M I N U T E S
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
CITY OF HOLLY HILL, FLORIDA
August 10, 1999

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor William Arthur called the meeting to order in Commission Chambers at City Hall, 1065 Ridgewood Avenue at approximately 7:30 p.m. Attending with Mayor Arthur were Commissioners J.D. Mellette, Arthur Byrnes, Shirley Heyman, and Roland Via.

Also attending were Acting City Manager Joe Forte, City Attorney Edward Simpson, Public Works Director Milt Hallman, Police Lieutenant Mark Barker, Finance Director Brenda Gubernator, City Economic Development Administrator Ira Corliss, Personnel Director Diane England, and City Clerk Jeaneen Clauss.

2. INVOCATION

Public Works Director Milt Hallman delivered the invocation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

4. PRESENTATIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Arthur presented Employee 10 Year Service Awards to Wilson "Buddy" Glass (Building and Grounds Supervisor) and Charles Cobb (Fire Department Lieutenant).

5. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes of Regular Commission Meeting held on July 27, 1999;
B. Minutes of Special Commission Meeting held on July 29, 1999.

Commissioner Mellette moved ***APPROVAL*** *of the items on the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Via.*

Commissioner Via thanked City Clerk Jeaneen Clauss for the extra work she did to ensure complete records of these meetings were made.

The motion **CARRIED** 5-0 on roll call: Mellette – yes, Via – Yes, Heyman – yes, Byrnes – yes, and Arthur – yes.

6. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

George Fries, 1000 Riverside Drive, inquired as to the status of the County interlocal agreement. Acting City Manager Joe Forte advised that it is currently in the hands of the County Attorney - it was received by Assistant City Attorney Scott Simpson and he made some changes to it and sent it back to the County Attorney. Mr. Fries stated that he was told by County Council Chair Pat Northey, at the County Council Meeting, that the County could not grant the Riverside Drive residents' request to clear their titles because of the City of Holly Hill's request for an interlocal agreement. City Attorney Edward Simpson indicated that one had nothing to do with the other, as the County could vacate this whether they had an agreement with the City or not. The Commission's overall sentiment was that the only purpose and potential result of the interlocal agreement was to assist the residents along this area in the permitting process – so withdrawal of this request was not considered at this time.

On another topic, Mr. Fries stated that he hoped the decision for a recreation pool vs. a competitive pool wasn't final, as he felt the competitive pool would be more beneficial and cost efficient. There was discussion on the research that had gone into this decision and Mr. Forte stated that their opinion was that this pool was being developed for recreation programs, not for competitive programs, and that the decision was made that they would have larger participation with a recreational pool.

Robert Arnold, 1021 Indian Oaks East, asked the Commission to put more City emphasis on code violation complaints and he cited numerous complaints occurring with regularity on his street. He stated that these complaints jeopardize child safety and devalue property by eight to twelve percent. Mr. Forte stated that they are taking the position of following through with the Codes and he has been responding to complaints against the corrective action the City has taken, as well. Mr. Forte will follow-up on this complaint, too.

7. AMENDMENT 2 TO THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR DISTIBUTION OF LOCAL OPTION GAS TAX PROCEEDS.

Acting City Manager Joe Forte explained that this is an amendment to the existing seven-year gas tax agreement; we are into the fourth year and this would be a three-year extension to that. He summed-up the arrangement as follows, of the five-cents, our portion of one-cent would go to Votran (we would receive that as a credit) and the other four cents comes to the City for use in road projects.

Commissioner Heyman moved ***APPROVAL*** *of amendment 2 to the interlocal agreement for distribution of local option gas tax proceeds, seconded by Commissioner Mellette.*

Commissioner Via stated that this County gas tax is now occurring because in 1995 the County Council lowered impact fees, for redevelopment purposes, and they lost revenue. He stated that he wanted on record that he opposed the gas tax - the County's knee-jerk reaction to recoup their revenue loss. He added that since we now have approval/ preliminary approval for some impact fees, he was not sure of the need for this gas tax – but he would support the interlocal agreement, so that Holly Hill received their fair share. Mayor Arthur agreed with Commissioner Via. Commissioner Byrnes agreed as well adding that part of this has to do with the forty million dollar justice center, which was defeated by the voters. He stated that the present County Council seems to have forgotten that and that the person who spearheaded it was un-elected by a large margin. He also stated that the people who pay the gas tax are the ones who drive automobiles and he felt the money should not be going to the buses, as we have plenty of roadwork that needs to be done, and we should not be propping up a public transportation system that is not working. Mayor Arthur and Commissioner Mellette both stated that they do support public transportation.

The motion **CARRIED** 5-0 on roll call: Heyman – yes, Mellette – yes, Via – yes, Byrnes – yes, Arthur - yes.

8. PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR FLAMINGO DRIVE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Acting City Manager Joe Forte explained that in 1997 they had hired Quentin Hampton and Associates to perform the engineering services on this property. These services came to a halt when they discovered the City did not have rights to the property. The City has recently obtained that property and would like authorization to proceed with the engineering services now.

Commissioner Mellette moved ***APPROVAL*** *of authorization to proceed with the engineering services for the Flamingo Drive area, as outlined in their proposal dated July 9th, 1999, seconded by Commissioner Heyman.*

Commissioner Mellette confirmed from Finance Director Brenda Gubernator that the City had the money for this. Commissioner Byrnes asked Public Works Director Milt Hallman if he had mentioned to Quentin Hampton and Associates that their prices are starting to creep up again. Mr. Hallman responded that he would be glad to mention it to them but the amount outlined is the same as was in the original submittal.

The motion **CARRIED** 5-0 on roll call: Mellette – yes, Heyman – yes, Byrnes – yes, Via – yes, Arthur - yes.

