

Town of Pomona Park - Town Council & Public Hearing Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 12, 2020 (6pm) This meeting was held VIA TELECONFERENCE. Call 1-888-204-5987 Access Code is 3674654#

Mayor Joseph Svingala presided. Council present were Dr. Robert Warren, Lynda Linkswiler, CarrieAnn Evans, Patricia Mead, James Griffin, and Victor Szatkowski were all present. Attorney Sherar, Clerk Donna Fontana, Treasurer Kelly Krupski were all present.

Mayor Joseph Svingala led in the pledge to the flag. Mayor Svingala called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and welcomed everyone.

The Mayor asked all council members if they were comfortable with all the notice provisions set forth and these uniform rules of procedures we have established for this virtual meeting? The Mayor took a roll call and it was unanimous that all council approved.

Meeting Minutes:

The Mayor requested approval of the Minutes from 4/14/2020. Councilman Griffin made a Motion for approval of 4/14/20 minutes and it was seconded by Councilwoman Evans. Clerk said the minutes are correct, but I had said the amount of the survey at the Mayor's Park was \$4500 but its not, its \$4200. Mayor said that he also wanted added the accolades to CarrieAnn on how she monitors the beach all the time. Mayor requested that this be added. Unanimous to approve. Councilwoman Evans made a motion to approve Special Meeting Minutes from 2/24/20, seconded by Councilman Griffin, unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business:

Treasurer Kelly gave the financial review. Kelly discussed check number 9923 on 4/15, it is a voided check that was voided because the Sergeant of the Police office gave us the wrong address for the Deputy. I had to make a new check with the correct address. There were no questions.

Clerk Fontana explained that the current budget is included in the packet for the Council's review in preparation of the 2020/2021 budget cycle. Please look at capital line items and tell me if there is anything that you want added. I will carry over any items not completed this year. I've asked Bruce to put together his budget items and provide that to me by the middle of June at the latest. Councilman Warren asked if we were going to have any budget meetings and Donna said yes. He then asked when Bruce was going to leave for the summer? Mayor stated no, he doesn't know if he's going yet. Mayor said, I know budget is not until September but when we do our Ad Valorem for the budget that will be effective as of January of 21. Our budget is what became effective as of January 20. I know everyone is well aware Federal government, state government, our government, is going to have some huge problems come 21 because of the lack of income from the Federal government down to us. I don't have any answers right now but its something that we need to think serious about and how we are going to afford when the time comes. Clerk said its October. Councilman Warren said, doesn't our budget start in October? Mayor said it does, but its based on our Ad Valorem as of January 1 for when they assess everyone's property. When the property is assessed they are not assessed on FY its calendar year.

Guest Speakers:

Ron Moats, Auditor with Moats & Associates CPA presented the annual Financial Report. A copy was provided to all Council members and emailed out with the agenda. There were no questions. Ron said in addition to all of the economic burdens, one of the things being forced on governments and nonprofit agencies is the volume of new accounting standards that hitting the profession. What happens is that there are new accounting pronouncements that are coming out related to leases and measurement focus and fiduciary funds. Your staff is probably going to need additional time and training in some of these pronouncements going forward. In addition to the financial burdens that may be in front of us we also have some standard burdens that will fall back on the accounting staff. Mr. Mayor, members of the Council, that concludes my remarks for this evening and if there are any questions, I'd be glad to answer. Mayor said, he wanted to thank you and your staff on how you helped both our Treasurer and Town Clerk this past year. They both were brand new in the government and you were a tremendous help to both of them, the Council and the community. Thank you. The Clerk asked if the Council needs to vote to approve his report and the Mayor and Attorney said no. Attorney said it just gets filed. Clerk asked Ron if it needs to be in the minutes that the Council approved the report. Ron said, the reason that the Auditor presents the report to the Council is because they should be the first one to be able to receive the report. Once they received it then you have to report it to the State of FL and various agencies.

Public Hearing items:

None.

New Business:

Clerk Fontana discussed a citizen request for speed bumps on Prospect St. from Laticia Torres. She was told that it would be placed on the next agenda for the Council meeting and in the meantime I would alert our weekly patrol Deputy about the speeding. I sent an email to MSGT Tommy Owens and to Deputy Gentry. Deputy Gentry did do a detail 2 days after she called, and he said there was no traffic on Prospect St. at all. Councilman Griffin asked Vic, what are there 3 houses on that street. Councilman Szatkowski said, that street belongs to the County it doesn't belong to the Town. The Town sold it to the County in 1965 so we don't have any control. There was no more discussion from the Council. Ms. Torres was not present.

