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**HIGH SPRINGS  
CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
OCTOBER 26, 2023  
CITY HALL**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor James called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL CITY COMMISSION:**

Mayor Gloria James – Present  
Vice Mayor Ross Ambrose – Absent  
Commissioner Tristan Grunder- Present  
Commissioner Katherine Weitz- Present  
Commissioner Byran Williams- Absent

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Ashley Stathatos, City Manager  
Angela Stone, City Clerk  
Scott Walker, City Attorney  
Kevin Mangan, PIO  
Antoine Sheppard, Chief of Police  
Thomas Henry, Public Works Director

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Invocation by Andrew Miller

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor James made an announcement that we need to add an item to the agenda under New Business Item, as Item #1, Discuss, Consider and Act on Declaring Police K-9 Caesar Surplus.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion Commissioner Weitz to approve the agenda as amended adding Item #1 under New Business Declaring K-9 Caesar as Surplus.  
Second Commissioner Grunder.**

**Motion carried 3-0.**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Motion Commissioner Grunder to approve the Consent Agenda.  
Second Commissioner Weitz.  
Motion carried 3-0.**

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**NEW POLICE OFFICER SWEARING IN CEREMONY**

Chief Sheppard presented and performed the swearing in of our New Police Officers.

Adm. Sgt. Jason Taylor gave an introduction of each of the officers:

Officer Montavis Miner  
Officer Montana Sayers  
Reserve Officer Soren Brockdorf  
Officer Sarah Allen

Mayor James gave kind words, welcomed each of them and thanked them for their service.

**(F) UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 1. DISCUSS, CONSIDER, AND ACT ON ORDINANCE 2023-12, AN ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTING THE STATE'S STATUTORY MANDATE TO PREPARE BUSINESS IMPACT ESTIMATES PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES PURSUANT TO SECTION 166.041(4), FLORIDA STATUTES.**

Attorney Walker read Ordinance 2023-12 by title only.

**Motion Commissioner Weitz to approve Ordinance 2023-12 as read by title only.  
Second Commissioner Grunder.**

**Roll Call:**

**Mayor James-yes  
Commissioner Grunder-yes  
Commissioner Weitz-yes.**

**Motion carried 3-0.**

- 2. DISCUSS, CONSIDER, AND ACT ON ORDINANCE 2023-13, AN ORDINANCE VACATING AND ABANDONING A CERTAIN PLATTED UNDEVELOPED PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY.**

Attorney Walker read Ordinance 2023-13 by title only.

**Motion Commissioner Weitz to approve Ordinance 2023-13 as read.  
Second Commissioner Grunder.**

**Roll Call:**

**Commissioner Grunder-yes**

**Commissioner Weitz-yes**

**Mayor James-yes**

**Motion Carried 3-0.**

**3. DISCUSS, CONSIDER, AND ACT ON RESOLUTION 2023-S, A RESOLUTION  
GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO PERMIT A TOBACCO AND VAPE  
SHOP LOCATED AT 18467 NW US HWY 441, APPLICATION CUP 23-02,  
APPLICANT AASHI, INC.**

Attorney Walker read Resolution 2023-S by title only.

Attorney Walker advised this is Quasi-Judicial.

Attorney Walker swore in all people wanting to speak on this item.

Ashley Stathatos  
Natalia Castillo  
Kunjal Patel  
Devang Chaudmari

Attorney Walker asked the Commission if there was any Exparte Communication. There was no Exparte Communication.

City Manager Stathatos explained that this was continued from a previous meeting. Also advised that this item was denied by the Plan Board at their last meeting, and that denial resolution is in the agenda packet. Explains that this is located in the Plaza on US HWY 441, Gator Plazz. Explains that there is an existing daycare facility within the same building as the proposed location (Building Dreams Early Learning Center.

Kunjal Patel came forward to answer any questions.

Commissioner Weitz asked what kind of tobacco products they will have. Mr. Patel explained all tobacco products, CBD, Vape, Pipe tobacco, etc.

