

**City of Holly Hill – Minutes**  
**Commission Day Meeting**  
**April 14, 1999**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor William D. Arthur called the meeting to order in the Commission Chambers at City Hall, 1065 Ridgewood Avenue at approximately 2:20 p. m. Attending with Mayor Arthur were Commissioners Arthur Byrnes, J. D. Mellette, and Roland Via. Also attending were the City Manager, Don Lusk, Public Services Director, Milt Hallman, Fire Chief, Joe Forte, and City Clerk, Joyce Holmquist. Commissioners J. D. Mellette and Shirley Heyman were absent.

The Commissioners discussed the name of Schadow Park and the location of the new T-Ball Field at Holly Land Park, indicating they desired there to be open communication and discussion between themselves and the City Manager regarding such issues. The Commissioners indicated they were very impressed with the tour of the city in that there had been many improvements. The newly paved sidewalks, the roads, culverts, etc. were amazing improvements; however, the Commissioners were of the opinion that additional staffing was required. The City Manager reported a good manager would always foresee that improvements would require maintenance. The new streetscape medians involved a contract to maintain them so additional city employees would not be necessary. The new gymnasium involved PAL Grants to cover staffing. The Commissioners reported that during their tour they had been informed by Public Service employees that almost every department within the Division was one man short. The City Manager advised the city had cut out almost \$200,000 in overtime over the past three years and the city was run very tightly. Employees cost money and everyone would like more help in doing their jobs. The City Manager reported that in the past, upon three people having been laid off in buildings and facilities, production had risen from the remaining employees. Some times additional help resulted in time for additional complaints.

The Mayor indicated he had noticed plusher grounds and surroundings at the Public Services Department several years ago and it was his opinion that better care of the facility needed to be accomplished. It appeared to him that gas engines were running some equipment and some pumps were not working well. The Mayor believed the situation could be improved and preventative maintenance was needed. The City Manager reported he was about ready to present a two million dollar utility project to the Commission and water and sewer rates would be adjusted upward slightly. New, rebuilt, sewer lines would reduce costs due to the need for less sewage treatment. The city had gone many years in neglect and much catch-up was being accomplished and yet, taxes had been cut last year. This would be presented at the next Commission Workshop. Commissioner Byrnes indicated he believed maintenance would still be required. The Mayor indicated although he believed great improvements were being made, the water plant was going down hill and this was not due to employees not working hard. Visually,

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he had seen rusted nuts and bolts at the water plant; some shut off valves needed attention, etc. The City Manager indicated he would give the Commissioners a tour of the water plant three months in the future and a change would be seen because present operators should be maintaining the plant. A maintenance schedule could be set up. The second shift could paint, etc. Commissioner Byrnes indicated he did not want to see employees in difficult situations over the needed improvements or concerning the expressed need for additional personnel. The City Manager believed that the five utility mechanics the city presently employed should be enough to maintain a system the size of Holly Hill's. The Commissioners briefly discussed water rates and a recent problem which had occurred involving some discolored water.

The City Manager apologized indicating he had not visited the water plant in approximately one year, further reporting that a twenty year old water plant could look brand new and that this was not unusual. Milt Hallman, the Public Services Director, reported it was true that a gasoline motor was running a pump; however, this was not a serious problem and a new pump had been ordered and was due to be delivered Thursday. Two small pumps had run out systematically at the same time. Mr. Hallman reported that small pumps were priced at \$38,000 each and a larger pump cost \$54,000. Pumps at reduced prices were being investigated; the expenditure had not been budgeted.

The Commissioners were of the opinion that the carpeting in the Fire Division needed some sort of replacement. Commissioner Byrnes requested that new signs be placed at the well field because the signs had worn out. Commissioner Via requested a history plaque be placed at Schadow Park. The Commissioners noted they did not like the concept of a Publix Store moving into the Holly Land Park location as had been suggested as a possibility. The City Manager reported this issue was nothing to be concerned about presently. Commissioner Via reported he had been saddened to hear that an historical, cement, inscription which had been located in Holly Land Park, and which had been placed there by boy scouts from the 1940s or 50s, had been disposed of when the barbecue pit had been dismantled. In this regard, he would like the history of Ken Schadow Park to be available in Schadow Park. Commissioner Via questioned if any of the Schadow family members were in town? Commissioner Byrnes believed the lake in Schadow Park could be given a name. Mayor Arthur indicated he had been very impressed with the computers in the police vehicles. The Commissioners agreed the tours had been very beneficial.

Commissioners Byrnes and Via reported the message he wanted to send was that he believed Community Services was under staffed and that the manager should look into this, rather than sending a message that the respective employees should work harder. The manager advised his opinion was that city employees should work hard because that

was why the city gave them a pay check. There was nothing wrong with an employee putting in a hard day's work. The manager indicated twenty-five years of experience had taught him that the operator should maintain a water plant and he had never been around a water plant that needed two operators to maintain a water plant, except during a day shift, further reporting that he had been around water plants that had floors painted white and employees had not been added to accomplish this as this had been the second shift's responsibility. The City Manager indicated he would look at why such tasks weren't being accomplished with the number of people most places employed. The Mayor and Commissioners requested the manager look into the problem in order that the water plant would not break down. The Mayor asked for a list to be developed of how long specific items should last, and a schedule for replacement, etc.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting stood officially adjourned at approximately 3:30 p. m.

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William D. Arthur, Mayor

Attest:

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City Clerk