

“The Crossroads to the Future”

Town Council Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2017

7:00 P.M.

Present at Meeting: Mr. Bass, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Mellecker, Mrs. Shaw, Mr. Fontes, Mr. Branham, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Knagge, sixteen (16) members of the Community, and two (2) members of the Media.

Absent: Mayor Rau & Mrs. Kirk

- I. **Call to Order** – Mr. Bass at 7:01 PM
- 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**
 1. Shelley Hirsch – 96071 Stoney Creek Parkway Hilliard, FL
 - a. Apologized that Laura couldn't be here due to other business, but wanted to update the Council and answer any questions she could.
 - b. Stated there were some very viable projects on the Westside of the County, and as soon as permitted they would let the Council know more.
 - c. Introduced Robin Lewis who is the new Executive Director of the Westside Chamber of Commerce. Stated that the two entities have partnered up to hopefully move relations forward with prospective businesses.
- V. **Minutes**
 - Motion to Approve the Minutes by Mr. Fontes and 2nd by Mrs. Smith.
 - Discussion: None
 - Motion Carried

VI. Treasurer's Report

- Motion to Approve the Treasurer's Report by Mrs. Shaw and 2nd by Mr. Mellecker.
 - Discussion: None
 - Motion Carried

VII. Presentations

- Check Presentation to West Nassau Historical Society
 - *Mr. Bass* ~~Mayor Rau~~ presented a check for \$1000 to West Nassau Historical Society President Emily Baumgartner and four additional Members.
 - Ms. Baumgartner thanked the Town for their continued support and encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Annual Railroad Festival.
 - The members also presented the Town with colored informational posters for the event.
- West Nassau County High School AFJROTC
 - Col. Kline presented his Cadets: Nichols, Black, Labus, and Louise to update the Council on what the Cadets have been doing since their visit last year.
 - Col Kline stated that the Unit had received the highest ranking from the Program with NO write ups and became one of the top 5% in the Nation to receive the Merit Award.
 - Col Kline asked the Council to consider continuing their financial support of his Unit.
 - Cadet Col. Nichols stated that with the funds and help of the Council and other businesses throughout the Community the program has been able to start on their obstacle course to help in the State competitions.
 - Cadet Major Louise stated they have 106 Cadets and that these Cadets have all passed the Presidential Fitness Test. In part, to the support that has allowed the Unit to build the 13 part obstacle course.
 - Cadet Major Lebus & Black stated that the Unit had completed over 2500 hours in the Community.
 - Council Consensus was to add a Resolution to the next meeting to discuss donating to the Cadets.

VIII. Business

- Public Hearing – Continuous to March 20, 2017
 - Ordinance 2017-001 -- Water & Sewer Rates
 - Read by Title by Mr. Branham
 - Mr. Bass Closed the Regular Meeting: 7:25 PM
 - No Public Comment
 - Mr. Fontes stated that the Rates have not increased since 2010, contrary to what some people believe.
 - Mr. Bass Reopened the Regular Meeting: 7:25 PM

- Public Hearing – Continuous to March 20, 2017
 - Ordinance 2017-002 – Medical Marijuana Facilities
 - Read by Title by Mr. Branham
 - Mr. Bass Closed the Regular Meeting: 7:27 PM
 - No Public Comment
 - Mr. Bass Reopened the Regular Meeting: 7:27 PM

- Resolution 2017-R03 – Take Stock in Children
 - Read by Title by Mr. Branham
 - Motion to Approve \$250 by Mr. Fontes and 2nd by Mrs. Smith.
 - Discussion: None
 - Motion Carried

- Business Tax Receipts
 - Mrs. Knagge read into record Mrs. Mitchell’s responses to the Councils questions.
 - Lengthy Discussion.
 - Council Consensus to Table for more information.
 - Mrs. Smith asked Mrs. Knagge to find out if any other Towns within the state have canceled their BTR’s, other Clerk’s opinions on the pros and cons, and what other Town’s profit or loss is on the BTR’s.
 - Mr. Fontes asked the Volunteer Fire Fighters to find out what it would take for them to handle the Fire Inspections of all the businesses.
 - Mrs. Knagge will look into how to make the process easier, so it doesn’t take Mrs. Mitchell so long to complete.

