

Town of Pomona Park - Town Council & Public Hearing Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 14, 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 were present.

Mayor Joseph Svingala led in the pledge to the flag. There was a moment of silence for residents Rosemary Taylor, Ella Maude Hayden, and Rosemary Combs. 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.

Clerk read correspondence.

Meeting Minutes:

The Mayor requested approval of the Minutes from 6/9/2020 Special Meeting Minutes 6/18/20 and 6/29/20. Councilwoman Evans made a Motion for approval of 6/9, 6/18 and 6/29/20 minutes and it was seconded by Councilman Griffin. Councilman Warren said, on page 8 of the 6/9 minutes about ½ way down the page it says 6 people voted yes and 1 no and I was the one that was no and in parentheses it says abstained. The Clerk said, I will fix that. They were unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business:

Treasurer Krupski gave the financial review. There were no questions. Councilwoman Linkswiler for Beautification Committee said, she didn't really have anything to report because they haven't had a meeting. I do want to say a big thank you for the sign at the Community Center being taken care of. That was really a thorn in my side and I'm happy to see it looking beautiful again. Mayor said, Lynda with that I know you wanted to paint the flower box under the sign red like Town Hall. I asked the Maintenance Supervisor, Bruce, that when he was doing that work, when he finished to please paint that box white just to give you a better base for your red if you still want to do that. Lynda said it will show up dirty from the mud splashing in a short time, so I'll try to get out there and get that done. I wanted to put more flowers in it but its so hot right now I don't know if they will survive. Mayor said, you've been doing a great job Lynda, really appreciate it. Lynda said, I love it. Mayor said, and we love you.

Guest Speakers:

None.

Public Hearing items:

None.

New Business:

Proposed Millage Rate – Clerk explained the DR420 Certification of Taxable Value. Last year's millage was 5.7124. The new roll back number is 5.2973. We are just a couple hundred dollars more than what we were last year by staying with the roll back. Clerk asked if the roll back is what they want to do or do they want to go higher which would be a tax increase. We would have to do special notifications for the newspaper to notify them of a tax increase. Do you want to stay with the roll back rate? Mayor said, as for me, I'll start this off. I think Donna did a great job here and I am totally satisfied with the roll back rate and I believe the whole community would be. Attorney Sherar said, wait a minute Donna, we need to vote something because we can't go, we've got to vote for the higher rate otherwise we can't vote for a lower, no we have to vote for a lower rate. We've either got to vote for one because we can't go in one direction or the other. Mayor said, Craig, what you're saying is, we can't at a later date choose to go higher from what we choose tonight. We can always choose to go lower. Attorney said, if you choose the roll back rate that means you can't go over the 5.2973. The Clerk said, that's correct however, that is not until I do the certification. The certification is not due until August 4th and since I'll be taking off sometime that week, I'll be doing the certification that Friday before I leave. We've got basically until, we can still do our budget workshops and we can still change it. The certification is what tells them that you all have agreed that this is going to be your proposed millage. The Clerk said, I wanted to hear if the Council is even interested in going any higher. This basically is going to leave our budget where it was last year and considering everything that everybody's been through this past year, that is what our recommendation is to leave it with the roll back. Attorney said, at law you've got to figure you're going to have a 5% uncollectible rate and we've been having a much higher collectible rate than that but this year would be a year where you may not even get anybody to get to that uncollectible rate. You might have higher and I realize that that involves revenue shifting but I just throw that out there. If you go below your budget, you'll be eating into your reserves. Clerk said, yes but there are several things this year that we have not done because of what's been going on this year. We had allocated a lot of money to spend on different projects that we did not spend. We've still got a good reserve and eventually it will get caught up with those payments. It is the Council's decision if they want to stick with the roll back or if they're entertaining a higher rate. Attorney said, I'm just reminding people of stuff, so we don't have an oops. I'm probably the wrong person to be doing this because this budget stuff I'm terrible at. Mayor said, its like Donna said, we budgeted in a lot of different areas this past year or current year that we have not spent. One of them is \$25,000 as our share of the grant that has still after almost 2 years not been approved by anyone above us. That money is still sitting there also. Does anybody on the council have a question. Councilwoman Mead said, is this something that we have to vote on tonight? Clerk said, you don't have to vote on it, its just that I'm going to start preparing a budget based on what recommendation you guys are doing. You're official vote is going to be after the certification so we definitely have to know prior to that certification date which is the 29th, what you want to do because we can't be changing it that close because I can't get all the figures redone. Mayor said, I thought you said you were certifying August 4th? Clerk said, August 4th is the drop dead date that it has to be certified by. I'll be doing it ahead of time because I'm going to be taking off. Mayor said, so don't we need to vote previous to you doing that? Can we vote tonight instead of pushing everything out? Clerk said, you absolutely can. Mayor said, does anybody have a proposal here? Then we can discuss more if you want. Would someone like to propose... Councilwoman Evans said, I make a Motion that we leave it at the roll back. Councilman Szatkowski seconded the Motion. Mayor asked for anymore discussion on the roll back.

