

**Town Commission**

**Tuesday • May 12, 2020 • 7:00pm**

***Via Virtual Conferencing***

**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
* *Seat #3 Vacant*
* 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 Meetings of April 14, 2020 & Kimley-Horn Special Meeting of April 21, 2020

 C) Review and Acceptance of Financial Transactions and Reports

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

5. Citizen’s Forum – Public Comment (Use Zoom meeting login or email townhall@micanopytown.com in advance of meeting)

A) Steven Eisenman *(105 NE Bay Avenue)* had submitted a proposed ordinance which he had suggested be distributed to the Commissioners and posted on the website, but it had not been posted to the website while awaiting for an opinion from the attorneys. Eisenman expressed his belief that meeting notification is inadequate and that a new ordinance addressing this issue is needed. Dr. Eisenman read the following: *“That the Code of Ordinances of Micanopy, Florida is hereby amended by adding a section to be numbered, (Proposed Article 1, Section 2-6) which section reads as follows: Micanopy residents are to be notified of regular and special Commission and Citizen Board meetings in a timely and expeditious manner consistent with Section 308 of the Micanopy Town Charter, the Florida Sunshine Laws (Government in the Sunshine Manual, p.43) and Florida Statute 286.011. In addition to posting on the town calendar and the front door of Micanopy Town Hall, meeting times and locations are to be conveyed electronically via email communication (if residents elect to receive email) and via Facebook “Micanopy Matters” or any other prevailing means of electronic social media. Such notice is to be provided not less than one week prior to a meeting, except in the case of emergency meetings which require one day (24 hour) notice.”* Further, Micanopy Charter Section, 701(a) states *“Qualified voters of the Town shall have the power to propose ordinances to the Commission. If the Commission fails to adopt an ordinance so proposed without any change in substance, it shall then be submitted to the voters at a referendum election, except this provision shall not extend to the budget or capital program or any ordinance relating to appropriation of money, levy of taxes or salaries of Town officers or employees.”* Eisenman expressed hope that the Commission will accept and pass the ordinance. Mayor Aufmuth recommenced holding a workshop to discuss the document and look at ways that the Town communicates with people. Dr. Eisenman responded that he felt that Sunshine Laws were a ‘floor’ for notification and not a ‘ceiling,’ but he agreed that a workshop was a good idea. *(A social media use workshop has been set for June 16 @ 6pm.)*

B) Stoney Slaton *(104 NE Seminary Avenue)* suggested that the Town consider purchasing a low parcel of property north of Pearl’s, directly across from Division Street, and on the NE side of Hwy. 441 & CR234 *(and which is located in a designated wetland)* as a site for a future Micanopy waste water plant. Mayor Pro Tem Parker was doubtful that the parcel would be advantageous for a waste water plant, as it sits in commercial zoning beside Hwy. 441. The Mayor suggested turning the idea over to the Planning & Historic Preservation Board (P&HPB) for discussion. Additionally, Stoney wanted to know if the P&HPB would meet on May 26, as scheduled. The Mayor answered that it would be a decision of the P&HPB chair, dependent on agenda needs and COVID-19 mandates.

C) Deborah Kennedy *(251 NW Seminary Avenue)* 1) complained about requesting permission to record the Zoom meeting and had been previously answered that it would be acceptable to record the meeting as there is no expectation of privacy in a public meeting (and that was confirmed by Attorney Walker). However, the *Zoom* platform requires host permission. Attorney Parker will research the issue. 2) Also, Miss Kennedy complained about having to request missing minutes from the website eight times in the last two months, which had all been provided to her and subsequently placed on the website. The Mayor explained, again, to Miss Kennedy that all minutes had to be reposted by the website designer in accordance with ADA compliancy, and some items had been missed in the reposting process. 3) Miss Kennedy complained about not knowing about the April 21st Kimley-Horn meeting for which the agenda had been posted according to both Town policy (on the official bulletin board at Town Hall and on the website) and Sunshine Laws.