Natalia Castillo spoke of her concerns.

Devang Chaudmari property owner does not feel it will affect property values or increase crime. He speaks of them following the law.

**Motion Commissioner Grunder to deny Resolution 2023-S and the Conditional Use  
Permit based on items # 1 and #8, as recommended by the Plan Board.  
Second Commissioner Weitz.**

**Roll Call:**

**Commissioner Weitz-yes**

**Mayor James-yes**  
**Commissioner Grunder-yes**  
**Motion carried 3-0.**

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

Bruce Borders states he speaks of his concern with the pay of our Law Enforcement. He stated that he is happy about the Priest Theater.

**COMMISSIONER RESPONSE**

**(H) NEW BUSINESS**

**1. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON DELCARING POLICE K-9 CEASAR SURPLUS**

Chief Sheppard spoke of Caesar and all his work with our agency.

**Motion Commissioner Weitz to declare Police K-9 Caesar Surplus and thank him for his dedication and allow Ceasar to go home with his handler.**

**Second Commissioner Grunder.**

**Motion carried 3-0.**

**2. DISCUSS, CONSIDER, AND ACT ON THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA COUNTY AND THE CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS FOR A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM.**

Chief Sheppard explains that this is the agreement with the School Board of Alachua County for two School Resource Officers for the school year. The School Board agrees to pay up to \$132,005.00.

Bruce Borders spoke of the Veterans Parade and asked if the Police Department and Fire Department could be in the Parade in Live Oak. City Manager Stathatos explained she will look into this.

**Motion Commissioner Grunder to approve the Agreement between the School Board of Alachua County and the City of High Springs for a School Resource Officer Program.**

**Second Commissioner Weitz.**

**Motion Carried 3-0.**

**3. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON THE RENEWAL OF THE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF AND THE CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS FOR COMBINED OPERATIONAL ASSISTANCE.**

Chief Sheppard explains that this is the renewal of the Mutual Aid Agreement with the Alachua County Sheriff's Office for police sharing authority in Alachua County and within the City of High Springs.

**Motion Commissioner Weitz to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement with the Alachua County Sheriff and the City of High Springs for Combined Operational Assistance.  
Second Commissioner Grunder.  
Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **4. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON DECLARING VEHICLES SURPLUS.**

Chief Sheppard explains that the listed vehicles are no longer in use, and need to be declared surplus.

He explained that the motorcycle was given to us by the Alachua Police Department. We now will be getting a new fully grant funded Motorcycle.

**Motion Commissioner Weitz to declare the listed vehicles of 2004 BMW Police Motorcycle, 2008 Crown Victoria, 2006 Crown Victoria, and 2010 Crown Victoria as surplus.  
Second Commissioner Grunder.  
Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT/UPDATE**

Nothing at this time.

#### **CITY MANAGER REPORT/UPDATE**

Advised that the Kiwanis Club is having Pumpkin Decorating this weekend, and there is also a Car and Bike Show in the CRA District.

She spoke of the Hometown Hero Salute Fundraiser at the Brewery.

She announced that Firefighter Kim Arnold has been certified in Urban Search and Rescue.

#### **COMMISSION COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

Commissioner Grunder congratulated Ceasar. Thanked City Staff.

Commissioner Weitz wished Caesar the best. Speaks of the Lead and Cooper Results for water and that we have done well. Gave a shout out to the Chamber for the Fall Festival; she heard it was amazing. Asked about the fee schedule and when it will come back. City Manager Stathatos stated the rest will come back at the next meeting. Commissioner Weitz asked if they will get a copy of the fees, it was just in the Power Point. City Manager Stathatos

stated yes they will come back and she would like their feedback. Commissioner Weitz asked about the Joint Meeting with County about the Expansion.

Mayor James stated that we received a plaque for the donated lots for the house for Habitat for Humanity. She spoke of the wonderful homes that they help provide these families. Thanked staff.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN.**

**Mayor James adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.**