

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF MOORE HAVEN CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING ON DECEMBER 19, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 299 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, MOORE HAVEN, FLORIDA**

Council members present:           Bret Whidden, Mayor  
  Dave McGee, Vice Mayor, Financial Director  
  Marc Decker, Councilman  
  Patricia Lucas, Councilwoman  
  Jacob Eighner, Councilman

Others Present:                        Maxine Brantley, City Clerk (ABSENT)  
  Melissa Arnold, Deputy City Clerk  
  Steve Ramunni, City Attorney (ABSENT)  
  Jerri Lynn Schlueter, Public Works Director  
  Sam Briefman, Water Plant Supervisor (ABSENT)  
  Kevin Bryant, Code Enforcement (ABSENT)

**ITEM 1: ROLL CALL:**

Whidden gave the roll call.

**ITEM 2: INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

McGee gave the invocation; Lucas led in the flag salute.

**ITEM 3: ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

NONE

**ITEM 4: DISCUSS AND/OR APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:**

November 21, 2017 Regular Meeting

**MOTION** was made by McGee seconded by Decker to approve November 21, 2017 Regular Meeting minutes. Motion carried

**ITEM 5: HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS:**

Lucas hands out awards to winners. First place was Thelma Brinkley, second place was Marvin and Patricia Brown, and third place was Frances Bryant.

**ITEM 6: REPORT OF OFFICER.**

**6A: Public Work Director**

Schlueter states everyone should have a copy of my report, I don't have anything else to add, just a few requests that I have in here. The pickup truck will be replacing Steve Harris' truck #62; it is actually the truck we received from the County. Whidden states we have already approved this haven't we. Schlueter states it is in the budget, but had not been approved for purchase.

**MOTION** was made by Lucas seconded by McGee to approve to purchase new truck to replace truck #62. Motion carried.

Schlueter states my second request is to replace the deck on our scagg mower #55. That was also in the budget, but need your approval.

**MOTION** was made by McGee seconded by Decker to approve to purchase new mower deck. Motion carried.

Lucas states on Alvin's Bait and Tackle, did you do anything on that. Schlueter states no, that is still in Steve's court. He filed a law suit; it is not code enforcement any longer.

Whidden states have you received anything from Troy with FDOT on signage in the City. Schlueter states I have not received anything from FDOT.

Eighner states have you had any response from anyone wanting to tear down the building. Schlueter states no, I know that Kevin has contacted two, but neither one has responded that I know of.

Decker states I want to know what plans we have for replacing out street signs. Schlueter states we are working on them right now. You didn't see the guys out today. Decker states no, I didn't. Schlueter states we had two teams of two, one on the north side and one on the south side putting up what signs we recovered from the storm and then we will have a list of what we lost and what we need to order.

Eighner states I have something on the pump. I don't know how big the grate is on there, but while it is over there at Rudd's, it there something he could fabricate around it to help keep so much of those bags and regular trash from going up into the pump. Whidden states they can block some of that but if you start restricting to much water, even if it is a clean canal, you can't restrict the flow of water to much.

McGee states now that Kevin is leaving, do we have anybody else with a spray license. Schlueter states no. McGee states we need to get somebody with them somehow or another. Schlueter states we don't have to have a licensed person for all chemicals. We can still buy remedy, which is your basic like roundup without a licensed person.

**6B: City Attorney.**

ABSENT

**6C: City Clerk.**

Arnold states Maxine would like to know how much time would you like to give for the interviews for the City Manager position. Whidden states 30 minutes. All agree.

**6D: Craig A Smith.**

NONE

**6E: CAS Governmental Services**

NONE

**6F: Water Department Supervision Reports**

ABSENT

**ITEM 7: APPROVAL OF BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$45,651.91:**

**MOTION** was made by McGee seconded by Decker to approve the bill submitted list in the amount of \$45,651.91. Motion carried

**ITEM 8: CITIZENS COMMENTS / GENERAL CONCERNS.**

Vincent Lewis states I am here on behalf of the Church, Pentecostal Faith Cathedral. I have a couple of things I would like to bring to your attention. Just some concerns of ours about paving Elmwood Avenue. Are there any future plans for paving that road? Lewis hands out small map of area. Lewis states you can see where Elmwood and Eldorado meet is where the pavement stops, and our Church is at 1135 Elmwood, which will be further down. We would like to know if there are any plans for paving it or who is responsible for that. Whidden states way back when that was started as a sub-division, the City put in water lines, but did not put in the streets, the actual owner built the streets and roads in there. Usually when they build something like that, when they build out, the monies come in and they either pave the road or they get the roads up to the City's specs, once it is up to our code then we accept them. That has never happened, there are drainage issues there, and there are road issues there, without looking further and doing more investigation into what the gas tax money we have to pave with, there is no way we could get it paved right now. We can look into it. Schlueter states Crayton and Go Underground is getting ready to start that that drainage project, I can get with them and see if they can take a look at it, and tell us what we would need, I can even get with Jerry at the County to see when their next project is going out for bid. Lewis states we just want an idea of where we are at and what we need to do.

