Town of Callahan

'A Florida Municipality'

Town Council Meeting Minutes

February 17, 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, Spottswood Watkins(Vocational Scholarship Program), Shelly Hirsch(Nassau County Economic Development Board), 3 Cub Scout Members, and two (2) members of the Media.
Absent: None

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

Pledge of Allegiance to Flag/Invocation – Pledge and Invocation by Mr. Bass

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

Persons Wishing to Address Council on Items Not on the Agenda -- None

Minutes

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

New Business

- Resolution 2015-R04 – Vocational Scholarship Foundation
  - Read by Title by Mr. Branham.
  - Mr. Watkins of Hilliard, Florida addressed the Council on what the Program has done this past year.
    - Opened the Scholarship to all of Nassau County looking to go into a Trade.
    - Scholarship available to anyone with two recommendations and a 'C' average or better who is a current graduate or a previous graduate of Nassau County.
    - The Scholarships are for the Vocational Programs at FSCJ. Including Police & Fire.
    - FSCJ will be starting Forestry in Technology Program in the near future that VSF is highly involved in.
  - Motion to Approve the Resolution 2015-R04 in the amount of $500 by Mr. Mellecker and 2nd by Mrs. Smith.
  - Motion Carried.

Recurring Business; Water & Sewer Adjustments

1. Pumpkin Court Unit #1
    a. Resident Claims there was a broken pipe and it was fixed by the Town. However, none of our employees fixed any pipe.
    b. Mr. Fontes stated that there didn't seem to be enough evidence provided to meet the requirements for any adjustments.
    c. Mr. Branham reminded the Council of the 4 Criteria's for Water Adjustments that the Council passed.
    d. Mr. Bass stated that it really seems to be the Residents or the Landlords responsibility, but he also recommended possibly adjusting for the Sewage.
    e. Mayor Rau stated that there should be no adjustment without more evidence, and that the Landlord should be responsible.
    f. Mrs. Smith how much over the usage was and Mr. Fontes stated it was about 20,000 over normal usage.
    g. The Consensus of the Council was that the Customer would need to provide more information, and show receipts where the repairs were done.

Review & Approval of Town Expenditures

- General Fund **$8,689.52**
    - Motion to Pay the General Fund by Mr. Fontes and 2nd by Mrs. Shaw. Motion Carried.

- Water & Sewer Fund **$12,882.30**
    - Motion to Pay Water & Sewer by Mr. Mellecker and 2nd by Mrs. Smith. Motion Carried.

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

Around the Council Table

- ***Mayor***
    - Read a thank you note from the West Nassau Historical Society for the Town's donation to the annual Railroad Days Celebration.

- ***Mr. Mellecker -- Zoning***
    - Updated the Council on the Planning & Zoning Board's Meeting that they are in the process of working out the details of the '5 Year Comp Plan'.

- ***Mr. Fontes – Water & Sewer***
    - Updated the Council that he & Mr. Williams had met with Fox & Associates about GDBG Grants.
        - ✓ Aiming to receive a grant this year, but more than likely it will happen in 2018.
        - ✓ Engineers are looking to use the Grant to connect all the Water Lines throughout the Town. This in turn will make fixing problems easier and make the whole Town's water pressure better.
        - ✓ The Council will need to look into appointing a Citizens Committee to start the process as soon as possible.

- ***Mrs. Kirk – Treasurer*** -- Nothing

- ***Mrs. Shaw – Streets*** -- Nothing

- ***Mrs. Smith – Parks***
  - Looked into the Grant from the Water Districts that Mayor Rau suggested, but unfortunately it is not available to our area since we are not water front.
  - Park seems to be cleaner than it has been, so all is well.

- ***Mr. Branham – Attorney*** -- Nothing

- ***Mrs. Knagge – Clerk***
  - Asked Council to bring in what device they would like their Town email to go to before the next meeting, so that Mr. Clifton can add it for them.
  - Reminded the Council that the required Ethics Training will be at the Town of Orange Park Town Hall on April 9th from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

- ***Mr. Williams – Town Manager*** -- Nothing

- ***Mr. Bass – Council President & Fire***
  - Informed the Council of Junior's Seafood VIP night on Friday from 6:00-9:00 PM.
  - Asked the Council to keep Annexation in mind. Stated he met with the NCEDB, and it is an exciting time in Nassau County. We need to get busy with Annexation processes before we miss the boat.
  - Mr. Fontes asked the Council if they had given anymore thought to a Moratorium for Annexation fees. Asked what the incentive is for Residents to Annex.
  - Mrs. Smith asked who decides on the Moratoriums. Mr. Branham stated that the Council does.
  - Mr. Branham asked the Council what they were thinking of waving. The annexation fees that are about $500? He also stated that there would need to be an Annexation Ordinance passed through the Planning & Zoning Board before coming before the Council for passing.
  - Mrs. Smith asked what the Total cost would be to hook onto the Town's water. Mr. Fontes stated it would be approximately $2000. Mrs. Smith stated that would be very hard for most of our citizens to do. Mr. Fontes stated that is cheaper than keeping up a Septic Tank.
  - Mr. Branham asked the Council to look at what the Tax Revenue would be, to do the Math, and see if Annexation is even beneficial to the Town. Considering that the Water & Sewer Department continuously has negatives.
  - Mr. Fontes stated that if we waive the Tap fee it will never be recovered. He also stated that for the Residents with a failing Septic System tapping into the Town water should look really great.
  - Mr. Bass stated that businesses and residents are coming to our area and we need to make sure the Town is benefiting from it not the County. He also stated that we have to grow with the times.
  - Mr. Fontes stated that there is a lot of land for businesses that isn't being utilized.
  - Mrs. Knagge stated that is why we have to work with the businesses, the Chamber, and the NCEDB to make sure businesses know that we are willing to work with them to come here.

- Mr. Fontes stated that our first priority still needs to be the Citizens and not the Builders. We can't just wave everything for them to come here. Otherwise, what's the point?

Adjourn -- Motion to adjourn by Mr. Fontes and 2nd by Mr. Mellecker. Motion Carried. Time: **7:42PM**

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.