Councilman Warren said, are there any large capital items that we could neglect or not do. I know that the sign we had budgeted \$18,000 I think, the illuminated sign. Were there any other capital items such as that that we could eliminate if we need the money? Clerk said, we are going to have less items in our capital budget identified to spend this year because you guys bought so many things that were needed for the maintenance department this year. There are still some things. I'm still going to roll that sign into the budget. That does not mean that it has to be purchased. You may decide during the year we're getting in some of the revenues that we weren't sure about and so let's go ahead and proceed with that project or you may say, we're not comfortable yet with proceeding so we're not going to do that. Even if its in the budget you do not have to approve it. I would still have to come before the Council and ask for approval to buy that. There's not going to be very many capital items unless you all have something in mind that you want to include in the budget. You are going to see the preliminary budget at our first workshop. Once we have that you can look at what everything is and then that's when we'll start talking about other things that you want to just put in there as a place holder just in case we decide to do those other projects. Councilman Warren asked, do you have any dates for those meetings? Mayor said, let's get our vote done and then we'll talk about that. Councilwoman Mead said, are we voting on this before we see the budget? Clerk said, yes because you can change it, so if we get into.. Councilwoman Mead said, we can change it after we vote on it. Clerk said, yes ma'am. Once you get into the workshops if you decide, you know what, I want it to be lower than this, I can't imagine that or I think we need to put more money into the budget then you can tell me let's change the millage if everybody votes that, not at a workshop. Councilwoman Mead said, this vote is not necessarily binding? Clerk said, Craig would have to tell me whether or not, I think that it's not because for me this is just for me to start working on the budget based on that millage that you are considering. Attorney said, that's correct. Until you actually have your budget hearings. What she's basically looking for a consensus. There's no resolution or anything else, she's just looking for a consensus. Attorney said, anything on the budget has to be done by ordinance to be binding so since it's a resolution its non binding because it won't have any legal effect because it hasn't been noticed and an ordinance hasn't been prepared, there's no reading and all the rest of that. There's no publication. Clerk said, yes and no. You choose what the millage is going to be. When I do the certification which is prior to the actual hearings on the 1st reading for the budget ordinance and the final reading for the budget ordinance. The ordinance doesn't get voted on until after I've done the certification, so what we are saying is, you can still change it. We will have a couple of budget workshops, you'll still be able to change it if you want to prior to that certification date. Councilwoman Linkswiler asked, Donna didn't you say the date has to be before you went on your vacation? I'm trying to find out if we're going to have these budget meetings before you certify these things this month, Donna, before you go on vacation. Clerk said, yes. Councilwoman Linkswiler said, well I asked to be put in the budget since there's never probably going to be a grant for it and that is to repair the steps at the Community Center. We haven't been using it so it hasn't been urgent but during the time we're not using it might be a good time to get the work done. That's something I do plan to bring up when we're talking about the budget. Clerk said, you may recall that we included that in the CDBG grant as one of the items. Councilwoman Mead said, she's saying she doesn't think the grant's going to happen. Councilwoman Linkswiler said, yeah you just said it hasn't happened for 2 years and nothing is happening this year so who knows when it will ever happen. Clerk said, we don't know yet, they have not notified us that the grant process has opened up. Correct Kelly? Mayor asked, did we lose her?

