by Duke or installed until November, and she wanted to give the residents enough time to determine if the Micro lights were good for the Town.

2) *Stop* sign and speed humps

Chair Fro Warren asked Marian Baron to present information about requested *Stop* signs and speed humps. The P&HPB had received resident complaints about speeding on Tuscawilla Road, Cholokka Blvd., and Seminary Avenue. The Board wanted to invite a representative from the Sheriff’s office to the meeting, as had been done several years ago *(2017)*, to discuss speed control on Tuscawilla and Cholokka, and especially at that particular intersection. Mayor Aufmuth remembered that the speed control devices placed by the Sheriff’s office had produced a report showing that there was not a significant speeding problem in Town *(August 8, 2017)*. Marian then asked about the Town placing a speed hump at the intersection of Tuscawilla and Cholokka, but the Mayor explained that both of those roads were owned by the County and that the Town would need to make a request. Commissioner Parker did not support placement of a speed hump. Megan D’Andrea *(502 W Smith Avenue)* asked about marking a crosswalk somewhere near the Preserve, and Marion Baron answered that was considered, but ruled out because it might give a false sense of security to pedestrians in the crosswalk. Mayor Aufmuth was in favor of asking for the Sheriff’s input into the situation. Additionally, Commissioner Parker would consult with the State Police.

The P&HPB wanted to make a recommendation to install a *4-Way Stop* sign at the intersection of Seminary Avenue and Division Street. Commissioner Parker would support a *4-Way Stop* sign at that location, but he thought that overhanging vegetation should be pruned back first to determine if that would make a difference. Stoney agreed that speeding was a problem on Seminary Avenue. Commissioner Roberts did not support installing a *Stop* sign at that location, as he felt that traffic had not increased on the road in years.

***Motion made and second (Blakely/Parker) to approve placement of a 4-Way Stop sign at the intersection of Seminary Avenue and Division Street; Passed 3-1 (Roberts opposed)***

B) Tree Committee - No Report.

8. Town Attorney Report

A) Resolution 2021-01 Election Town Commission Seat #3

Attorney Parker read Resolution 2021-01 by title only declaring an election on March 9, 2021 for Commission Seat #3 with a qualifying period beginning on January 18th and ending on January 21st. Town Administrator Gonano confirmed that the voting equipment will be made available by the Supervisor of Elections office. *The Canvassing Board will meet at 7pm upon poll closure to canvass the return and declare the election results. There will be a delay in the start of the regular March meeting until the Canvassing Board completes the election canvassing.*

***Motion made and second (Roberts/Parker) to pass Resolution 2021-01 setting an election on March 9, 2021; Passed 4-0***

B) County Growth Management Area Status Update

Attorney Parker summarized that the cities of Alachua, Archer, and Newberry had filed litigation opposing the County Growth Management Area in response to the passing of the amendment on the November ballot and were awaiting a court response which was expected in six weeks.

9. Town Administrator Report

A) Repairs to the Town Truck

Town Administrator Gonano reported that the particle filter and Regen and Replace Glow Plug with Pressure Sensor on the Town’s diesel Chevrolet Silverado needed to be replaced. On December 17th, the estimate received from Davis Chevrolet to repair the vehicle was $5,204.90, not including the towing charge of $150. Being the Town’s only service vehicle (which would be needed for tree removal, water line break, etc.), the Mayor declared an emergency repair to the vehicle. Information regarding the Mayor’s repair authorization had been transmitted to the Commission prior to approval of the repair cost to Davis Chevrolet. Subsequently, Last week, Davis Chevrolet had called to report that the Turbo Charger was also found to be defective. Further, the repair could be a $.50 sensor or an additional $5,000 rebuild. At David’s suggestion, Town Administrator Gonano recommended that the Town truck be repaired, driven for a few more years, and then traded for a gas-powered vehicle when the Town is ready. Commissioner Roberts questioned the cost variance to repair the vehicle; but Town Administrator Gonano was only able to provide information that was given to her. Commissioner Blakely was not a fan of Davis Chevrolet and thought that the truck should be traded for a new vehicle. Commissioner Parker had researched that the truck could be worth up to $11,000, and he wanted to get another repair estimate. Town Administrator Gonano said that was possible but the vehicle would have to be towed. Responding to Bud DesForges *(554 NW Seminary Avenue),* Gonano stated that David had called Williams Diesel in Ocala prior to the holidays and had been quoted about the same cost as quoted by Davis Chevy to repair the vehicle.

