



Town Commission - Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 7:00 pm

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

Mayor Aufmuth called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance to Flag

3. Roll Call

Minutes:

Commissioners Attending: • Joseph Aufmuth, Mayor Present • Troy Blakely Present • Virginia Mance Present • Timothy Parker, Mayor Pro-Tem Present • Mike Roberts Present

• Scott Walker, Attorney Present • Sara Owen, Town Administrator Present • Patty Polk, Deputy Town Clerk Present

4. Consent Agenda

Minutes:

Motion made and seconded (Mance/Parker) to approve the remainder of the consent agenda; passed 5-0

a. Agenda Approval

Minutes:

Mayor Aufmuth announced that we have a request for an addition to the agenda. Commissioner Roberts requested that street light addition be added to this agenda under 10.C New Business.

Motion made and seconded (Mance/Parker) to approve the agenda as amended; passed 5-0

b. Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 11, 2022

c. Minutes of Joint Session between Town Commission and Planning & Historic Preservation Board of January 18, 2022

d. Review & Acceptance of Financial Transactions & Reports

5. Guests

a. Lena McNeer, Alachua County Library District

Minutes:

Lena McNeer, Micanopy Librarian, gave a verbal report inviting everyone to join

the library in celebrating Black History Month. They have a number of fantastic virtual programs on Zoom throughout the month. The one she is going to highlight is this Thursday and will be a discussion of soul train and American culture. The other is a wonderful reading challenge that focuses on Black wellness and health.

b. Savannah Kirwin - CDBG Well Project Update

Minutes:

Savannah Kirwan, Kimley Horn, gave a verbal report regarding our Water Plant and the progress on Well #3 and different options for water filtration. They are dealing with lead times on the pump, motor, and control panel. Water quality results are back and they are similar to our current well.

6. Citizen's Forum

Minutes:

H. Grace Fuller, would like some gravel put on our driveway as it is muddy. She noticed in last months minutes that there was mention to have all houses in town look similar. She discussed that our town has a variety of construction for our houses and she likes living in a unique town.

Mayor Aufmuth stated that the integrity of the town is important.

Sandy Tyson, discussed road repair needed on Cholokka Blvd in front of the Museum.

David Massey, he agrees with the new structures in town.

Bishop Stokes, gave the year end stats for the Willie Mae Stokes Community Center food give away every Tuesday; 3573 people have been served over the past year with 3 counties; Alachua, Marion, and Levy counties. 3220 instructional hours to young people, 27 - 30 students a day. They sponsored 3 vaccinations and 3 booster drives through their community. Their Community Care Program has recently helped to paint Alice Rochelle's home. On behalf of the Willie Mae Stokes Community Center and The New Beginnings Worship Center he would like to thank Mayor Joe Aufmuth for his leadership and his unwavering support to their centers and the community which we are forever grateful for your years of support. You will be absolutely be missed and we hope that you will not disappear.

On behalf of the Community Center, he handed out flyers for the Unity Walk 9:00 am on February 19, 2022.

7. Citizen Board and Committee Reports

a. Planning & Historic Preservation Board

Minutes:

Board member Elder gave a verbal report. A variance to build on a non conforming lot was approved; the lot was a lot of record.

b. Tree Committee

Minutes:

Paul Cohen gave a verbal report. Our Arbor Day Event on January 21, 2022 was

cancelled due to Covid-19 and we are planning to reschedule for March 18, 2022; Commissioner Mance will participate during the tree planting.

8. Town Attorney Report

a. Final Reading of Ordinance Number 2021-04, Amending the Micanopy Comprehensive Plan

Minutes:

Attorney Walker read Ordinance 2021-04 on short title and explained the language associated with it. Motion made and seconded (Parker/Roberts) to accept Ordinance 2021-04 as submitted; passed 5-0 Discussion ensued.

9. Town Administrator Report

a. Summer Work Programs for Youth

Minutes:

Summer work program - Informational only.

b. Matured Certificate of Deposit

Minutes:

Administrator Owen discussed the CD that is maturing. The recommendation would be to invest in one of the high quality bond funds through Florida Municipal Investment Trust (FMIT).

Discussion ensued.

Motion made and seconded (Parker/Blakely) to move the funds of \$262,371 to Florida Municipal Investment Trust (FMIT); passed 5-0

c. Historic Designation of Old Jail

Minutes:

Informational only. The Planning & Historic Preservation Board will review and make a recommendation to the Town Commission.

d. County Placement of Sign for Camp Cusawilla

Minutes:

Placement of a sign for Camp Cusawilla will be postponed a little. They hope to place something eye catching at the the entrance and want to reach out to local artists for possible assistance.