D) H. Grace Fuller *(751 NW Seminary Avenue)* stated that she had twice contacted Town Hall through the *‘Contact Us’* page on the Town website, but had never received a response. Town Administrator will resolve the issue with the website designer.

E) Gail Davis *(Polk County)* owns a home in Micanopy, but resides in Polk County and wanted to know if she is precluded from voting in the Town Election; you must be a registered voter in Alachua County.

6. Town Attorney Report

A) Resolution 2020-04 Lien on 704 NW 1st Street

Attorney Parker read Resolution 2020-04 by title only correcting the legal description in a 2015 demolition cost lien that had been placed on 704 NW 1st Street.

***Motion made and second (Parker/Blakely) to approve the corrected Lien; Passed 4-0***

7. New Business

A) Ginny Beam *(205 SE Tuscawilla Road)* Request to Pay for Monthly Street Light Electric Charges

Mayor Aufmuth explained that Ginny Beam had paid to install a street light on her property and now was asking the Town to pay for the monthly electric charges. Commissioner Blakely thought this discussion should be tabled until a physical meeting could be held so that Ms. Beam, who was not participating in the meeting, and citizens could have full participation. Miss Kennedy complained that Ginny Beam had not requested to be put on the agenda; however, Town Administrator Gonano noted that Ginny Beam had sent an email to townhall on April 22nd asking if the Town would be agreeable to paying for the light costs.

***Motion made and second (Blakely/Parker) to table the discussion; Passed 4-0***

8. Old Business

A) Special Election June 9, 2020 – Town Commission Seat #3

Town Administrator Gonano reminded the citizens about the upcoming election. Responding to questions regarding COVID-19 recommendations, Town Administrator Gonano answered that the election will be held, as usual, and that poll workers are trained in the social distancing and sanitizing procedures. Absentee ballots will be available on Monday, May 18, 2020 for distribution. Residents will be notified accordingly; call Town Hall to obtain an absentee ballot, which is due by poll closure on June 9th.

B) RFP Demolition and Construction of Basketball Court at Firehouse Playground – Due June 4, 2020

Town Administrator Gonano summarized that the specs had been reviewed by the engineer, and the Request for Proposal had been reissued for a second time on April 30th after having received no response to the first RFP.

C) RFP Chloramines Installation at the Micanopy Water Treatment Plant

Responding to the Mayor, Town Administrator Gonano related that the Town had received one response from Odyssey Manufacturing Co. (available for review at Town Hall) to the RFP for installation of chloramines at the water treatment plant. Odyssey has listed 35 pages of references *(containing 116 references)* from municipal and private customers for projects ranging in price from $4,950 to $5,200,000. The projected price of $22,550 includes installation of chloramine treatment, as well as bringing the water treatment plant up to code with installation of a chlorine monitor and moving the chlorine pumps and tubing into the room currently containing the chlorine tanks to prevent further corrosion of equipment installed less than two years ago. Commissioner Blakely asked about the possibility of lowering the projected permitting fee of $500 *(the actual $1,000 permit fee has been waived by the DEP).* Mayor Pro Tem Parker was pleased with the company’s and employees’ qualifications, costing, and references. Mayor Aufmuth agreed with Parker that the company being considered to install the chloramines has been in the industry for a long time, has numerous references, a good reputation, and offered a respectable price. As further proof of the company’s reputation, Odyssey Mfg. is often hired by other companies to install chloramines *(such as US Water)*. Mayor Pro Tem Parker explained that the DEP is looking for a resolution to the disinfection byproduct (DBP) problem by June, and if the Town does not comply with the DBP thresholds, the Town is facing thousands of dollars in fines. Roberts agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Parker that the Town would be fined tremendous amounts of money if the DBP issue is not corrected. Commissioner Roberts understands the concern over chloramines, and he stated that everyone in Town drinks the same water and it is his understanding that the vast majority of water systems in the State of Florida are safely using chloramines. Odyssey Mfg. offers a guarantee that the DBP results will fall within EPA guidelines with regular system flushing. The Mayor was confident that this *‘fix’* is guaranteed to work for our water system. Further, Parker’s research had shown that a filtration system will not correct the DBP problem. The Mayor summarized the Town’s actions over the past two years to resolve the DBP issue with filtration research, possible use of chlorine dioxide, and operation of 35 flush valves. Mayor Aufmuth detailed that the new well and tank mixer, which are being funded by CDBG grants, are different projects and have nothing to do with chloramine installation. If the new well water meets EPA compliance, then the part of the system adding ammonia can be abandoned. Commissioner Blakely thought that the DEP time constraint was a problem which needed to be dealt with in a timely manner, but the installation of chloramines would give the Town additional time to find an appropriate filtration system.

