

**Town Commission**

**Tuesday • June 9, 2020 • 8:00pm**

***(or immediately upon completion of Canvassing Board Meeting)***

**Minutes Regularly Scheduled Meeting**

1.Call to Order 8:24pm

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 May 12, 2020 & CDBG Workshop of May 26, 2020

C) Review and Acceptance of Financial Transactions and Reports

Amend agenda to add Swearing-In Ceremony for Ginny Mance, which had been inadvertently left off agenda.

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

5. 2020 Town Commission Special Election – Swearing in of Commissioner

A) Ginny Mance was sworn in as Commissioner Seat #3 by Town Administrator Gonano.

6. Citizen’s Forum – Public Comment (Use Zoom meeting login or email [townhall@micanopytown.com](mailto:townhall@micanopytown.com) in advance of meeting)

A) Bud DesForges *(554 NW Seminary Avenue)* suggested that a new flag was needed downtown and Town Administrator Gonano will have the current flag properly retired.

B) DeDe DesForges *(554 NW Seminary Avenue)* formally announced that the 2020 Fall Festival has been cancelled.

C) Steven Eisenman *(105 NE Bay Avenue)* congratulated Commissioner Mance on her successful campaign and summarized that, as her election opponent, he felt that he and Mance agreed on many of the campaign issues and looked forward to her service. Secondly, Dr. Eisenman made the following statement, *"Many of us here in Micanopy have been following with concern the national protests against police violence, racism and inequality. And while the protests haven’t taken place here, (and while we don’t have our own police force), we nevertheless all have the right and responsibility to take part in the ongoing national discussion and debate. I’d therefore like to encourage commissioners to begin to think about how Micanopy can help with the essential work of racial reconciliation and healing. It might take several possible forms. For example, addressing in a thorough-going way the problem of food insecurity and inadequate housing in the black community in Micanopy; or perhaps publishing and thus memorializing an expression of solidarity with protestors or with the victims of racist violence, such as George Floyd.”*

D) Stoney Slaton *(104 NE Seminary Avenue)* Asked if US Water or an independent contractor was going to deal with the control system at the water plant? Stoney explained that he had seen the water operator at the water plant and had a 15 minute conversation with him about the water plant and the water operator’s testing procedures. Stoney incorrectly claimed that the control system had not been looked at *(following the lightning strike)* and wanted to know when it would be dealt with. Town Administrator Gonano answered that, after examination by US Water, three pressure switches had been ordered to replace those affected by the lightning strike, and we are expecting an estimate from US Water for a new user-friendly notification system to replace the proprietary Sanders Sci-Text system. Based on the estimate cost, the Commission will determine if the work will need to be put out for bid. Mayor Pro Tem Parker suggested replacing the means of notification with a telephone land line vs. a cell line to save money. Stoney suggested that, based on his online research and professional expertise, the unit could be repaired for $130 and suggested that an alarm bell could be used for back-up notification. Further, Stoney stated that whoever had plugged the power supply back in had done a complete disservice to the whole situation. Stoney requested that he be allowed to review a plan set prior to a decision being made about replacement of the damaged unit.

E) Carol Young *(101 NW Seminary)* commented about the basketball court and about speeders.

F) Raquel Vallejo *(201 NE Tahota Avenue)* congratulated Commissioner Mance on her election win and asked if there were any celebrations planned for the Bicentennial next year and announced her willingness to volunteer. The Mayor announced that there was a community committee organized for that purpose and that the Commission would support those efforts.

G) Holly Morris  *(712 NE Cholokka Blvd.)* stated that the community wants to keep abreast of Town happenings and requested that the Town look into hiring a professional to formalize virtual Town meetings.

H) Jeffrey Forbes *(206 E Ocala Avenue)* related that a parcel of property at the corner of Hwy. 441 and Tuscawilla Road is under application with Alachua County Growth Management by developer, Concept Companies, for a 9,100 sq. ft. Dollar General retail store on the corner of Hwy. 441 and Tuscawilla Road. Mr. Forbes asked that the Town Commission write to the Alachua Board of County Commissioners opposing the development of the site because of expectations of an increase in wildlife fatalities, increase in traffic, increase in garbage, proposed commercial lighting; and he explained that we would realize zero tax revenue from the property, which is located in unincorporated Alachua County.

