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**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  
MAY 7, 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**

Commissioner Carlton led the Pledge of Allegiance

**B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved to approve the agenda of May 7, 2007

Motion – Commissioner Roberts

Second – Commissioner Carlton

Vote – 5-0

**C. RECOGNITIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS****1. United Way – Tina & Lee Pinkoson – Success By 6**

Mr. & Mrs. Pinkoson made a presentation on behalf of United Way entitled Success by 6. They are ambassadors for the 22.7% of Alachua County's children who live in poverty and the many without reading skills by the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade making it unlikely for them to ever graduate. With the severity of the problem this continues to influence long term success causing the crime rate to soar, teenage pregnancy and welfare dependency. This is a move to strengthen and broaden the awareness that early education not only breeds economic success for those being educated, but also for the overall economy. Both Mr. & Mrs. Pinkoson made it clear they had not come soliciting funding but for the sole purpose of making people aware of the situation and of United Way of North Central Florida's Success By 6. They will focus its resources on supporting parents and families of young children by mobilizing financial and non-financial resources, convening local public, private and nonprofit sectors and funding programs and activities. They will also focus on early education seeing one of the barriers affecting parents and families is lack of knowledge. They did

encourage volunteering, donating and speak out; make the world aware, help the children.

#### **D. CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Ms. Vivian Wagner reported the person who stole her purse last year was in jail at the present time.

Ms. Heather Surrency stated the City was well represented at the Relay of Life and had the best booth. She announced the annual Recreation Hog-fest for October 13<sup>th</sup> this year. She referred to an incident of someone smoking on the Recreation grounds and would like to get No Smoking signs put up. She also voiced she was relaying a message that ASO Deputies was upset that someone other than the Chief was driving the City police cars posing as an officer. Mayor Knowles informed he was the only other person to drive the vehicles and that was to put them out on the highway to slow the traffic down and there was no intent to impersonate a police officer. Ms. Surrency stated although the Recreation has been under the direction of the YMCA, she feels they have not done all they could for Hawthorne and would like the Commission to consider bringing it back under the umbrella of the City. She stated the Recreation does not have a basketball team and would like to see courts and a building that could be utilized for both basketball and volleyball. She announced the Hawthorne Foundation Meeting for May 14<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 at the High School.

#### **E. CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved to approve the Consent Agenda approving Workshop Minutes 4/5/07, Regular Minutes 4/16/07, Joint Meeting with Alachua County 4/23/07 and the appointment of Stan Kitching to the Planning & Zoning/Board of Adjustment and pulling item #2, Financial Report off for discussion.

Motion – Commissioner Martin

Second – Vice Mayor Randall

Vote – 5-0

#### **2. Receive and File Financial Report**

Commissioner Carlton stated he did not see the \$25,000 spent on the water lines listed as an expenditure on the report. City Manager Shryock informed he did not know if the last invoice had been received but he would check with accounting.

#### **F. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

##### **1. Ordinance 2007-04 Second Reading – Itinerant Food Vendors**

Mayor Knowles opened the Public Hearing

City Manager Shryock explained that the current ordinance, if strictly enforced, did not permit any sales outside of a building. This ordinance permits the City Manger to issue licenses for certain outdoor sales.

Closed Public Hearing

Moved to approve Ordinance 2007-04 on second and final reading

Motion – Commissioner Martin

Second – Commissioner Carlton

## **2. Ordinance 2007-25 Second Reading – County Fire Assessments**

Mayor Knowles opened the Public Hearing

City Manager Shryock informed this ordinance would allow the Alachua County Board of Commissioners to levy assessments on properties within the City of Hawthorne to pay for the cost of providing fire services. Currently Alachua County Fire/Rescue provides fire services to the city through an intergovernmental contract. The cost is approximately \$53,000 under the MSTU or \$104,000 under the "fair share" calculation. There is still disagreement with the County which amount the City should be paying for the current year service.

Mr. Shryock voiced as indicated in the joint meeting with the County, the City has four options, one, to turn over all fire services to the County which would cost the property owners an additional \$321,000 per year added to what they are paying in fire assessment now bringing to a total of \$425,000. Two, reject the Ordinance and enter into a new agreement with the County which has indicated the cost would be approximately \$425,000, meaning the City would then have to raise the property tax rate or the fire assessment in order to pay for the increase in contract cost. Three, contract with another department, the closest being West Putnam VFD who has indicated that they do not feel they can enter into a protection contract at this time; however they have expressed they would be willing to help in the creation of the City's own department and fourth, re-establish the Hawthorne Fire Department. City Manager Shryock feels this could be done for an initial capital cost of \$200,000 to \$400,000 and annual operating cost between \$200,000 and \$300,000 per year.

