

CITY OF HAWTHORNE

COMMISSIONERS:

DeLoris Roberts, Mayor
Eleanor Randall, Vice Mayor
John Martin
William Carlton
Terry Knowles

CITY MANAGER:

Chad M. Shryock, City Manager
Donna R. Mayes, City Clerk

CITY ATTORNEY:

Patricia Carter

MINUTES REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING August 1, 2005 @ 6:30 PM

Mayor Roberts called the Regular Meeting of the Hawthorne City Commission to order at 6:30 PM. Present were Mayor Roberts, Vice Mayor Randall, Commissioners Martin, Carlton and Knowles. Also present was City Manager Shryock, City Clerk Mayes, and Legal Counsel Patricia Carter

Vice Mayor Randall gave the Invocation and Commissioner Carlton led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Roberts informed that the meeting would be conducted by Roberts Rules of Order and quoted from Resolution 2000-13 the rules of procedures for meetings.

- A. Moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of 07/11/05.
Motion – Commissioner Knowles Second – Vice Mayor Randall
Vote 5-0

- B. Financial Report
City Manager Shryock expressed that this report was for the Board's information and added that the accountant would be coming on Wednesday to do some training; therefore he expected to have more efficient reports in the future.

- C. Moved to approve the Agenda.
Motion – Commissioner Martin Second – Commissioner Carlton
Vote – 5-0

Item 1. SHIP Housing

In Mr. Hurska's absence Mayor Roberts gave the SHIP Report and the action request. Moved to approve the SHIP Committee's recommendation of increasing the previously approved loan for Case 05SHIP15, Verlee Shell, up to the maximum amount of \$30,000.

Motion – Commissioner Martin Second – Commissioner Knowles
Vote – 5-0

Item 2. Ordinance 2005-07 Rates for Fire Assessment

City Attorney Carter briefed the board on the ordinance adopting the fire assessment at last month's meeting. She pointed out that the cost of the contract for fire services with Alachua County continues to increase; identifying the purpose of setting a rate assessment for fire cost. This would be the first reading on the rate ordinance and if passed on the second reading the rates would go into affect October 1st of the current year. Notices would be sent to each property owner showing what they were being assessed. Advertising in the Alachua Today Newspaper would be done twenty (20) days before the second meeting in September. If adopted the assessment would be collected just like the property taxes. Commissioner Carlton questioned how much this would generate in a year. City Manager Shryock advised this could not be calculated until the rates were set. This assessment is not to be defined as an additional revenue source but to spread the cost to all that benefit from the services and not only the people who pay the property taxes. He summarized the chart to show \$60.00 for residential, commercial would be looked at per square footage with a maximum of \$200.00 and vacant land at \$1.00 per acre. Mr. Shryock purposed lowering the millage rate to 4.5 and fairly distribute the assessment to pay the cost of fire.

Mayor Roberts recommended the appointment of a citizen's committee for research on this issue in the next year to determine the needs of the City and if the rate ordinance is what works best.

Commissioner Knowles voiced he had a different impression of this issue in the beginning, but understands now that everyone will pay their fair share; not leaving the burden on the property owners that pay taxes. He affirmed that he will support the fire assessment ordinances. Commissioner Martin echoed his support also stating that it was getting more expensive for fire services every year.

The Board devoted considerable discussion to the RV Park at Gator Landing as to how it would be assessed, determining that if it is divided into separate parcels each parcel owner would pay a residential rate.

Apartment or multi-family would pay the commercial rate of not more than \$200.00 maximum.

In answer to a question, Attorney Carter responded that the only exemptions to this assessment would be government and schools. Mr. Richard Moore, owner of the Hawthorne Apartment's, was concerned about his cost relating to ten units. City Manager Shryock responded that the assessment implies around \$200.00 and pointed out that his property tax would go down to compensate for this figure.

Item 5. Citizen Input

D. Adjourn

Moved to Adjourn at 9:00 PM

Motion – Commissioner

Second – Commissioner

Vote – 5-0

These Minutes of the August 1, 2005 Regular Commission Meeting are submitted for approval.

Chad M. Shryock, City Manager

DeLoris Roberts-Cheatham, Mayor

Donna R. Mayes, CMC
City Clerk