

Orange Park, Florida

January 3, 2012

The meeting of the Orange Park Town Council was called to order in the Town Hall Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Pete Morgan presiding.

Other Councilmen present were Vice-Mayor Meeks, Councilman Renninger, Councilman Howard, and Council Woman Hutton. Also in attendance were Town Manager Cindy Hall, Town Attorney Rob Bradley, and Town Clerk Sarah Campbell.

The invocation was given by Councilman Renninger, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES DATED DECEMBER 6, 2011

Councilman Renninger noted that there were three corrections on page 5 of the minutes: there is an extra word “is” in paragraph 5; “sequence server” should be “SQL server” and “serve” should be “server” in paragraph 7.

Councilman Renninger moved to approve the minutes with the changes stated above. Council Woman Hutton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 5 to 0.

RECOGNITION OF OPAA JR. MIDGET CHEERLEADERS

Mayor Morgan recognized the cheerleaders and coaches of the OPAA Raiders Junior Midget Cheerleading squad. The squad placed first in the regional competition and traveled to Orlando for the national competition where they placed seventh. The group performed a cheer for the benefit of the audience, and each girl was given a certificate of recognition.

MAYOR TO CALL ON ANYONE IN AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Frank Ricketts, 2253 Marcia Court, asked for an update on the Montclair ditch project. Ms. Hall stated that it would be let to bid next week. He asked for answers on a list of punchlist items that he submitted for the Montclair east paving project. Ms. Hall stated that she would provide a memo to the Council and Mr. Ricketts on these issues. He asked for an update on the Town’s buildings on Ash & Smith Street. Economic and Community Development Director Alaina Ray stated that a certificate of occupancy has been issued for the Smith Street building and the Ash Street building is nearing completion. He asked for an update on the Water & Sewer Master Plan. Ms. Hall stated that an engineering firm is working on that project. He asked when the last time the Town’s Comprehensive Plan was updated. Ms. Ray stated that it was updated in 2010 and she anticipates more amendments in the future.

Mr. Jim Hawkinson, 844 River Road, stated that the Town has some inefficiency in the way they perform lawn care activities. They are not performing quality work and not looking at the latest

trends. Staff does not attend conferences, look at chemical alternatives or consult with other companies. He recommended the creation of a corporate advisory board or boards for different projects the Town has like paving, landscaping, and roofing. He also stated that the Town's mission statement should be "Build Community." He stated that the focus should not be on property values, which is a secondary aspect. His observation is that when the focus is on building communities, the property values improve as a result.

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE OBSERVATION OF ARBOR DAY AND TREE APPRECIATION WEEK

Councilman Renninger moved approval of the resolution proclaiming the observation of Arbor Day and Tree Appreciation Week. Vice-Mayor Meeks seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 5 to 0.

APPROVE A WORK ORDER FOR CAMPBELL AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS

Councilman Howard requested that this item be pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion. He stated that this work order is for \$149,490, which seems like a high dollar amount. It does not include the water main work. He asked why the water main was broken out. Public Works Director Chuck Pavlos stated that he would like staff to get some experience on this type of work to train more people. The materials will cost approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000.

Councilman Howard asked why this was not bid out. Discussion continued on costs for bid preparation, number of drawings, cost of items, removal of asphalt, paving, silt fencing, curbing, sidewalks, and items 66, 67, & 69 on the work order.

Mr. Pavlos stated that there are only three people who can be on call to do this type of repair work. He would like to crosstrain more people on this type of work. More certified people would be able to be on call.

Council Woman Hutton moved to approve a work order for Grimes Utilities, Inc. in the amount of \$149,490 for Campbell Avenue road repairs. Councilman Renninger seconded the motion, which passed 4 to 1 in a roll-call vote with Councilman Howard dissenting.

PRESENTATION FROM FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REGARDING LANDSCAPING ALONG U.S. 17

Mr. Ken Cheek, FDOT Landscape Architect, introduced his project team to the Council and discussed the history of the lane widening project and landscape plans for U.S. Highway 17 from Holly Point Road East south to the Doctors Lake Bridge.

