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**HIGH SPRINGS
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
JANUARY 11, 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 Byran Williams – Present

STAFF PRESENT:

Ashley Stathatos, City Manager
Angela Stone, City Clerk
Scott Walker, City Attorney
Jami Echeverri, Asst. City Clerk
Kevin Mangan, PIO
Antoine Sheppard, Chief of Police
Kristyn Adkins, Planning Technician
Thomas Henry, Public Works Director
Allan Alligood, Building Official

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation by Commissioner Andrew Miller

Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Weitz requested an amendment to the agenda. To move Items number 1 & 2 under New Business to Item number 2 under Special Presentations.

Commissioner Miller motioned to approve the modified agenda
Vice Mayor Grunder Second.
Motion carried 4-0.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 11, 2023, COMMISSION MEETING

Vice Mayor Grunder Motioned to approve the Minutes of the December 11, 2023 Commission Meeting
Commissioner Miller Seconded.
Motioned carried 4-0

(E) SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

**ALACHUA COUNTY COMMUNITY REMEMBRANCE PROJECT, HIGH SPRINGS
SUBCOMMITTEE TO PRESENT THE ALACHUA COUNTY DIGITAL BLACK HERITAGE
TRAIL MAP**

Valoria Kelley gave a presentation of a detailed comprehensive Map celebrating and displaying the Black Heritage trail.

DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON FY 2022 CITY AUDIT. (JAMES MOORE & CO.)

Mr. Brendan McKittrick with James Moore & Co gave a presentation and update of the 2022 fiscal year audit for the City of High Springs.

DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON FY 2022 CRA AUDIT. (JAMES MOORE & CO.)

Mr. Brendan McKittrick with James Moore & Co gave a presentation and update of the 2022 fiscal year audit for the CRA.

(F) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1. 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 Shepphard gave a brief explanation of the purpose of the ordinance.

Attorney Walker read Ordinance 2023-18 by title only.

Public Comment:

Billie-Jo Hanlon – asked for clarification on what a “Local Hearing Officer” is.

Attorney Walker explained the statutory requirements relating to the appointment of an officer to perform “hearings” for those who wish to contest the citations.

Commissioner Williams motioned to approve ordinance 2023-18 as ready by title only.

Vice Mayor Grunder seconded

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Katherine Weitz - Yes

Vice Mayor Tristan Grunder – Yes

Commissioner Andrew Miller- Yes

Commissioner Byran Williams – Yes

Ordinance Passed 4-0

2. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON PURCHASING THE PRIEST THEATRE.

City Manager Stathatos gave an explanation and update on the status of the Priest Purchase discussion.

Architect Paul Stressing performed a forensic assessment on the building and gave a brief summary of the report he compiled and the status of the building's condition.

Vice Mayor Grunder would like to see a professional “opinion” on the purchase price and closing costs of the property.

Public Comment:

Janet Alligood – for clarity, the interior contents are not necessarily mandatory, however could be good to consider in the event future buyers want the equipment to re-open the theater.

Attorney Walker asked Ms. Alligood would she be willing to sign a contract to right of first refusal to the items should someone be interested in purchasing them in the future?

Allan Alligood advised the digital projector must have power supplied at all times to function so storing equipment may not be possible.

Paul Stressing advised it could be placed in the construction documents to protect the equipment inside so it may remain in the building for storage.

Billie Hanlon – requested clarity on where the operation costs will come from for the basic building upkeep.

Mayor Weitz advised it would be the City's responsibility.

City Manager Stathatos stated it could potentially come from the infrastructure budget for City Facilities.

Vice Mayor Grunder motioned to purchase the Priest with the projector and the screen, total costs not to exceed the \$350,000 threshold and we (the City of High Springs) are not on the hook for ADA compliance.

Commissioner Williams seconded.

Motion carried 4-0

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

Linda Hewlett – chairwoman of the Parks and Recreation Advisory board would like to see Ashley Stathatos stay on board as the High Springs City Manager. She listed Ms. Stathatos' accomplishments for the city.

Linda Jones – asked why the PowerPoint from the League of Cities (mentioned in a prior meeting) was not presented or shared. She believes Ashley has indeed done a good job at planning. But does not support her staying.

Theresa Martin – lives off of NW 250th inside the railroad complex contacted HSPD regarding dumping and graffiti near her property and would like to see it covered or removed. She is pleased to see police officers in the area that will hopefully deter further action. (Ms. Stathatos advised she would also have the Code Enforcement Officer make contact on this issue and keep up with it.)

Chief Sheppard advised he would be meeting CSX 1/12/24 and would bring it up to them to correct the concerns.

COMMISSIONER RESPONSE:

Commissioner Williams – clarified he attended training for form 6, it was not just information given and provided to him.

(H) NEW BUSINESS

1. UPDATE ON WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT. (REQUESTED BY MAYOR)

Staff Thomas Henry gave an update on the Wastewater treatment project. Wetlands phase one has begun, they have been flooded to expose sinkholes – 8 appeared, he updated the commission on the costs of operation and improvements up until now.

Brad Riddle – commended Thomas on his work. He is wondering when the tank goes online, is there grant funding for the rehab of the other tank.

Staff Henry advised yes it is part of the grant.

2. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON THE NEXT STEPS OF THE CITY MANAGER HIRING PROCESS.

Mayor Weitz reminded everyone to keep comments respectful and civil during this discussion. Clerk Stone requested clarification and direction on how to move forward in the city manager applicant selection and interview process.

Commissioner Miller would like to see a special meeting specifically for the hiring of a new city manager.

Julie Tapa-Ruano – believes as the City Manager position is a Hired position not an elected one it would be more appropriate to move forward with the hiring process.

Billie Hanlon – requested Ms. Stathatos stay.

Linda Jones – does not support Ms. Stathatos staying.

Damon Messina – former High Springs staff expressed displeasure with the criticism Ms. Stathatos has been receiving.

The commission discussed and agreed to have Staff Allan Alligood, Chief Antoine Sheppard, and Staff Thomas Henry share the duties of interim city manager in the event Ms. Stathatos is out or there has not been a new applicant selected by the time

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT/UPDATE

Danielle is working on legislative updates to provide to the commission.

CITY MANAGER REPORT/UPDATE:

Encouraged everyone to attend the Jan 29-31 League of Cities legislative action days.

Staff Update: Thomas Henry

Updated the commission on projects in various stages of completion.

COMMISSION COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Commissioner Miller – commended Clerk Stone on her assistance.

Commissioner Williams – would like to invite everyone Jan 15th to the cane celebration.

VICE MAYOR:

Grateful to staff for their hard work.

MAYOR:

She thanked Staff Echeverri for her work on the Mayor's Youth Council and all staff for their continued hard work.

MOTION TO ADJOURN.

Commissioner Williams motioned to adjourn.

Mayor Weitz adjourned the meeting at 9:03pm.