

**TOWN OF FORT WHITE, FLORIDA
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

DATE: MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2019
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
PLACE: FORT WHITE TOWN HALL
118 SW WILSON SPRINGS RD

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Frazier led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Attorney Fred Koberlein is on the way

MEMBERS:

Mayor Ronnie Frazier
Councilman Donald Cook
Councilman James Richardson
Councilwoman Mary Fleming

OTHERS:

Town Clerk Katye Hughes
Town Attorney Fred Koberlein
Town Planner Tony Arrant

ITEM – 1 – ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, CHANGES AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

ADDITIONS:

Item 5 (B): DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: PLANNING AND ZONING
RECOMMENDATION FOR REZONING OF TAX PARCEL 14305-004

Item 5 (C): DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE
199-2019 AND ORDINANCE 200-2019

Item 5 (I): DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: RECOMMENDATION FOR
APPOINTMENT TO PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD

DELETIONS:

ITEM 5 (A) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: PLANNING AND ZONING
RECOMMENDATION – DICKS REALTY SIGN VARIANCE

A Motion was made/second to accept the revised agenda. Motion carried.

ITEM – 2 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MARCH 11, 2019

A motion was made/second to approve the March 11, 2019 minutes. Motion carried.

ITEM – 3 –PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ken Guard from Celebration Community Church addressed council to request free use of the Community Center on a weekly basis to teach a financial class. Discussion tabled to Item H.

Bruce Borders addressed council on behalf of Fort White Middle School to solicit donations of support from councilmembers for trophies and a banquet. The Mayor asked Councilman Richardson to get more information from Mr. Borders and post on social media.

Ronnie Jackson addressed council to question the disposition of headstones at Heavenly Rest cemetery. Discussion was tabled to Item 4 (A)

Nicole Wirth addressed council to express concern over dumping on Amiel Ct. She also requested signage to be placed for a blind child.

Shelly Brown introduced pastor of the Cross Church in Ellisville to request use of community center for a new church on Sunday mornings and one night during the week. Discussion was tabled to Item H.

Carlton Watkins addressed council to request a discounted rental fee for use of the Community Center on June 15th. Discussion tabled to Item H.

ITEM – 4 – OLD BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: HEADSTONES AT HEAVENLY REST CEMETERY

Mr. Jackson advised there is a headstone that has not been permanently affixed and has another person's information on the reverse side. On discussion, it was noted Mr. Jackson would send a certified letter to the plot owner or heirs notifying them that prior approval was not given to place the headstone and they are given a certain number of days to either remove the headstone or have it permanently affixed at the gravesite. Mayor Frazier asked that Mr. Jackson update the Council at the next meeting on May 13, 2019.

B. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT 4 COUNCILMEMBER

A motion was made/second to appoint Bill Koon to the vacant District 4 Council seat. Motion carried.

C. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: SOLID WASTE RATES AND AGREEMENT WITH WASTE PRO

On discussion, the Town would like to request to be added to the County tax roll to include Solid Waste charges on each homeowner's property tax bill. A motion was made/second. Motion carried.

ITEM – 5 – NEW BUSINESS

~~A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: PLANNING AND ZONING RECOMMENDATION – DICKS REALTY SIGN VARIANCE~~

B. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: PLANNING AND ZONING RECOMMENDATION FOR REZONING OF TAX PARCEL 14305-004

Mr. Lance, Chair of Planning and Zoning, addressed Council regarding tax parcel 14305-004. He noted the property appraiser combined the two parcels into one parcel as shown on the boundary survey and wrote a letter to the Town advising of the new parcel number that would be given once the property was sold. Mr. Lance requested that the Town accept this letter and allow the applicant to proceed with one application and fee. A motion was made/second.

The Town Attorney advised proper notice was not provided for consideration of this item and Planning and Zoning recommendations should be made in writing. He further clarified the property appraiser, Mr. Hampton, would not combine the parcels until they were under the same ownership.

Leigh Ann Mills addressed council to advise Mr. Barcia's offer was contingent upon both parcels being rezoned. She asked that Council accept Mr. Hampton's letter and give approval for rezoning. The Mayor asked if this was being done to get around paying two fees and he was advised it was not. Mrs. Mills explained that she was told she could pay the two fees or if the parcels were combined only one fee would be required. The Town was unaware the sale was contingent on the rezoning so the parcel could not be combined, and two application fees would be required.

The motion was withdrawn, and, on discussion, it was noted the sellers/buyers should work together with their own teams to review the Land Development Code and find a path forward.

C. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 199-2019 AND ORDINANCE 200-2019

There was no discussion to be had on this agenda item based on the outcome of Item B.

D. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: WATER AUDIT RESULTS

Andrew Greene from Florida Rural Water Association presented the water audit result and recommended a 9.5% increase of water rates. On discussion, it was noted that the last water rate increase was in 2009. Commercial rates would be raised 9.5% and then adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index. Residential rates should be raised 3% over the next 3 years and then adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index.

A motion was made/second. Motion carried.

E. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: CUSTOMER CHARGES RELATED TO WATER METER DAMAGE

On discussion it was noted that any damage or lost water on the customers side of the meter would be the customers responsibility. Anything within the Town's Right of Way and on our side of the meter would be the Town's responsibility.

F. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: INSTALLATION OF LIGHTING AT DEESE PARK

The Town has received multiple requests for lighting at Deese Park. There is a post currently there, but the light does not work.

The Council directed the Clerk to get more information regarding cost to put a new light in Deese park.

G. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: USE OF TRAIN DEPOT/CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LEASE AGREEMENT

On discussion it was noted that the Chamber of Commerce did not provide a signed copy of the 2018-2020 lease for signature by the Town as requested at the March 11 Council Meeting. The Chamber's current lease is month to month and at least 15 days notice is required to terminate by either party.

A motion was made/second for the Town Clerk to send a notice of cancellation of lease by April 15th to terminate the lease on April 30th.

H. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: USE OF TOWN BUILDINGS FOR RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Several organizations have requested free use of the Community Center. On discussion, it was noted that this would take away from the Town's potential source of revenue and the Town should not be the commercial solution for businesses as it takes away from the members of the Community.

I. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD

A motion was made/second to appoint Mike Parnell to the Planning and Zoning board.
Motion carried.

ITEM – 6 – ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ITEM – 7 – ADJOURNMENT

Minutes of the Town Council meeting may be obtained from the Town Clerk's office. The minutes are recorded, but not transcribed verbatim. Persons requiring a verbatim transcript may make arrangements with the Town Clerk to duplicate the recordings or arrange to have a court reporter present at the meeting. The cost of duplication and/or court reporter will be borne by the requesting party.

In accordance with Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, notice is given that if a person wishes to appeal a decision made by the Town Council with respect to any matter considered at this meeting they will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based.

Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations to participate in this meeting should contact the Mayor through the Town Clerk's office no later than 5:00 P.M. on the day prior to the meeting.