Steven Eisenman *(105 NE Bay Avenue)* had read about filtration and thought that it would solve the DBP problem, and he thought that a chloramine system is not an ideal solution because some people report that it kills amphibians, frogs, fish, and that it may produce adverse skin reactions. Dr. Eisenman asked Mayor Pro Tem Parker to forward any research that he has done regarding filtration. Parker answered that filtration would come at a price tag of about $1.2 million and would require a sewer system for backwash disposal, and his research showed that a filtration system would not correct DBP issues. Gonano will forward Parker’s research to Eisenman.

Grace Fuller *(751 Seminary Avenue)* wondered if any part of the proposed chloramine solution could be salvaged if the chloramine system is eventually abandoned; and the Mayor answered that there were numerous parts of the proposal dealing with functional upgrades, such as the chlorine monitor, eyewash station, and relocation of the existing chlorine system, which are all beneficial to the future of the water treatment plant.

Deborah Kennedy *(251 NW Seminary Avenue)* wanted to know when the DEP fines start and, responding to the Mayor, Town Administrator Gonano answered that the 30-day letter will be arriving at the end of June. Miss Kennedy stated that chloramines are the cheapest way to solve DBP problems, but that chloramine burns were a big consideration. Further, she believed that a new well drilled in the same location would produce DBPs but that a filtration system would solve the DBP problem. Mayor Pro Tem Parker encouraged the citizens to call various local municipalities using chloramines to get their opinions on their use of chloramines.

Stoney Slaton *(104 NE Seminary Avenue)*, responding to the Harmony reference listed by Odyssey, stated that he had previously lived there and that the water plant had experienced technical failures. Mayor Aufmuth was also aware of problems that had been experienced in the St. Cloud area.

Winn Blazier *(201 NE Hunter)* was concerned about his long-term consumption of Town water and suggested that individuals should take responsibility and install their own household filtration systems.

Mayor Aufmuth summarized all the comments previously made by Commissioners and the public.

***Motion and second (Parker/Blakely) to make the RFP award to Odyssey Manufacturing for installation of chloramines; Passed 4-0***

D) Status of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Well Engineering

Kimley-Horn has proposed a kickoff meeting (May 26), which will be a public meeting, to detail engineering and the CDBG well-drilling project. Mayor Pro Tem Parker had been assigned as the Commission Liaison for the project. Mayor Aufmuth detailed that the engineers were grilled about new well placement relative to available CDBG funding. Miss Kennedy questioned the quality of water coming from the proposed well, and Mayor Pro Tem Parker explained that the engineers were asked to drill to obtain the best possible water quality. Answering Miss Kennedy, Mayor Aufmuth recapped that the pump was stuck in the bottom of the casing in Well #2, and that the new well was needed to provide backup for Well #1. Dr. Eisenman thought that there was chance that the new well would not require chloramines and wondered if the new well could be drilled prior to the need for chloramine installation; and the Mayor answered ‘no’ because of pending time constraints.

9. Adjourn 8:35pm

**MINUTES APPROVED:**

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

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