



Town of Loxahatchee Groves Town Council Special Meeting

Tuesday, September 29, 2015 - 7:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

(Times established by Resolution No. 2014-08... commencing at 7:00 p.m., and ending no later than 10:30 p.m., which can be extended by motion of the Council.)

Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District, 101 West "D" Road

MINUTES

1. OPENING

- a. Call to Order & Roll Call

Mayor Browning called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Upon roll call the following members were present: Mayor David Browning, Vice Mayor Ronald D. Jarriel, and Councilmen Tom Goltzene, Ryan Liang absent, and Jim Rockett. Also in attendance were Town Manager Bill Underwood, Town Attorney Mike Cirullo, and Acting Town Clerk Perla Underwood.

- b. Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation – Mayor Browning
- c. Approval of Agenda RJ Moved, Seconded TG to approve Agenda. 4/0.

2. CONSENT AGENDA - NONE

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Rick Christmas, PBC Fire Rescue Union, appeared before the Town Council to discuss the Union's participation in community relations. Mr. Christmas provided the Town Council with an overview of services that the Palm Beach County Fire Rescue provides the community. Town Council recommended he speak to Marge Herzog, President of Loxahatchee Groves Landowners Association.

4. PRESENTATIONS – NONE

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS - NONE

6. RESOLUTIONS

- a. **RESOLUTION NO. 2015-30: PUBLIC HEARING / FINAL MILLAGE**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING AND ADOPTING THE FINAL MILLAGE FOR

THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, PURSUANT TO THE BUDGET SUMMARY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 200, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Manager advised that at the last meeting, Town Council adopted a Tentative Millage rate of 1.4718 mills representing a 36.8% increase over the roll back rate of 1.0758 mills.

Vice Mayor Jarriel Moved to adopt Resolution 2015-30 establishing and adopting the final millage for the Town at 1.4718 representing a 36.8% increase over the roll back rate of 1.0758 mills.

Councilman Rockett advised that he is not in favor of the increase and would prefer the Town set a the millage rate at 1.2 mills. He advised that he does not see a reason to raise the rates, and further does not understand what an initial increase will get the Town. Councilman Rockett further explained that he does not believe that non-resident landowners should be treated differently than those that live in the community, and feels that some benefits more than others in the community.

Councilman Ryan Liang entered meeting at 7:15 PM.

Councilman Goltzene stated that he feels the increase will offset the funding we provide the LGWCD.

Vice Mayor Jarriel stated that his priority is for the residents, and reminded the Council that at incorporation the Town's tax rate was at 1.5 mills. Vice Mayor Jarriel again expressed his belief that commercial properties should be paying more, and those additional revenues will benefit the residents.

Mayor Browning reminded the Town Council that 70% of voters wanted their roads improved, but the same number did not want to pay for them. He was surprised by those results. He also expressed his concerns with respect to decreases in state shared revenues in the future. He agree with Vice Mayor Jarriel that the Town has a responsibility with respect to drainage problems as well as the repairs needed to the edges of the new improved roads and because of those reasons he advised that he was in favor of the increase in the millage rate.

Councilman Liang stated that many of Vice Mayor Jarriel's points are valid; however, it also is about how soon the Town wants these projects completed.

Doreen Baxter – North Road

Provided with Town Council with a line item detail on all increases included in the 2016 Town Budget. Councilman Rockett Moved, and Seconded by Vice Mayor Jarriel to receive and file the report prepared by Ms. Baxter.

Dennis Lipp – North Road

Requested that Town Council not increase the millage at this time.

Virginia Standish – North Road

Requested Town Council fight proactively for roads, and pointed to Indian Trails testing of new products for the dirt roads.. Also pleaded with the Town Council to consider applying for grants before looking to borrow monies for road improvements.

The vote on the motion passed, 3/2. Councilman Liang and Rockett voting no.

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-31: PUBLIC HEARING / FINAL BUDGET

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2015 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2016; ADOPTING FISCAL POLICIES; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilman Liang Moved, and Seconded by Vice Mayor Jarriel to adopt the FY2016 Budget.

During discussion, Councilman Goltzene stated he would like to look at the long term, and suggested making improvements for the residents that we have promised to do in the past. He expressed a desire to make drainage improvements on Town roads; however, he advised that he does not know how the Town shall determine priority for improvements.

Councilman Liang advised that he believes drainage on all roads needs to be addressed first, followed by trails improvements.

Councilman Rockett agreed with Councilman Goltzene that this is a many years plan. Also agreed with Councilman Liang with respect to drainage, and doing the trail on 6th Court North. He also expressed difficulty with respect to prioritizing road projects.

Vice Mayor Jarriel requested that 161st Terrace North be removed as a project for consideration. He also favored drainages on Town Roads and felt that 24th Circle North should also be included for drainage improvements.

Mayor Browning agreed with Vice Mayor Jarriel to remove 161st Terrace North from the list of Town Council projects. Agreed with Councilman Goltzene that with respect to hedging, the Town should remove all evasive Brazilian peppers rather than cutting them back, and Councilman Rockett that residents should participate in the cost of road

Following a lengthy discussion, Councilman Liang Moved, and Seconded by Vice Mayor Jarriel to amend their motion to approve the transfer of \$1,000,000 from Transportation Fund's Fund Balance from General Fund's Fund Balance to the Capital Improvement Fund, and including the \$100,000 donation from Big Dog for the improvements at D Road and Okeechobee Boulevard as part of the Capital Improvement Plan as well. The vote on the motion passed, 4/1. Councilman Rockett voted no.

Dennis Lipp – North Road

Inquired about ballot language deadline for borrowing monies, and the Town consideration of doing a bond issue for the improvements.

Virginia Standish – north road

Expressed her desire that the first priority be the \$40,000 for the trail on North Road, followed by surveying and permitting, horse crossings at B and F Roads, 6th Court North trail should be funded by General Fund to do first. Again she requested that Town Council look to apply for grants before borrowing monies for the improvements, and finally requested that Council consider that the life of the bonds should not exceed life of the improvement.

7. ORDINANCES – NONE

8. TOWN MANAGER REPORTS – NONE

9. OLD BUSINESS -NONE

10. NEW BUSINESS - NONE

11. CLOSING COMMENTS

- a. Public
- b. Town Attorney
- c. Town Council Members

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, Mayor Browning adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.


Perla D. Underwood, Acting Town Clerk


Mayor David Browning

These minutes were adopted at 10-20-2015 meeting of Town Council.