If there's no other questions, how about anybody not on the council who's listening in, any questions, comments, concerns? Nothing I'll take the vote and I will start the vote with Seat 4 Councilwoman Pat, Pat said Yay, Seat 5 Councilman Jim, Seat 6 Councilman Vic, Vic said Yes, Seat 3 Councilwoman CarrieAnn, CarrieAnn said Yes, Seat 2 Councilwoman Lynda, Lynda said Yes, Seat 1 Councilman Dr. Bob, Bob said Yes, Seat 5 Councilman Jim, Jim said Yes. Mayor said, Seat 5, Clerk said, he said yes. Mayor said, as Mayor Yes. That's unanimous Donna.

We want to discuss the First Baptist Church on Holly Street, speed bumps. I did not want to go in that direction as the church had requested us, but we did look into it. We are told legally we cannot put crosswalks there. That's what I wanted to do without the bumps. You can't put the crosswalks unless you have sidewalks, so according to what we've been told that creates a false pretense of safety without the sidewalks. If we're going to do anything, its going to be speed bumps and I would like some input from the Council on that. Councilwoman Mead said, what constitutes a crosswalk? Just drawing lines on the road? Mayor said yeah and a sign in each direction saying pedestrian crossing, but we've been told that we can't do it. Clerk said, it would open up a big liability for us because like Joe said, they're saying that once you put that up there you are giving them a false sense of safety. You are also opening it up for handicap people to go across that crosswalk and it does not conform to what DOT requires which is sidewalks. Councilwoman Mead asked, can we move the speed bumps off of Perry over there cause we don't use them on Perry anymore. Clerk said, well my concern with that is right now you may have originally put those speed bumps there for the fitness center, I'm not sure, but I think that the most amount of traffic that you're getting is to the beach. Once we open that beach up again you're still going to have a lot of traffic on Perry. Mayor said, yeah, it wasn't a lot of the people utilizing the fitness center that were speeding up and down that road. It was the individuals utilizing the beach speeding back and forth. Councilwoman Evans asked, so what is the issue by the church? Mayor said, I guess a couple of times they have people going through there pretty fast when the church is in, I believe its Wednesday nights and Sundays. Councilwoman Evans said, then they should hire a cop to do crash control. Clerk said, if you look on page 36 at the bottom of that, where I received information from Putnam County regarding the crosswalks and all. She says that she recommends traffic cones are purchased by the church and placed out on each side of the road during church service and removed after. This will have a greater effect than a permanent sign. That is what the County has recommended instead of crosswalks, but we also have the other option of doing speed bumps if that's what you all wanted to do. Councilwoman Evans said, they should rent a cop and Councilwoman Mead agreed. Councilwoman Linkswiler said, I feel like the cones would be more effective and less costly. Clerk said, the cones would be their responsibility and nothing to do with us. A lot of churches do the cones. Mayor said, well that would be up to us. We make a decision if we're going to do something or we're not going to do anything then the rest is left up to the church, what they're going to do. Councilwoman Linkswiler asked, so the speed bumps would be on Holly St. not on 308B? Mayor said, no, Holly St. Clerk said, Lynda we own Holly St., but we do not own 308B. That is a County road. Attorney said, but if you put speed bumps on there you are putting speed bumps to stop something that is happening once a week. Mayor said, twice. Attorney said, whereas if they rent a cop the cop can sit there and park with his lights on and that will probably pretty much slow everybody down. Plus, it also helps the town out because it looks like there's a cop in town. Mayor said, that's none of our concern. What the church does to rectify the situation is their concern not ours. Ours is we cannot put a crosswalk in legally and the question

is and if there's no motion its fine with me, do we put speed bumps, or we do not put speed bumps. What they do from that point is totally up to them. Mayor said, let's cut to the chase here. Does anybody want to make a motion for speed bumps for Holly St. for the church? Second? Last, 3rd time. Ok its done, we're not doing anything. Thank you very much the rest will be up to the church.

