
COMMISSIONERS:

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

CITY MANAGER:

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

CITY ATTORNEY:

Steve Lee

**MINUTES
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 5, 2007**

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Knowles called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Board present was: Mayor Knowles, Vice Mayor Randall, Commissioners Carlton, Martin, and Roberts. Staff present was: City Manager Chad Shryock, City Clerk Donna R. Mayes, Intern Planner Shane Laakso and City Attorney Steve Lee.

1. Invocation

Commissioner Roberts gave the Invocation.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Flag and Pledge of Allegiance was presented by the Hawthorne Girl Scouts Troop.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved to approve the agenda of March 5, 2007 meeting

Motion – Commissioner Roberts

Second – Commissioner Martin

Vote – 5-0

C. RECOGNITIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**1. Proclamation – Girls Scout Week**

Mayor Knowles presented the Proclamation in recognition of “Girl Scout Week” to the Hawthorne Girl Scout Troop.

2. Proclamation – Women’s History Month

Commissioner Roberts presented the Proclamation to three women recognized for their contributions and volunteer work to the City of Hawthorne, Ms. Shirley Stepp, Ms. Greta Knowles and Ms. Vivian Wagner.

D. CITIZENS COMMENTS

County Commissioner Lee Pinkoson thanked the citizens for their support in his re-election. He related his hopes of the referendum resolving the issues with the annexations. Mayor Knowles voiced his concerns on the double homestead exemption and City Manager Shryock reported jobs would be cut as well as street maintenance and other areas in the budget if the revenue of \$104,000 in property taxes were cut. Commissioner Pinkoson encouraged the board to

make sure when the issue goes on the 2007 ballot, that the citizens understand what the consequences will be if they vote for the exemption. Commissioner Roberts asked if he would see what could be done about the house on Highway 20 that was still in the County and in violation of codes. Commissioner Martin addressed the riot that happened in Pleasant Gardens stating that was actually a county facility, which Commissioner Pinkoson advised was independent of the Commission. Mr. Martin noted that the high impact fees the county was talking about implementing could push the cause of annexation. He also noted that the Hawthorne Police Department was not intended to replace ASO and that the City did expect the same service from the County Sheriff's Department.

City Manager Shryock introduced the UF student Shane Smith who is working on the downtown design. Mr. Smith indicated he hoped to have the project completed by April 24th and create a more pedestrian friendly downtown.

E. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved to approve the Consent Agenda for 3/05/07 approving the Minutes of 2/05/07, Financial Report, Resignation by Tim Logan from the Code Board and the AHIP Report approving submission of the Grant Application for 2007-2008 Funding Cycle.

Motion – Commissioner Roberts
Vote – 5-0

Second–Commissioner Carlton

F. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Ordinance 2007-05 Second Reading – Annexation A06-2, Eastern Annexation Referendum

Mayor Knowles opened the Public Hearing and ask for staff report.

City Manager Shryock reported that staff had found out that the surveyor did not have the legal descriptions yet. He had to rewrite the legal for the last meeting but had left something out. Recommend continuing to April Meeting.

No Public Comment

Closed Public Hearing

Moved to continue the Public Hearing on Ordinance 2007-05 until the next regular meeting date of April 2, 2007.

Motion – Commissioner Roberts

Second – Vice Mayor Randall

Discussion – Commissioner Martin questioned if it would be reasonable to expect these issues to be resolved by the 2nd of April. City Manager Shryock expressed he was leaning on them to get this done.

Vote – 5-0

2. Ordinance 2007-06 Second Reading – Annexation A06-3, Southern Annexation Referendum

Mayor Knowles opened the Public Hearing and called for staff report.

City Manager Shryock proposed to continue this Public Hearing until the first meeting in April. The area shown on the map provided on screen is the complete area referred to as a “pocket” by the Alachua County Annexation

Team and County Commission. This annexation will completely alleviate any conflict with the County, barring the outcome of a referendum vote. Due to opposition to the ordinance, staff has been looking at alternative viable scenarios. Cropping out the southern portion of the referendum area is not a solution because the remainder of the area does not meet the required density. It is his belief that the north area can be done entirely by volunteer annexation and do away with the referendum. If not, he advises an attempt to negotiate with the County to drop their legal challenge in exchange for removing the portion of parcel 19930 east of SE 225th drive from the contested annexation. If the County does not agree to this negotiated settlement, staff recommends to proceed with the annexation referendum and let the people vote.

Audience member Glen Molander asked why the City wanted to annex people into the City when they can't clean up what they have. Mayor Knowles informed that there are home owners that are asking to come in and the City is trying to figure out the best way to alleviate the lawsuit. Commissioner Martin stated that City's do not usually turn away annexation's adding that undeveloped property does not bring a lot of tax base in. This is also the first referendum to his knowledge that the City has done. City Manager Shryock related that the City has come a long way in cleaning of the park, fixing of streets and sidewalks.

Moved to continue the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2007-06 for second reading approving Annexation A06-3 Southern Annexation Referendum to the April 2, 2007 Meeting.

