

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

DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 11, 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

MEMBERS:

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

OTHERS:

Town Clerk Katy Hughes
Town Attorney Brittany Loper
Town Planner Tony Arrant - Absent

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

A motion was made/second to approve the agenda without changes. Motion carried.

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

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

ITEM – 3 –PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Benkoczy. addressed council with a prepared statement regarding the retrieval of Town records from former Clerk Revels. On discussion it was noted to the best of the Town's knowledge all records had been returned to Town Hall.

Gene Martin addressed council to question if the meeting was open only to residents of the Town or if anyone was welcome to participate. Attorney Brittany Loper advised the meeting is open to anyone.

Jennifer Buckmaster addressed council with a question about the Town limit requirements for the District 4 seat. On discussion, it was noted, you must live inside Town limits to be eligible for a Council seat.

Councilman Richardson commented in the past the Town Attorney had advised anyone who was not a citizen of the Town did not have any standing at Town Hall meetings. Attorney Loper reiterated the meetings are not only open to residents of the Town and anyone is welcome to attend.

ITEM – 4 – OLD BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mayor Frazier advised he and the Town Clerk had met with Columbia County to discuss their code enforcement process. Citizens would be able to report issues anonymously online and a code enforcement officer would come out to investigate and address, as needed. To move forward, the Town would need to abolish any ordinances referencing the code enforcement process and dissolve the code enforcement board as well as appoint the Special Magistrate to hear Code Enforcement matters by entering into an interlocal agreement with Columbia County. A motion was made/second to create an interlocal agreement with Columbia County for Code Enforcement. Motion carried.

B. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: DISTRICT 4 SEAT

A motion was made/second to accept Councilman Lance's resignation. Motion carried.

Mayor Frazier announced there were two applicants for the District 4 Seat. On discussion it was noted the Town has 60 days to fill the vacancy. The remaining council members will need to appoint a qualified individual to fill the vacancy until the end of the elected term.

A motion was made/second to table the appointment of District 4 Councilman until the April 8th Town Council meeting. Motion carried.

ITEM – 5 – NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: COMMUNITY CENTER RENTAL FEES

Discussion was had as to whether the fees should be waived for certain organizations' use of the Community Center. Councilman Lance advised this issue had been addressed in the past and that every individual or organization should pay the fees associated with rental of the Community Center. It was noted on occasion the deposit was waived, but the rental fees should always be charged.

The Council directed the Clerk that an organization wishing to have the rental fee waived would need to appear before Council with their request and a decision would be made on a case by case basis.

C. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: DOG PARK

The citizen was not present so no discussion or action was taken.

D. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LEASE

Mayor Frazier stated the Town did not have a signed copy of the Chamber of Commerce Lease for the Train Depot and called on Betsy Thomason to address Council.

Mrs. Thomason advised she does not have an executed copy of the lease. She stated Chamber President, Scott Thomason, signed the lease last September and provided the former Assistant Town Clerk with a notarized copy for signature by the Town Clerk and Mayor but did not receive a copy back. Mrs. Thomason advised she will have Mr. Thomason provide another copy of the notarized lease for signature by the Town. It was also noted the Town does not have a copy of the Chamber of Commerce Certificate of Insurance.

Mayor Frazier questioned the Chamber subletting the facilities. Mrs. Thomason stated they did allow someone to use the facilities but that the Chamber voted at their last meeting to not allow anyone to use the Train Depot without going through the Town. She requested an exception for Shelley and Chris Brown to use the Depot on Thursday nights for their Youth group.

The Town Clerk requested a schedule of Chamber events through the end of the fiscal year. The Town Attorney advised the lease states the Town Council must approve use of the Train Depot for any events outside of regular Chamber meetings. Mrs. Thomason inquired whether the youth group could continue meeting there and was advised that Mr. and Mrs. Brown should present their request to the Council for consideration. Mayor Frazier stated he would allow them to continue meeting at the Train Depot until the next Council meeting as long as a Certificate of Insurance was provided.

Mrs. Thomason advised it would likely be two weeks before she could provide a copy of the lease signed by the Chamber President. It was requested that Mrs. Thomason get in contact with the Town Attorney and provide a copy of the signed lease as soon as possible.

E. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: TOWN HALL

Councilman Lance raised concern that due to recent turnover it is unclear who has access to the Town facilities. Mayor Frazier advised the locks had recently been changed.

F. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: COUNCIL DESIGNEE FOR TOWN BANK ACCOUNT

Councilman Richardson has requested to remove himself as the Council Designee. Mayor Frazier asked if another Councilmember would be interested in being the designee. A motion

was made/second to appoint Mary Fleming, District 3, as the designee for alternate signing authority on the Town Bank Account. Motion carried.

G. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: FEDERAL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Mayor Frazier requested the Council motion to approve the closure of Town Hall on Federal Holidays. A motion was made/second. Motion carried.

H. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: GARBAGE RATES

At a minimum, the Town is currently losing \$253.77 per month by charging less than what we are being billed by Waste Pro. Since the increase in 2015, the Town has lost approximately \$12,434.73. It was noted there are 7 accounts that were being paid for that were vacant or delinquent.

The Mayor requested the Council to either hold a workshop or raise the rates. Council was also advised that WastePro is willing to take over the billing. Currently, WastePro gives the Town \$0.68 per residential account and a 10% discount on commercial accounts to handle the billing.

Councilman Lance stated even though the Town incurs some overhead for Solid Waste billing it provides a convenience to the citizens and recommended the Town only increase the rates minimally to cover costs and administrative overhead.

On discussion, it was noted there was not enough information to move forward and direction was given to the Clerk to gather additional information regarding costs to present at the next Council meeting. A motion was made/second to table discussion until April 8th meeting.

I. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: SCOP MUNICIPALITY FUNDING

Chad McCormick from North Florida Professional Services presented council with the option to submit either SW Jordan or Yulan Street for SCOP Municipality Funding. A motion was made/second to submit SW Jordan Street. Motion carried.

ITEM – 6 – ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Frazier issued a proclamation to Janice Revels, former Town Clerk, thanking her for her 40 years of service.

ITEM – 7 – ADJOURNMENT

Town of Fort White, Florida
TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes

5

March 11, 2019

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.