Town of Callahan

'A Florida Municipality'

Town Council Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2015
7:00 P.M.

Present at Meeting: Mayor Rau, Mr. Fontes, Mr. Bass, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Shaw, Mr. Mellecker, Mr. Branham, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Knagge, Pastor Sue Corley, Mr. Kim Hoffecker, Mr. John Hendrix, Mrs. Emily Baumgarner, Mr. Miller, and two (2) members of the Media.

- Mr. Branham had a scheduling conflict, due to the changing of the day of the Meeting, so Council President Bass gave him permission to leave after items needing Mr. Branham's guidance were handled.

Absent: None

Meeting Called to Order – Mr. Bass at 7:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance to Flag/Invocation – Pledge and Invocation by Mr. Bass & Pastor Sue Corley.

- Mr. Bass extended to condolences to Mrs. Smith on the passing of her Father.

Visitors Welcomed and Reminded Minutes are Being Recorded -- Mr. Bass

Persons Wishing to Address Council on Items Not on the Agenda

1. Mr. Damon Miller – 540485 US Hwy. 1 – Health & Safety of our Community.
    - Stated he felt that the Water was tainted.
    - Stated that he would like to see a Community Garden, so the people of Callahan know where their food is coming from.
    - Asked the Council to consider creating a Labor Pool to help the residents find work.
    - Stated that the problem with Obesity in our town is out of control and he would like to help by teaching others why we shouldn't eat meat.

Minutes

- Motion to Approve the Minutes by Mr. Fontes and 2nd by Mr. Mellecker.
    - Motion Carried.

Old Business

- Code Enforcement Officer
    - Mr. Mellecker recommended Gary Garver.
        - He stated Mr. Garver was the most qualified candidate that had applied.
        - He stated Mr. Garver is retired from Nassau County.

        - He stated he is not a resident of the Town.
        - He stated he is also well known for being honest, fair, and unbiased.
    - Motion to hire Mr. Gary Garver as The Town of Callahan Code Enforcement Officer by Mr. Mellecker and 2nd by Mr. Fontes.
        - Motion Carried.

- Updating of Council Chambers Recording Equipment & Technology
    - Mrs. Knagge stated that she & Mr. Williams had a company called MacPCTec Pro come in a give an estimate for equipment & services. Their quote was $34,000.
    - Council decided that Mrs. Knagge & Mr. Williams would look to have several more estimates before making any decisions.
    - This item will be removed until reasonable estimates are obtained.

- Ordinance 2015-O01 – Final Public Hearing -- Holiday Schedule Updates
- Read by Title by Mr. Branham.
- Closed Regular Meeting 7:08 PM
- Opened Public Hearing 7:08 PM
- Discussion – No one from the Public to speak on the issue.

- Closed Public Hearing 7:09 PM
- Opened Regular Meeting 7:09 PM
- Discussion - None

    - Motion to approve Ordinance 2015-RO01 by Mr. Fontes and 2nd by Mr. Mellecker.
    - Motion Carried.

New Business

- Resolution 2015-R01 – West Nassau Historical Society Railroad Days
    - Read by Title by Mr. Branham.
    - Mr. John Hendrix, Vice President of the WNHS & Co-Chair of Railroad Days addressed the Council on the date of Railroad Days, which is April 18th, in coordination with Hobo Days & Earth Day.
    - Motion to approve Resolution 2015-R01 by Mr. Fontes and 2nd by Mrs. Smith.
    - Motion Carried.

- Resolution 2015-R02 – Water & Sewer Debt Forgiveness
    - Read by Title by Mr. Branham.
    - Mr. Fontes stated that the total amount to be "forgiven" or transferred is $884,327.57.
    - He also stated that this was not actually debt it was transfers that weren't done internally from years ago.
    - Motion to approve Resolution 2015-R02 by Mr. Mellecker and 2nd by Mrs. Smith.
    - Motion Carried.

- Super-Test -- Tabled

- Employee Insurance Issue Update
  - Mr. Branham stated that there was nothing to report at this time.
  - He stated that he & Mrs. Harrison's attorney have missed each other's calls.
  - He also stated that he would update as soon as there was anything to update.

Recurring Business; Water & Sewer Adjustments -- None

Review & Approval of Town Expenditures

- General Fund **$7,057.08**
  - Motion to Approve by Mr. Fontes and 2nd by Mrs. Shaw.
  - Motion Carried.

- Water & Sewer Fund **$9,286.31**
  - Motion to Approve by Mr. Fontes and 2nd by Mr. Mellecker.
  - Motion Carried.

- Water & Sewer Disbursements -- **None**

Around the Council Table

- ***Mayor*** -- Nothing

- ***Mr. Mellecker***
  - Stated that the Council should consider waving Annexing Fees to attract willing Participants to annex into the Town.
  - Also, stated that we should look into how much it would cost the Town to tie into the gas line that runs through it. That way we could possibly attract more residents & businesses by being able to offer Natural Gas to them.

- ***Mr. Fontes***
  - Stated that he enjoyed the article in the Paper with everyone's wishes for the New Year. He stated that he liked where the Mayor stated that his wish was for the Town & the County to work better together.
  - He stated that, with that in mind, he would like to recommend that the Town of Callahan, The Town of Hilliard, and the County consider working together to build the Park that has been on hold at the old Mizell Tract of land that the County purchased years back. The Mizell Tract is located between Hilliard & Callahan. He stated that Lisa, Clerk for the Town of Hilliard, is amazing at finding Grants, and if we all are working together it is not a competition for those funds it is all of us working to help all of the people of the Westside of the County. He also stated that our side of the County needs more space for recreation like more ball fields, a Skate Park, and maybe even a pool.

- ***Mrs. Kirk*** -- Nothing

- ***Mrs. Shaw***
  - Stated that it appeared that someone might be living in Mr. Rodney's house on Page Street that is supposed to be torn down.
  - Mr. Williams stated that he has purchased the permit to tear it down and has a year to complete it, so there is nothing we can do at this time.

- ***Mrs. Smith*** -- Nothing

- ***Mr. Branham*** -- Nothing

- ***Mrs. Knagge***
  - Thanked the Council for allowing her to help host the International Institute of Municipal Clerk's Conference this past week. Everyone loved the Cupcake tower & Chocolate Fountain and they all now know where The Town of Callahan is!

- ***Mr. Williams*** -- Nothing

- ***Mr. Bass***
  - Stated he has been talking with people around town and the Consensus is they would like to see a Taco Bell and/or a Golden Corral come here.
  - Stated that the Fire Contract with the County has been signed and approved, but our Fire Fighters are still not being toned out.
  - Stated that he would like to invite Fire Fighters from the other stations that have closed down to come join our crew.
  - Stated that he has been approached about joining with the School Board and putting a pool in at the Middle School. The swim team from West Nassau has to go all the way to Fernandina to practice. Mr. Fontes stated that will all of the School Board regulations by the State and federally he doesn't think the regular citizens would be able to benefit from this.
  - Stated that he feels we really need to get serious about Annexing to make the Town Limits bigger especially since Crawford Diamond is growing and the growth potential out here is huge from those businesses coming. Mrs. Smith asked what we had to offer them to willing annex in. Mr. Bass stated that we have city water, sewer, and garbage to name a few things. Mr. Fontes said maybe we should consider waving the $500 annex fee and more people would be willing.

Adjourn -- Motion to adjourn by Mr. Fontes and 2nd by Mr. Mellecker.

- Motion Carried.
- Time: 7:42 PM

John Kenneth Bass, Council President

Stephanie Knagge, Town Clerk

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.