

CITY HALL, SEBRING, FLORIDA, May 15, 2018

Minutes of regular meeting of Council held this date.

PRESENT: John Shoop, Mayor; Charlie Lowrance, President Tom Dettman, Pro-tempore; Lenard Carlisle and Scott Stanley, Councilmembers; Bob Swaine, City Attorney; Scott Noethlich, City Administrator and Kathy Haley, City Clerk.

ABSENT: Mark Stewart, Councilman.

The invocation was given by Mayor Shoop followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Shoop announced that there will be a Peace Officer's Memorial Service at the Board of County Commissioners on May 17, 2018 to honor all of our police officers.

Mayor Shoop reported that the Building Official Search Committee has met and has made a recommendation to him to appoint Mr. Tom Fisher as the City's new Building Official. Mayor has stated he has accepted this recommendation. Mayor Shoop also reported that all background checks and references have been done and all have come back with no problems. Mayor Shoop stated the starting salary will be \$79,500.00.

Moved by Stanley, seconded by Carlisle and the unanimous vote of Council to approve Mayor Shoop's appointment of Tom Fisher as the City's Building Official with the salary as presented.

Mayor Shoop stated that the City has also received a thank you note from the Sebring Historical Society for sharing in the expense of their new software.

Mayor Shoop reported that at this time he is pulling Agenda Item #6B.

President Lowrance presented the consent agenda items. The items presented for approval were: minutes from Council's special meeting on April 26, 2018 and the regular meeting on May 1, 2018; announcement of upcoming meetings from May 21 –

June 5, 2018; approve increasing the blanket purchase order for the Sebring Fire Department vehicle repair above \$35,000 as needed; approve appointment to the Code Enforcement Board as presented.

Moved by Carlisle, seconded by Stanley and with the unanimous vote of Council the consent items were passed.

Mr. Lino Rego, representing American Legion Post 74, came before Council to ask permission to hold a small Memorial Day Service at 11:00 am on May 28, 2018. They would like to lay a small wreath on the Circle. Mr. Rego stated it should only take about 15 minutes. Mr. Rego invited everyone to attend.

Moved by Carlisle, seconded by Stanley and the unanimous vote of Council to approve use of Circle Park as presented.

Mr. Jim Wheatley, representing Waste Connections, came before Council to report on the status of recycling. Mr. Wheatley stated the public is using the recycling containers as dumpsters and are contaminating the recyclables and therefore the things cannot be recycled and all of it is being taken to the dump. Mr. Wheatley reported the market for recycling has collapsed and he does not want to take anymore recycling unless the market comes back. Mr. Shoop asked Mr. Wheatley if he is having this same problem with the County. Mr. Wheatley stated that they do single stream and about 70-75% of their recycling is clean. Mr. Wheatley stated it is a cost and there are no rebates at this time. Mr. Bob Diefendorf, Project Manager at Highlands County Solid Waste Department, stated he can contest that a lot of the recycling ends up in the landfill because of contamination and you can't control what is going in the local bins. Mayor Shoop asked that staff keep an eye on this issue to see if there is a change in the market

and then it can be revisited. Mrs. June Fisher, Avon Park City Manager, reported that Avon Park has suspended their recycling and that they lose money on recycling. Mayor Shoop suggested that maybe at some point Sebring can have a joint meeting with Avon Park to look at options that can be a joined effort.

Attorney Swaine report that Mr. Eduardo Tkacz (Arorga, LLC) owns approximately 66 acres adjacent to Highlands Lake Reserve. When the property was annexed into the City it was part of the Highlands Lake Reserve and under their Property Owners Association (POA). Mr. Tkacz stated his property receives no benefit under the POA and has spoken to the Highlands Lake Reserve POA requesting his property be removed from the POA. They have requested a letter from the City and the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) stating that there is no objection. SWFWMD has already supplied their response stating they do not have an objection. Mr. Tkacz is requesting a letter be written from the City stating they have no objection. Attorney Swaine stated this is just for the property to be able to not be a part of the POA. The property remains annexed inside the City.

Moved by Dettman, seconded by Stanley and the unanimous vote of Council to instruct staff to write a letter of no objection as presented.

Agenda Item #12B – has been pulled.

Mr. Noethlich reported that staff is recommending the appointment of a Building Evaluation Committee consisting of Councilmembers Stanley and Stewart and Mayor Shoop. The purpose of the committee will be to meet with City staff and various vendors the City has retained to evaluate the old Wachovia Bank building. The meetings will be posted and open to the public.

Moved by Dettman, seconded by Carlisle and the unanimous vote of Council to approve the appointment of the Building Evaluation Committee as presented.


Attorney Swaine stated that one of the topics that Council had thought about discussing at their special meeting on May 24, 2018 was the possibility of asking for an extension of time for the due diligence on the bank building. Attorney Swaine stated he thinks it would be a good idea that if Council is still considering that possibility that he be instructed to go ahead and make contact with the owner to see if he can get approval on a 30-day extension that way if Council wants an extension when they meet on May 24th they will already have this information. Mr. Stanley stated he would like to have that extension ready. Council agreed. Attorney Swaine stated he will proceed with asking for the extension.

The City bills were presented for payment as follows:


General Fund	\$155,364.71
CRA	\$ 3,517.50
Infrastructure	\$220,773.80
Water & Wastewater	\$166,916.91
Solid Waste	\$ 47,608.76
Golf Course	\$ 7,785.91

Moved by Carlisle, seconded by Dettman and with the unanimous vote of Council, the motion passed to approve the paying of the bills as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.


Charlie Lowrance, President

ATTEST:


Kathy Haley, CMC, City Clerk