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**HIGH SPRINGS
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 22, 2024
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:

Angela Stone, City Clerk
Scott Walker, City Attorney
Ashley Mauldin, Executive Assistant
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 Mr. Ronnie Munson

Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Williams motioned to approve the agenda.
Grunder Seconded.
Motion carried 4-0.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 8, 2024, COMMISSION MEETING

Commissioner Miller Motioned to approve the Minutes of the February 8, 2024, Commission Meeting.

Grunder Seconded.

Motioned carried 4-0

(E) SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

NONE

(F) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DISCUSS, CONSIDER, AND ACT ON RANKING CITY MANAGER APPLICANTS

Mayor Weitz thanks staff for set up and participation in the interview process for City Manager applicants.

Vice Mayor Tristan Grunder votes - 1. David Weisner 2. Timothy Day 3. Jeremy Marshall 4. Fred Ventresco 5. Jeff Shoobridge

Mayor Katherine Weitz votes - 1. Fred Ventresco 2. Jeremy Marshall 3. David Weisner 4. Timothy Day 5. Jeff Shoobridge

Commissioner Andrew Miller votes - 1. Jeff Shoobridge 2. Jeremy Marshall 3. Timothy Day 4. David Weisner 5. Fred Ventresco

City Clerk Angela Stone reads Commissioner Byran Williams votes - 1. Jeff Shoobridge 2. Jeremy Marshall 3. Fred Ventresco 4. Timothy Day 5. David Weisner

City Clerk Angela Stone adds up totals. 3 people tied, Jeremy Marshall has the most at 15 points and Jeff Shoobridge has 12 points. Everyone else has 11 points.

Attorney Clay Martin provides directions for the Commission to move forward with the top two applicants.

Weitz asking to include staff Directors in the hiring process for the new City Manager.

Attorney Clay Martin says they can be included but not make final decisions comments only.

Grunder agrees on including staff and wants to move forward with the final two applicants.

The board discusses how to set up a tour plus meet and greet with directors and have a special meeting. The board agrees on 2 nights for applicants.

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

Donald Alderman school traffic concern. Vehicle safety issues.

David Lynch High Springs brewing concerns and doesn't want growth in the city.

Jonathan Blankenship asking how the city does business for bidding process. Wants to know if residents can get a percentage on city purchases.

Attorney Clay Martin states other local municipalities have ordinances in place with restrictions to be qualified.

Vice Mayor Grunder requests drafts to be reviewed.

Ava Verner vehicle and pedestrian safety concern on 441. Electronic vehicle station spaces. Suggests Winn-Dixie parking lot.

Michael Morris is curious why there is no city limit sign on CR236. Nobody knows where the city ends/begins. Wants a sign.

COMMISSIONER RESPONSE:

(H) NEW BUSINESS

1. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON DECLARING K-9 SURPLUS AND CONVEYING OWNERSHIP TO K-9 HANDLER SGT. JASON TAYLOR.

Police Chief Antoine Sheppard discusses police dog Justice and her years served as well as her role.

Mayor Weitz discusses her familiar experiences as well as the kids experiences from the school and the positive impact she has had.

Vice Mayor Grunder motions to surplus K-9 Justice.
Commissioner Miller seconded.

Motion carried 4-0

2. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD

Mayor Weitz discusses the Charter Review Board's purpose. The board applicants are Christy Swilley, Linda Jones, Regina Weller, Jacob Newton, John Manley, Julie Tapia-Ruano, Ross Ambrose, Steve Tapanes, and Lynn Jamison. Must choose 5 applicants.

Commissioner Williams asks if previous/current employees/board members are eligible.

Mayor Weitz states all applicants would serve the city well. For her Christy Swilley, Linda Jones, Jacob Newton, Julie Tapio-Ruano stand out in her opinion.

Commissioner Miller votes for Christy Swilley for the first seat.
Grunder seconded.
Motion carried 4-0

Commissioner Williams motions to appoint Regina Weller for the second seat.
Grunder seconded.
Motion carried 3-1
Miller opposed.