10. New Business

a. New Lockers for the Fire Station

Minutes:

Administrator Owen explained that the Fire Department needs larger lockers for the firefighters. Discussion ensued.

Motion made and seconded (Roberts/Parker) to approve up to \$3000 to procure proper sized lockers, Chief Modican to work with Administrator Owen to purchase lockers; passed 5-0

b. Tree Removal

Minutes:

Administrator Owen has obtained two estimates for the proposed trees.

Discussion ensued.

Motion made and seconded (Roberts/Parker) to approved \$1750 to remove the trees; Above motion and second withdrawn; the motion dies for lack of a second.

Discussion ensued. Mayor Pro-Tem Parker would like our Town Administrator to reach out to the Wood Doctor to see if he can cut the wood into boards. Also check with Cordwin Tree Service in reference to cutting the tree into boards.

This item will be on the next Commission meeting agenda.

c. Street Light Request

Minutes:

Commissioner Roberts explained that different residents have requested street lights added in town as their street is very dark. One light on NE Hunter Ave, pole #452137 near the curve, and one light on Smith Ave, pole #46142 near the cemetery. Discussion ensued. Motion made and seconded (Roberts/Parker) to add a street light on NE Hunter Ave, pole #452137 and a street light on Smith Ave, pole #461142 near the cemetery; passed 5-0

11. Unfinished Business

a. Request by Remembrance Committee

Minutes:

Jiana Williams, Micanopy, Alachua County, Remembrance Committee Chair, the main premise of this committee is Truth and Reconciliation. At the last meeting they were requested to give more information regarding the remembrance committee. Bill Harlan has provided the requested information and it has been distributed to the commission. Discussion ensued at length. Bishop Stokes stated that this is a nationwide movement, it is not just a Micanopy thing. They are not placing blame they just want to recognize. Other municipalities in Alachua County have held ceremonies and there has been no ill effects. Bishop Stokes would love for all of us come on board and be a part of this because it really is a part of our community, yes it did happen, and will probably never happen again.

Wendi Lin Bartels invited everyone to join them, in their meetings, and in unity.

Commissioner Mance is satisfied with the information and thanked the committee.

Commissioner Blakely has two objections 1. The man that was lynched, murdered Mr. Chitty, and he doesn't see honoring a murderer. To continually bringing up the past is negative and we cannot build a positive society if we continue to deal with negativity. Mayor Aufmuth understands the issues that you are grappling with are issues that he had trouble with. This was justice denied as this individual was ripped from the jail and the process to lynch him

happened by many people. The idea is the denied justice. The issue now is to bring community together through healing and this is a positive for our future. Commissioner Blakely disagrees. This is going into the minutes and history of Micanopy and down the road how will this look.

Attorney Walker spoke up and stated that this is a procedural process and at this point it is just to make a decision if soil should or should not be dug from that site. All comments should come before the Mayor and civility is required during out meetings.

Mayor Aufmuth asked for public comment regarding the motion on the floor. H. Grace Fuller apologized for being outspoken as she is a very passionate person and very emotional on this topic.

Patty Crass feels very strongly that this is something that is very stressful for everyone. This is our opportunity as individuals and as a group of citizens to say I'm sorry.

Mayor Aufmuth questioned our Town Attorney regarding the process that we have been using of asking anyone who speaks at our meetings to state their name and address; is this required?

Attorney Walker stated that this is not required. Anybody can attend a public meeting, you do not need to be a resident or even a citizen of this country to speak at a public meeting. If you wish to give your name and address then you may, but it is not required.

Kat Crass stated that we should not be afraid to explore this issue as it is very complicated.

Jenni Elder questioned the two parts of the motion and 1 is allowing people into the jail and the other is the soil collection.

Citizen: What is the significance of the soil collection. Jiji Williams was asked to respond by the Mayor and she stated that one jar will be collected from the Micanopy jail and one from the other three sites on Wacahoota Rd where the other three lynching's occurred.

Cheryl Roberts, she has a concern and does not want to offend anyone. and she quoted scripture. "Give Honor where honor is due".

Steve Elder must be himself and walk in forgiveness.

Lena McNeer, Micanopy librarian, stated that Alachua County Libraries have taken part in these committees around Alachua County, there is soil on display at their Alachua branch, and it has had a positive impact on the community.

Judy Galloway commented on "give honor where honor is due" and no one was proven guilty of murder.

James Gray was asked to look at the jail and his opinion is that the jail is dirty and should be demolished. Mayor Aufmuth pointed out that this is off topic.

This could be a positive topic to move forward on.

