MINUTES

GREENVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

Regular Session, September 18, 2017, 6:00 PM

CITY HALL, 154 SW OLD MISSION AVENUE, GREENVILLE FL 32331

First Public Hearing to Consider FY 2017-2018 Millage Rate and Budget

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Calvin Malone, Council Member Joi Collins, Council Member Brandi Seabrooks, and Council Member Barbara Dansey

ALSO PRESENT: Kimberly Reams, Town Clerk

Hakili Washington, Public Works – Fire Chief

Jim Parrish, Grants Consultant

Kovacherich Arnold, Former Council Member

1. Call to Order

After prayer and the pledge, Mayor Malone called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Ms. Dansey moved to approve the Minutes of **Special Session August 24, 2017**, **Budget Workshop August 28, 2017**, and **Special Session August 30, 2017**; second by Ms. Collins. Motion passed with a 3-1 vote.

YEA NAY

Mr. Malone X

Ms. Collins X

Ms. Seabrooks X

Ms. Dansey X

Former Council Member Mr. Arnold voted nay.

Ms. Dansey stated that she objected to Mr. Arnold being seated at the Council Table.

1. Citizen Participation: Mr. Stephen Webster stated that he was an attorney from Tallahassee and appreciated the opportunity to address the Council. Mr. Webster stated that he had letters that he needed to deliver to Town Officials. He then presented letters to Ms. Seabrooks, Ms. Collins, Ms. Dansey and Mayor Malone and the Town Clerk. Mr. Webster went on to say that basically he was putting the City on notice on behalf of a town employee. Mr. Webster stated that this employee has been pressured and coerced to ignore the Town Charter and violate state law by members of this council in derogation of the direct findings of the former city attorney. Mr. Webster went on to say that this employee has been retaliated against ever since and has been subjected to hostility. Mr. Webster stated that they are on notice pursuant to Chapter 112 of the employees’ request for Whistle Blower Protections and that employees’ intent to sue this city if you retaliate against this person in any way because they insist on following the law.

Louis Baptiste, Mr. Webster’s associate stated that pursuant to Florida Law your Town Charter if we were to sue you would become per say evidence meaning that it is irrefutable. What that means is that legally no individual… at this point Mr. Baptiste was interrupted by Ms. Seabrooks and told that this was citizen participation. Mr. Baptiste stated his name. Ms. Seabrooks asked if he lived in Greenville to which he stated no that he was a citizen of the state of Florida and that if she stopped him from speaking that was a Sunshine violation. Mayor Malone stated that Mr. Baptiste could continue. Mr. Baptiste said that he would like to state for the record that if the city of Greenville receives state dollars, as they do, that gives him the right as a citizen of the state of Florida to speak here, unless you guys do not receive state dollars and at that point you could shut me down, but up until then I have the right to speak. Mr. Baptiste went on to speak about the Town Charter. He went on to say that if they needed to bring a copy and review with them they can. Mr. Baptiste said that they did not come here to be aggressive or to bully, but we care because to us the law means something. To us the law matters and when one person tears against it and pushes it they break the fabric of it. Mr. Baptiste said that you have been elected to do a job. The job wasn’t for favoritism or fun, the job was to uphold the Charter. There was a just a comment made Mr. Arnold is no longer on this Council per law. The attorney that was hired to give you legal advice told you that, but you refuse to enforce it and allow him to sit at that table. He went on to say that he doesn’t know Mr. Arnold from Adam but the law is the law and doesn’t care about attitudes, personalities, conflicts of interest it cares about operation. Mr. Baptiste stated that he hoped this council would please start following the law and listen to your Charter. Mr. Baptiste thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak and was seated.

Ms. Patricia Hinton stated that she wanted to address the budget that would be discussed tonight. Ms. Hinton went on to say that the millage rate would cap at the highest rate allowed. She asked that council reconsider going to the millage rate of 10. She then went on to say that in observing the budget she sees that raises are being proposed for all of the men and not the women. Ms. Hinton said that on the surface on the face of it that’s discriminatory. Ms. Hinton suggested taking another look at the budget and unless you have compelling reasons make adjustments. Ms. Hinton stated that finally she concurred with Ms. Dansey and others Mr. Arnold is no longer a member of the council.

Ms. Lula Fead said she had a few comments. Ms. Fead stated that she knew there was a storm and things had to be picked up and her trash was not picked up until Friday. She went on to say that she paid for two days of service and she had to fight the dogs off for two days. Ms. Fead stated that she had noticed low water pressure on occasion and that it was difficult to get ready for work. Ms. Fead went on to say that she had observed someone that was not an employee driving a town vehicle.