9. RETURN ACTIVATED SLUDGE PUMPS AT THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Acting City Manager Joe Forte stated that the wastewater treatment plant has two return activated sludge pumps and one was stuck by lightening. While they were in the process of repairing that one, the other one seized up. Due to it now being for two, the cost of the repairs have exceeded ten thousand dollars so they are bringing it before the Commission for approval. A claim has been sent to the insurance company to try to recoup the repair cost, because they were struck by lightening, and they should get about $16,000 back.

Commissioner Mellette moved ***APPROVAL*** *of the payment of $17,135 to G.E. Industrial Systems for electric drive replacements, seconded by Commissioner Heyman.*

The motion **CARRIED** 5-0 on roll call: Mellette – yes, Heyman – yes, Byrnes – yes, Via – yes, Arthur - yes.

10. POOL BID AWARD

Acting City Manager Joe Forte stated that the bid came under the amount estimated. Both Commissioner Mellette and Commissioner Via stated that this was a good company. Mayor Arthur stated that he wanted to hold the line on change-orders and Mr. Forte advised that they are going to.

*Commissioner Mellette moved **APPROVAL** of awarding the pool bid to Weller Pool Contractors, Inc. for $214,783, seconded by Commissioner Via.*

Commissioner Via stated that this shows how well the economy is doing because they only received two bids after many had requested the bid packages.

The motion **CARRIED** 5-0 on roll call: Mellette – yes, Via – yes, Heyman – yes, Byrnes – yes, Arthur - yes.

11. RESOLUTION NO. 99-R-26, ACCEPTING THE COPS UNIVERSAL HIRING GRANT AND AGREEING TO THE 25% FUNDING MATCH

City Attorney Edward Simpson read Resolution 99-R-26 by short title:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HOLLY HILL, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE COPS GRANT UNIVERSAL HIRING GRANT; AGREEING TO A FUNDING MATCH OF TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

*Commissioner Via moved **APPROVAL** of Resolution 99-R-26, seconded by Commissioner Heyman.*

Commissioner Via indicated that the City was receiving a good return on its investment.

The motion **CARRIED** 5-0 on roll call: Via – yes, Heyman – yes, Mellette – yes, Byrnes – yes, Arthur - yes.

12. RESOLUTION NO. 99-R-27, RATIFYING THE IAFF CONTRACT AND AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WAGE ARTICLE

City Attorney Edward Simpson read Resolution 99-R-27 by short title:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HOLLY HILL, FLORIDA, RATIFYING AND AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 18 (WAGES) OF THE THREE-YEAR CONTRACT WITH THE IAFF, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS, LOCAL 3470; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

*Commissioner Via moved **APPROVAL** of Resolution 99-R-27, seconded by Commissioner Mellette.*

Commissioner Via stated that this is the second year in a row at three percent, while holding the line on taxes. Acting City Manager Joe Forte stated that he anticipated having another union contract for them by the end of the month.

The motion **CARRIED** 5-0 on roll call: Via – yes, Mellette – yes, Byrnes – yes, Heyman – yes, Arthur - yes.

13. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER

A. Acting City Manager Joe Forte asked for Commission direction on their preference for the hiring process for the position of City Manager. The Commission was in agreement that the advertising should be done in magazines during the month of October, with interviews scheduled for after the election in November.

B. Mr. Forte asked about his compensation as Acting City Manager. He requested a five percent increase over the highest paid department head and to maintain the vehicle allowance because his staff care is going to go to the Captain who is taking over the administrative position in the fire department. This amount equates to a salary of $63,598.08 and a vehicle allowance of $300. There was discussion of the vehicle allowance provision and the City Manager contract - both will be discussed in a workshop before entering into another contract. However, they will maintain the present method for this interim period.

*Commissioner Heyman moved for **APPROVAL** of compensating Mr. Forte in his position as Acting City Manager with a salary of five percent above the highest paid department head and a vehicle allowance of $300 per month, seconded by Commissioner Via.*

The motion **CARRIED** 5-0 on roll call: Heyman – yes, Via – yes, Mellette – yes, Byrnes – yes, Arthur - yes.

C. Mr. Forte reminded the Commission that there are two vacancies on the Redevelopment Board and he would like to put a resolution on the next agenda for these along with one on the three positions of this board that are up for renewal. Commissioner Mellette and Commissioner Via both stated that they will have names to submit for appointment to fill the vacancies.

D. Mr. Forte requested direction from the Commission on preparing for the annual board members dinner. Commissioner Byrnes stated that he preferred the old method of including the employees and the board members at one big party. Commissioner Heyman agreed. Commissioner Via mentioned the possibility of a picnic, where they could bring their families. This will be discussed in more detail at the next workshop.

Mr. Forte thanked the Commission for putting their faith in him, by giving him this position.

14. CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Edward Simpson indicated he had nothing further to report.

15. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR & COMMISSION

Commissioner Byrnes stated that he hoped everybody was happy and well.

Commissioner Mellette indicated that he had nothing further to report.

Commissioner Heyman stated that she hoped Chief Walker was able to get back to work pretty quick and we needed to pray for Pearl Ward, as she recently lost her husband.

Commissioner Via stated that his thoughts and prayers also go out to Pearl's family and to Chief Walker. He also stated that he wanted to thank Public Works because of their timely work on the ditch in front of Holly Hill Elementary – he complimented them on getting it done before school opens.

Mayor Arthur stated that he would see everybody Thursday night and asked how the sales were going. George Zoller, President of the Chamber of Commerce, stated that they were sold out. They will meet at the Gymnasium at 6:00 p.m.

16. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting officially adjourned at approximately 8:45 p. m.

WILLIAM D. ARTHUR, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JEANEEN P. CLAUSS, CITY CLERK