

CITY HALL, SEBRING, FLORIDA, June 19, 2018

Minutes of regular meeting of Council held this date.

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

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

Mayor Shoop reported that a couple of weeks ago the Military Sea Services Museum honored our Veterans and put on a very nice program. At that program they presented the City with a painting of the Museum. Mayor Shoop had asked Mr. John Cecil to officially present the painting at tonight's meeting. Mr. Cecil came forward and presented the picture to the City.

Mayor Shoop reported that the 13th annual Heartland Triathlon was held this past weekend and they had approximately 1,000 participants. Mayor Shoop commended the City staff on organizing and helping with such a great and fun event. Mr. Dan Andrews, Race Coordinator, stated that they are already planning next year's event as it does take a whole year to plan. Mr. Andrews went over various statistics for this year's race and also thanked the Highlands County Sheriff's Department for all of their help.

Mr. Carlisle expressed his condolences to the family and co-workers on the passing of Highlands News Sun Reporter, Jay Meisel. Mr. Carlisle and Mr. Dettman both expressed the relationship they had with Mr. Meisel and the great reporting he did for the City and that he will be missed.

President Lowrance presented the consent agenda items. The items presented for approval were: minutes from Council's regular meeting on June 5, 2018; announcement

of upcoming meetings from June 21 – July 4, 2018; approve use of City Pier Beach/Rotary Park for a Children’s Block Party on July 24-25 from 3:00 – 5:00 pm as presented and conditioned on providing a Certificate of Insurance documenting liability insurance; accept the recommendation by the Community Redevelopment Agency to appoint David Leidel to serve as Chair for the remainder of FY 2017/2018; approve interior alterations for the CRA offices at the former Chamber of Commerce building and monthly rental payments for the office space at City Hall as presented; approve asset disposal list as presented; approve the commercial interior grant application submitted by Kathy Doherty on behalf of Kathy’s Consignment Boutique located at 659 South Commerce Avenue.

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

Mr. Lowrance stated that Council will now enter into a Public Hearing.

Mr. Lowrance stated the purpose of the Public Hearing is for Council to consider an ordinance, which if passed, will reduce the side setback in Stone Ridge Subdivision. Following the Public Hearing, Council will consider 2nd and final reading of the Ordinance #1425. Ms. Jennifer Codo-Salisbury, representing the Central Florida Regional Council, briefly went over the proposed ordinance. Ms. Codo-Salisbury stated that the Planning & Zoning Board unanimously approved the setbacks. Mr. Tim McKenna, representing Stone Ridge, explained why they wanted the revised setbacks. Mr. Dettman asked for clarification on the setbacks. Attorney Swaine explained.

There being no comments from the Council or the public, the hearing was closed.

AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF STONERIDGE SUBDIVISION LYING IN SECTION 19, TOWNSHIP 34 SOUTH, RANGE 29 EAST, HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA TO REDUCE THE SIDE SETBACK REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE was read.

Moved by Stanley, seconded by Carlisle and the unanimous vote of Council to approve Ordinance #1425 on 2nd and final reading as presented.

Mr. Noethlich reported that the Veterans Beach parking lot sustained a significant amount of damage from Hurricane Irma. Polston Engineering was asked to design a sea wall to replace the riprap wall that failed as a result of the hurricane. Since the parking lot will need repairing, staff thinks now is the time to redesign the parking lot to allow for larger spaces to park vehicles with trailers and improve the ability for boaters to launch and retrieve their boats at the boat ramp. Mr. Marvin Wolfe, representing Polston Engineering, reported on three proposed designs they have come up with. Mr. Stewart stated he feels the diagonal spacing will get more parking. Mr. Lowrance stated he went by on Sunday and the parking lot was filled and felt that vehicles with trailers should park in the City lot across the street. Mr. Lowrance stated that he felt this was safer as usually only everyone is dropped off while unloading the boat then the driver is usually the only person parking and that one person could walk across Lakeview instead of perhaps a family. Mr. Lowrance stated that one day perhaps another boat ramp could be added. Mr. Wolfe also suggested utilizing the City lot right next to Veterans Beach for added car parking. Mr. Shoop stated that he felt Design B was more of a natural flow. Mr. Lowrance asked about adding a wood dock for people launching their boat. Mr. Wolfe