Clerk Fontana discussed a citizen request for cleanup of left side of dock at Middleton Beach. Mayor said, I know we've brought this to the Council twice and its been voted down. Councilwoman Evans asked, how many times are we going to keep asking for this? Mayor said, this wasn't us, the last time was me. When we did our main beach, I didn't see any reason not to do the whole thing. This one didn't come from me or anyone on the Council. This came from the resident that lives right next door and just had her beach front cleaned up. Councilman Griffin stated that the Attorney would need to look this up, but the rule is as I know it, that you can clear 50 feet or 50% whichever is less. Attorney said, there is a 50 foot buffer between water and the upland for anything except water related structures. DEP has regulations that tells you what you can and can't do as far as regulations. Councilman Griffin added that he had heard of someone taking it out and then they had to pay to have it put back and we can't make the decision when we don't know the rules. Councilwoman Evans asked if this was the same person that she had seen with the heavy equipment near the lake. Clerk said, no, this is Doris Carol.

Doris announced that she was on the line and explained that she was not digging up anything that was wet and she wanted to make that clear. Attorney explained that wetlands don't necessarily need to be wet and he explained the different items. Ms. Carol said between the fence and the pier, the grass is extending all the way out toward the dock itself. Attorney asked what's the address and Ms. Carol asked why. We told the Attorney that its our beach. He said, go to the water district and have them come out and explain what you want and if they say its ok, or if they say its not then its not. He said, we are subject to the same regulations as everyone. Mayor said, this is going around in a circle and what Doris is talking about is the Town's property between the gazebo and the fence that's between us and her so I'm going to have Donna see what she can find out about the percentage that Jim said. I don't know if that's true on a public beach. Once we know then the Council can vote on. Ms. Carol clarified that she is not asking for from the beach to the pavilion. She is asking for 10 or 15 feet from the pavilion in towards the beach. Its just extending out farther. Attorney said Bruce has good contacts out there and the Mayor said Bruce can investigate it, definitely. The Mayor said, let us investigate it and get back to you Doris.

There was open discussion regarding the Covid-19 situation. Clerk said, this is just to discuss where we stand. The EOC call was cancelled today. We know that the numbers are still rising in Putnam County. There is one case that is in the 32181 zip code but we aren't sure if that's in the Town or County. I requested that information, but I have not been given that yet. Mayor said, I am getting a lot of pressure about the beach. I can handle that. The main thing is the health and safety of everybody in the community from 1-100 years old. My answer at this point is that I'm not looking at changing anything that we are currently doing in the near future. Councilwoman Linkswiler asked, when will the office will be open again? Mayor said, it will be eventually but not in the near future and when it is open, Lynda, it may not be exactly what we're all used to. You've seen the pictures. It looks like a bank. Along with that, Bruce put in a door to the side of that, between the glass enclosure and the wall. Bruce is going to investigate putting in a rectangle window in the outside door and investigate a buzzer system. That door will stay locked all the time and anyone comes to the door they hit it and the young ladies in the office will each have a way to talk to them, who they are, what their business is. If they have to come in, the ladies will have a remote to open the door. Councilwoman Mead asked about the mail slots. Mayor said if anyone on the Council needs their mail, just give me a call and I'll meet you here. Kelly offered weekly mail drops if they wanted that. Everyone thought that was above and beyond and the Mayor said he can do that. Shirley suggested that Kelly could call them when they have some mail and then they can make arrangements to get it.

Councilwoman Linkswiler said that Judy has resigned as the Beautification President and we don't want to lose this organization. Its been going on for so many years and I'm thinking that we could, right now we aren't having the breakfast anyway so we can table everything until just before the yard sale. We can try to recruit some people and hopefully regroup and keep things going. Our crew are all older and sickly and we've lost them one by one through sickness or death. We just need to all be on the look out for anyone who would like to be a part of it and want to volunteer. Mayor asked Craig, that his wife offered to have a meeting at our home because no buildings are open for anybody whatsoever. Attorney said, you guys can have a meeting, it's a public meeting, its an organization of the Town therefor it has to be posted like a public meeting, where it is anybody is allowed to attend just like they would when the meetings

