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**Town Commission**

**Tuesday • December 10, 2019 • 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 November 12, 2019

 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) Trisha Roy, Alachua County Commission Candidate District 3

Alachua County Commission Candidate Trisha Roy introduced herself by saying that she was born and raised in Mother Teresa’s headquarters in Kolkata, India. She spoke briefly about her experiences with Mother Teresa. Ms. Roy has lived in the Gainesville/Newberry area for 15 years. With master degrees in both ecology and management, she makes her living as an international real estate broker, having finalized her very first real estate transaction in Micanopy. Ms. Roy’s campaign is focused on education and intermural sports; planned-sustainable growth; and diversity, which is stimulated by the presence of a major university. She serves on the Alachua County Code Enforcement Board and Economic Development Board. She asked for the citizens to sign a petition to put her name on the ballot.

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

Carolyn Wallace detailed programs happening at the library including a Star Wars celebration with Sphero robots, upcoming holiday closures, and return of the 3-D printer, etc.

6. Citizen’s Forum

A) Homer Jack Moore *(153 Seminary Avenue)* complimented the Christmas decorations, as did Sandy Tyson *(252 Seminary Avenue)* and Bud DesForges *(554 Seminary Avenue).*

B) Les Singleton *(Retired Priest, Church of the Mediator)* encouraged citizens to support the effort to get Trisha Roy on the ballot.

C) Grace Fuller *(751 Seminary Avenue)* spoke about the event to be held in Downtown Historic Micanopy on Saturday, December 14th featuring music, local arts and crafts, food trucks, holiday decorations, and gift shopping opportunities.

D) Bud DesForges asked about the progress of Duke Energy pole and power line replacement, which was causing street light outages, and the expected completion date for LED street light replacement. Town Administrator Gonano reported that Duke is working with AT&T to relocate their infrastructure to the new power poles. Duke reports that the process will take a few months to complete and LED conversion should be complete in February. Concerned about P&HPB deliberations, Mr. DesForges asked to have the P&HPB minutes emailed to him.

E) Chris Stokes *(Bishop, New Beginnings Christian Worship Center)* gave a report on the Willie Mae Stokes Community Center’s first year of operations, including 4,315 volunteer hours, 2,662 program participants, 37,000 lbs. of food provided to the community, assisted 12 people to obtain employment, 9 people being served by visits from the Mobile Health Bus, 306 participants in the first and second Community Day events, 185 people fed through the *Feed Micanopy* program, 355 Thanksgiving meals served, 27 students daily participating in the Center, and established community collaboration working with Foundations Therapy, Bread of the Mighty Food Bank, and CareerSource. Bishop Stokes thanked the Commission and the community for their support.

F) James Thompson *(Member, Alachua County Charter Review Commission)* Mr. Thompson provided information about the 12-member Charter Review Commission, which convenes every ten years, and their mission to receive, review, and recommend charter amendments or revisions to place on the 2020 general election ballot. Additional information can be obtained by logging onto the website at ac2020crc.us. Proposals can be submitted by citizens to the Commission at charterreview@alachuacounty.us or 352-337-6144.

7. Citizen Board and Committee Reports

 A) Planning & Historic Preservation Board (P&HPB) of November 19, 2019

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

1. Certificate of Appropriateness – Decorative Fence at Lost Ark Antique 103 NE Cholokka Blvd. Vote to approve 4-0
2. Code Violation – Burch 202 NE Tahota Avenue, Vote 4-0 to vacate Code action
3. Cemetery Lots – Topic will remain on the agenda for further discussion
4. Bicentennial Celebration 2021 – Topic will remain on the agenda for further discussion
5. Accessory Building Recommendations – Topic will remain on the agenda for further discussion

 B) Tree Committee

Paul Cohen reported that the Tree Committee is planning to plant a tree next to the fire house and that the Tree Committee will meet next week.

8. Town Attorney Report

 A) George F. Young Agreement for Consultant Services

Stacy Hall was present to offer a consultant agreement for signature.

***Motion made and second (Parker/Roberts) to accept the George F. Young agreement; Passed 5-0***

B) Ordinance 2020-01 – Election Filing Fees

Attorney Parker spoke about the need to pass an ordinance to opt out of a requirement to collect a 3% filing fee on top of the 1% election assessment fee from candidates running for the office of Town Commission.

***Motion made and second (Parker/Burnett) to only collect the 1% election assessment fee; Passed 5-0***

9. Town Administrator Report

A) Town Administrator Gonano wished everyone a safe, happy holiday season.

10. New Business

A) Proclamation of Appreciation for Les Singleton

Mayor Aufmuth read and presented to Father Les a proclamation of appreciation for Les Singleton’s 36 years of service to the local community. Father Les briefly detailed some diverse programs in which he’s been involved over the course of his years in Micanopy.