***Motion made and second (Roberts/Mance) for the Town Commission to send a letter to the County Commission opposing development of the southern most entrance to our Town; Passed 4-1 (Blakely opposed)***

Mayor Pro Tem Parker wanted the motion amended to include that the letter be sent to the County Review

Department and that the letter should detail location of adjacent conservation property. Additionally, Parker was concerned about the size of the paved parking lot. Commissioner Blakely wanted to see a site plan for the project and wanted an opportunity to review the opposition letter prior to it being sent. Commissioner Mance was concerned about the location of the stormwater pond and about the source of the water supplying the pond. H. Grace Fuller *(751 NW Seminary Avenue)* theorized that, with sale of the property, it would be cleared one way or the other, and she detailed her failed personal attempt to sell a piece of property in Georgia to Dollar General. Further, Mrs. Fuller had concerns about the financial strain caused to struggling people in our community by the lack of a nearby grocery store. Dr. Eisenman didn’t think this particular project would help food insecurity problems in the Town. Holly Morris *(712 NE Cholokka Blvd.)* wanted to keep food insecurity issues separate from the discussion regarding development of this site. Jeffrey Forbes was not opposed to a small grocery store on the site. Wayne Cope *(16513 SE County Road 234, unincorporated Alachua County)* remembered a previous attempt by Dollar General to build in Micanopy; and Mayor Aufmuth provided some information. *(The Town Administrator’s call to Alachua County Growth Management provided that the application process is in its beginning phase.)* Town Attorney Parker advised holding a Zoom special meeting to draft a letter, which was scheduled for June 18th @ 6pm.

I) Paul Cohen *(102 NE Seminary Avenue)* announced that the annual Arbor Day recognition ceremony has been cancelled, and he will plan a Tree Committee Zoom meeting. He also expressed interest in doing research about filtration for the water treatment plant in lieu of the chloramine treatment planned.

J) Stanley Strobles *(802 N Division Street)* spoke about the recent protests regarding George Floyd’s death in Minneapolis and Mr. Floyd’s last word spoken, *“Mama.”* Mr. Strobles related that recent event to his 1967 experience in Viet Nam in which a dying fellow soldier’s last word spoken was *“Mama.”* Stanley spoke about how precious our Mamas are.

7. Town Attorney Report

A) Senate Bill 410 Growth Management Letter

Attorney Parker presented a letter from the Town Commission to Governor DeSantis encouraging the governor to sign Senate Bill 410 promoting municipal home rule powers and opposing the County’s ability to control future land use for annexed property.

***Motion made and second (Parker/Blakely) to accept the presented letter; Passed 5-0***

8. New Business

A) Proposed Ordinance – Meeting Notification & Social Media Use Discussion

Steven Eisenman presented a policy change or possible ordinance to promote additional notification of various Town meetings and emergency notices and read it 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 and Florida Statute 286.011. In addition to posting on the town calendar and in front 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 now ‘Micanopy Mellow’, 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 notice. Email and prevailing social media are also to be used, whenever possible, to convey other essential notifications such as emergency warnings in case of disaster, power and water outages, and election dates and locations.’* There is a workshop planned for Tuesday, June 16 @ 6pm. Mayor Aufmuth proposed to discuss the requirements of government use of social media, record keeping requirements, and implications of the use of social media.

B) 36-Month CD Maturing June 21, 2020

Town Administrator Gonano notified the Commission about a maturing CD on June 21st and presented a list of rollover options which were available now, but not necessarily at time of maturity. The options ranged from a three month CD at .15% to a 60 month CD paying 1%. Gonano recommended a short-term option be considered.

