

MEETING MINUTES FOR THE  
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2010 AT 7:00 P.M.  
TOWN HALL, 4240 HIGHWAY US1, GRANT VALKARIA, FL 32949

The Regular Town Council Meeting of February 10, 2010 was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Yonts, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice Mayor Kolar, and roll call to the Council Members with the following present:

Mayor – Del Yonts	Town Administrator Richard Hood
Seat No. 1 – Joe Hackford	Town Clerk Susanne Krueger
Seat No. 2 – Lisette Kolar, Vice Mayor	
Seat No. 3 – Pat Bryan	
Seat No. 4 – Jason Mahaney	
Seat No. 5 – Dan Faden	
Seat No. 6 – Cathy DeMott	

#### PRESENTATION

- 1) Presentation of Proclamation to ABATE of Florida, Inc. proclaiming May as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month - Mayor Yonts read the proclamation in its entirety proclaiming February as Motorcycle Awareness Month and presented Gail Heinbockel of Abate Of Florida, Inc, Treasure Coast Chapter the proclamation.

#### CHANGES TO AGENDA

Mayor Yonts noted that someone had a presentation for Town Administrator Hood. Tom Sammon presented Town Administrator Hood with the “Golden Hammer” award dated February 10, 2010 for his exemplary work on the construction of the Council dais.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1) Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2010

Motions by Council Member Hackford, second by Council Member Mahaney, and vote unanimous to approve the Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2010.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS (non- agenda items)

There were no public comments on non-agenda items.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Discussion/Action Re Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Land Purchase (Hood)

Town Administrator Hood stated that FDOT transmitted a letter regarding land purchase from the Town of Grant-Valkaria and briefly highlighted the letter as follows: This is where we acquired property from the County known as Grant Drainage District. The parcels are located near the Valkaria and Grant Road overpasses and the land will be utilized for retention areas and

ingress/egress to the retention area. The process includes an appraisal by the appraiser hired by FDOT. The Town is permitted to hire their own appraiser if it feels it should, which cost is reimbursable upon purchase. After the appraisals are completed, FDOT will make an offer to purchase. If the price is agreeable we would go forward to closing. If the Town and FDOT cannot settle on an agreeable price FDOT has the right to utilize eminent domain to acquire the property. This is just the first step in the process and as he has not had sufficient time to review the package from FDOT and will need to discuss this matter with the Town Attorney. He will be placing this back on the agenda for further discussion as we move forward in the process.

## 2) Discussion/Action Re Workshop Schedule (Hood)

Town Administrator Hood stated that the following is a proposed workshop schedule:

1. Personnel Policies - Council action only
2. Emergency Management Plan - Council action only
3. Sign Code - Planning and Zoning Board (P & Z) and Council action
4. Accessory Structures - Planning and Zoning Board and Council action
5. Business Tax Receipts - Planning and Zoning Board and Council action
6. Golf Carts - Council action only
7. Land Development Regulations (LDRs) - Council action only
8. Post Review - Seafood Festival, Air-Fest, BBQ Fest - Council discussion only
9. Waste Management - Yard Waste Alternatives - Council discussion only

Town Administrator read his memo pertaining to the workshop schedule as follows: The above list represents items previously discussed or requested by the Council, Public, or Staff. He believes that items 1 and 2 will take a full meeting each. Items 3-6 have been previously discussed and he feels that staff has enough information to prepare an ordinance for each and begin the process. On items pertaining to P & Z Staff will prepare an ordinance for their consideration. After the P & Z considers the draft ordinance we will take that input and prepare an ordinance for Council consideration and public hearings. Items 8 and 9 are discussion items only and could be placed towards the end of the workshop schedule.

Mr. Hood stated that he will need input from the Council on the method they would like to discuss the LDRs. If Council goes through the LDRs page by page we will be in workshops for the next 6 months or more. If council is only considering the changes recommend by the P & Z we can cut back the time considerably.

Mr. Hood recommended the following schedule:

- March 3 - workshop - Personnel Policies
- March 17 - workshop - Emergency Management Plan
- April 7, 21 ..., until complete - workshop - LDRs every Wednesday there is not a Council meeting
- After completion of the LDRs we will schedule a workshop for the post review of the Seafood Festival, Air-Fest, and BBQ Fest
- Beginning March 29<sup>th</sup> we will begin the ordinance changes that go to the P & Z. The ordinance review will occur at regular Council meetings.

- He anticipates the Public Transmittal hearing for the Comprehensive Plan to be held in April

Mr. Hood stated that signs, accessory structures, business tax receipts and golf carts will require ordinances. It was Council consensus to have two workshops on these four topics. It was Council consensus to have the following workshop schedule:

- March 3 – Business tax receipts and sign codes
- March 17 – Accessory structures and golf carts
- March 31 – Emergency management plan
- April 7 – Personnel policy
- April 21 – start on the LDRs

It was Council consensus to have each Council Member obtain a copy of the LDRs with underline and strike-through from what the Local Planning Agency changes were made, for each Council Member to review it, and if any clarification is need for the Council Member to have a one-to-one with Town Administrator Hood.

It was Council consensus to have the post review of the Grant Seafood Festival, Air-Fest, and BBQ Fest as an agenda item. It was Council consensus to have Waste Management, Yard Waste Alternatives as an agenda item on an agenda that is not full.

