

**CITY OF BROOKSVILLE  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
201 HOWELL AVENUE  
MINUTES**

June 20, 2011

7:00 P.M.

Brooksville City Council met in regular session with Mayor Frankie Burnett, Vice Mayor Joseph E. Johnston, III, Council Members, Joe Bernardini, Lara Bradburn and Emory Pierce present. Also present were Thomas S. Hogan, Jr., City Attorney; T. Jennene Norman-Vacha, City Manager; Janice L. Peters, City Clerk; Steve Baumgartner, Finance Director; Mike Walker, Parks and Recreation Director; Bill Geiger, Community Development Director; Richard Radack, Interim Director of Public Works; George Turner, Police Chief and Tim Mossgrove, Fire Chief. Members of the Hernando Times and Hernando Today were present.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Burnett, followed by an invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENTATION AND REQUEST FOR WAIVERS**

**Youth & Family Alternatives/New Beginnings**

Consideration of request to waive fees in the amount of \$648.26 for the 5K Run and 1 mile fun run on October 22, 2011 and approval of budget amendment.

Vice President of Prevention Services with Youth and Family Alternatives Andy Coble, also representing New Beginnings youth shelter, reviewed the fundraising event which will coincide with the Farmers Market. He indicated they expect four hundred (400) participants.

Council Member Bernardini is any money left in the fund for fee waivers allocated by Council. Mayor Burnett stated there is none left. Council Member Bernardini advised he cannot agree to encumber a budget not yet approved. Council Member Bradburn and Vice Mayor Johnston agreed.

**Motion:**

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Johnston and seconded by Council Member Bernardini for approval to table until the September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

**Humane Society of the Nature Coast - Annual Fur Fest**

Consideration of request to waive fees in the amount of \$285 to offset costs to hold the Annual Fur Fest in Tom Varn Park on Saturday November 12 & 13, 2011, along with approval to allow pets on leashes in Tom Varn Park and adjoining areas.

Michelle Curtis, Humane Society of the Nature Coast, reviewed the event.

**Motion:**

Motion was made by Council Member Bradburn and seconded by Council Member Bernardini for approval to table until the September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

**CERTIFICATES, PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Parks & Recreation Month Proclamation**

Proclamation recognizing July as Parks & Recreation month.

Council Member Bernardini read the proclamation in its entirety and it was presented by Council to Parks, Facilities and Recreation Director Mike Walker.

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## Tom Varn Park National Designation

Recognition of National Recreation Trail designation award to the Tom Varn Park Hiking and Jogging Trail by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Council Member Bradburn read the letter from the Secretary of the Interior concerning the designation. She stated the designation will promote financial and recreational opportunities for the City. She commended City staff for their dedication on this effort and the County Commission and Metropolitan Planning Organization for their support.

The official plaque and certificate will be displayed at the Parks and Recreation facility. Director Walker added the City is one of 31 designated trails in Florida and 1,150 in the nation. Mayor Burnett added the designation gives the City additional points towards consideration of grant funding and thanked staff for their work.

## **CITIZEN INPUT**

Mayor Burnett asked for public input; there was none.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### Community Readiness Initiative

Consideration of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Hernando County Health Department.

### Surplus Equipment

Consideration to dispose of surplus equipment that is obsolete, broken or no longer serves a useful function with authorization for the City Manager via the joint County/School Board/City auction or as appropriate.

### Meter Purchase

Consideration to piggyback on Hernando County's annual meter bid with SMS for the purchase of meters in accordance with the ESG Agreement.

### HVAC Direct Material Purchase

Consideration of approval to purchase the HVAC system and associated equipment in accordance with the ESG Agreement.

Council Member Bradburn referenced Surplus Equipment and asked does the City have any manual typewriters left. City Manager Norman-Vacha confirmed that there are still typewriters in various city offices.

Council Member Bernardini referenced HVAC Direct Material Purchase and asked for clarification on the bid amounts. Mayor Burnett clarified there were two (2) different options bid on.

Council Member Bradburn asked when Energy Systems Group will be finished. City Manager Norman-Vacha stated City Hall project will be finalized in October or November.

Regional Director of Energy Systems Group Chris Summers stated this project will be in phases; AMR Water Meter project will be completed within a month timeframe and the City Hall phasing plan is underway. He expects the project to be completed by the end of the year.

## Motion:

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Johnston and seconded by Council Member Pierce for approval of Consent Agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

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## REGULAR AGENDA

### Ordinance No. 819 - Sign Regulations Chapter 125 of the Code of Ordinances

Staff report and consideration of options relating to the Code of Ordinances Chapter 125 regarding signs.

Director of Community Development Bill Geiger briefly reviewed the ordinance, indicating modifications requested by Council at the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting have been made, which he reviewed.

