



“The Crossroads to the Future”

Town Council Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2017

7:00 P.M.

Present at Meeting: Mayor Rau, Mr. Bass, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Mellecker, Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Kirk, Mr. Fontes, Mr. Branham, Mrs. Knagge, Chief O’steen, Assistant Chief O’Quinn, Volunteer Larry, Ten (10) members of the Community, and two (2) members of the Media.

Absent: Mr. Williams

- I. **Call to Order** – Mr. Bass at 7:01PM
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance to Flag & Invocation** – Mr. Bass
- III. **Visitors Welcomed & Reminded Meeting Minutes are Being Recorded** – Mr. Bass
- IV. **Persons Wishing to Address Council – 3 Minute Limit**
 - Chief O’Steen – Wanted to alert the Council that the County is changing their Radio system, and the Volunteer Department has until December 2018 to be in compliance.
 - This is a Sole Source item and will cost approximately \$100,000.
 - Chief and his staff are working on some Public Safety Grants: 50/50 Grant with Forestry Department, Fire House Subs Grant, and Mr. Bass has submitted in hopes to get one with Senator Bean.
- V. **Minutes**
 - Motion to Approve the Minutes by Mrs. Shaw and 2nd by Mrs. Smith.
 - Discussion: None
 - Motion Carried

VI. Presentations

- Mayoral Proclamation – Take Stock In Children
 - Mayor Rau proclaimed the month of March as ‘Take Stock in Children Month’.
 - Mrs. Dottie Williams who has recently taken over the program addressed the Council to consider supporting the program that helps over 500 children, and any amount donated is matched at 200% by the State.
 - Council Consensus was to add a Resolution the next meeting for consideration.
- Mayoral Proclamation – Problem Gambling Awareness
 - Read by Mayor proclaiming the month of March as ‘Problem Gambling Awareness Month’

VII. Business

- Resolution 2017-R02 – West Nassau Historical Society Railroad Days
- Motion to Approve the Minutes by Mrs. Shaw and 2nd by Mrs. Smith.
 - Discussion: None
 - Motion Carried
- Public Hearing -- 1st Reading/Discussion
 - Ordinance 2017-O01 Water & Sewer Rates
 - Read by Title by Mr. Branham
 - Mr. Bass Closed the Regular Meeting: 7:22 PM
 - No Public Comment
 - Mr. Bass Reopened the Regular Meeting: 7:22 PM
 - Motion to approve the first Reading of Ordinance 2017-O01 by Mr. Fontes and 2nd by Mr. Mellecker.
 - Discussion:
 - Mr. Fontes stated that the confusion at last meeting is because no one motioned to raise the rates last time and the Ordinance failed due to lack of a motion.
 - Mr. Fontes also stated that Section 5 needs to be amended to state that the student numbers should be reported by the School Board at the start of each semester.
 - Motion to approve the first Reading of Ordinance 2017-O01 with the amendments in Section 5 by Mr. Fontes and 2nd by Mr. Mellecker.
 - No further discussion
 - Motion Carried
- Public Hearing – 1st Reading
 - Ordinance 2017-O02 – Medical Marijuana Facilities
 - Read by Title by Mr. Branham
 - Mr. Bass Closed the Regular Meeting: 7:26 PM
 - No Public Comment
 - Mr. Bass Reopened the Regular Meeting: 7:26 PM

- Motion to approve the first Reading of Ordinance 2017-002 by Mrs. Smith and 2nd by Mrs. Shaw.
 - Discussion:
 - Mr. Fontes stated that he does not agree with this moratorium because it's just a business and we are prematurely making regulations just because "everyone else is doing it".
 - Mrs. Smith stated she thought rules should be set in place because this is uncharted territory.
 - Mr. Mellecker stated that State will determine the rules and if we pass this Moratorium it will just cause the businesses to go elsewhere.
 - Mr. Fontes stated the Citizens voted it into law and our job is to do what the citizens want.
 - Mayor Rau stated this Moratorium will just protect everyone and make sure regulations are enforced. He stated is for it.
 - Motion to approve the first Reading of Ordinance 2017-002 with the amendments in Section 5 by Mrs. Smith and 2nd by Mrs. Shaw.
 - No further discussion
 - Motion Carried with Mr. Fontes & Mr. Mellecker dissenting.

- Business Tax Receipts
 - Mr. Fontes stated that the Business Tax Receipts are time consuming and he feels we should no longer collect them.
 - Mrs. Knagge stated that before we decide to cancel them we need to make sure we have new policies and procedures in place and that we are 100% sure. Once these are canceled we can't bring them back later.
 - Lengthy round the table discussion.
 - Council Consensus was to table and for Mrs. Knagge to bring back the following information:
 - Pro's & Con's
 - Number of BTR's
 - Time takes to process.
 - Profit's
 - How many business have a BTR.
 - How many haven't paid.

- Lobbyist Contract
 - Mr. Junior Boatright and Mr. Mark Anderson addressed the Council on the benefits of hiring them to represent the Town in Tallahassee for funds and interests.
 - Proposed Contract was \$2500 a month or \$30,000 a year.
 - Mrs. Knagge where the amount come from if the County who has 78,000 residents pays \$60,000 a year and our town only has about 1500 residents. Mr. Anderson stated it's negotiable.
 - Mrs. Knagge stated that the Town and County don't always agree. What then? Mr. Anderson stated he would refer us out.
 - Council Consensus was to table for further research.

- New Meter Reading Equipment
 - Mr. Fontes stated that our Meter Reading Equipment is outdated.
 - He also stated it is Sole Source due to working with our billing system and readers.
 - These will have a 20 year warranty.
 - Looking into a possible Rural Development Grant, but need to move forward.
 - Motion to approve purchase meters by Mr. Fontes and 2nd by Mr. Mellecker.
 - No discussion.
 - Motion Carried.

VIII. Review & Approval of Town Expenditures

- General Fund \$9,599.54
 - Motion to Pay the General Fund by Mrs. Smith and 2nd by Mr. Shaw.
 - Discussion: None
 - Motion Carried.
- Water & Sewer Fund \$14,832.04
 - Motion to Pay Water & Sewer Fund by Mr. Fontes and 2nd by Mr. Mellecker.
 - Discussion: None
 - Motion Carried.
- Water & Sewer Adjustments
 - None

IX. Around the Council Table

- Mayor – Nothing
- Mrs. Smith – Parks – Nothing
- Mr. Fontes – Water & Sewer
 - The notice for Water & Sewer increase will be on the Water Bills.
- Mrs. Kirk – Treasurer – Nothing
- Mrs. Shaw – Streets -- Nothing
- Mr. Mellecker – Zoning – Nothing
- Mr. Branham – Attorney
 - Stated that the Lobbyist Contract would need to be bid out.
 - Stated that Advalorum taxes would need to be raised to cover the cost.

➤ **Mrs. Knagge – Clerk**

- Stated that there have been fights, people sleeping at the park, and vandalism. Asked the Council to consider putting in cameras

➤ **Mr. Williams – Town Manager** – Absent

➤ **Mr. Bass – Council President & Fire**

- Chamber Meeting on the 9th in Hilliard at Noon. Encourage everyone to attend.
- Troopers in Town more is a welcome sight.

X. **Adjourn**

- Motion to adjourn by Mr. Fontes and 2nd by Mr. Mellecker. Motion Carried.
- Time: **8:38 PM**



John Kenneth Bass, Council President



Stephanie Knagge, Town Clerk