

TOWN OF FORT WHITE, FLORIDA  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
November 13, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL :	MEMBERS	OTHERS
	Donald Cook	Town Clerk Janice Revels
	Mary Fleming	Town Attorney Fred Koberlein, Jr.
	Ronnie Frazier	Town Engineer Chad McCormick
	Matthew Lance	
	James Richardson	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:  
Mayor Frazier led the pledge of allegiance to the flag

ITEM #1- Additions, deletions, changes, and approval of the agenda.  
A motion to approve the agenda was made/second. Motion carried.

ITEM#2 – Approval of the minutes of Special Meeting on November 5, 2018. A motion was made/second to approve minutes of Special Meeting on November 5, 2018. Motion carried.

ITEM #3: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Erica Fleming addressed council with a concern that the organization she manages, SWAGGA, had been mentioned on social media in a derogatory manner. She felt the comment undermined all the good activities that the organization sponsors for the community. Mayor Frazier advised that the comment Ms. Fleming was referring to was placed on social media by his wife and that he had phoned Ms. Fleming and apologized for the comment. It was noted by Councilman Lance that the comment made was not on behalf of the Town and that the Town was not responsible for it.

Celia Shenise addressed council with a concern that a protocol regarding events in the town should be established and followed.

Michael Benkoczy addressed council with comments on the possibility of the town securing grants to build a sewage system. He advised of his experience with a similar situation in the area where he previously resided and did not feel the town was fully aware of the problems involved with a central sewage system.

ITEM#4 – OLD BUSINESS

- A. Train depot and caboose: Chad McCormick from NFPs addressed council with an update on the depot and caboose projects. He advised that the grant had been approved and was waiting on approval by the state legislature. The grant is for \$223,000 and is a matching grant. It will provide funds for improvements, ADA access and sidewalks. The cost to the Town would be approximately \$40,000. The town has already received \$6,000 through the historical society of Columbia County and the county is considering providing the matching in-kind service. The town will be responsible for the maintenance of the depot. Contracts for repairs of the roof, painting, and cleaning have been approved. Mr. Cook stated that he felt preserving the history of the train depot and the caboose was important to the town and the town should move forward.
- B. Christmas Parade: Betsy Thomason presented council with an updated sketch of the parade route for the annual Christmas Parade. She advised that it was approved by DOT and the sheriff's office. A motion was made/second to approve the Christmas Parade route as submitted by the Chamber for Dec., 1<sup>st</sup>. Motion carried. Ms. Thomason was advised that the Chamber needed to submit applications for any future events the chamber was sponsoring, even though they submit a listing of events in January of each year.

ITEM#5 – NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution #188-2018 – A resolution to support the state springs grant program application through SRWMD was presented to council for consideration by Chad from NFPS.. The resolution authorizes the Mayor to execute an application for the Town's septic to sewer conversion program. Chad explained that the program would be in phases; phase I for commercial businesses and phase II for residential. A motion to adopt Resolution #188-2018 was made/second. On discussion it was noted that due to new laws/regulations, it would create a hardship on residents if their present sewage system were to become ineffective and had to be replaced. Motion carried.
- B. Resolution #189-2018 – A resolution to support sidewalk improvement projects with Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Funds was presented to council for consideration by Chad of NFPS. The project for sidewalks on Plymouth and Wilson Springs Road will be submitted on the town's behalf through the county. A motion was made/second to adopt Resolution #189-2018. Motion carried.
- C. Planning and Zoning Codes: Mayor Frazier advised council that he had spoken with the town planner, Tony Arrant, at length and he had advised him that the town's planning and zoning board has been conducting business in a manner unlike any other planning/zoning boards. The board should not be a decision making board, but rather a board that makes recommendations for further action. Mayor advised that a workshop to review and possibly change the planning/zoning codes would be held on Monday, December 3 at 6:00 pm with the assistance of Mr. Arrant. Mayor Frazier also advised that he would like to appoint a member to the P/Z board to fill the last vacancy on the board.
- D. Surge Protection for water plant: Public Works Director, Vernon Zimmerman advised council that there needed to be a surge protector installed at the water plant. The cost for the protector would be around \$1,600. A motion to purchase/install a surge protector at the water plant was made/second. Motion carried.

- E. Kuboto for public works dept.: Vernon advised council that funds had been placed in the budget for the purchase of additional equipment for the public works department and he wanted to proceed with the purchase of a kuboto. Council advised for him to acquire quotes for the purchase and present at the meeting in December.

ITEM#6 – Announcements: Clerk Revels advised that a meeting of the Planning/Zoning Board was scheduled for Monday, November 26 at 7:00 pm.

ITEM#7- Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made/second. Meeting adjourned.

Janice Revels, Town Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ Date-1 \_\_\_\_\_