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**HIGH SPRINGS
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2023
CITY HALL**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

ROLL CALL CITY COMMISSION:

Mayor Katherine Weitz – Present
Vice Mayor Tristan Grunder – Present
Commissioner Andrew Miller- Present
Commissioner Steve Tapanes – Present
Commissioner Byran Williams – Present (arrived at
6:47pm)

STAFF PRESENT:

Ashley Stathatos, City Manager
Angela Stone, City Clerk
Danielle Adams, City Attorney
Jami Echeverri, Asst. City Clerk
Kevin Mangan, PIO
Antoine Sheppard, Chief of Police
Kristyn Adkins, Planning Technician
Thomas Henry, Public Works Director
Kevin Pearson, Fire Captain
Mike Vogel, Interim Fire Chief
Allan Alligood, Building Official

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation by Damon Baudoin

Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Vice Mayor Grunder motioned to approve the agenda as presented.
Commissioner Miller Second.
Motion carried 4-0. (Commissioner Byran Williams)

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2023, COMMISSION MEETING

Commissioner Miller Motioned to approve the Minutes of the November 16, 2023 Commission Meeting
Commissioner Tapanes Seconded.
Motioned carried 4-0 (Commissioner Williams not present)

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 28, 2023, COMMISSION MEETING

Commissioner Miller Motioned to approve the Minutes of the November 28th, 2023 Commission Meeting
Commissioner Tapanes Seconded.
Motioned carried 4-0 (Commissioner Williams not present)

(E) SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

RECOGNITION OF LOCAL TEACHERS (MAYOR)

Mayor Weitz gave a speech on how wonderful teachers and teaching staff are and presented Ms. Sarah Rendek, and Elizabeth Treese with awards of recognition and thanks for their services as teachers/education professionals.

Santa Fe High School Principal Dr. Wright gave a speech on how incredible Mrs. Beth Treese is as a teacher at Santa Fe High School.

(F) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON FY 2022/2023 BUDGET AMENDMENT. Ordinance (2023-17)

City Manager Stathatos gave an explanation of the budget amendment and its requirements as per state statute.

City Attorney Adams read resolution 2023-17 by title only.
Vice Mayor Grunder Motioned to approve Ordinance 2023-17 as read by title only.
Commissioner Miller Seconded.

Mayor Katherine Weitz – Yes
Vice Mayor Tristan Grunder – Yes
Commissioner Andrew Miller- Yes

Commissioner Steve Tapanes – Yes
Motioned carried 4-0 (Commissioner Williams not present)

**DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON RESOLUTION 2023-U, A RESOLUTION
AMENDING THE RATES CHARGED BY THE WATER SYSTEM.**

Attorney Adams read resolution 2023-U by title only.

**Vice Mayor Grunder Motioned to accept the water rates going up by CPI (approve
Resolution 2023-U as read by title only.
Seconded.**

Vice Mayor Tristan Grunder – Yes
Commissioner Andrew Miller- Yes
Commissioner Steve Tapanes – Yes
Commissioner Williams – declined to vote.
Mayor Katherine Weitz – Yes

Resolution carried 4-0(Commissioner Williams Not voting)

**DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON RESOLUTION 2023-V, A RESOLUTION
AMENDING THE RATES CHARGED BY THE SEWER SYSTEM.**

City Manager Stathatos gave a brief explanation of the resolution.
Attorney Adams read Resolution 2023-V by title only

Vice Mayor Grunder motioned to approve Resolution 2023-V as read by title only.
Commissioner Miller Seconded
Commissioner Andrew Miller- Yes
Commissioner Steve Tapanes – Yes
Commissioner Byran Williams – Yes
Mayor Katherine Weitz – Yes
Vice Mayor Tristan Grunder – Yes
Resolution passed 5-0

**DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON RESOLUTION 2023-W, A RESOLUTION AMENDING
THE RATES CHARGED BY THE SOLID WASTE SYSTEM.**

Attorney Adams advised that the resolution could be edited but to be very specific when making the motion for clarity and continuity.

Commissioner Tapanes motioned to approve the residential part of the solid waste increase and tabling the commercial until a later time.
(No second)

Grunder motioned to approve the resolution as written but for staff to communicate with Wastepro to see if a negotiation could be had for a more favorable contract.

Williams Seconded.

Commissioner Steve Tapanes – Yes

Commissioner Byran Williams – Yes

Mayor Katherine Weitz – Yes

Vice Mayor Tristan Grunder – Yes

Commissioner Andrew Miller- Yes

Resolution passed 5-0

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

Bruce Borders – thanked Mr. Thomas Henry, Chief Antoine Sheppard, and City staff for their work on the High Springs Christmas Parade.