Motion – Vice Mayor Randall

Second – Commissioner Martin

Vote – 5-0

G. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Resolution 2007-06 Setting Commission Pay Rates

Moved to adopt Resolution 2007-06 setting new salary rates for Commission

Motion – Commissioner Martin

Second – Vice Mayor Randall

Discussion – Commissioner Carlton Voiced he was elected because he promised no raises and no audit has been received; do not know where were at financially and also need a certified accountant in Florida. City Manager Shryock informed the gentleman wrote the accounting software and provided technical support. The audit is scheduled for presentation on April 2nd. Mayor Knowles added there was a financial statement in the commission packet each month. Commissioner Martin expressed it would not impact the finances until next year and the City Manager has assured the funds are available for the remainder of this year. City Manager Shryock interjected there would just need to be a budget amendment for this year, adding that the audit takes longer because of the new rules and more reports required.

Vote – 4-1 NO Vote Commissioner Carlton

2. Discuss Election Date

City Manager Shryock recommended tabling the Charter Amendments and the discussion on changing the City's election date until after the June Election this year. It cannot get on the ballot and voted on for this election because of the

hold up in meeting with the Supervisor of Elections and other small cities to discuss changing election days to the national Election Day. The 27th of March has been set as a tentative date for the small cities to meet with the Supervisor of Elections at her office.

Moved to table the Charter Amendments until the first Regular Meeting in August of 2007

Motion – Commissioner Roberts

Second – Vice Mayor Randall

Vote – 5-0

H. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Ms. Heather Surrency spoke of the clean up in Still Estates with 32 volunteers and 24 inmates helping. She announced the Visioning Committee Meeting for Monday, March 12 from 6-8 PM at the Hawthorne High School Café. She stressed that the Hawthorne area was not only the City limits but the surrounding rural area stating she lived in Putnam County.

Ms. Joyce Johnson stated she had been trying to meet with the City Manager and had not yet been able to see him. Mr. Shryock set up a meeting with Ms. Johnson for later in the week.

Commissioner Carlton voiced that he and others had worked for years out on the roads picking up trash but could not help at this time because of back surgery. Ms. Wagner communicated that the women of Hawthorne worked on the Museum and bathrooms at the park. She inquired if there wasn't a time limit on how long a person was allowed to speak and voiced she would like to see the newsletter back in circulation.

I. REPORTS

- City Attorney Lee had no report.
- City Manager Shryock thanked the volunteers for the work on the clean-up in the Holden Park area and Still Estates. Silver Company is still at the table on the development of the Smith property, but there is another developer interested and he had made a trip to Ocala looking at one of their projects, which was very impressive. He announced he would be on vacation the week of the City's second meeting of March and asked direction if the Board wanted to cancel it seeing there wasn't anything coming up.

Based on the City Manager recommendation, move to cancel the 2nd Meeting for the month of March

Motion – Commissioner Martin

Second – Commissioner Roberts

Vote – 5-0

At this point Mr. Mike Rutledge asked to speak and gave credit to Ms. Wagner and Mr. Carlton for setting a good example for others to follow in their footsteps in pulling together as neighborhoods. No matter whom starts the projects come together as a community.

- City Attorney Lee advised he had two cases from the Code Board with recommendations the Board should authorize him to file foreclosures on, the Dye property on US Highway 301 and the Wyley Williams property at SE 72nd Avenue.

Moved to accept the Code Enforcement Board recommendation and authorize the City Attorney to proceed with the foreclosure

Motion – Commissioner Martin Second – Commissioner Roberts

Vote – 5-0
- Mayor Knowles reported he had met with an individual who had agreed conceptually to bring a professional volleyball court facility to the city. The City would lease the land for a 100X200 square foot building that ten (10) teams in and out of state would play their tournaments in. He will bring information as more develops. The land is at the Recreation Park and steps would be taken to make sure it does not interfere with the other facilities. City Manager Shryock interjected that the City Staff was participating in the Cancer Relay Walk of Life and jars with their pictures on them were set up at City Hall for donations. Also, there is a jar to pay \$1.00 for every day you wear a pair of jeans which will go to the Relay of Life.
- Vice Mayor Randall reported she was proud of the City and the volunteers for participating together. She does have concerns that ASO is profiling a particular gentleman that came across town to her Father's house. They followed him there and were still waiting when he left. She made mention of phone calls she had received about one of the police cars setting at the Mayor's house and was questioned why. Mayor Knowles related someone was in a neighbor's car a couple of nights before and just thought it might deter crime. Audience members asserted their disapproval, informing there was crime in every neighborhood.
- Commissioner Roberts reported a HAPP Meeting on March 8th at 5:00 PM, April 14th Great American Clean-up from 7:30-12:00, AGH Task Force March 21st at the United Methodist Church at 7:00 PM. Also ASO would not let a man in a wheel chair cross 301 because there was no crosswalk.
- Commissioner Martin reported he had to work on week-ends making it difficult for him to participate in the clean-ups. He thanked Mr. Tim Logan for serving on the Code Enforcement Board. He made mention that the two developers on Holden Park Road had been in the City for several years and was not part of the annexation. On the cleanup, Ms. Walker tried starting a cleanup in the area years ago. He feels the City should have some program in reaching out to other cities during the hurricane season. He encouraged each one to talk to their representatives and tell them not to pass the double exemption tax. He said the Gainesville sun

had given him a name of Mr. Trombone Man and gave a web site where you can see him at the game looking like he is blowing a trombone.

- Commissioner Carlton had no report

J. ADJOURN

Moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting of March 5, 2007 at 10:00 PM

Motion – Commissioner Carlton

Second – Vice Mayor Randall

Vote – 5-0

These Minutes of the March 5, 2007 Regular Commission Meeting are submitted for approval.

Chad M. Shryock, City Manager

Terry Knowles, Mayor

Donna R. Mayes, CMC
City Clerk