## REPORTS

### 1) Town Administrator's Report

Town Administrator Hood gave his report as follows:

- (A) Foreclosure properties - he has received a request from a resident concerning the unsightliness of some of the vacant properties. Some of the properties are in foreclosure, some are in limbo. The resident wanted to know if it would be possible to adopt an ordinance that gives the Town the right to go in and maintain the properties. It was suggested that we could utilize volunteers to do the maintenance instead of hiring the service out to a contractor. Maybe a team in the Grant area and one in the Valkaria area would work. Another item that could dovetail into the volunteer effect would be a service that could be provided to the elderly or infirmed to assist them in their lawn care.

Mr. Hood stated that the Town could have a code where the bank or realtor must register with the Town, and be charged a \$50 registration fee. Council Members were concerned about volunteers being injured on other people's property. It was Council consensus to have Town Administrator Hood get with Town Attorney Bohne to create an ordinance from Palm Bay and Melbourne's ordinance requiring registration and allows us to get on the property. Council Member Bryan stated that he would like the Town to be reimbursed for the cost of the cleanup. Mr. Hood stated that the Code Enforcement Board would impose a lien and a cost, but violations continue until the problem is resolved. Mr. Hood stated that he would work out the details with Town Attorney Bohne and will come back before Council. Council Member Hackford stated that he has mowed some properties in foreclosure because he has liability insurance, and that it takes a while to get paid.

(B) Town Hall sign - previously he had reported to Council that they were able to obtain the old Melbourne City Hall sign. He has been in contact with the original sign manufacture, Don Reilly, Art Kraft Sign Company to see what the sign would cost to refurbish for us. He has requested Council input regarding the proposal to refurbish, including installation at a cost of \$4, 735. The cost of the permit and the cost to run the electric to the sign would be additional. If Council wanted to repaint the cabinet ourselves and eliminate the Seafood Festival portion of the sign we could save \$875 of the total cost.

Mr. Hood stated that our landlord has authorized the sign and that the Grant Community Club will donate \$875, two others are donating \$300, and another is donating \$1,000 which totals \$2175 towards the sign without even asking for donations. Bonnie Allen suggested placing a temporary sign out front for people to know where we are at. Council Member Bryan stated that Blox Electric will donate \$100. It was Council consensus to allow Mr. Hood to solicit donations for the sign and have Mr. Reilly make a temporary sign. Motions by Council Member DeMott, second by Council Member Hackford, and vote unanimous to allow funding for the town sign up to \$2,500.

Mr. Hood stated that Town Attorney Bohne extended his regrets that he was unable to attend tonight's meeting. It was Council consensus to send him a congratulatory card regarding granddaughter.

(C) Miscellaneous - he received notice from Florida East Coast Railways (FEC) that Valkaria Road will be closed March 7, 8, and 9 to repair the crossing, and that the newest estimate for this repair is \$20,000 less than the original estimate. He met with Mr. Ray Rhoden, FEC, they went to the southern unused railroad spur, Mr. Rhoden was going to the asphalt company who has the agreement, they are responsible for the spur, and he will be moving forward on it. Council Member Mahaney requested sending out a notice that the railroad crossing will be closed on March 7, 8, and 9.

Mr. Hood extended a personal thank you to all the volunteers that helped during the time he made improvements, especially to Sue Krueger and Jessica Williams whom handled town hall so he had time to do all that needed to be done.

## 2) Financial Report

Town Administrator Hood stated that the town is on track with the finances; spending is below budget and revenues are as expected; financial picture is healthy. He stated that he has faith the Representative Poppell will get the money back for us to do roadway resurfacing program.

## 3) Council Reports and Comments

Council Members extended a sincere thank you to all the volunteers and staff for the great Town Hall inside and outside landscape in that it exemplifies dedication and talent. Council Member Hackford thanked staff for all the help assisting with the Grant Seafood Festival. Council Member Mahaney stated that the Air-Fest is 8:30 a.m. on February 20<sup>th</sup>, and the Grant Seafood Festival is 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> and 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Yonts suggested having a workshop with the Charter Review Committee.

Mayor Yonts stated at the last Space Coast League of Cities meeting they discussed unfunded mandates with the two large city issues as: 1) police pension and 2) fire pension, and two small city issues as: 1) Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) being costly if mandatory every seven years even if no changes and 2) stormwater quality issue should have more flexibility in timing and funding. Mayor Yonts requested Town Clerk Krueger to email Council this information and if they wish to have it on as an agenda item to let her know.

Mayor Yonts explained meeting decorum for council and public speaking: 1) that the new dais has more visibility for him to see when a council member raises his hand to speak, but if council feels he is missing when they wish to speak we may consider putting in lights on the dais to show who wishes to speak; 2) that we do not have a ten minute rule for public speaking, but if time is limited council can prompt the speaker on to keep to the point; 3) that he will continue the option of deciding if it is a formal issue the residents will be limited to speak one time for up to five minutes which is typically when many want to speak and on quasi-judicial issues; 4) show respect to others by not having side comments or speaking at the same time another is speaking.

#### 4) Board Reports and Comments

Bonnie Allen reported that several residents have been attending the Citizen's Academy and each week they learn something different. Council Member Hackford stated that he spoke to the lady across the street from the Grant Community Center and he will be moving the sign back. It was Council consensus to place a link on our website for the United Way relief for Haiti. Tom Sammons presented Town Administrator Hood with a small toy grader.

#### ADJOURN

Motions by Council Member Bryan, second by Council Member Hackford, and vote unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

(signature on file)

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Del Yonts, Mayor

ATTEST:

(signature on file)

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Susanne R. Krueger, Town Clerk