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**Town Commission**

**Tuesday • January 14, 2020 • 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
* Ed Burnett Present
* Troy Blakely Present
* Mike Roberts Present
* Debbie Gonano, Town Administrator Present
* Patty Polk, Deputy Town Clerk Present
* Andrea Parker, Town Attorney Present

4. Consent Agenda Approval

A) Agenda Approval

B) Minutes of Regular Meeting of December 10, 2019 and Fee Schedule Workshop of January 7, 2020

C) Review and Acceptance of Financial Transactions and Reports

***Motion made and second (Parker/Burnett) to approve the consent agenda; Passed 5-0***

5. Guests

A) Carolyn Wallace, Alachua County Library District, Micanopy Branch

Absent due to illness.

6. Citizen’s Forum

A) Bud DesForges *(554 Seminary Avenue)*

Asked the Town Commission to review water service utility fees pertaining to landlords. The power company has more reasonable fees. Town Administrator Gonano advised that such a change would require an ordinance change.

B) Former Mayor/Commissioner Mance *(255 W Smith Avenue)*

Was present at the meeting and welcomed by the Mayor and staff.

C) Grace Fuller *(751 Seminary Avenue)*

Complained about an abandoned vehicle at the corner of Tahota & Division Streets and asked for the Code Board

to get involved. Raquel Vallejo *(201 NE Tahota Street)* agreed that the vehicle is an eyesore.

D) Paul Cohen *(102 NE Seminary)*

Asked for access to minutes from the 1990s. Town Administrator answered that the binders are available for review at Town Hall.

7. Citizen Board and Committee Reports

A) Planning & Historic Preservation Board (P&HPB) of December 17, 2019

Chair Fro Warren was present at the meeting and gave a report on the following:

1. Dakota Johnson sworn in as a new Board member
2. Transparency of Board activities – The Board members requested that minutes from all committee meetings be posted on the website
3. Accessory Building Recommendations – Topic will remain on the agenda for further discussion
4. Airbnb’s – The Town attorney is watching pending judicial reviews and will keep the Town informed
5. Bicentennial Celebration 2021 – Topic will remain on the agenda for further discussion
6. Cemetery Lots – Topic will remain on the agenda for further discussion

B) Tree Committee

Paul Cohen reported that the Tree Committee welcomed their new Committee Member, Gary Hunt, at a meeting held on January 13, 2020. Mr. Hunt has an extensive tree background. There was also discussion at the meeting about planting a tree at the Post Office. The Mayor suggested planting the tree in the place of a removed tree; but he also reminded Mr. Cohen to be mindful of the Town’s septic system.

8. Town Attorney Report

A) Resolution 2020-01 Election Town Commission Seats #4 & #5

Attorney Parker read Resolution 2020-01 by title only declaring an election on March 10, 2020 for Commission Seats #4 & #5 with a qualifying period beginning on January 20th and ending on January 23rd. Answering Mayor Pro Tem Parker, Town Administrator Gonano confirmed that voting will be by paper ballot because the Supervisor of Elections office will have election machines programmed for the primary election; therefore the machines are unavailable. As has been done previously, Gonano confirmed that a procedure will be set for the Canvassing Board to count votes when the poles close at 7pm on election night. There will be a delay in the start of the regular March meeting until the Canvassing Board completes the vote count.

***Motion made and second (Parker/Burnett) to pass Resolution 2020-01 setting an election on March 10, 2020; Passed 5-0***

B) Ordinance 2020-01 – Election Filing Fees – First Reading

Attorney Parker performed the first reading of Ordinance 2020-01 by title only setting election qualifying fees at 1% of a Commissioner’s annual salary.

***Motion made and second (Burnett/Parker) to pass the first reading of Ordinance 2020-01 setting qualifying fees at 1% of Commission annual salary; Passed 5-0***

9. Town Administrator Report

A) Tom Brady Resignation from Planning & Historic Preservation Board (P&HPB)

Town Administrator Gonano had received a resignation letter from Tom Brady from the P&HPB due to health reasons. Mr. Brady had served 28 years on the Board. The Commission wanted to open the position to all residents who might be interested in serving on the P&HPB. Applications are available at Town Hall.

10. New Business

None.

11. Unfinished Business

A) Water System

1) Delegate Commission Contact for Water Projects

Mayor Aufmuth thought that the Commission needed to assign a liaison for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) water projects. Mayor Pro Tem Parker related some of his well drilling experience. Commissioner Burnett indicated his interest in being the liaison. The Mayor directed that the notice of the meeting scheduled with the engineer and grant administrator on January 20th at 4:30 be posted at Town Hall in the event the public wished to attend.

***Motion made and second (Roberts/Burnett) to appoint Ed Burnett as the Commission liaison for the CDBG water projects; Motion Failed 2-3 (Aufmuth, Parker, & Blakely opposed)***

***Motion made and second (Blakely/Parker) to appoint Tim Parker as the Commission liaison for the CDBG water projects; Motion Passed 3-2 (Burnett & Roberts opposed)***

2) Other

Robert Lockwood from Lost Ark Antiques *(103 NE Cholokka Blvd.)* complained about brown water coming from his pipes. Mayor Aufmuth answered that it could be a result of the condition of plumbing on private property or lack of water use *(water billing records for the past 12 months show a use range of 20 gallons/month to 2,880 gallons/month, with the average water use at 498 gallons/month.)* Mr. Lockwood was adamant that the water issue was the Town’s problem, and he claimed that the blowoff stanchion pipe nearby on Hunter Avenue hadn’t been used in years; however, the Town had installed automatic flush valves on all Town stanchion pipes, including the device in question, in July 2019. Public Works will be directed to check the water meter.

