

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2014

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Town of Loxahatchee Groves

Special Workshop Meeting

Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

(To be followed by the Regular Town Council Meeting)

Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District, 101 West "D" Road

Mayor David Browning (Seat 4)
Vice-Mayor Ronald D. Jarriel (Seat 1)
Councilman Tom Goltzené (Seat 5)
Councilman Ryan Liang (Seat 3)
Councilman Jim Rockett (Seat 2)

Town Manager Mark Kutney
Town Clerk Janet K. Whipple
Town Attorney Michael D. Cirullo, Jr.

MINUTES

1. OPENING

- a. Call to Order & Roll Call

Mayor Browning called the Special Workshop Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. In attendance were Mayor David Browning, Vice-Mayor Ron Jarriel, Councilmen Tom Goltzené, and Jim Rockett. Councilman Ryan Liang was not in attendance at this time. Also in attendance were Town Manager Mark Kutney, Town Attorney Mike Cirullo, Finance Advisory Board Chair Lung Chiu, Vice-Chair Elise Ryan, Committee Members Cheryl Miller, Virginia Standish, and Ken Johnson. Bill Underwood from Underwood Management Services Group was also in attendance.

- b. Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation – Mayor Browning
c. Approval of Agenda – *no action*

Mayor Browning turned the meeting over to the FAAC (Financial Advisory & Audit Committee) for their report.

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Chair Chiu opened the FAAC portion of the meeting and noted that 2.a. of the Agenda was the topic of discussion for this evening.

Mayor Browning interjected to let the record show that Councilman Liang arrived at 6:08 p.m.

Bill Underwood, for Underwood Management Services Group provided a small contextual background of where the Town is at, and what has occurred in the recent past. What the Town has is a Fiscal Policy, Council adopted, and in that Policy it was stated the Town will provide funding for public services on a fair and equitable bases and shall not discriminate in providing such services on that basis. Some roads people are paying for. The Town has approved payment for roads, and some of the roads people have not contributed to at all. He stated the purpose is to get equity for all, then move forward and pay for the roads in the future. When Council spends the \$1.8 million budgeted CIP (Capital Improvement Program) monies, it will be critical when those monies are gone. He continued to do an overview of the Capital Improvement Plan. The equity issue is directed to Council, so the committee is looking for guidance.

Vice-Chair Ryan simply wanted to know from Council who will be paying for the roads. Once that is determined, the Committee can make the numbers work.

2. Consideration for Council to reconsider, review and revise the \$1.8 mil Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2014. (Recommendation from the Financial Advisory and Audit Committee (FAAC)).

a. Determine Policy for Payment Options for Improvements to Roads (Town pays vs Landowners pay vs cost share).

Councilman Rockett opened the discussion with an explanation of how Council has been working towards being equitable for all the residents concerning road matters.

Councilman Liang agreed that Bryan Road, Compton Road, and Marcella Boulevard, should be considered as maintenance roads. As far and any future Capital Improvement Projects the Town should consider how to fund the projects on the current list as well as future projects, possibly through a loan or a bond.

Vice-Mayor Jarriel feels the town needs to pay for the roads, when the Town can afford it. All residents should pay the assessments equally. It seems the Town's revenue will be on the incline as new commercial projects are added to the Town's tax base. Every year the Town's bank account has increased. Vice-Mayor Jarriel appreciates the Committee's game plan for Capital Improvements. He then explained Council's plan for Capital Improvements.

Councilman Goltzené addressed policy options. He spoke of having a bond issue and/or changing the Charter, if necessary, through a referendum to allow the residents to make decisions on paying for roads. He will not commit to raising anyone's taxes.

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Mayor Browning noted that the Town was able to accumulate a nice nest egg from the beginning of incorporation, by taking in more than the Town was spending. During this time the Town is spending more than it is taking in, and he is not aware of many residents who are willing to encourage more commercial projects to get a tax base. Mayor Browning agreed with Councilman Goltzené for a Town-wide referendum; and address possibly assessing one hundred (\$100.00) per acre per everyone who lives in Loxahatchee Groves.

Bill Underwood, Underwood Management Services Group, stated the Town could do an assessment by acre, or any other means, as the Town has flexibility in the choice.

Councilman Rockett noted commercial properties that are within the Town's tax base.

Councilman Goltzené asked if the Town could have Special Taxing District on commercial.

Town Attorney Cirullo stated it would take action by Council and there would have to be defined areas. He also noted that tax base monies from a particular district would have to stay in that district.

Committee Member Standish pointed out a document she left on the dais which referenced a Community Development Block Grant Program. She further explained options which can be explored for funding. She also feels the life of a bond will outlive the life of the product in reference to OGEM roads, and for Council to determine what they should be offering for better options.

Committee Member Johnson suggested Council look at commercial projects, such as the College (Palm Beach State College) and determine how much impact they will have on other roads in the Town. Considering time frames for construction, he also suggested a "pay as you go program".

Chair Chiu summarized. He noted at least four (4) or five (5) Council members were in agreement for a Bond referendum; he would hope that Council would give clear direction, framework, and time line so the Committee/Management could move forward in order to provide an equitable solution for all the residents.

Mayor Browning stated Council was looking for suggestions from the Committee.

Bill Underwood wanted Council agreement that the Town needs to be in the business of "doing" roads. Once that is completed the Committee/Management will devise a methodology of getting it accomplished.

Chair Chiu asked if legal counsel could make suggestions for a solution, perhaps in a resolution. Also on behalf of the Committee, he expressed congratulations to Councilman Goltzené for his second term in office.

It was consensus of Council to bring discussion of a referendum back to the Town Council as an action item during the April 15, 2014 Town Council Meeting.

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Frank Schiola, 13434 Marcella Boulevard, stated whatever Council decided to do, and whatever monies are acquired, the funds need to go into a separate account for roads only.

John Ryan, 3508 A Road, spoke on funding for roads, and referenced the Florida Statutes state that the Florida legislature recognizes that when significant tax exempt entities, like colleges, come into a town, they can have an impact that needs to be recognized on an ongoing basis. This can be accomplished by agreements.

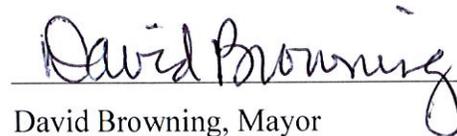
Motion: Councilman Goltzene made a motion to adjourn the Special Workshop. Councilman Rockett seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion passed 5/0.

3. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business coming before the Special Workshop, Mayor Browning adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.



Janet K. Whipple, Town Clerk



David Browning, Mayor



These minutes were approved during the April 15, 2014, Town Council Meeting.