Brad Riddle – Thanked Thomas for allowing him to tour the facilities and after seeing them he commended the Water plant is in excellent condition.

COMMISSIONER RESPONSE:

(H) NEW BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MAYOR’S YOUTH COUNCIL.

Mayor Weitz gave a brief speech and explanation of the High Springs Mayor’s Youth Council

Annz Weitz, Samuel T. Nichol, Elijah Kellum, Leila Ceilley, Camden Treese, & Aiden Bloodsworth all applied and expressed follow up interest in becoming members of the High Springs Mayor’s Youth Council.

Vice Mayor Grunder motioned to appoint Camden Treese and Leila Ceilley to the one-year term on the Mayor’s Youth Council ending November 2024.

Commissioner Miller Seconded

Motion Carried 5-0

Vice Mayor Grunder Motioned to appoint Sam Nichol, Anna Weitz, and Aiden Bloodsworth to the 2 year term ending in November 2025.

Commissioner Tapanes Second.

Motion Carried 5-0

Vice Mayor Grunder Motioned to appoint Elijah Kellum to the Alternate position on the Mayor’s Youth Council.

Commissioner Miller Seconded

Motion Carried 5-0

DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON ORDINANCE 2023-18, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF THE CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS, FLORIDA ADDING SECTIONS 74-6 THROUGH 74-8; SCHOOL ZONE SPEED INFRACTIONS; ADOPTING FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR USE OF TRAFFIC INFRACTION DETECTORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE LAW; PROVIDING FOR A LOCAL HEARING OFFICER.

Chief Sheppard gave a presentation and explanation of the proposed ordinance and that it has been pre-approved by the City Attorney.

Attorney Adams read Ordinance 2023-18 by title only.

**Vice Mayor motioned to approve Ordinance 2023-18 as read by title only
Commissioner Williams Seconded.**

Commissioner Byran Williams – Yes
Mayor Katherine Weitz – Yes
Vice Mayor Tristan Grunder – Yes
Commissioner Andrew Miller- Yes
Commissioner Steve Tapanes – Yes
Ordinance Passes 5-0

DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON SITE PLAN FOR LIFESPRING CHURCH.

Mayor Weitz recused herself from voting for ethical reasons per state statute.
City Manager Stathatos introduced Mr. Highland who gave an explanation of the edit to the project.
Commissioner Tapanes motioned to approve the amended site plan for Lifespring Church.
Commissioner Williams Seconded.
Motion Carried 4-0 (Mayor Weitz Recused from Voting)

DISCUSS, CONSIDER, AND ACT ON PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO SYSTEM USER AGREEMENT.

Interim Chief Vogel gave an explanation of the proposed user agreement.
Alachua County Fire Rescue Chief Theus explained how the county acquired and transformed the radio system and how it operates and functions.

Vice Mayor Grunder motioned to accept the Public Safety Radio System User Agreement with the Alachua County Radios
Commissioner Miller Seconded
Motion carried 5-0

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT/UPDATE

Danielle Adams advised the Commissioners on the changes to the new Form 6 required by elected officials starting next year.

CITY MANAGER REPORT/UPDATE:

City Manager Stathatos recognized the new Pickleball Court and thanked the staff for their help. She thanked the Chamber and CRA for their support during the tree lighting and Christmas Parade.

COMMISSION COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Commissioner Miller - thanked Drop Top Custom for the vehicle loaned to the commissioners for the Parade.

Commissioner Tapanes – thanked everyone for their help.

Commissioner Williams – hopes everyone has a peaceful and merry Christmas and he apologized for his tardiness.

Staff Update: Thomas Henry

Gave an update on the wells, generators, and gas line going in. He advised street bids will go out in January. In the daycare construction has begun and is under way. He gave an update on Parks' safety concerns.

VICE MAYOR:

Thanked everyone for their help in the parade and stated he enjoyed it. The Marine Cor. Hosted a car show Fundraiser at the Brewery and he was excited to participate as a judge.

MAYOR:

Mayor Weitz was excited about the meeting with the Senate regarding an Appropriations Grant for a new Police Station. Gave a kudos to City Clerk Stone for how she ran and handled the 2023 election. She gave a shoutout to the High Springs Community School EDP teacher and congratulated her on her retirement.

MOTION TO ADJOURN.

motioned to adjourn.

Mayor Weitz adjourned the meeting at 8:07pm.