B) Wild Spaces/Public Places (WSPP) Funds Interlocal Agreement

The County has set aside $85,000 for Town 50/50 matching WSPP grant funds. Pursuant to previous meeting discussions, Town Administrator Gonano explained that the recent ballpark roof replacement project and playground equipment expenditures totaling $54,159 would qualify as reimbursable expenses for the 50/50 grant by the WSPP Citizen’s Oversight Board. If the Town entered into an ILA with the County, it could apply for 50% reimbursement for approved expenses. Commissioner Roberts still supported a ballpark recreational building with a certified kitchen, and he wanted to reserve the matching funds for the proposed building. Mayor Aufmuth responded that the Town needed to put some thought into upcoming project expenses; and, although he would support a recreational building, he wanted to postpone such a project until immediate financial needs (fire department renovation and water projects) were addressed. Bud DesForges was in favor of spending money to complete projects with WSPP funds. Holly Morris *(712 NE Cholokka Blvd.)* thought that the Town should compile a project management list. The Mayor voiced concerned about the $15/hour minimum wage hike which was approved by the Florida Supreme Court to appear on the November ballot. Such a wage increase, if passed by voters, would significantly impact the Town’s ability to financially support our local fire department without additional financial support from Alachua County. Commissioner Roberts was not in favor of expanding the fire department with the possibility of the impending minimum wage increase, and he feared that if the 50/50 grant funding was spent elsewhere, the recreational building would not be built. Answering a question from Grace Fuller, the Mayor explained that if the $15 minimum wage amendment is passed by voters in November, the amendment would have wide-ranging financial effects on the Town forcing the Town to raise the municipal millage rate to 9 mills by the year 2026 just to pay for the increase in fire department wages…not including any other likely general fund expense increases. Former Commissioner Mance expressed that the Town’s CPA had complimented the Town’s ability to save money, and she expressed appreciation for the Commission’s ability to build reserves while making the Town financially viable thereby setting an example for other municipalities to follow. Further, she expressed that the Town’s primary responsibility is utilities. An increase in the minimum wage will make many things unaffordable. Further, Commissioner Mance explained that projects on the WSPP list have been well managed and that many have been completed by necessity with general funds. Jennifer Vogel *(353 NW Eestaulkee Avenue)* was pleased that the playground equipment has been purchased and was satisfied with the projects that the Town has completed. Town Administrator Gonano stated that Town staff has completed every project that the Commission has directed staff to complete in an efficient, timely manner, but it’s hard to complete projects for which no bids were received. Commissioner Burnett was in favor of maintaining Town assets including making improvements at the fire department and did not want to see the County taking over their function. Mayor Pro Tem Parker spoke about water grants to upgrade our water system, sewer installation, and annexing property as a means to generate revenue. Pertaining to the fire house, Parker said that plans have been on the table since 2009 *(Jones Edmunds plans were submitted in 2013)*. Otherwise, Parker was in favor of improving the ballpark, and he was in favor of submitting for the 50/50 reimbursement on ballpark expenses. Commissioner Blakely wanted to save the $85,000 50/50 grant reimbursement to build an emergency facility at the ballpark with a certified kitchen.

***Motion made and second (Parker) to use the 50/50 grant funds for current projects; Dies for lack of a second***

***Motion made and second (Roberts/Blakely) to reserve the 50/50 grant funds for a recreational building at the park; Passed 3-2 (Burnett/Parker opposed)***

C) Engineering Project List Workshop

Grant Raudenbush, from the Town’s engineering firm George F. Young, Inc., was interested in setting up a workshop to discuss and prioritize upcoming Town projects: 1) firehouse renovations, 2) FRDAP recreation facilities, 3) street paving, 4) historic jail preservation, and 5) water plant filtration system. Mayor Pro Tem Parker suggested setting a meeting for February 18 @ 6pm. Town Administrator Gonano will set a meeting with the engineer.

12. Town Commissioner Reports

* Commissioner (Seat 2) Parker – Mayor Pro Tem Parker detailed that municipalities around the state are looking at improving their infrastructure with grant funding and thought that we should pursue grant funding opportunities and low interest loans; Parker will be absent from the February meeting; It’s a pleasure and honor to serve on Town Commission
* Commissioner (Seat 3) Burnett – Commissioner Burnett is happy to be discussing projects with George F. Young; he likes the idea of a recreational building and fire house renovations; wants to see the basketball court project completed; remember that the Town works off a budget and finances need to be considered in detail; Burnett, a licensed water operator, explained that the recent public notice as a result of organic contamination was sent out per DEP requirements and he acknowledged drinking the water and thought that many problems experienced were on the consumer’s side of the meter
* Commissioner (Seat 4) Blakely – Commissioner Blakey thought that clean water was important, and he supported the fire station
* Commissioner (Seat 5) Roberts – Commissioner Roberts thanked Gonano for having the roofs installed at the ballpark; he voiced concern about the damage done to the ballfield by the rugby players

13. Mayor Aufmuth (Seat 1) Report – Mayor Aufmuth spoke about the transparency of the Town and wished Commission candidates good luck in the upcoming race; the Town could be facing huge expense with impending legislation; we need reliable sources of revenue and he appreciated that the Town was financially viable.

14. Adjourn 8:43pm

**MINUTES APPROVED:**

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

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