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CITY COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 23, 2017

Mayor James called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Invocation By: Jessica Hall HSPD Chaplain

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Mayor Gloria James– Present
Vice Mayor Jason Evans – Present
Commissioner Byran Williams– Absent
Commissioner Scott Jamison –Present
Commissioner Linda Jones – Present

Staff Present: Ed Booth, City Manager
Jenny L. Parham, City Clerk
Angela Stone, Assistant City Clerk
Scott Walker, City Attorney
Antoine Sheppard, Deputy Chief
Amanda Rodriguez, CRA Executive Director

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

**Motion Vice Mayor Evans to approve the agenda as presented.
Second Commissioner Jamison.
Motion carried 4- 0.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**Motion Vice Mayor Evans to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2017 Commission Meeting with correction on page two changing accusations to acquisitions.
Second Commissioner Jamison.
Motion carried 4-0.**

CITIZEN REQUESTS AND COMMENTS – FOR ISSUES NOT ON AGENDA (PLEASE STATE NAME FOR THE RECORD – LIMIT COMMENTS TO 5 MINUTES)

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Doris Wright spoke of her problem with not having the yard debris picked up from her residence. Spoke of the property next to hers, on the left ,that needs to be cleaned up; it burned down but there is still part of the structure there.

Linda Chapman spoke of the Santa Fe Kiwanis Club wanting to help with a Fitness Trail Project, an outdoor exercise area. She advised that it would be situated at the rear of the High Springs Sports Complex. She stated that the Kiwanis Club would fully fund the project and maintain the trail in the future. Commissioner Jamison asked if there would be a plan presented. Ms. Chapman stated Phase 1 is just the cleaning of the debris.

Motion Vice Mayor Evans to authorize the Santa Fe Kiwanis Club to clear the area for the Fitness Trail Project.

Second Commissioner Jones.

Motion carried 4-0.

Linda Hewlett stated that Ms. Chapman worked very hard on this. She spoke of the area for the trail and what a great project it is.

Susie Clark stated that there is one of these Fitness Trails in Cedar Key if anyone would like to see what they are like.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2017-H, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS IN SUPPORT OF RAILS TO TRAILS IN THE CITY AND TO SUPPORT REQUESTING THE FLORIDA GREENWAYS AND TRAILS COUNCIL TO PRIORITIZE THE TRIAL BETWEEN HIGH SPRINGS AND NEWBERRY; REPEALING ALL RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Attorney Walker read Resolution 2017-H by title only.

Motion Vice Mayor Evans to approve Resolution 2017-H as read by title only.

Second Commissioner Jones.

Roll Call:

Commission Jamison-yes

Commissioner Jones-yes

Mayor James-yes

Vice Mayor Evans-yes

Motion carried 4-0.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER AUTHORIZING USE OF THE HIGH SPRINGS COMMUNITY GARDEN FOR SANTA FE COLLEGE CLASSES.

Mr. Booth stated that the Community Garden has just been sitting for years, and the City does not have any plans for it in the future.

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Mayor James asked if staff would be okay with having a dumpster placed there for cleanup. Mr. Booth said it would not be a problem.

Robert Watson is requesting the use of the High Springs Community Gardens. He would like to use the the Gardens as an educational center for students and the community to learn how to make raised gardening beds, use rain barrels, how to make inexpensive greenhouses, composting worm bins, and drip irrigation. He would like to request a dumpster or some sort of container for dumping waste after cleaning the Gardens and repairing the fence. He would also like to request funds to help get this project started.

Vice Mayor Evans asked for an amount to be presented for the project to get up and running. Mr. Watson stated it would be \$800.00 to \$1,000.00.

Commissioner Jamison asked what the City's liability be if someone gets hurt. He would like to know if the CRA could help with this. CRA Director Rodriguez stated they could do a non-profit grant. She stated that we would need to be in contact with Santa Fe College and they would need to submit the grant.

Mr. Booth stated he will talk to our Finance Director regarding the liability and the City insurance.

Mr. Watson asked if CRA funds can be used when it is City property. CRA Director Rodrigez stated that the Community Garden was built with CRA funds as a CRA Project so CRA funds could be used.

CONSIDER RENEWAL OF LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE HIGH SPRINGS HISTORICAL MUSEUM.

Attorney Walker explained this is a renewal of the lease agreement with the High Springs Historical Museum.

Motion Commissioner Jamison to approve the renewal of the Lease Agreement with the High Springs Historical Museum.

Second Vice Mayor Evans.

Motion carried 4-0.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER PROJECTS FOR THE WILD SPACES PUBLIC PLACES FUNDS.

Mr. Booth stated that this is part of the \$3 million being put up by the County. The cities have agreed that not one city will put in for more than \$400,000.00. He presented two projects; the High Springs' Springs Nature Park, and a Civic Center Splash Park.

Vice Mayor Evans stated he would like for us to go in the direction of the High Springs' Springs Nature Park, because it is why the City is here.

Commissioner Jones spoke in favor of the Splash Park as we need things for our youth.

Commissioner Jamison asked how much it would cost to maintain a Splash Park.

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Vice Mayor Evans stated he spoke to the City of Lake Butler about their Splash Park, and they advised that there are numerous things that have to be done for maintenance. Mr. Booth stated the maintenance would be a cost of about \$10,000.00 per year.

Mayor James stated that developing the Springs Nature Park would be what she would like to see.

Linda Hewlett suggested speaking to Damon Messina of the City of Alachua about the maintenance of the Splash Park in Alachua. She feels the youth in the community would be excited about a Splash Park. She spoke of the High Springs' Springs being historically significant, but spoke in favor of the Splash Park for the youth.

Commissioner Jamison asked if the Splash Park would cut into the current facilities. He asked for more information to be brought back on this Splash Park.

Mr. Booth stated that there is only a two week window for us to decide this; it is a short window.

Larry Bencke stated he does not think a lot of citizens would use the High Springs' Springs Nature Park, but that the Splash Park would get a lot of use. He stated we need to consider which would serve the most citizens.

Robert Watson spoke of the High Springs' Spring being his preference.

Terry Hull asked if we have a vision and mission statement that helps us in times like these. He speaks of having to look to the future. He stated that communities seldom look at the youth, which is the potential future citizens.

**Motion Commissioner Jamison to table this item to the next Commission Meeting.
Second Commissioner Jones.
Motion carried 3-1 with Vice Mayor Evans in opposition.**

CONSIDER ORDINANCE 2017-02, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS, FLORIDA IMPOSING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM OR ABATEMENT UPON THE ACCEPTANCE AND/OR PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ZONING AND PERMITTING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSING FACILITIES FOR A PERIOD OF 180 DAYS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Attorney Walker asked that this item be removed from the agenda as there needed to be further research.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT/UPDATE

Attorney Walker advised that the City Manager has given them a contract for a Contract City Planner, Allison Megrath and will review and have it back to the commission.

CITY MANAGER REPORT/UPDATE

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Advised that the first weekend of May there will be a BMX event and the first Weekend of October there will be a National BMX Event in High Springs.

Advised we are working on grants. He stated that SRWMD wants to push their grants forward, so we will have multiple projects going on at one time.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS:

COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Jones- Nothing at this time.

Commissioner Jamison stated that the grants for the water system and sewer system are long overdue and applauded the staff.

Vice Mayor Evans- Nothing at this time.

MAYOR

Advised that March 4th will be the dedication ceremony for the Martin Luther King plague.

Asked when the next food giveaway would be held. Mr. Booth stated May 6th. He stated we would like to see them come every two months.

Motion Vice Mayor Evans to adjourn.

Second Commissioner Jamison.

Mayor James adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.