

**MINUTES
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
CITY OF HOLLY HILL, FLORIDA**

APRIL 26, 2011

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Roll Call

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order in the Commission Chambers at City Hall, 1065 Ridgewood Avenue, at approximately 7:00pm. Attending with Mayor Johnson were Commissioners John Penny, Rick Glass, Donnie Moore and Liz Towsley-Patton.

Also attending were the following staff members: City Manager James McCroskey, City Attorney Scott Simpson, Administrative Services Director Kurt Swartzlander, Human Resource Manager Diane Cole, Police Chief Mark Barker, Fire Chief Ron Spencer, Interim Public Works Director Jackie Maswary, Economic Development Director Lynn Dehlinger and City Clerk Joshua Fruecht.

B. Invocation

Mayor Roy Johnson delivered the Invocation.

C. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Mayor Roy Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. MINUTES

A. Minutes from the Regular City Commission meeting – April 12, 2011

*Commissioner Glass moved **APPROVAL** for the **MINUTES**, seconded by Commissioner Moore.*

The motion **CARRIED** 5-0 unanimously: Glass – Yes, Moore – Yes, Penny – Yes, Patton – Yes, Mayor Johnson – Yes.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A. Regarding items not on the agenda.

Mayor Johnson opened public participation. The following individuals came forward to speak:

- Harriett Castle (1130 Riverside Drive, Holly Hill, Florida 32117) – Addressed the City Commission regarding the need for additional maintenance of the parks.
- Hugo Tischler (2499 Jerry Circle, Port Orange, Florida 32128) – Addressed the City Commission regarding the increased rates of city facilities and required deposit.

There was a **majority** consensus of the City Commission to waive the deposit for the Hungarian Club, if it was determined that they have a good rental history.

- Dave Rowe (Holly Hill Historic Society) – Addressed the City Commission regarding the 40&8 Box Car Ceremony on Saturday, April 30, 2011 at 10:30am in front of City Hall.
- Ed Perkins (920 Riverside Drive, Holly Hill, Florida 32117) – Addressed the City Commission regarding the United Brethren in Christ Church Fundraiser for Josh McKeown, who has been diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia and asked if the City would display the fundraiser information on the Digital Sign.

There was a **majority** consensus of the City Commission to display the United Brethren in Christ Church Fundraiser information on the Digital Sign.

4. **PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION**

A. Property Taxes (Commissioner Donnie Moore)

Commissioner Donnie Moore made a presentation to the City Commission and the public on property taxes in Volusia County. Commissioner Moore expressed the need to recognize this antiquated property tax system and for the City to look at innovative ideas to reduce and/or eliminate property taxes in the future.

Mayor Johnson opened public participation. The following individuals came forward to speak:

- Margie Patchett (Volusia Tax Reform)
- Ed Conner (1010 John Anderson Drive, Ormond Beach, Florida 32176)
- Ed Perkins (920 Riverside Drive, Holly Hill, Florida 32117)
- Clay Beasley (All Florida Plumbing)
- Nick Mustard (715 Marlene Drive, Holly Hill, Florida 32117)
- Robert Weinberg (495 Carswell Avenue, Holly Hill, Florida 32117)
- Jim Legary (342 Burley Street, Holly Hill, Florida 32117)
- Bill Arthur (1140 Riverside Drive, Holly Hill, Florida 32117)
- Gilles Blais (710 Magnolia Avenue, Holly Hill, Florida 32117)

After discussion amongst the Mayor and City Commissioners, *Commissioner Moore made a motion for the **City Manager to direct staff to look at innovative ideas to reduce property taxes by October 2011**, seconded by Commissioner Glass.*

The motion **CARRIED** 5-0 unanimously: Moore – Yes, Glass – Yes, Penny – Yes, Patton – Yes, Mayor Johnson – Yes.

5. **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. City Manager

City Manager James McCroskey informed the City Commission that staff will look at the tools that the legislature provides and bring them back to the Commission for their review. Mr. McCroskey then recognized the Holly Hill Police Department for receiving the 2011 Law Enforcement of the year award from the Victim Activates Coalition; Commissioner Liz Towsley-Patton for completing the Florida Crime Prevention and Training Institute certification program.

B. City Attorney

City Attorney Scott Simpson had no comments.

C. City Clerk

City Clerk Joshua Fruecht had no comments.

D. Commissioners

Commissioner Glass

Commissioner Rick Glass informed that Commission and the public that he would like to look into the grants and rebates available for solar panels for the City. City Manager James McCroskey proposed that the City bring in an energy auditor. Commissioner Glass then informed Mr. McCroskey, that Florida and Power and Light would do an energy audit at no cost to the City. Commissioner Glass also proposed that the City eliminate the paper Holly Hill Heartbeat, in an effort to reduce costs.

After brief discussion amongst the City Commission and City Manager there was a majority **consensus** of the City Commission to eliminate the paper Holly Hill Heartbeat and have a quarterly e-newsletter.

Commissioner Penny

Commissioner John Penny informed the City Commission and the public that the Holly Hill Police Department will be having their Prescription Drug take back program on Saturday, April 30, 2011 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Mr. Penny then recognized the Police Chief Mark Barker and the Holly Hill Police Explorers for assisting Oakwood Furniture with their open house.

Commissioner Towsley-Patton

Commissioner Liz Towsley-Patton asked City Clerk Joshua Fruecht how the City would collect email addresses to send out the e-newsletter.

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City Clerk Joshua Fruecht informed Commission Patton that the City would utilize the email addresses provided by residents who currently receive e-bills and that anyone that wanted to receive email notification could do so through the Utility Billing office or the City website.

Commissioner Moore

Commissioner Donnie Moore thanked everyone for coming out and being patient. He also stated that he has full faith in the City Commissioners, the Mayor and the City Manager to be able to think outside of the box and thanked the public for participating.

E. Mayor

Mayor Roy Johnson provided the City Commission with a VCOG update and stated that the big problem in Volusia County is permitting and expressed the need for advanced permitting.

City Manager James McCroskey informed the City Commission that the City is working on permitting and will be bringing an inspector on board and possibly a plans examiner; and that the City will expedite everything they can on the permitting side.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Johnson officially adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:38pm.

Attest:

City of Holly Hill, Florida

Joshua Fruecht
City Clerk

Roy Johnson
Mayor