
COMMISSIONERS:

DeLoris Roberts, Mayor
John Martin, Vice Mayor
Eleanor Randall
Patricia Bouie
Michael E. Rutledge, Sr.

CITY CLERK:

Donna R. Mayes, City Clerk

CITY ATTORNEY:

Steve Lee

**MINUTES
CITY OF HAWTHORNE
COMMISSION MEETING
May 5, 2009**

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor DeLoris Roberts called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Present was Mayor DeLoris Roberts, Vice Mayor John Martin, Commissioners Eleanor Randall, Patricia Bouie and Michael Rutledge. City staff present were Interim City Manager Linda Chapman, City Clerk Donna Mayes, City Planner Kelly Moosbrugger, and Attorney Audrie Harris.

1. Invocation: Commissioner Patricia Bouie
2. Pledge: Kelly Moosbrugger

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved to amend and approve the agenda, removing item C2 on media relations.

Motion – Commissioner Randall

Second – Commissioner Bouie

Vote – 5-0

C. RECOGNITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND GUESTS

Harry Collins, Assistant Fire Chief for Alachua County, Mark Smith, and Joey Malphurs of the county public safety department reported on the services that Hawthorne will receive from the County. Mr. Collins reported that the Grove Park station should be open within one week. Hawthorne's fire and EMS services will be coming from the Grove Park station.

Candidates for the election introduced themselves to the commission and audience.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve Meeting Minutes
 - a. Regular Meeting – April 7, 2009
 - b. Regular Meeting – April 21, 2009
 - c. Special Meeting - April 27, 2009

2. Interim City Attorney Contract

Moved to approve the consent agenda.

Motion – Commissioner

Second – Commissioner Bouie

Commissioner Martin requested that item 2 on the consent agenda be moved to the regular agenda so the commission could discuss it.

Moved to amend Commissioner Bouie's motion to place item 2 on the regular agenda and to approve the consent agenda.

Motion – Commissioner Martin

Second – Commissioner Rutledge

Commissioners Bouie and Randall accepted the amendments to the previous motion.

Vote – 5-0

F. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Interim City Attorney Contract

Interim City Attorney Audrie Harris reported that her contract is very similar to former attorney Steve Lee's contract. She will be paid \$2500 per month for her services and \$100 per hour to represent the City in any litigation.

Commissioner Martin inquired how long the attorney would be staying with the City. City Manager Linda Chapman recommended that Ms. Harris stay with the City after a new city manger is hired. After that, the Commission could go through the process to hire a permanent attorney. Ms. Harris has agreed to be one of the candidates for permanent attorney at that point.

Commissioner Bouie asked if Ms. Harris would be working out of the office or in City Hall, and Ms. Harris replied that she meets with the City Manager once a week, talks to her on the phone daily, but mostly works away from City Hall.

Moved to approve the contract for the Interim City Attorney.

Motion: Commissioner Martin

Second: Commissioner Rutledge

Vote - 5-0

2. Ordinance 12 – Surplus Property; First Reading

Moved to read ordinance by title only.

Motion – Commissioner Randall

Second – Commissioner Bouie

Vote – 5-0

City Manager Linda Chapman explained how the surplus process would work. The city manager would write a report on the property and present it to the commission, at which time the commission may declare a surplus. After that, the city can auction, sell, or donate the property.

City Attorney Harris read the ordinance by title.

Moved to adopt Ordinance 12 – Surplus Property

Motion – Commissioner Martin

Second – Commissioner Rutledge

Vote – 5-0

3. Ordinance 13 – Qualifying Fee for Elections; First Reading

Moved to read Ordinance 13 by title only.

Motion - Commissioner Randall

Second - Commissioner Bouie

Vote - 5-0

Attorney Harris explained that the new qualifying fee will be 1% of the annual commissioner's salary, plus a \$10 administrative fee.

Billy Carlton reported that he paid \$88 when it should have been \$40. Ms. Harris said that was based on Attorney Lee's interpretation of the ordinance, but this new ordinance will change the fee amount to 1% for future elections.

Moved to adopt Ordinance 13 – Qualifying Fee for Elections

Motion - Commissioner Bouie

Second - Commissioner Randall

Vote - 5-0

4. Ordinance 14 – Impact Fee Installment Payment Plan

Moved to read ordinance 14 by title only.

Motion - Commissioner Randall

Second - Commissioner Rutledge

Vote - 5-0

Moved to amend the ordinance to add “No penalty for early payment if entered into installment plan” and adopt Ordinance 14.

Motion - Commissioner Martin

Second - Commissioner Bouie

Vote - 5-0

5. Resolution 12 – Calling the Election

Attorney Harris read the full resolution calling the City Election for June 9th, 2009.

Moved to approve Resolution 12 – Calling the Election

Motion - Commissioner Bouie

Second - Commissioner Rutledge

Vote - 5-0

G. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Heather Surrency commented that Shell Elementary is low on supplies and needs donations for the end of the school year.

Ms. Chishalm said she needs to be replied to regarding her mother’s water bill.

Ed Martin reported that four-wheelers and motorcycles are cutting through his yard and driving by loudly at night. Ellen Vause added that they ride down 211th also.

Memry Stuart commented that the sheriff’s response time is sometimes too slow.

H. REPORTS

- a) Interim City Manager: Linda Chapman gave her action report for the past two weeks
- b) Interim City Attorney: None
- c) Mayor: None
- d) Commissioners: Commissioner Martin stated that he wanted to read a letter out loud for the record. The letter was a response to the letter from the Mayor requiring commissioners to get permission from the mayor before speaking to the media. Commissioner Martin stated that he will not give up his free speech right in the name of unity. He said that when he speaks to the media he only represents himself and not the mayor or the commission. He refuses to have his constitutional rights squelched and he will continue to give his opinion to the media if contacted. Mayor Roberts replied that she is not taking away anyone’s rights and that she simply wants to present a united front and promote a positive image of Hawthorne. Commissioner Bouie commented that Commissioner Martin’s actions were disrespectful and that the media should be directed to the Mayor. Mayor Roberts cut off the discussion, pointing out that this issue is on the agenda for the next workshop.

I. ADJOURN

Mayor DeLoris Roberts adjourned the meeting.

These Minutes of the Commission Meeting of May 5th, 2009 are submitted for Commission approval.

Donna R. Mayes, City Clerk

DeLoris Roberts, Mayor

Transcribed by: _____ **Signature:** _____