We need to speak about budget workshop dates. I want to do that last. I want to speak about Covid-19. We're not making any changes in the town as to what we're doing at this point right now, nothing. I cannot tell you what next month's meeting will be, or the budget workshops will be. At this point the Governor has extended our right to have our meetings this way, telecommunications until July 31st. Whether he extends that or not, I don't know, I can't see that he won't with the way things is going in this state. That's where we're at. Councilman Warren asked, do we need his approval to do it locally in the County? Mayor said, no by law Doc, that we have to meet in person unless the Governor says we don't have to and that's the situation we're in now. The Governor says we don't have to. He also says we can meet here if we can do the 6 feet between each other, but he's given the approval not to meet in person. I'm only hoping that he continues that through August and September, but again its totally up to him, so I don't know where we're going to be at. With that said, I cannot see, let me finish Doc, with that said, I can't see holding budget workshops in this manner here. You cannot get the proper communication. I personally would like to hold the budget workshops at the Community Center where we can use the 6 foot distancing and the face masks. If anybody has a problem with that, say so but that's where I'm at with it. Councilman Warren said, its certainly not the best thing to do from a medical point of view. Doc, what's my other option? Councilman Warren said, well that's a different story entirely. Clerk said, I could set up a Zoom meeting. A Zoom meeting is similar to what you all did for your training for Ethics, however you would actually be on camera, so you would see each other and you would hear each other talk. Councilwoman Mead said, some of us do not have that capability. I don't. Clerk said, you don't have a camera? She said, no. Clerk said, then you would just be audio with no video. Councilwoman Evans said, listen and you've got dogs barking in the background. Councilwoman Mead said, I'm having problems understanding what the Mayor is saying already. Mayor said, pertaining to what Pat? Attorney said, Zoom meeting work better because the equipment is better than a telephone. You don't have a laptop Pat? Councilwoman Mead said, no, I have a computer which doesn't have a camera and I have a landline. I don't see any reason why we can't meet at the Community Center, there's plenty enough space in there that we could sit way more than 6 feet and there are not going to be that many of us going. Mayor said, I agree with that Pat, whole heartedly. Clerk said, if there's anyone that feels uncomfortable, we could still do teleconference for them and the public. What do you think of that? Councilwoman Evans said, I agree. Mayor said, alright, that's the way we'll go. They'll be at the Community Center, there will be 6 foot minimum distancing and face masks will be required or don't come. Councilwoman Evans said, the Community can be on video or phone conference. Clerk said, if we're not going to do Zoom then we'll just stay with the teleconference for the community. Councilwoman Mead asked, how many meetings are you going to plan. Mayor said, as little as possible. Clerk said, I'd like to have 2. That's how many we had last year and it worked out fine. Clerk said, I just need to have 2 this month to make sure that you are fine with the millage. I only have until the end of this month to certify that millage. In August you may decide you're fine with the budget the way that we've prepared it or you may want another one. We can decide that at a later date.