***Motion made (Roberts) to approve additional repair to the Town’s truck at a cost of $5,000; Motion dies for lack of a second***

***Motion made (Roberts) to approve additional repair to the Town’s truck at a cost of $5,000, but not to exceed $6,000 if additional work needs to be done; Motion dies for lack of a second***

***Motion made and second (Parker/Blakely) to find a new truck and price it out***

***Motion amended and second (Parker/Blakely) to temporarily lease a truck, tow the old truck back to Town, and purchase a new vehicle; Motion fails 2-2 (Aufmuth and Roberts opposed)***

Megan D’Andrea expressed her opinion that the truck might be repaired and then sold to recuperate the repair investment. Stoney offered to approach Davis about discounting the repair of the vehicle and negotiate a better trade since they had misdiagnosed the initial repair cost. Stoney also questioned whether a leased vehicle would be covered by the Town’s insurance, and Town Administrator Gonano replied that the Town has Inland Marine coverage.

The Mayor asked for David to go to Davis Chevy and discuss the actual repair cost with the service department.

***Motion made and second (Roberts/Parker) to approve additional repair to the Town’s truck at a cost not to exceed $5,000***

***Motion made and second (Roberts/Parker) to call the question; Passed 4-0***

***Passed 3-1 (Blakely opposed)***

B) Roof Improvements to the Fire Station

Mayor Aufmuth, Chief Modican, and Town Administrator Gonano had spoken with Alachua County Chief Theus and Assistant County Manager Carl Smart regarding the repercussions to the Town of Micanopy with passage of the $15 Minimum Wage Initiative. Chief Theus acknowledged the large burden placed on the Town and expressed his appreciation for the service provided by Micanopy Fire Rescue (MFR) to the County and wants to work with Micanopy to retain that service. Chief Theus quoted that to maintain a three-person station with equipment costs about $1.3 million annually, not including the building costs. Theus expressed his desire to support MFR, but there would come a break-even point, and Mayor Aufmuth agreed. Mayor Aufmuth wanted to consider preventing further damage to the existing building with replacement of the leaking roof and other interior improvements, but was not a proponent of expanding the building. Town Administrator Gonano thought that the Town could perform certain improvements, such as those completed in Town Hall.

***Motion made and second (Roberts/Parker) to obtain three estimates for a 24-gauge standing seam metal roof, including wrapping the facia with metal; Passed 4-0***

When consulted, Attorney Parker spoke about the bidding process, including a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process. Town Administrator Gonano read from Resolution 2020-11 7. dealing with the procurement process. The process for purchases in excess of $10,000 allows for *(1) obtaining bids from the suppliers of the goods, services, or materials after having provided seven calendar days’ notice of the proposed purchase and bid procedure on the Town’s official website, or on other electronic media, or (2) reasonable public notice by advertisement in the legal notice section of a newspaper, or (3) competitive sealed bids.* Town Administrator Gonano will work with the attorney to follow proper procedure.

C) Firehouse Playground Basketball Court Progress

Town Administrator Gonano reported that the Firehouse Playground Basketball Court was in the process of being completed by the contractor. Weather delays were discussed.

D) New Well

Mayor Aufmuth commented on progress of the new well. Gonano had submitted all the required paperwork for renewal of the Consumptive Use Permit (CUP) required for permitting, both for the existing and new wells. When asked by the Mayor, Gonano again reported the miniscule use of chlorine and ammonia with the new chloramine treatment process. Disinfection Byproduct (DBP) testing results were within DEP acceptable limits, but another quarterly notice would be required as a result of annual running averages.

10. New Business

11. Unfinished Business

12. Town Commissioner Reports

* Commissioner (Seat 2) Tim Parker – 1) Commissioner Parker presented a picture of a corroded pipe from Lake Butler and spoke about the section presented at the last meeting which came from Zolfo Springs, but he didn’t think that we needed to worry about that. Town Administrator Gonano reminded the Commission that she had sent out a picture of a removed section of cast iron pipe actually from Micanopy which showed no such corrosion issues. Marian Baron asked about possible grant funding for infrastructure replacement, and Commissioner Parker wanted to pursue that possibility.

2) Mayor Pro Tem Parker hoped that everyone had a happy holiday and announced that he has a new daughter-in-law from Ukraine. He appreciated the efforts of the P&HPB and thought that we needed to consult with our attorneys to ensure that we’re handling our ordinances right.

* Commissioner (Seat 3) Ginny Mance – Absent.
* Commissioner (Seat 4) Troy Blakely – Commissioner Blakely thanked the Town staff for all they did in 2020 and looked forward to an even better 2021. He was also appreciative of Marian Baron and the P&HPB.
* Commissioner (Seat 5) Mike Roberts – Commissioner Roberts expressed appreciation for the people of the Town and said that there are a lot of people who want to live here.

13. Mayor (Seat 1) Aufmuth Report – 1) Mayor Aufmuth was looking forward to the March election. He expressed appreciation for Town Staff and commented about constantly changing State directives regarding COVID. Town Administrator Gonano reminded all about next Tuesday’s (January 19th) Charter Change meeting at 6:30pm.

14. Adjourn 8:50pm

**MINUTES APPROVED:**

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

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**Joseph L. Aufmuth, Mayor Debbie Gonano, Town Administrator/Clerk**