The goal of the project is to create a gateway entry to the Town that includes colors, is low maintenance, and includes irrigation. The proposed landscape project currently consists of installation of an 8-foot visual barrier wall, crape myrtle trees in the medians along with perennial peanut, and live oaks, hollies, and ornamental grasses along the sides of the road. The irrigation has been designed with one connection to the water main, 24 valves, and 2 battery boxes.

The project will take approximately one year to construct and then the contractor will also maintain it for another year. The Town would need to assume maintenance of the area at that point. Maintenance would include: weed control, yearly mulching, fertilization, tree pruning, and irrigation system inspection, repair and adjustments.

Mr. Cheek stated that the total project cost is about \$2 million. Councilman Howard asked what the maintenance costs would be. Mr. Cheek stated that this project can't really be compared to others as they are unique. Ms. Hall stated that the maintenance would be kept in house. She is aware of the maintenance needs and it does not deter from the project overall.

Attorney Bradley asked if the agreement could be amended to state reflect the two-year period of construction and maintenance by the contractor. Mr. Jordan Green from FDOT agreed that the contract language could be modified with consultation from their legal counsel.

Ms. Kathy Thomas, FDOT, addressed questions regarding the barrier wall. She stated that it is not a sound wall, as it is lower in height. She expected some sound reduction effect for the houses immediately adjacent to the wall. Sound abatement walls range from 12 -24 feet high, but due to overhead utility lines, this wall will be 8 feet high. Discussion continued on graffiti and wall material. FDOT will maintain the wall for the life of the structure, and it is not part of the maintenance agreement.

AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT FOR LANDSCAPING ALONG U.S. 17

Council Woman Hutton moved to approve the Resolution and Maintenance Agreement between the Town and FDOT for landscaping along U.S. 17, pending modification of the language regarding the effective date. Councilman Renninger seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 5 to 0.

AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE A CHANGE ORDER FOR MAGNOLIA CEMETERY PAVING AND IRRIGATION

Mr. Pavlos brought a change order to the Council to create two additional parking spaces near the front of the cemetery, pursuant to their motion at the last meeting.

Councilman Howard stated that he visited the site and now feels that the \$8,000 is not worth it for the additional spots. He stated that the road does need to be widened.

Vice-Mayor Meeks moved to approve the change order to Grimes Utilities in the amount of \$8,033 for Magnolia Cemetery paving to include two additional parking spaces. Councilman Renninger seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 5 to 0 in a roll-call vote.

#### DISCUSSION ON JACKSONVILLE ELECTRIC AUTHORITY (JEA)

Councilman Howard stated that the Town paid \$497,000 to JEA last year for electricity. He has sent emails to Ms. Hall regarding street light outages and she has enlisted the help of the Police on this issue. He stated that JEA has done a poor job. They are taking too long to make repairs and many poles have no pole number.

Discussion continued on the method by which JEA charges the Town for street lights.

#### TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Ms. Hall stated that election qualifying for Seat 3 on the Council will run from Friday, January 27 through Monday, February 13.

She stated that the Florida Striders will be holding an event on Saturday, January 14. There will be a number of street closures in the River Road area including a portion of Highway 17 from Milwaukee to Holly Point Road East.

Councilman Howard asked whether a candidate information session would be held again this year. He stated that it was a helpful meeting last year.

#### ATTORNEY AND COUNCILMEN REPORTS AND/OR REQUESTS

Attorney Bradley had nothing to report.

Councilman Renninger had nothing to report.

Vice-Mayor Meeks had nothing to report.

Councilman Howard asked about the charges for holiday displays in the park and asked what the penalties are for not complying with the policy. Ms. Hall stated that the charge for electricity is \$25 connection fee and \$1 per day. There is no penalty for non-compliance.

Councilman Howard asked if there would be a budget change for moving the Parks employees to Public Works. Ms. Hall stated that she expected that budget change to happen next year. Attorney Bradley stated that he would review the matter.

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Councilman Howard requested that the 2010 Water Report be added to the website.

Council Woman Hutton expressed concern at the delays on the Montclair drainage ditch project. She requested more specific dates be obtained from Mr. Kelter.

Council Woman Hutton read from Section 11-33 of the Town Code regarding pickups on holidays. It says that pickups shall not be reduced for holidays and expressed concern that this is not being followed.

Mayor Morgan had nothing to report.

There being no further discussion by the Council, Mayor Morgan adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.