

“The Crossroads to the Future”

## Town Council Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2017

7:00 P.M.

**Present at Meeting:** Mayor Rau, Mr. Bass, Mrs. Knagge, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Mellecker, Mrs. Kirk, Mr. Fontes, Mr. Branham, Mr. Williams, Seven (7) members of the Community, and two (2) members of the Media.

**Absent:** Mrs. Shaw

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I. **Call to Order** – Mr. Bass at 7:00 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** – None

V. **Minutes**

- Motion to Approve the Minutes by Mr. Fontes and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Smith.
  - Discussion: None
  - Motion Carried

VI. **Business**

- Volunteer Firefighters Equipment – Mr. Bass asked this to be removed until further notice.
- Thompson Mall – Jack Thompson
  - Mr. Thompson said he is having issues with Mr. Butch Williams, the Fire Inspector.
  - Mr. Thompson stated that he asked Mr. Williams to inspect the Exit area going in the space where the Beauty Shop was and Mr. Williams stated it didn't need inspected

and to just remove the Exit sign. He also stated that Mr. Williams said no to inspect the Exit area at the Sheik Restaurant.

- Mr. Thompson stated he called the State of Florida Fire Marshall and they instructed him to come before the Council.
  - Mr. Fontes asked if the problem was a rack in the Sheik restaurant by the back door. Mr. Thompson stated that it was. Mr. Fontes stated it sounds like a tenant problem.
  - Mr. Branham stated that if Mr. Thompson doesn't feel Mr. Williams is doing his job than to feel free to call Tallahassee and let them inspect. We here on the Council can't speculate or demand Mr. Williams do what you are asking. We can ask Mr. Williams to look and see if there is anything the Town is responsible, but if he determines that is not the case than feel free to go to Tallahassee if you feel it's necessary.
  - Clyde Wilder from Fernandina Beach for Mr. Thompson – Stated there are way more issues with the owner of the Sheik like the light pole and sign put up without Mr. Thompson's permission. Mr. Wilder stated, "Mr. Branham you are a smart man and you know it's against the laws to block the exit. Can't you do something?" Mr. Branham stated, "I don't have personal knowledge of the situation, but I do know Mr. Williams has always followed the laws."
  - Mr. Thompson asked, "So you want me to go ahead and call Tallahassee?" Mr. Branham stated, "That decision is up to you. We will talk to Mr. Williams to make sure he feels the Codes have been enforced, but that is all we can do at this time."
  - Ms. Smith stated to Mr. Thompson, "If your tenant isn't following the lease than it's your right as the owner to put him out."
- Council President Bass asked Ms. Knagge for her Business Tax Receipt update.
    - Mrs. Knagge stated that she and Susan had been working on the Streamlining process.
    - Some of the things being implemented are:
      - Creating both a "non-editable" form of the BTR certificate & receipt to save on postage by emailing instead of mailing these items.
      - The invoices for next year will have an option to go paperless and for them to provide email addresses for this option.
      - With this option the following year's invoices will even be emailed saving even further with postage.
    - Council Consensus to see how this streamlining works and report back next BTR season with statistics for further evaluation.

## VII. Review & Approval of Town Expenditures

- General Fund **\$35,797.36**
  - Motion to Pay the General Fund by Mrs. Smith and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Mellecker.
    - Discussion: None
    - Motion Carried
- Water & Sewer Fund **\$7,128.22**
  - Motion to Pay Water & Sewer Fund by Mr. Mellecker and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Fontes.
    - Discussion: None

- Motion Carried
- Water & Sewer Adjustments
  1. Ms. Tammy Howard on Warrior Drive
    - Capped Sprinkler pipe broke
    - Fixed once found
      - Motion to refund the Sewer amount of \$169.68 by Mr. Fontes and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Mellecker.
        - Discussion: None
        - Motion Carried
  2. Missouri Williams on Pine Terrace
    - Leak at Meter Box
    - Fixed by Maintenance Staff
      - Motion to refund the Sewer amount of \$4.04 by Mr. Fontes and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Smith.
        - Discussion: None
        - Motion Carried
  3. Dan Thomas on Airstream Avenue
    - Pressure Washed House
    - Asked for refund in the amount of \$20.20
    - Doesn't meet Criteria.
    - Denied
  4. Cypress Court Motel
    - Leaks located in toilets of multiple units.
    - Asked for refund in the amount of \$410.00
    - Doesn't meet Criteria.
    - Denied


### VIII. *Around the Council Table*

- Mayor – Nothing
- Mrs. Smith – Parks – Nothing
- Mr. Fontes – Water & Sewer
  - With Budget talks coming up – “There is a vote up in Tallahassee for another \$25,000 in Homestead Exemptions which will make it \$75,000 which would greatly hurt our Ad Valorem. We could go up on our Ad Valorem, but that would hurt businesses which makes product cost go up which hurts our citizens. The County still hasn't made its decision on the Fire Tax which again can hurt us and our citizens. These are all things we need to be looking into and preparing for especially since Budget time is coming”
- Mrs. Kirk – Treasurer – Nothing
- Mrs. Shaw – Streets -- Absent

- **Mr. Mellecker – Zoning** – Nothing
- **Mr. Branham – Attorney** – Nothing
- **Mrs. Knagge – Clerk** –
  - Joint School Board Meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM
  - National Day of Prayer May 4<sup>th</sup> was a great success! Thanks for all who participated and attended.
  - No meeting on July 3<sup>rd</sup>
- **Mr. Williams – Town Manager** -- Nothing
- **Mr. Bass – Council President & Fire**
  - Mr. Fontes asked Mr. Bass to look into this year’s Budget and if there is monies left that might could be used to purchase radios. Also, asked if the Fire Fighters had any of their Fair earnings left that could help with purchasing radios.
    - Mr. Bass stated he would look into both.

**IX. Adjourn**

- Motion to adjourn by Mr. Fontes and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Mellecker. Motion Carried.
- Time: 7:41 PM




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**John Kenneth Bass, Council President**




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**Stephanie Knagge, Town Clerk**