B) Micanopy Historic Preservation Trust (MHPT) – Old Jail Renovation

 Homer Jack Moore represented the MHPT’s interest in renovating the old jail, which is located on the water plant property. Dr. Moore detailed jail history and that the poured-concrete jail reinforced with axel wheels and metal was built ca. 1886 to replace a jail built of pine which had accidentally burned down as a result of a fire built by a prisoner in an effort to stay warm. According to Dr. Moore, one of the first prisoners in the new jail was Bill Canty, a one-man band musician playing a mouth harp, banjo, and beating a drum with his foot. Mr. Canty had bad habits that would require him to be locked up in the local jail. When his talents were needed at a Town dance, he would be released from the jail to perform and then returned to lockup after performing. Because of unsanitary conditions at the jail, the Florida State Board of Health got involved with the Town Commission in the 1930s. At that time, Madison Johnson, a prisoner at the jail, had to be transported and housed at the County jail while repairs were made. One of the Town Marshalls to oversee the jail was Roy Duncan, hired by the Town Commission in 1939. Records show that prisoners were transferred to the County in 1951, maybe being the last time that the jail was used to house prisoners. Dr. Moore asked the Commission to recognize the MHPT’s efforts to preserve the old jail. The MHPT was interested in touring the building in order to make recommendations to the Commission regarding any preservation efforts. It was suggested that the current fence be cut out around the jail to allow public access to the jail. As the old jail sits adjacent to the current well house and wells, challenges and options to drill a new well on the existing well house site relative to the location of the jail were discussed. Bud DesForges suggested, cost and condition of the building permitting, that the structure be moved to the museum property.

***Motion made and second (Parker/Roberts) to appoint the Micanopy Historic Preservation Trust stewards of the jail; Passed 5-0***

C) Zero Turn Mower Purchase

 Town Administrator Gonano presented three proposals obtained for the purchase of a new zero turn mower. Quotes had been received from Lazenby Equipment in the amount of $9,302, Ocala Tractor in the amounts of $9,766 and $8,161, and John Deere in the amount of $8,729. Although the Kawasaki mower from Lazenby was more expensive than some of the other mowers, public works put in a request to purchase the mower, as it was reportedly easy to repair.

***Motion made, seconded, and amended (Parker/Roberts) to purchase the Kawasaki mower from Lazenby Equipment; Passed 5-0***

11. Unfinished Business

A) Board Member Term Expirations and New Applicants

 Town Administrator presented names of four citizen board members who had submitted Citizen Board Appointment applications in response to their terms expiring at the end of December 2019 and two applicants who were requesting new appointments.

 1) David Massey, P&HPB 4) Paul Cohen, Tree Committee

 2) Fro Warren, P&HPB 5) Gary C. Hunt, Tree Committee

 3) Buddy Barnard, Code Enforcement Board 6) Stephen ‘Dakota’ Johnson, P&HPB

 Town Administrator Gonano related that there were currently two positions open on the P&HPB, one on the Code Board, and one on the Tree Committee. All four of the existing Board Members had completed applications for reappointment to the Boards. Three applications had been received for the P&HPB. Although a member of the P&HPB was reportedly ill, a resignation had not been received.

***Motion made and second (Blakely/Burnett) to reappoint Fro Warren to the P&HPB and reappoint Paul Cohen to the Tree Committee; Passed 5-0***

Dakota Johnson was present at the meeting and made a statement including comments regarding current and proposed ordinances which infringe on property rights.

***Motion made and second (Blakely/Burnett) to appoint Dakota Johnson to the P&HPB; Passed 5-0***

***Motion made and second (Roberts/Parker) to reappoint Buddy Barnard to Code Enforcement Board; Passed 5-0***

Gary Hunt, who had been a certified arborist, was present and stated that he had worked in Miami Beach as a citizen advisory board member protecting trees.

***Motion made and second (Burnett/Blakely) to appoint Gary Hunt to the Tree Committee; Passed 5-0***

 B) Ballpark Improvement Project – Playground Surface

Town Administrator Gonano advised that the playground equipment was on order and expected to arrive the second week of January. Gonano had been asked to get pricing information for melaleuca mulch. As a result of a shortage of harvesting, the vendor recommended by the Marion County Extension Service did not have melaleuca mulch available, and they quoted a price for playground quality pine mulch. Gonano had gotten quotes for both the existing playground area and the new playground area. Including pine mulch, weed barrier, and landscape timbers, the Town could expect to pay about $6,600 to mulch the existing playground area and $3,400 to mulch the new area; totaling almost $10,000 for the entire ballpark playground. A critical fall height of 8’ requires 12” of mulch and will need replenishing in about a year to maintain the 12” depth. The mulch would be applied after the playground equipment is installed. Grace Fuller wondered about using sand, but Town Administrator Gonano answered that sand could not accommodate an 8’ critical fall height. Attorney Parker reminded the Commission that the purchasing requirements called for the Town to use an informal bidding process for purchases between $5,000-$10,000. Mayor Aufmuth thought that we should use the pine bark for the new playground if the melaleuca mulch is not available. Commissioner Burnett thought that we should vote to purchase mulch for the new playground area so that when the new equipment is delivered, it can be constructed and put into use.