Vice Mayor Grunder motions to appoint Lynn Jamison for seat number three.
Williams seconded.
Motion carried 4-0

Commissioner Miller makes motion to appoint Jacon Newton for seat number four.
Grunder seconded.
Motion carried 4-0

Mayor Weitz asks to pass the gavel to the Vice Mayor Grunder to nominate the last seat.

Weitz nominates Julia Tapio-Ruano for seat five.
Commissioner Miller seconded.
Motion carried 4-0

3. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON THE APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER TO THE VACANT PLAN BOARD SEAT.

Mayor Weitz thanking Alderman for his work on the plan board. Four applicants are Steve Tapanes, Alan Bates, Ross Ambrose, and Ava Verner. Mayor Weitz discusses current board members and what they bring to the board.

Vice Mayor Grunder motions to bring Steve Tapanes back to the plan board.
Commissioner Miller seconded.

Donald Alderman recommends Tapanes be appointed on the plan board.

Mayor Weitz says it has been properly moved and seconded for Steve Tapanes to be appointed to the plan board.

Motion carried 4-0

4. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON PURCHASING SEWER LIFT STATION PUMPS.

Public Works Director Thomas Henry discusses issues with lift stations and explains the need for 9 pumps priced at \$189,000.00 total to bring the city up to code. Asking how to proceed.

Mayor Weitz discusses surtax monies from county.

Thomas Henry was not sure how much the city has for infrastructure funding.

Vice Mayor Grunder thinks splitting funds to cover costs is the way to proceed.

The Board discusses funding options.

Brad Riddle discusses in detail how the lift stations work and the issues they have and conditions they are in.

Steve Tapanes agrees and states that what Thomas and Brad are saying is true and he has seen it.

Donald Alderman suggests option for a number to call when alarm sounds.

Commission tables item for further discussion.

5. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON PURCHASING A SEWER BYPASS PUMP.

Thomas Henry discusses the purpose and use of a Bypass Pump at the cost of \$47,180.00.

Commission tables Item for further discussion.

6. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON DESIGNATING AN INTERIM CITY MANAGER.

Mayor Weitz discusses the need for Interim until new City Manager is appointed.

Vice Mayor Grunder thinks Thomas for civilian side, and Antoine for sworn side.

Mayor Weitz asking the City Clerk to take signature authority, hire/fire, spending responsibilities.

Vice Mayor Grunder asks if staff can be appointed sooner.

Attorney Clay Martin doesn't advise to prevent issues.

Vice Mayor Grunder makes a motion to appoint Thomas Henry on civilian side, Antoine Sheppard police and fire, and Angela Stone spending authority, signature authority, and hire/fire.

Commissioner Miller seconded.

Mayor Weitz properly moved and seconded.

Motion carried 4-0

7. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON GRANT WG110-WASTEWATER SERVICE TO 175/CR236 INTERCHAGE.

Mayor Weitz discusses the Grant as well as previous discussions.

Vice Mayor Grunder states he was in favor before but with the current status of the city he is no longer a fan, and he is no longer in favor of moving forward.

Commissioner Miller agrees with Vice Mayor Grunder that this is the wrong time for this type of project.

Mayor Weitz states she has been opposed to this project from the beginning and there is no question where she stands.

Vice Mayor Grunder makes a motion to return the grant.

Commissioner Miller seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT/UPDATE:

Clay Martin A pleasure to join his friends in High Springs and good to be here.

CITY MANAGER REPORT/UPDATE:

Thomas Henry discusses Douglas Center update, AML project, Chamber Sign.

STAFF UPDATE:

COMMISSIONERS:

Andrew Miller wanting to Honor Mrs. Tammy by putting a plaque on the wall at the Douglas Center. Thanks everyone for being present.

VICE MAYOR:

No comments

MAYOR:

Thanks Angela, Jami, and Kevin for assisting with the City Manager Interviews
Discusses the Priest Theatre Funding moving forward. Asks about a check/contract for Jennifer Applebee. Thomas explains 1099 employee helping for 3 months. Ask about another check for the purchase of a shed/building. Discusses the Fish Fry on Fridays.
Wants to further discuss the Wastepro Contract for commercial businesses.

MOTION TO ADJOURN.

motioned to adjourn.

Mayor Weitz adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.