

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF MOORE HAVEN MEETING ON  
JULY 19, 2022, AT 7:00PM, IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL,  
299 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, MOORE HAVEN, FLORIDA, 33471.**

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Council Members Present:

Bret Whidden, Mayor  
Jacob Eighner, Vice Mayor, Financial Officer  
Marcus "Marc" Decker  
Clay Browning  
Jan Gunn (VIA ZOOM)

Others Present:

Ashley Wills, City Clerk  
Larry Tibbs, City Manager  
Brandon Roberts, Public Works Director  
Steve Ramunni, Attorney

**ITEM 1: ROLL CALL:**

Given by Whidden.

**ITEM 2: INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:**

Invocation given by Roberts. Pledge lead by Eighner.

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

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

July 5, 2022, Regular meeting minutes.

**MOTION:** by Decker to approve the meeting minutes for July 5, 2022, seconded by Eighner.  
Motion Carried.

**ITEM 5: REPORT OF OFFICERS:**

**CITY MANAGER:**

NONE.

**CITY ATTORNEY:**

**Ramunni** states updates on CaPFA, Eighner signed the two administrator contracts with Singleton she as been hired by CaPFA as CaPFA's program administrator right now its 2000F and 2010A but also I'm going to be drafting a contract for CAPFA overall for her services, we now have a

new potential deal with the University of Florida this would be more of refinancing of an apartment complex in Gainesville and then there might be a second apartment complex the difference being is CaPFA would be doing the bond issue and not be forming a special purpose entity for ownership so it would be an upfront fee for CaPFA to do this. We had a conference call yesterday with regards to this potential project and our bond council is the one who is going to start generating the paperwork.

**CITY CLERK:**

**Eighner** states a few weeks ago a boat out front came and parked I believe it's the same boat we talked about in a previous meeting, but now he as pulled it on our neighbor's dock, and he owes us a 9 days of rent I suppose but it looks like the boat has been abandoned, is that a FWC situation?

**Whidden** states I believe Arnold got in contact with the River House owner about that boat and told them because someone moved it.

**Wills** states we watched it get moved, I believe they owe us for 9 days, and the boat is 35 feet.

**Ramunni** states I would go ahead and report, are there any marks on the vessel to where perhaps we could do a coast guard search?

**Eighner** states I think Wills said the numbers are handwritten on it.

**Whidden** states FWC would have to be the ones to start the process on who owns the boat.

**Eighner** states lets go ahead and start a report when you get a chance.

**CRAIG A. SMITH**

NONE.

**CAS GOVERNMENT SERVICES:**

NONE.

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:**

Roberts states remainder of this week and next week what we have on schedule is to continue cleaning the cannels, mow the Water Plant ponds, painting the boat docks, we are going to paint the 8 inch water meter back flow device at the prison. Tomorrow we are going to start trimming the trees on U.S 27 in the median, spraying the ponds under the bridge. Tomorrow King, myself, and Steve will be working on West Ave on the light pole that got taken out. Also, on the power side I know there were some questions last time and I cleared it up with King, but we have the 30 poles on site and 27 ordered King and I discussed it today and we are going to be ordering 15 more I believe we are 5-4 weeks out with pole the cross arms we have 2 on site and 10 coming in anytime this week and 10 more orders and they are fiber glass.

**Whidden** states I was very displeased when I heard there were 2 on site, we are not halfway through hurricane season, and I made this statement since I been on this board. Before hurricane season I want plenty of poles, transformers and cross arms and you have them ordered but we had a truck take out 5 poles in one afternoon and didn't have anything to do with a storm, two cross arms won't handle an afternoon thunderstorm much less a hurricane we got way behind on this and its not fair to the City or the people of the City.

**Roberts** states once this stuff is in, King and I already discussed we want to have a good inventory with this, and we won't fall behind on inventory again.

**Decker** states are there any stop signs in?

**Roberts** states yes, we got 12 in the other day, we put 6 or 7 out so far.

**Decker** states where the school there is a 4-way enter section there is one that is really faded up there I would appreciate if you put one up there. Did you get anymore caps for them poles?

**Roberts** states we ordered 12-15 of them and they were the wrong size, but we have some coming for them.

**ITEM 6: DISCUSS AND/OR APPROVE PAYING INV# 128149 TO ACLARIAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$971.25 FROM THE ARPA FUNDS FOR THE NEW SYSTEM:**

**MOTION:** by Decker to approve paying Inv# 128149, seconded by Browning. Motion carried.

**ITEM 7: DISCUSS AND/OR APPROVE POSSIBLE CHANGES TO PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR EMPLOYEE/APPLICANT:**

**Tibbs** states this was brought forward from the last meeting to discuss changing the employee manual to allow hiring of individuals that do not have a license currently right now, in the employee handbook we do not hire without a license. There may be opportunities where we could hire someone without a license as long as they have experience in the areas we need. We are looking at do we want to put this option in the employee handbook or not?