Commissioner Martin inquired of County Commissioner Pinkoson, who was present, if the County intended to do an assessment regardless of the decision made on property taxes in Tallahassee. Commissioner Pinkoson stated their thought was to take some of the burden from the property owners and divide more equally on those receiving the services. The point was brought out that Waldo chose not to adopt the County's ordinance on the fire assessment, which brought up the discussion to explore ways and means for communications for those cities with their own departments. Commissioner Martin and the City Manager expressed their concern over the difficulty in getting access to the figures on the call loads and the break down on medical/fire calls. County Commissioner Pinkoson undertook supportive action stating that he will meet with Chief May and have him assist in getting these reports so Mr. Shryock can make an informed decision. It was noted by several Board members that the consultant was waiting for the City's decision on the ordinance after the meeting. If the City Commission wishes to continue providing fire services through Alachua County, City Manager Shryock recommended adopting the ordinance; however, if they wish to pursue the re-creation of a department he would ask for direction from the Board to prepare a Cost-Benefit Analysis.

Public Comment

Harry Carter commented he had sent a letter to the Commission expressing his opinions but would follow up by voicing that the County intends to go through

with this plan whether this year or next. He also requested the City consider backing out the schools and churches from the assessment and to keep in mind that a well run fire department is taken into consideration when home owners purchase insurance.

Closed Public Hearing

Moved to continue the Public Hearing for 90 days and instruct staff to put together a cost analysis for a Fire Department

Motion – Commissioner Carlton Second – Commissioner Roberts

Discussion – Vice Mayor Randall maintained there would be nothing to discuss in 90 days seeing the deadline for action on the ordinance was this date.

Attorney Lee advised the Trim Notice was the driving point for the time line on this action so that this increase and property tax would not appear together.

Commissioner Martin endorsed the part of motion directing staff to do the cost analysis but not the part of continuing the Public Hearing on the issue.

Vote – 4-1 Commissioner Carlton casting the “NO” vote

Moved to defeat on second reading Ordinance 2007-25 County Fire Assessment

Motion – Commissioner Martin Second – Commissioner Roberts

Vote – 4-1 Commissioner Carlton casting the “NO” vote

Moved to instruct the City Manager to do a cost analysis on establishing a Fire Department

Motion – Commissioner Martin Second – Vice Mayor Randall

Discussion – General consensus leaves the City with County Fire Protection and present contract until further notification.

Vote – 4-1 Commissioner Carlton casting the “NO” vote

## **G. REGULAR AGENDA**

### **1. Request to Maintain Private Drainage Ditch City Manager**

City Manager Shryock gave a presentation on screen showing the drainage ditch running over several properties. He also showed the culverts located on streets that the City is responsible for maintaining. The property owner is asking that the City maintain the ditch crossing her property; the City believes St. Johns River Water Management has a say in what happens to the ditch. Ms. Hagan asked that Mr. Gene Caputo from St. Johns give his opinion. Mr. Caputo advised the City to not go on the property; this could start a precedent getting involved. If the ditch is filled in, the water must find somewhere else to go and this will create other problems. He advised getting DEP involved and after hearing discussion on how the water backed up on State Road 301 he also suggested FDOT might help since it is a federal highway. Attorney Lee pointed out that other counties had gotten help with funding when easements were established. Long range plans could be easements or divert the water over to Little Orange Lake after the Smith property is developed but no immediate answers. Mr. Caputo communicated that if health problems/hazards such as mosquitoes were involved then this would give DEP more reason to come in.



- Commissioner Martin reported he attended Legislative Day. He would like to get an update on the expansion of the sewer and look at variations the City Manager has on funding the fire. Mr. Shryock advised preparing for the worse case scenario which would mean cutting personnel cost and transfer public works from general fund to the enterprise funds.
- Commissioner Roberts inquired if the City had any kind of an alarm that would alert the citizens of tornadoes or to prepare for emergency. City Manager Shryock informed the best way to get that kind of information was to get weather radios.
- Vice Mayor Randall had no report.

**J. ADJOURN**

Moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting of May 7, 2007 at 10:20 PM

Motion – Commissioner Martin

Second – Vice Mayor Randall

Vote – 5-0

These Minutes of the May 7, 2007 Regular Commission Meeting are submitted for approval.

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**Chad M. Shryock, City Manager**

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**Terry Knowles, Mayor**

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**Donna R. Mayes, CMC**  
**City Clerk**