Councilwoman Mead said, as long as we don't decide to go up on millage. Clerk said, yes, you can't do that after the 31st. Mayor said, do you need a vote on that millage before you do what you have to do? Clerk said, you just did give me a vote unless you guys change it. Mayor said, now you can hit your August 4th deadline? Clerk said, yes. Councilwoman Mead asked what dates do we have in mind? Clerk said, usually Monday and Tuesday work well for everyone. Would you want it on a Monday or Tuesday? CarrieAnn, I'll give you the first option since you're a working lady. Mayor said, CarrieAnn and Lynda work. CarrieAnn said, I would need 6 pm and it doesn't matter what day. Mayor asked Lynda, how about you? CarrieAnn said, I can't do a whole lot because my husband's leaving in 3 weeks for 8 months so I'm not spending a bunch of time sitting in meetings if possible. Clerk said, hopefully there won't be many differences from last year. Clerk said, how about the 21st at 6pm, that's Tuesday? Lynda said, I like Tuesday better than Monday, Monday is always hard for me. Clerk asked if everybody else is good with Tuesday at 6pm? Mayor said, that sounds good. Clerk said, ok then the other one will be the following Tuesday which will be the 28th at 6pm? There were no objections so the workshop dates were set. Mayor asked, is this just going to be the millage or are you going to be prepared? Clerk said, yes. Mayor said, Donna will be prepared by the 21st, not only with this millage but with this budget. Each of you will get the budget in hand previous to the 21st. Please go through it with a fine tooth comb and individually call Donna in advance of the 21st with any concerns you may have. This will shorten these budget meetings right up. Councilwoman Evans said, don't forget you have to have Beautification have their budget ready. Clerk and Mayor agreed. Councilman Warren said something about if the Governor shuts down all meetings and the Mayor said then we will deal with what we're dealt that's all. Councilman Warren said they just did that in California, no indoor meetings. Attorney said, isn't there an extra laptop floating around Donna? Clerk said, no. Attorney said, let's plan it the way we've planned it and if they shut it down Donna, you and I will get ready, we'll canvas everybody. I've got 2 laptops and we'll just get it figured out. We can contingency ourselves for the next 3 hours. Mayor said, Craig, as long as you brought it up, let me put my 2 cents in now. Councilwoman Pat Mead doesn't have one, she's not used to working with one. If we put one in her lap, I don't think she'll be very comfortable with us giving her one and say here's what you have to do. Attorney said, we can Kelly our I/T guy set it up, you hit 2 buttons. Its up to you Joe, we'll do whatever you want. Let's see what happens. We've got a plan, if it doesn't work, Donna and I will get it figured out. Mayor said, ok. Clerk said, these meetings have been going very well. You guys have voted on some pretty important stuff in these meetings, ordinances and resolutions and so we'll have to deal with that if the Governor does that. Mayor said, Donna's going to prepare the budget, you will get a hard copy of it. Please, please go through it, come up with all your questions and get them to Donna before the 21st. They'll be a way to get you answers on your questions without sunshining and we'll make this as simple as possible. I don't want to put anybody on this Council in a position for a meeting that they're not comfortable with. That's not fair to anybody. We'll take it as it comes to us. With that, I have one last thing. Actually, next month is nothing except our meeting here and there's nothing set for the budget workshops at all next month. These 2 are this month. What I have to finish the night off with is, we're going to hire a temporary, part time maintenance employee. Last year we hired full time with Jeff, 40 hours a week until Bruce came back. This year I'm choosing to go with part time, 25 hours a week and whoever that person is to work a minimum of 2 weeks after Bruce comes back to help Bruce get his feet back on the ground again. Then we'll take it from there. Vic are you listening? Councilman Vic Szatkowski? Vic said yes. Mayor said, I'm

having a tough time hearing you Vic. Here's what I'm doing, I think my son will be applying for the job. It's going in the paper this Thursday, Friday, Saturday. Applications need to be in by noon time Monday, or they will not be accepted. I believe that my son is going to put an application in. If he does, I will bow out from being any part of this hiring situation whatsoever. Vic as Mayor Pro Tem, you will interview and hire with the assistance of the Town Clerk. The two of you's, I'll have nothing to do with it. Vic said, ok. Mayor said, ok, with that I don't have anything else for the night. Does anybody else have anything? Councilwoman Mead said, I have a question. Donna does very well forwarding a lot of information that she gets to us and I noticed that there was something from the FL League of Cities about a 2020 FL cities stats survey that our name was not on there. There was a list of people that had turned it in, but we had not. Is there some reason for that? Clerk said, let me check into that Pat and I will let you know. Pat said, alrighty. Mayor said, anybody not on the Council have anything they would like to discuss? With that being said, thank you very much. You will be getting your budget shortly. Again, please go through it and get to Donna with any questions you have, and we will get back together on Tuesday July 21st, 6pm, one way or another. Good night. Clerk said, we need a motion. Mayor said, somebody give me a motion please. Councilwoman Evans made a motion to adjourn.

Questions and comments. – None

Upcoming events: Were reviewed from the packet.

Councilman Warren made a Motion to adjourn. Adjourned at 6:48 pm.



Handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph Serrano" with the date "9-21-20" written below it.



Handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Donna" with a large flourish.