**Eighner** states the County advertised two jobs this week, we lost an employee there and to the School this week. I think we need to adapt the City of Moore Haven is employee poor and there are certain people that can't get a driver's license/CDL, but they can ride on the garbage truck, pass a drug test and same with heavy equipment. Roberts and Tibbs are trying.

**Decker** states how many employees did we lose?

**Roberts** states I know of one.

**Eighner** states the County advertised the same lawn and maintenance positions one was \$15- \$18 per hour and the other one was just going around and cleaning the bathrooms for the County.

**Tibbs** states parks and recreation they have advertised for \$13-\$15 an hour, and grounds keeper they have \$15 an hour both with 4-day work weeks.

**Ramunni** states if driving is not a part of the essential part of the job duties, then there is no legal impediment to hiring someone who doesn't have a driver's licenses.

**Browning** states so the only thing that's keeping us from hiring someone without a license is the rules.

**Ramunni** states yes if it does not work you can always go back.

**MOTION:** By Eighner to change the personal policy to include people that do not have a driver's license but have a proper ID and can go through the steps to be a City employee if they are applying for a job that does not require a driver's license. Motion died from lack of a second.

**ITEM 8: DISCUSS AND/OR APPROVE NAMING OF ALLEY SOUTH OF RAILROAD AVE NW:**

**Tibbs** states there is an alley way that runs south of Railroad Ave NW and currently there are residents that on that street that have street address so when fire and EMS were responding they were having a hard time searching that location.

**Whidden** states did you get with E-911?

**Tibbs** states yes.

**MOTION:** by Decker to approve naming the alley South of Railroad Ave NW, seconded by Browning. Motion carried.

**ITEM 9: DISCUSS AND/OR APPROVE CERTIFICATION OF TAXABLE VALUE AND SETTING THE DATE FOR THE FIRST PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING:**

**Tibbs** states by state law the property appraisers give you your certified certification of taxable value for the upcoming year we use that for budget purposes, part of the trim guys we have to set purpose millage rate and we have to provide them with the date of the first public hearing, to the property appraisers by August 4<sup>th</sup>. as we go forward if we do smaller increases over the years its not as bad as hitting something later on with a larger increase.

**Decker** states can we make it on a 2.56% increase?

**Tibbs** states that's the council's decision I think we need to gradually increase things instead of hitting them all at once.

**MOTION:** By Decker to approve the 4.2500 millage rate, seconded by Browning. Motion Carried.

**ITEM 10: APPROVAL OF BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 52,117.14:**

**MOTION:** By Eighner to approve the bills in the amount of \$52,117.14, seconded by Browning. Motion carried.

**ITEM 11: CITIZENS COMMENTS/GENERAL CONCERNS:**

**Citizen Mrs. Brown** states last meeting I attended I was asking about them cleaning out the culverts on 10<sup>th</sup> street you all sent the guys out and they pulled the garbage out and they left it right there so when it rained again and washed back up there, we still are flooding on 10<sup>th</sup> street.

**Roberts** states last year we spent two months going from the Commons all the way down Cactus with our equipment and raised them up the ones that were crushed we dug them out the City did that, and this year we have done the same thing, but I will send them back over there tomorrow.

**Joe Rouse** states the cost of living raise the Council was giving out to the employees I have not received mine in 3-4 years I talked to Roberts and Miller about it, they said they would straighten it out, but I never got it.

**Wills** states I know for sure you got it last year, but nobody got it this year.

**Joe Rouse** states that I did not get it last year.

**Wills** states I seen the spreadsheet and the change is in the system I can pull it up tomorrow.

**Roberts** states as it stands, I will clarify Rouse and Miller had a discussion I was not a part of it, but I was brought in by Rouse after the fact so being there one on one I was not there with them.

**Whidden** states if you got the raise or did not get the raise it would be on that spreadsheet, some of them raises are up to the supervisor discretion you could get 5%, 4%, 3%, 2% or no percent but I'm not going to be out of the loop for 3 years on it, I wish you would have let me know before now. But Wills has it on a spreadsheet and can look at it tomorrow and get with you on it.

**ITEM 12: MAYOR AND COUNCIL TO GIVE REPORTS**

**Decker** states I was at the water plant last week, they have done a real nice job on the fuel tank, and I think a letter thanking Carl Perry from the Council for letting us use his portable tank would be in order I would like to thank Perry for letting us use his tank.

**Whidden** there is a ribbon cutting at Thursday 8:30am at the new Johnson's doctor's office and right now they plan on opening Monday.

**ITEM 13: DISCUSS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS IF NEEDED:**

NONE.

**ITEM 14: ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** By Eighner to adjourn, seconded by Decker. Motion carried.

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**Ashley Wills, City Clerk**  
Meeting adjourned at 7:49 P.M.

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**Bret Whidden, Mayor**

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