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Town Commission

Minutes Workshop • Fee Schedule

Tuesday • January 7, 2020 • 6:00 pm

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1. Call to Order: 6:00pm

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to Flag

3. Roll Call

*Commissioners Attending:*

* Joseph Aufmuth, Mayor Present
* Timothy Parker, Mayor Pro Tem Absent
* Ed Burnett Present
* Troy Blakely Present
* Mike Roberts Present
* Debbie Gonano, Town Administrator Present

4. Agenda Approval

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

5. Fee Schedule

Commissioner Blakely stated that “most of our documents like this *(Fee Schedule)* come from other cities like Orlando, Tampa, or Jacksonville, but Micanopy is unique”; to which Mayor Aufmuth responded that about 10-15 years ago other local communities were reviewed, but that all these fees were voted on based on reasonable costs. Commissioner Blakely pointed out that the Planning Board is currently using a document from the City of Orlando; to which the Mayor responded that it’s possible if there were no other regulation available. Further, Commissioner Blakely saw this fee schedule as excessive additional taxes and “taxation without representation,” and he liked that there was no charge for a tree permit. Answering the Mayor, Commissioner Blakely had a problem with the approved permit fees for a fence, sign, and zoning compliance verification; appeal, comprehensive plan amendment, lot split, plat, rezoning, site plan review, special exception and variance fees; industrial enterprise occupational license fees, and water connection fees. Commissioner Blakely mentioned that the Herlong Mansion had to pay a $150 fee for a variance request appeal (for alcohol); however, in actuality they were asked to pay only $50 for a Special Use Permit and there was no fee paid for Commissioner Blakely’s appeal of the P&HPB’s decision. Answering Commissioner Roberts, Mayor Aufmuth explained that the fees charged are a partial reimbursement to the Town for the costs of staff and professional fees. Town Administrator Gonano thought that some of the charges may have been assessed as a deterrent to potentially troublesome situations. Commissioner Roberts questioned the 10% late payment penalty surcharge for water payments; however, Town Administrator Gonano answered that Town staff always follows code, but worked with late paying consumers. Stoney Slaton *(104 NE Seminary Road)* opined that it is not uncommon for property owners to pay impact fees; it’s a cost of doing business. Commissioner Burnett considered the fees charged vs. the services received. Commissioner Burnett asked about procedures for various items previously highlighted by Commissioner Blakely; and Burnett concluded that the fees charged were a reimbursement to the Town for costs incurred and were, therefore, likely justifiable; he voiced his opinion that it wasn’t right for some homeowners to benefit by receiving services at the expense of those who didn’t utilize those services. The Mayor mentioned that in his twenty years serving on Commission, he doesn’t remember a resident complaining about a fee charged; to which Commissioner Blakely responded that it was a mistake for residents not to complain and he wondered what we were doing with our tax money now. Commissioner Roberts stated that he respected that Blakely’s heart was with the Town’s people. Mayor Aufmuth asked the Commissioners interested in making changes to the fee schedule to prepare a revised list of fees to present at the February regular meeting for a vote.

6. Adjourn 6:35pm

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**MINUTES APPROVED:**

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

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