explained why this may be difficult to do. Mr. Stewart asked about the cost for the designs. Mr. Wolfe explained that he can better give a cost estimate when he knows which design direction we want to go. Mr. Wolfe discussed a possible staging area in Design C. Mr. Stewart stated he likes this idea especially if signs are posted. Mr. Lowrance asked if you could do a staging area in Design B. Mr. Wolfe stated yes but it would be more difficult to do. Mr. Dettman and Mr. Stanley both agreed that Design B would be better because it was more of a natural way. Mr. Carlisle stated with Design C the boaters would be able to back straight in. Mr. Lowrance stated that the locals may get used to Design C but felt that visitors would have more of a difficult time with this design. Mr. Tim McKenna stated he liked Design B and felt that Design C was more of a narrow design. Mr. Wolfe asked if Council would like to look at adding additional parking in the vacant grass lot. Mr. Lowrance gave some ideas on how to create parking in this area. The consensus was for Mr. Wolfe to move forward into looking at this issue.

Moved by Stanley, seconded by Dettman and with Dettman, Stanley and Lowrance voting aye and Carlisle and Stewart voting nay, the motion passed to move forward with Design B.

Mr. Noethlich reported that there has been a recent request for a flag pole height variance from the maximum height of 50 feet for accessory uses and structures. Mr. Noethlich stated that staff has discussed this with the Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC) and they are recommending establishing a greater maximum height requirement for flagpoles. The applicant has a variance of 90 ft. but it does not allow for the size of the American Flag they are seeking to erect. The applicant at a recent Planning & Zoning meeting has requested a 120 ft. flag pole but after further discussion

with the applicant it was determined that a 110 ft. flag pole would accommodate the size of the flag they wish to raise. Mr. James Lizotte, representing Alan Jay Automotive was present to say they are requesting to fly a 30 x 60 flag and that is why they are asking for a larger flag pole. Mr. Lowrance asked if a 100 ft. pole would work. Mr. Lizotte stated yes but a larger pole would be better. Mr. Lowrance asked if there is a regulation on how far apart the flags must be. Mr. Swaine stated no. Mr. Stanley asked if there was a regulation in residential areas. Mr. Swaine stated no. Ms. Jennifer Codo-Salisbury, representing the Central Florida Regional Planning Council, stated she would recommend this increased height for C-1 and C-2 zoning. Mr. Noethlich stated the County does not have a regulation on heights for flag poles.

Moved by Carlisle, seconded by Dettman and the unanimous vote of Council to instruct the City Attorney to draft a proposed ordinance implementing a proposed amendment to the flag pole height requirement to 110 ft.

Attorney Swaine presented a proposed schedule for review and implementation of the proposed sign ordinance (less illumination standards, electric message center signs and design guideline for CRA and historical district).

Moved by Stewart, seconded by Carlisle to accept staff recommendation as presented of the proposed schedule for this ordinance. Mayor Shoop stated that on 17-04.02 it states that the City Administrator or designee but on 17-04.02 A it states if the permit is denied, the City Building Official or designee and he feels it should read the same and have City Administrator or designee in both places. Council agreed. Mr. Lowrance stated that this ordinance is more restrictive and can be harder for a new business and doesn't think we enforce our current policy and is concerned with this

being more restrictive but does feel positive changes have been made in this ordinance.

Moved by Stewart, seconded by Carlisle and the unanimous vote of Council to amend the original motion to include the changed language as discussed

Attorney Swaine presented a proposed schedule for review and implementation of the proposed sign ordinance for illumination standards, electric message center and design guideline for CRA and historical district. Mr. Lowrance stated he has a conflict of interest regarding this ordinance and will not vote. Mr. Lowrance passed the gavel to Mr. Dettman.

Moved by Carlisle, seconded by Stewart and with Carlisle, Dettman and Stewart voting aye and Stanley and Lowrance abstaining because of a conflict of interest, the motion passed to approve the schedule for review and implementation as presented.

Mr. Noethlich presented Resolution #2018-10 for the preliminary rate resolution/fire assessment. Mr. Noethlich stated that at a previous meeting Council approve the fire assessment rate for FY 2018/2019 at 17.4%. Council was presented with the schedule that will be used to adopt the fire assessment for next fiscal year. Mr. Shoop asked is this assessed on non-profit entities. Mr. Swaine stated yes.


Moved by Stewart, seconded by Carlisle to approve preliminary assessment Resolution #2018-10 at the 17.4% level as presented.

The City bills were presented for payment as follows:


General Fund	\$ 54,391.99
CRA	\$ 15,018.50
Infrastructure	\$ 14,742.75
Water & Wastewater	\$226,195.08
Solid Waste	\$ 55,520.60
Golf Course	\$ 2,335.14

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