Jiji Williams stated that this is about justice denied, about honor and respect. She personally does not want to get the soil from the jail as it is dishonorable.

Bishop Stokes asked that we would do the right thing and that is all that he

asks.

Margaret stated that the first thing that she heard about the town is that we have a race problem and this hurts her as she loves this town.

Sandy Newman supports the Remembrance Committee.

Wendi Lin Bartels stated that a large ceremony will be held but not at the jail as there is a whole procedure for the soil. Only a few of their committee will be there to collect the soil.

Mayor Aufmuth thanked everyone for their civility. He appreciate's everyone. Commissioner Roberts thanked everyone for their comments and participation. He appreciates all of the information and they do try to what is best for the community.

Mayor Pro-Tem Parker appreciates all of the participation and information. Commissioner Mance is moved and at a loss for words as she means personal good for everyone in this room. She loves our town and our oneness and she always tries to find commonality. We should all embrace our commonality. Commissioner Blakely stated that we all see the diversity of our council and the diversity of our community. His position is with the information that he was given and the conviction that he has and that will reflect his vote. He does not mean harm or injury to anyone, just the reverse, and he has to stand by his conviction.

Motion made and seconded (Mance/Roberts) to allow access to the jail with staff present for safety reasons and to allow gathering up to 4 jars of soil collection near the jail;

Above Motion amended (Mance/Roberts) to reflect 2 jars of soil instead of 4 jars as previously stated; passed (4-1 (Blakely opposed) Motion passes

Mayor Aufmuth stated to the jiji Williams that he saw this process moving in a different direction and he was the one who put the idea out there that permission to go into the jail was being requested by your committee. That is on him and he apologized.

H Grace Fuller respectfully to the Town Commissioners, when you are given information and minutes please read them before the meeting because all the information was given to you before the discussion.

b. Newberry Opioid Taskforce Funding Request

Minutes:

Newberry Opioid Task Force, Chair discussed the increasing substance use and the need to educate our young people and to reduce the number of students who become drug abusers. Discussion ensued at length.

Motion made and seconded (Roberts/Blakely) to donate the \$5400 that we will obtain from the opioid law suit and \$4600 from our ARPA funds to the Opioid Task Force; passed 5-0

12. Town Commissioner Reports

a. Commissioner (Seat 2) Tim Parker

Minutes:

Mayor Pro-Tem Parker discussed several topics which included, cold weather, well water, possible funding for renovation of water lines, and grants are out there.

b. Commissioner (Seat 3) Ginny Mance

Minutes:

Commissioner Mance stated that this is the very last meeting of a very dear man and his wife. Mayor Aufmuth your vast history and ability to manage meetings is great; she really respects him. Hugs and we love you. God Bless You.

c. Commissioner (Seat 4) Troy Blakely

Minutes:

Commissioner Blakely stated hugs, we are all diverse, love our town, people, personal rights, liberties, and property rights.

d. Commissioner (Seat 5) Mike Roberts

Minutes:

Commissioner Roberts stated that Joe Aufmuth is the only commissioner who has served as long as his dad, Carson Roberts, did. Joe does a great job, this is not an easy job sitting up here on the dias. We love you.

13. Mayor (Seat 1) Joe Aufmuth Report

Minutes:

Mayor Aufmuth stated that he had a great teacher in Carson Roberts. When he first starting joining commission meetings it was because he had an issue with the street light shining in his bedroom window, he came in guns a blazing, and he decided to continue coming to meetings. When you come for a meeting, stay for the whole meeting, and don't leave when your issue is over. When you sit up here as a commissioner it is not easy as you never know what is going to come up. This is his last meeting that he will have anxiety, your colon is in a knot, and you don't know what is going to come up. He gives thanks for all the people that he has served with. Over his time here he has served with 15 different commissioners.

Commissioner Mance presented a framed historical document from Remzey Samarrai of an original contemporaneous account of the battle of "Fort Defiance. Micanopy, East Florida, July 12th, Niles Weekly Register, August 13, 1836.

14. Adjourn

Minutes:

Mayor Aufmuth adjourned the meeting at 9:24 pm

MATTER CONSIDERED DURING THIS MEETING, HE OR SHE WILL NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT, A PERSON WITH DISABILITIES NEEDING ANY SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN TOWN MEETINGS SHOULD CONTACT THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, 706 NE CHOLOKKA BLVD., MICANOPY, FLORIDA 32667-0137, TELEPHONE (352) 466-3121.

Contact: Sara Owen (townhall@micanopytown.com (352) 466-3121) | Minutes published on 02/03/2022, adopted on 03/08/2022