Ms. Nora Jones stated that the council was still out of order. She said that they were elected to do something for the town not just bickering around the table. Ms. Jones stated that they were sitting around the table as if nothing was wrong. She stated that when there were errors they needed to be corrected.

Ms. Collins stated that she was a council member but she would be speaking as a citizen of Greenville. Ms. Collins stated that she had two points. One is that we pay the town attorney for his services which include his opinion. She said that to say that’s just his opinion is almost saying that his opinion doesn’t matter and that is not a fair statement to make to someone that you are paying. Ms. Collins went on to say that a few months ago a motion was made to reinstate Mr. Arnold to his seat and the vote was taken. She went on to say the vote failed for lack of majority. Ms. Collins stated that her understanding was that the seat remained vacant. She said that she did not understand the lack of comprehension among town council. Ms. Collins stated that if we are refusing to abide by the Town Charter, then what documentation is being used to govern the Town of Greenville, council members. Ms. Collins then took her seat at the council table. Mayor Malone then stated that at some point they needed to expedite the process of hiring an attorney.

**Public Hearing**

1. Discuss and possibly approve Tentative Millage rate for FY 2017-2018 (Resolution 2017-2): Ms. Reams stated that according to TRIM practices the council needed to tentatively adopt the millage rate by resolution. Ms. Reams then read Resolution 2017-2. Mayor Malone opened the floor for public comment at 6:30. Ms. Fead stated that if there was an increase in the millage rate the funds should go toward getting law enforcement. After further comment and discussion the following motion was made.

MOTION: Ms. Collins moved to adopt Resolution 2017-2 adopting a tentative millage rate of 10.0000; second by Ms. Seabrooks. Motion Passed with a 3-1 vote.

YEA NAY

Mr. Malone X

Ms. Collins X

Ms. Seabrooks X

Ms. Dansey X

Former Council Member Mr. Arnold voted nay.

1. Discuss and possibly approve Tentative Budget for FY 2017-2018 (Resolution 2017-3): Ms. Reams stated that she had made the changes that council had requested in the budget workshops. Ms. Reams read the Budget Summary. Ms. Reams read Resolution 2017-3. Mayor Malone opened the floor for public comment. After public comment and discussion the following motion was made.

MOTION: Ms. Dansey moved to adopt Resolution 2017-3 adopting a tentative budget in the amount of $1,925,453.00; second by Ms. Collins. Motion passed 3-1.

YEA NAY

Mr. Malone X

Ms. Collins X

Ms. Seabrooks X

Ms. Dansey X

Former Council Member Mr. Arnold voted nay.

Council set a workshop for September 26, 2017 at 6 pm.

1. Discussion and possible action on Town Attorney RFP’s/Resumes: Ms. Reams stated that she had received two RFP’s. Mayor Malone stated that he felt things need to move along. Council gave Ms. Reams two dates to work from to schedule interviews. They gave her September 21st and 26th. Ms. Reams will call and set up the interviews for whichever day both candidates can attend. Ms. Reams will email the date and time to each Council Member.
2. Discussion and possible action on Part Time Town Manager Reference Checks: Ms. Reams stated that she had sent out an email on Friday to each council member on what the references had to say. Ms. Reams went on to give council highlights of what was said. Council decided to call the candidates in for a second scenario interview. The council gave her the dates of September 28th and 29th to work from and the beginning time of 4:00 PM. Ms. Reams will email council confirming the date and time.
3. MOTION: Ms. Dansey moved to appoint Ms. Collins, Ms. Hinton, Ms. Cone, Ms. Pritchett and Mr. Thomas to serve on the Interlocal Agreement with Sheriff’s Office; second Ms. Collins.

YEA NAY

Mr. Malone X

Ms. Collins X

Ms. Seabrooks X

Ms. Dansey X

Former Council Member Mr. Arnold voted nay.

Department Reports

* Public Works: None.
* Fire Department: None.
* Recreation Board: None.
* Grants Consultant: Written Report attached.
* Town Clerk: Ms. Reams stated that she had been contacted by Trevor with The Fish and Game Commission and he stated that he had been contacted by Wealth Watchers about the town pond. His question to Ms. Reams was had the town hired them to represent the Town. The council stated they had not hired them. Mayor Malone stated there had been discussions with Wealth Watchers about various issues but they had not been hired.

Ms. Dansey moved to adjourn; second by Ms. Collins. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kimberly M. Reams

Town Clerk