***Motion made, seconded, and withdrawn (Parker/Roberts) to purchase mulch to cover the existing and new playground areas***

***Motion made (Burnett) to get two additional bids and purchase the material on which to set up the new equipment; motion dies for lack of a second***

***Motion made (Burnett/Roberts) to purchase the material to install the new playground equipment; Passed 3-2 (Blakely and Parker opposed)***

 C) Request for Proposal (RFP) – Basketball Court Renovation at Firehouse Playground

Attorney Parker presented a revised RFP for the basketball court renovation. Mayor Pro Tem Parker questioned Item II(C)(2) calling for only a 4” slab. For specs being questioned, the Mayor suggested contacting the engineer. Whereas, the FRDAP grant fund reimbursement is $50,000 Administrator Gonano reported that she had received an unofficial bid of $47,150 for just the basketball court construction alone; the FRDAP grant application also included new playground and renovation, picnic facilities, landscaping, and trash receptacles, in addition to the administration, engineering, and survey expense. The $50,000 in grant funds slated for reimbursement might be reduced for each element of the application that is not completed. Mayor Aufmuth stated that, whatever makes the court last, the primary focus is to get the basketball court replaced and that the Town Administrator should contact the engineer.

D) Micanopy Historic Cemetery Association (MHCA) – Town-owned Adjoining Cemetery Parcels

As discussed last month, the Town owns three parcels totaling over 4 ½ acres adjacent to the Micanopy Historic Cemetery. As the cemetery has only twelve remaining unsold lots, the Cemetery Association would need the Town to commit that acreage to the Cemetery Association. The Association had developed a two to three year plan for which they might be in need of financial and physical help to develop those areas, including assistance with the creation of parking areas, service area, additional water distribution, burial design assistance, hiring a lot chairman, and landscape maintenance. The MHCA will be meeting on January 18th to discuss options. Town Administrator Gonano asked Claudia Larson if she had any estimates of cost for the items on the list; and Claudia did not. Additionally, the Administrator asked Claudia if the cemetery had funds to cover any improvement costs, and Claudia answered that the Association has invested funds in a long-term IRA in perpetuity, which had been reserved for future cemetery needs. Claudia asked for, and received, a verbal commitment of support from all five Town Commissioners for donation of the Town-owned acreage. Claudia will take this verbal offer of support back to the Association for discussion purposes. Homer Jack Moore voiced concern about possible construction on land on which an historic battle might have occurred. Mayor Aufmuth replied that all proper precautions would be taken.

12. Town Commissioner Reports

* Commissioner (Seat 2) Parker – Presented information on a water filtration system. Previously, Kimley-Horn had explained that any such system would need to be designed to accommodate maximum water production capacity *(518,000 gallons/day)* and quoted an estimate at $1.2 million *(April 23, 2019 minutes: conservatively $1.5 million and the addition of a brine disposal site)*. The Mayor Pro Tem had spoken with a vendor who would be willing to design a water filtration system to accommodate our current needs (65,000 gallons/day) with the capability of expanding the system as use increases. Mayor Aufmuth encouraged Parker to obtain whatever information that he possibly could regarding filtration. Merry Christmas and drive safe.
* Commissioner (Seat 3) Burnett – Thanks to the Town attorney’s office for ethics training. He enjoyed meeting municipal officials from other cities. Also, there are many lights out in Town creating safety issues because of ongoing Duke activity.
* Commissioner (Seat 4) Blakely – Stated that the Town erred and caused mental anguish and legal fees to some Town residents over code enforcement action dealing with a dog pen. Commissioner Blakely is concerned about encumbering the residents with all the rules and regulations, such as municipalities like Orlando, Jacksonville, and Miami.

***Motion made, seconded, and second withdrawn (Blakely/Parker) to pay legal fees incurred by Dusty Burch & Brandy Haney***

Town Administrator Gonano expressed that in defense of the P&HPBs decision, the Board was read a definition of ‘structures’ and was told that the dog pen met that definition. Bud DesForges asked about P&HPB operation and decisions.

* Commissioner (Seat 5) Roberts – Wanted to get the one last remaining metal dugout roof re-roofed to match.

***Motion made (Roberts/Blakely) to reroof the dugout to match; Passed 5-0***

Commissioner Roberts wanted to resurface the road between the Firehouse Playground and post office with 2” of asphalt. Stacy Hall remembered that several unused roads were found when the survey was completed in June 2015. Mayor Aufmuth answered that it can be placed on the list.

13. Mayor Aufmuth (Seat 1) Report – Mayor Aufmuth wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

14. Adjourn 9:19pm

**MINUTES APPROVED:**

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

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