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**HIGH SPRINGS
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
JANUARY 25, 2024
CITY HALL**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Weitz called the meeting to order at 6:34 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
Clay Martin, City Attorney
Jami Echeverri, Asst. City Clerk
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 Pastor Greg Waltermire

Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 11, 2024 COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 11, 2024, BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Commissioner Miller Motioned to approve the Minutes of the January 11, 2024, Commission Meeting, and January 11, 2024 Budget Workshop
Vice Mayor Grunder Seconded.
Motioned carried 4-0

(E) SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: NONE

(F) UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

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

David Linch – spoke of his dislike of the High Springs Brewing Company using the High Springs Name. He disagrees with growth and the increase in traffic. Spoke of Bill Reshard the first black policeman in High Springs.

Julie-Tapia Ruano – 222nd Road has drainage concerns and is also concerned about the Bridlewood exits onto 222.

COMMISSIONER RESPONSE:

(H) NEW BUSINESS

1. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON RESOLUTION 2024-A; A RESOLUTION SETTING THE ELECTION TO FILL CITY COMMISSION SEAT # 2, IN THE CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS; DESIGNATING THE ELECTION FOR THE 26TH DAY OF MARCH, SETTING THE QUALIFYING PERIOD; SETTING THE QUALIFYING FEES; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Weitz read resolution 2024-A by title only.
Clerk Stone advised the commission on qualifying and election dates.

**Vice Mayor Grunder Motioned to approve resolution 2024-A
Commissioner Miller seconded**

Weitz – Yes

Grunder – Yes

Miller – Yes

Williams – Yes

Motion Carried 4-0

2. DISCUSS AND SELECT THE TOP FIVE CITY MANAGER APPLICANTS.

Clerk Stone explained that the commission should select their top 5 favorite candidates. She advised the commission that an applicant had accepted a position elsewhere and withdrew

Public Comment:

Eva Verner – does not agree with a group interview setting. Believes it should be one-on-one
Janet Evans – explained when she has interviewed similarly before and it was expected that you travel if you applied. She supports the idea of a second interview.

Vice Mayor Grunder motioned to meet with applicants individually with the option for zoom if requested and narrow down the choices and come back to a public meeting to discuss and set up a second interview with the full commission, and requested (voluntarily) that the other applicants sit outside.

Commissioner Miller Seconded
4-0

Julie Tapia-Ruano – would like to see the new City manager hired as quickly as possible and not contingent on a new Commissioner being elected.

Eva Verner – offered suggestions on sorting questions and grading them.

Mayor Weitz called for a recess 7:41pm

Commission meeting resumed 7:52pm

3. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON BRIDLEWOOD PHASE I FINAL PLAT AND CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS.

Attorney Martin advised the commission of the quasi-judicial process and its proceedings and asked if any had engaged in ex parte communication, and if so would it affect their judgement on this item?

Commissioner Miller – no ex parte communication

Commissioner Williams - no ex parte communication

Mayor Weitz - Advised she spoke with residents in Tillman Acres but it would not alter her judgement.

Vice Mayor Grunder - No ex parte communication.

Attorney Martin – swore in members of the community and staff that wished to speak on the matter.

City Manager Stathatos gave a presentation and overview of the proposed development.

Christopher Potts director of engineering of JB Pro presented the final plat for Bridlewood Phase 1.

Public Comment:

Sue Weller – spoke in support of phase 1. She doesn't want that many homes but she understands zoning allows it. She has questions regarding the traffic study from a prior meeting. She is concerned about the traffic from the proposed development.

Scott Jamison – former commissioner, believes decisions should be made based on facts not feelings. He believes the proposed development is within code. He is in favor of it based on facts.

Joanne Tremblay – is not thrilled about the development but understands it is a done deal and supports this decision if done correctly.

Chris Potts – clarified the reasoning for the traffic study results and how they came to the determination they did. He advised all landscaping is Florida-friendly.

Vice Mayor Grunder – is concerned about the non-looped water system.

Staff Thomas – would prefer to see the system looped as well. Would like to see it in writing for phase 2 to have a looped water system.

Commissioner Grunder when do you plan on looping it and is it possible now?

Potts No there is no infrastructure there at this time it is planned for phase 2.

Mayor Weitz – is concerned about the school's capacity. She approves of the landscaping map. She is concerned about the city engineer's advice not being taken into full consideration. She was highly concerned with the documented presence of endangered gopher tortoises in the vicinity and work had begun prior to the environmental survey and their relocation.

City Manager Stathatos stated the plat is within standards.

Commissioner Miller – is concerned about the potential for too many kids in the area and not enough schools.

Grunder made a motion to approve the plat to be looped in with a date no later than 3 years past this approval date. (January 25th, 2024)
Commissioner Williams Seconded

Mayor Weitz requested an amendment of seeing engineer comments and the permit and relocation plan for the gopher tortoises. Condition for approval. FWC permit to the city.

Construction cannot begin until the requested documentation has been provided. The permit is obtained with the FWC and complied with.
(no second to amendment request)

Vice Mayor Grunder – Yes
Commissioner Miller – Yes
Commissioner Williams - Yes
Mayor Weitz – No.
Motion Carried 3-1 (Weitz Opposed)

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT/UPDATE: none at this time

CITY MANAGER REPORT/UPDATE:

Staff Update: Thomas Henry
2600 of 2900 AMI meters have been installed project is expected to be complete by end of February. The concrete is being poured and the water tank project is underway. Mr. Henry advised there would be a workshop to go over fleet vehicles. He gave an update on Parks and REC sports and progress.

COMMISSION COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Commissioner Miller – thanked Staff Henry for showing the renovations of the Douglas Community School.

Commissioner Williams – asked for clarification on if the digging he has seen around the area was for AMI or Cox (Staff Henry advised that was Cox)

VICE MAYOR: nothing at this time

MAYOR:

Mayor Weitz – Commended Staff Henry on his proactivity. Thanked the Police Department for their assistance in helping students crossroads. Requested an update from Staff Alligood on the electrical work being completed at the Canoe Outpost. She clarified why she held off on signing a check to request more information on its purpose. She is concerned why it was signed in her absence (Vice Mayor Grunder advised the City Manager asked him to sign it as he was present for a meeting). Mayor is excited about the Mayor's Youth Council holding their first meeting and being so enthusiastic.

MOTION TO ADJOURN.

Commissioner Williams motioned to adjourn.

Mayor Weitz adjourned the meeting at 9:23pm.