- Lobbyist Contract
 - Mr. Bass stated that sealed Bids would be required before making any decision on this issue. He also stated while he thinks it’s a good idea to have someone in Tallahassee fighting for us that \$30,000 a year is just too much.
 - Mr. Fontes stated that he feels it’s too late for this year since the Legislators are heading into session now. He recommended tabling until Budget time.
 - Council Consensus is to add back to Agenda in August.

- FRDAP Contract – Fred Fox Enterprises
 - Mr. Williams stated that the Contract was needed to finalize the FRDAP Grant for Phase 5 at the Park.
 - Motion to Approve the Contract with Fred Fox and Associates by Mrs. Smith and 2nd by Mrs. Shaw.
 - Discussion: None
 - Motion Carried

- Volunteer Firefighters Equipment – Captain Larry Downey
 - Formally Requested the Town to help with the upgrading of the Radio System to meet with the County Requirements.
 - Stated that they would need approximately \$50,000 to get stated on the upgrade.
 - Mr. Williams stated we are waiting to hear back from Senator Bean on a grant now.
 - Captain Downey stated that the department is also applying for several other grants.
 - Council Consensus is to wait to see the results of the Grants before deciding on the Town’s commitment of help.

IX. Review & Approval of Town Expenditures

- General Fund **\$8,495.45**
 - Motion to Pay the General Fund by Mrs. Smith and 2nd by Mr. Mellecker.
 - Discussion: None
 - Motion Carried

- Water & Sewer Fund **\$11,254.68**
 - Motion to Pay Water & Sewer Fund by Mrs. Shaw and 2nd by Mrs. Smith.
 - Discussion: None
 - Motion Carried

- Water & Sewer Adjustments – None

- Water & Sewer Disbursements
 - \$411.51 to Water & Sewer + \$261.55 to Active Customers = \$673.06 to Disburse
 - Motion to Disburse \$673.06 by Mr. Fontes and 2nd by Mr. Mellecker.
 - Discussion: None
 - Motion Carried

X. Around the Council Table

- **Mayor** – Absent

- **Mrs. Smith – Parks**
 - Smoke with Sheriff’s Department and they are handling the homeless problem at the Park.
 - They can’t do anything about the fighting unless the kids are caught in the act.

- **Mr. Fontes – Water & Sewer**
 - Stated the Sign for Mr. Coakley was placed on Warrior Drive and looks nice.
 - Mrs. Knagge stated the Ceremony would be Monday night at 5:30 PM with a BBQ at the Park after.

- **Mrs. Kirk – Treasurer** – Absent

➤ **Mrs. Shaw – Streets**

- Stated that the Sheriff Department has had the Speed checking device out more and has been writing more tickets.

➤ **Mr. Mellecker – Zoning** – Nothing

➤ **Mr. Branham – Attorney** – Nothing

➤ **Mrs. Knagge – Clerk**

- Will be absent next meeting.

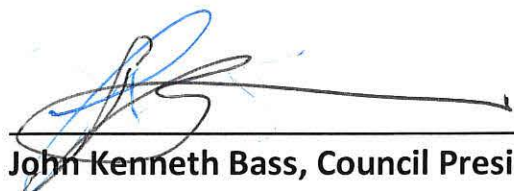
➤ **Mr. Williams – Town Manager** – Nothing

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

- Asked how the Town was notified if there was a burn ban in place. Recommended adding it to the webpage and possibly adding it to the different electronic signs around town.
- Reminded everyone about the Chambers Lunch & Learn on Thursday at the Meeting Place in Hilliard.
- Will be absent at the following meeting. Asked if a new Council President Pro-Tem needed to be elected.
 - Mr. Fontes made a motion to re-elect Mrs. Shaw to be Council President Pro-Tem and 2nd by Mr. Mellecker.
 - No Discussion
 - Motion Carried

XI. **Adjourn**

- Motion to adjourn by Mr. Fontes and 2nd by Mr. Mellecker. Motion Carried.
- Time: **8:22 PM**



John Kenneth Bass, Council President



Stephanie Knagge, Town Clerk