were held at City Hall. Mayor said, somebody take good notes. Attorney said, the only that needs to be noted is that a certain person is there and they spoke about a particular issue. It is still 10 or less in a gathering. Clerk said, you could do a teleconference like we're doing now. Councilman Warren stated that this is a deadly killer and there is no reason that I can think of for people to congregate. Donna you may be able to set up a teleconference call. Clerk said it only costs around \$41 for the call. Attorney brought up an outstanding bill because there aren't enough people. The Mayor said, no there's enough people but what they agreed to within the committee, with a legal vote was to go ahead and buy a banner and what they didn't do was vote on the amount of money to be spent, so Donna couldn't pay the bill. I wrote Mr. Cooney a check myself and sometime in the future we'll take care of it. Attorney said, with the lady that resigned as chairperson, who would be the next one in charge and how would you get enough people together. It's a 15 person committee and they need a quorum of either 3 or 5. We started out with 9 and went up to 15 to add people from out of town and we've been dealing with this issue of how to keep it going. Mayor said, years ago it wasn't a problem having enough people because there wasn't a lot of work they were doing, but as time moved on and things got more into the 21st century they got more involved with the yard sale, a lot more involved with the monthly breakfast. It's a commitment and you don't get any young people and the elderly can do just so much. Shirley asked, can we put this off until things get a little better and see how they're going in a month or so and come back to this? Clerk said, I did not order the planters yet because I don't have a credit card to order them because Judy's credit card has been turned off now. Kelly said, we have a Beautification debit card that Judy turned in and I collected it and locked it in the cash box. There has been no changes to the account because I don't have anyone to put in the spot to get a new card. Councilwoman Linkswiler said Yvonne is second in command right now so in the past when Joyce was sick and head of the committee the second person stepped in and took care of things. There was discussion about the checking account and several people were talking off mute and it was not recognizable. We do have a checking account and the Council has the signing power for all Beautification checks. Mayor said, there's no problem with how the bills are getting paid. My question was if they could hold a meeting at someone's home and the answer was yes, just get the notification out. Attorney said, if they want to have a meeting the best way to do it is a conference call. Councilman Warren said the amount of people is not the issue. You are still in an enclosed space with the chance of catching this very bad virus and do you really need to get together to do this? Can't it possibly be done by voice? I'm very worried about this virus changing our lives a great deal more than it has already. Thanks for listening to my 2 cents. Councilwoman Linkswiler asked if Beautification has to abide by Sunshine Law? Clerk and Attorney said yes, it is a quasi-government, committee organized under the Town ordinances and its got to abide by the same Sunshine and records laws everybody else does. That's why it has to be a public meeting. Having the meeting isn't a problem just do it by conference call the way we are doing it. Councilwoman Linkswiler asked how long can we go without a meeting before you're saying we are defunct and don't exist. Mayor said, you're not going to be defunct because you are part of the Town. Attorney was going to look it up. Mayor said, Crescent City hasn't had a Council meeting in 2 months. Councilman Griffin said, I have a question that I have for Lynda. Mayor said, well we're down to whatever's happening next month now.

Everything is cancelled because all of the buildings are shut down. The Council meeting will be Tuesday June 9th at 6:00pm. I believe we are going to have conversation with the Mayor this

Saturday, and it will be outside. I will bring a table down from the Community Center so that somebody can sit at the other end of the table and we'll be 6 feet apart. In case someone is curious about what's going on. Sometimes they have questions but don't come to our meetings, but they come and ask questions. Other than that, that's all there is. Craig did you want to speak. Attorney said, the Beautification Committee is supposed to meet on the first Monday following the first Saturday and it needs to have a chairman. Councilwoman Linkswiler said, Yvonne will be the chairman. Attorney said, it's a simple thing, we post a meeting, when was the last time you had a meeting? Lynda said 2 months. Attorney said, well I suggest you schedule a telephone conference meeting for the first Monday following the first Saturday which is the 8th of June and just vote to suspend your meetings until the state of emergency is lifted or whenever. We need to do something to deal with it officially. Clerk said I will send out a correspondence to the Beautification members as well as those people that regularly attend with some different options and then everybody can just let me know what they want to do and I'll set it up. Lynda said, thank you Donna.

Mayor said with that I think we are done for the night and if anybody has anything you want to bring up? Nicole from Keep Putnam Beautiful said, they are interested in participating with the Beautification Committee and we do have an account with Zoom if you would like for us to host an online meeting that has video conferencing. Mayor said, we will have someone from the committee itself get in touch with you because there's no one here that can answer for the committee. We greatly appreciate what you've offered and we're really happy that you're on the line with us.

Questions and comments. – None

Upcoming events: Were reviewed from the packet.

Councilman Griffin made a Motion to adjourn. Adjourned 7:03 pm.

Joseph C. Hernandez
6-11-20
A. Fontana

