

MINUTES
GREENVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
Special Meeting/Budget Hearing, Tuesday, September 08, 2020, 5:00 PM Via Zoom
CITY HALL, 154 SW OLD MISSION AVENUE, GREENVILLE FL 32331

SPECIAL MEETING

1. Call to Order: Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.
2. Roll Call by the Clerk: Mayor Brittini Brown, Vice Mayor Calvin Malone, Councilmember Bobby Burnett, Councilmember Kathleen Hamilton, and Councilmember Brandi Tillman were present.

ALSO PRESENT: Lee Jones, Jr., Interim Town Clerk
 John Laurance Reid, Town Attorney

3. **Public Comment**

- Dr. Patricia Hinton raised concerns about the Evergreen Cemetery resolution being raised at a meeting.
 - Dr. Hinton said that the cemetery should be considered an essential service and not a profit-making venture.
 - Dr. Hinton asked that the resolution be tabled due to inaccuracies in the language.

4. **New Business**

a. **Discussion/Possible Action regarding RIF Grant – Lee Jones, Jr., Interim Town Clerk**

- Mr. Jones stated that the Town just finished the bidding process for the grocery store. The lowest bid was higher than our budgeted amount.
- The funding rules had changed since the Town initiated the process.
- Mr. Jones recommended that the Town Council rescind the existing award and reapply under the new rules. The result would be additional funds granted to the Town.

MOTION: Vice Mayor Malone moved to take the recommended action; second by Councilmember Tillman.

	<u>Yay</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Mayor Brown	X	
Mr. Burnett	X	
Ms. Hamilton	X	

Mr. Malone X
Ms. Tillman X

Motion passed unanimously.

b. Discussion/Possible Action regarding Septic-to-Sewer Project – Lee Jones, Jr., Interim Town Clerk

- Mr. Jones said that at the beginning of the septic-to-sewer project, numerous households opted out, so their properties were not included in the funding calculation.
- A Greenville resident now wants to opt in after previously opting out, but those costs cannot be covered by the prior funding mechanism.
- Mr. Jones recommended that we update the ordinance providing for impact fees for those seeking to join the sewer system.

MOTION: Councilmember Tillman moved that the Town Council update the ordinance addressing impact fees for the sewer system; second by Councilmember Hamilton.

- Vice Mayor Malone asked if there was a state statute that addressed this matter.
- Mr. Jones did not know of any applicable statute.

- Vice Mayor Malone asked who gave the homeowners the option to opt out of the conversion to sewer.
- Mayor Brown asked Mr. Reid to speak to the issue of any applicable statute.
- Mr. Reid identified the local ordinance that sets connection fees for sewer as well as the ordinance that mandates connection to sewer.
- Mr. Jones said that the contractors have said the connection fees are not up to date.
- Mayor Brown asked Mr. Reid if an ordinance could be introduced at the next meeting. Mr. Reid said that it could.

- Mr. Reid said that an ordinance change would require a 10-day public notice, so the Town could advertise in the next Friday edition and return in 13-days to approve the final reading.
- Mr. Reid said that we are bound to the existing ordinance and would need to follow the statutory requirements of changing ordinances.
- Vice Mayor Malone recommended that the Town Council seek a way to bypass the statutory requirements for amending the ordinance, such as declaring an emergency.
- Mr. Jones said that the current contractor could provide the connection for a discounted amount of \$3,000. The normal cost would be closer to \$25,000.

Yay

Nay

Mayor Brown	X
Mr. Burnett	X
Ms. Hamilton	X
Mr. Malone	X
Ms. Tillman	X

Motion passed unanimously.

- The Town Council directed the Town Attorney to begin drafting the new ordinance and initiate the advertising requirements.

c. **Resolution 2020-12 - AN RESOLUTION DECLARING MORATORIUM ON PLOT SALES AT EVERGREEN CEMETERY – Mayor Brittni Brown**

- Councilmember Burnett asked the Town Council what the intention of the Town Council was regarding the cemetery.
- The general consensus of the Town Council was to determine a manner in which the Town can continue to maintain the cemetery while reducing the fiscal impact to the Town.
- Mr. Jones outlined the costs associated with maintaining the cemetery and estimated that the annual cost was \$28-29,000.
 - Mr. Jones said that the funds in the cemetery fund would be sufficient to cover approximately one (1) year of maintenance.
 - Mr. Jones stressed that a cost driver for the maintenance was that the gravestones are too close to one another so a tractor cannot be used to cut the grass.
- Mayor Brown asked Mr. Reid if state law restricted the Town’s use of funds in the special account.
- Mr. Reid said that since Evergreen Cemetery is a municipal cemetery, it is exempt from state regulations. Mr. Reid did say that the Town could be limited by contract if there was specific language in past purchase agreements associated with plots. Due to poor record keeping, it is unable to determine whether this is the case.
- Mr. Reid recommended that the second and third WHEREAS clauses be removed based on the public comments raised regarding inaccuracies in the original language.
- Mr. Reid also recommended that language be added to the resolution to exempt the sale of plots for those already deceased, so it would only bar presales.
- The proposed amendments were adopted by unanimous consent.

- Mayor Brown put the resolution, as amended, to a final vote.

	<u>Yay</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Mayor Brown	X	
Mr. Burnett		X
Ms. Hamilton	X	
Mr. Malone	X	
Ms. Tillman	X	

Motion passed 4-1.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS AND COMPUTER UPDATES

- Mr. Jones addressed steps that the Town could take to conduct business while maintaining safe standards to protect against COVID-19.
- Mr. Jones recommended that the Town establish a payment kiosk for utility bills.
- Mr. Jones also recommended that the Town have the means to take temperatures for those entering Town Hall.
- Mr. Jones said that each councilmember would be provided a tablet to conduct municipal business and participate via Zoom.
- Mr. Jones also said that he is trying to establish an infrastructure where municipal business is more cloud-based as opposed to desktop-based.
- Mayor Brown announced that COVID-19 testing would take place in the park this Thursday.

5. Adjournment

MOTION: Councilmember Tillman moved to adjourn; second by Councilmember Hamilton.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Cancelled and rescheduled for September 14, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

/s/ Lee N. Jones, Jr.
Lee N. Jones, Jr., Town Manager