***Motion made and second (Parker/Mance) to renew maturing CD for 18 months; Passed 5-0***

9. Unfinished Business

A) Response – Request for Proposal (RFP) Basketball Court

Town Administrator Gonano presented the only response received which was in the amount of $69,800 for the RFP issued for demolition and renovation of the Firehouse Playground Basketball Court. The FRDAP grant total is $50,000, meaning that the Town will have to pay excess out-of-pocket costs. Gonano was looking for permission to apply the entire $50,000 grant funding amount to the basketball court, removing funding for new playground equipment, trash receptacles, landscaping, new picnic facilities, renovation of playground, renovation of picnic facilities, engineering, and property survey; which had all been included in the original grant application. Additionally, Gonano had researched and found that Wild Spaces/Public Places revenues could be applied to the balance, as *Improvements (including shade trees and tables) @ Firehouse Playground* was included on that 2016 County-approved list. Commissioner Roberts questioned if the Town could save money by completing demolition of the court? Town Administrator Gonano reminded the Commission that the engineers had spent a few months reviewing the project specs, and we had already put the project out for bid twice and received only one response. Additionally, the project needs to be completed by April 2021 to qualify for the grant funds.

***Motion made and second (Parker/Mance) to send a letter requesting to amend the application by applying the full funding to the basketball court; Passed 5-0***

Town Administrator Gonano asked the Commission to accept the proposal from Sport Surfaces.

***Motion made and second (Mance/Parker) to accept the Sport Surfaces proposal; Passed 5-0***

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

After receiving an email from Ginny Beam, Mayor Aufmuth had asked Town Administrator Gonano to put this item back on the agenda this evening to vote on the issue. Jeffrey Forbes asked for clarification that Ginny Beam is asking the Town to pay for her private light because she doesn’t have a public light on the street? Mayor Aufmuth answered that Ms. Beam is not asking for a public light to be installed, but is asking for the Town to pay for her light. Commissioner Blakely asked if the light, which was installed facing her driveway, could be turned around to face the street? Again, the Mayor responded that was not what was being asked. Commissioner Mance did not want to establish a precedent. Neighbor Jeffrey Forbes confirmed that he did not want a public street light.

***Motion made and second (Parker/Roberts) to deny the request to pay; Passed 5-0***

10. Town Commissioner Reports

* Commissioner (Seat 2) Tim Parker was happy to have a physical meeting and congratulated Commissioner Mance. Additionally, he was looking forward to the new well and thought that in the long-term we needed to consider replacing existing water lines and possibly extending our water service out CR234 to the Interstate.
* Commissioner (Seat 3) Ginny Mance thought that the Town should consider using the notification system coming directly from the water system in the event of emergency situations *(there is no system designed to make those types of notifications)*. Additionally, she thought that the Dollar General should be directed towards a parcel of commercial land adjoining Charlie Avenue on CR234, which would serve the residents most in need. *(It was incorrectly understood that the site was a County-owned piece of property, but later determined that it is privately owned.)* Lastly, she thanked the Town for support in her campaign race and that it felt good to be on the Commission again.
* Commissioner (Seat 4) Troy Blakely thought that the Town could send a letter to Dollar General regarding Commissioner Mance’s proposal. Questioning the Town’s involvement in such a negotiation, Mayor Aufmuth asked Attorney Parker if that would be acceptable. Attorney Parker replied that it would be acceptable to encourage new business. Attorney Parker will research those issues. Commissioner Blakely thought that if meetings were going to be recorded that the Town should be doing the recording, not private citizens.
* Commissioner (Seat 5) Mike Roberts offered congratulations to Commissioner Mance and related that resident, Ken Tenney, wanted a street light installed at 104 NE Hunter Street. There is an existing pole and it would merely require a light fixture.

***Motion made and second (Roberts/Mance) to install a street light at 104 NE Hunter Street; Passed 3-2 (Aufmuth and Parker opposed)***

Secondly, Commissioner Roberts proposed holding a BBQ Festival out at the ballpark, and the Commission asked Roberts to come back with information.

11. Mayor (Seat 1) Aufmuth Report

Mayor Aufmuth congratulated Commissioner Mance on the election results and commended 50% of the voters for coming out to vote.The people of the Town are keeping us on our toes. The Mayor thanked former Commissioner Strobles for serving and would like to see representation from all of the Town’s sectors.

12. Adjourn 9:58pm

**MINUTES APPROVED:**

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

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