Carman Yates states we have a baby raccoon; he was rescued when he was little. He stays in the house, and we do have a big cage on our front porch for him. We were told we could not have him in the City Limits. Whidden states who said you couldn't have him? Schlueter states Code Enforcement. Mr. Yates states Keven said he is considered a farm animal. Whidden states he is a not a farm animal, he is considered a varmint. Mr. Yates states we were told come here to see if someone could make some kind of exception. Whidden states we are not going to make an exception, because then everybody is going to want a coon or a goat. We went through this with chickens and that has been a nightmare. How did our Code Enforcement know you had a coon? Mr. Yates states somebody saw it, is all we know. Schlueter states it was the neighbor. The neighbor reported that it was on the porch in a cage. Eighner states so he came to your house and told you, you could not have a coon. Mr. Yates states he left a note on the porch. Lucas states if it is inside what does it matter? McGee states it is a wild animal. Schlueter states it does not matter, according to the ordinance. It would not be any different that someone having a pot-belly pig, we had that issue a few years back. Whidden states all I can tell you is you are not supposed to have it. I can't tell you what you can have in your house, you have him on leash. You are not supposed to have it. Mr. Yates states we called FWC there was no law saying that we could not have it. Eighner states it is a City Ordinance. Lucas states I would say to you keep it in a cage and when you want to take it out; take it out of town. I'm not saying you can or you can't. Whidden states if I didn't see any dog, any cats and any chickens running wild in the City of Moore Haven I'd tell you to get rid of it. You should not have even come to the meeting. Mrs. Yates states we were told we had to come in. Schlueter states the neighbor called in and complained about several infractions at that property.

Ahern states one update, I have been working for several months on the gas tax. Since the truck stop has opened there is a lot more revenue coming in and the City is entitled to the 20%. Next month Paul, Weston and I are going to Tallahassee and I am going to the office there and try to do what I can.

#### **ITEM 9: MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS TO GIVE REPORTS.**

Eighner states Roger Cuevas wants to put a boat shed at the back of his property and he says there are two large trees there on the City easement, he is afraid to build the shed because he doesn't want the trees to come down. I am not sure if they are on the City easement or not, but I would like to go over and take a look at them. Whidden states what kind of trees are they? Eighner states they are a maple tree; they are not oaks of any kind. Whidden states can we get equipment in there? Eighner states yes. He said he is willing to move his boat and truck out of the way and we could back into his driveway if need be. Ahern states the trees are on the City easement, and they are tall. I think you could take the bucket truck and you could cut the tops out of them and would have to worry about anything falling on anything and then you could get them out. Also that easement on the east end needs to be cleaned up while they are in there.

Eighner states in the parks department we need to order some ant bait and maybe try working on the hedges on Highway 27.

Lucas states I received a letter from Moore Haven Elementary School. They need some donations for the safety patrol. Decker states I think we all got them. McGee states yes, I got

one too. Lucas states yes I know, but I would like to see if we could do something, if the City could do something to help these kids because there are quite a few kids this year. They need some money. Whidden states you can run into some issues there. We can do something individually. Lucas states I was going to, but I was hoping the City could send a bigger check. Whidden states you run into some issues there, there is a fine line with what an actual City or County can do as far as monetary value to one specific group. Lucas states we did it for the band. Whidden states no CAPFA did the band. Lucas states so you are saying no. Whidden states no I'm not saying no. We need to look at what we want to do, and what they need and how much they have raised. The safety patrol does a lot of fund raising. Lucas states put it on the next agenda.

Decker states we took out some posts on the end of Avenue S, by the ditch. We need to look into putting some more posts back in there so no one runs into the ditch. Schlueter states at the dead end. Decker states yes.

McGee states on the back of the warehouse where the wind took out some of the tin, do we have any plans for repairs? Schlueter states yes, I am waiting on the insurance company. McGee states also the flag that is staying up outside there; make sure we go by proper etiquette, if it is up at night it should be lit. Also while it is getting dry I want us to look at all the canals and get them cleaned out.

Whidden states Jerri Lynn since the hurricane, have you had any dealing with FEMA. Schlueter states yes, we have had a meeting with them once a week. I have all of our projects are submitted except for the debris, which I am working on now. It should be completed by the end of next week.

Whidden states Jake mentioned ant bait a while ago. I had a lady call me when they were setting up for Christmas on the Caloosahatchee, it was about 5 to 6 hours before it was to start, and she had an issue with ants. I called Kevin and I told him to get some spray and spray them. We need to approach that better in the future. I was very disappointed with that, it was embarrassing. We should take care of that all the time, but especially before an event. We just need to stay on top of it. Eighner states when you get it please do the river walk too.

**ITEM 10: DISCUSS FINANCIAL REPORTS IF NEEDED.**

NONE

**ITEM 14: ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** was made by Decker, seconded by Eighner to adjourn. Motion carried.

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Melissa Arnold, Deputy City Clerk

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Bret Whidden, Mayor

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm

THESE MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM. IF ANYONE WISHES TO LISTEN TO THE MEETING IN ITS ENTIRETY, DIGITAL RECORDINGS ARE AVAILABLE.