Council Member Pierce recommended eliminating the \$50 fee. Council Member Bernardini, Vice Mayor Johnston and Council Member Bradburn were not agreeable to removal of the fee. Director Geiger indicated it would help defer the cost of monitoring. Council Member Pierce withdrew his recommendation.

Council Member Bradburn referenced Section 2; and questioned continuous days once every three (3) months as she recalled it being every six (6) months. Mayor Burnett recalled it to be three (3) months. Director Geiger stated it would allow for a thirty (30) day period once each quarter throughout a year to display additional temporary signage with a one (1) year sunset.

Director Geiger referenced Section 2; provided for a new business to be defined as existing twelve (12) months within the period of time prior to registering for the temporary signage permit.

Mayor Burnett asked for public input; there was none.

### Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Bradburn and seconded by Council Member Pierce for approval with a one year sunset and alter Section 1 Paragraph 2 to 6-months.

City Clerk Peters read Ordinance No. 819 by title, as follows:

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA, PROVIDING TEMPORARY SIGN OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMERCIAL USES; PROVIDING STANDARDS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR PERMITTING TEMPORARY SIGNS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE.**

Council Member Bernardini distributed documentation of the allowed signage for Horse Lake Plaza, which he reviewed, expressing his continued opposition to allow additional signage in the City.

Vice Mayor Johnston stated his opposition to feather signs.

Council Member Bradburn said she agreed with Council Member Bernardini on 90% pointing out how many signs throughout the City are legal under the existing ordinance and temporary sign ordinance. In reference to Council Member Bernardini's pictures, this is not the image she would like portrayed for the City of Brooksville but emphasized this is not what the proposed allows. She stated some buildings pictured are grandfathered in because they existed prior to the widening of US41 and prior to enactment of the City's sign ordinance.

She preferred modifying Section 2 to thirty (30) days every six (6) months with a sunset period. She pointed out Mr. Tinkham is one of many business owners who have approached City Council Members for some relief. She stated she worked hard on the City's sign ordinance and she feels it is not necessary to rewrite it. This would be a "test case" for temporary relief to businesses in this climate.

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Director Geiger stated code enforcement staff is addressing the fireworks property with citation procedures in place. City Attorney Hogan advised against discussion of this property due to a possible upcoming hearing.

Council Member Pierce supported changing paragraph 2 to thirty (30) continuous days every 6-months as recommended by Council Member Bradburn instead of 3-months. Motion was amended accordingly.

Director Geiger clarified holiday signage as federal, state or local holidays. City Manager Norman-Vacha stated most local holidays are recognized as federal holidays. Vice Mayor Johnston pointed out holiday signs have to be in conformity with allowable signage. Director Geiger indicated staff is currently working on allowable holiday signage and intends to bring back the Land Development Code to City Council within the next two (2) to three (3) months.

Motion carried 3-2 upon roll call vote, as follows:

Council Member Bradburn	Aye
Council Member Bernardini	Nay
Council Member Pierce	Aye
Vice Mayor Johnston	Nay
Mayor Burnett	Aye

City Attorney Rey indicated due to substantive changes made by Council the ordinance will receive another first reading on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Personnel Policy**

For discussion only.

Council Member Joe Bernardini distributed copies of the Hernando County Personnel Advisory Board and Employee Grievance Policy for Council review and recommended moving forward with a similar policy. Mayor Burnett requested this item be placed on the July 18<sup>th</sup> agenda for discussion after an opportunity to review.

Council Member Bradburn requested the agenda item include all Minutes and discussions relating to disbanding its previous Personnel Board force. City Manager Norman-Vacha pointed out in conjunction with this item there will be other Personnel Policy Amendments on the agenda for consideration.

### **Brooksville Housing Authority Board Appointment**

Consideration of Mayoral appointment of a member to the Brooksville Housing Authority as a result of term expiration.

Mayor Burnett recommended reappointment of Yvette Taylor to the Brooksville Housing Authority Board. He stated the position was duly advertised but no other interested parties applied. Council Member Bradburn pointed out City Council recently appointed a new member of the community to sit on the board.

### **Motion:**

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Johnston and seconded by Council Member Bernardini for concurrence of the Mayor's appointment. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Good Neighbor Trail Board Appointment**

Consideration of appointment of a member to the board as a result of a resignation.

Mayor Burnett indicated there was one new applicant for this position and recommended

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appointment. Council Member Bradburn stated Ms. Shoeman was recommended by the Historical Society which is confident in her credentials.

### **Motion:**

Motion was made by Council Member Bradburn and seconded by Vice Mayor Johnston for approval. Motion carried 5-0.

### **CITIZEN INPUT**

Mayor Burnett asked for public input; there was none.

### **ITEMS BY COUNCIL**

#### **Lara Bradburn, Council Member**

##### Art Gallery Exhibit Reception

Council Member Bradburn commended City staff Lindsay Morgan and Terri Carter on a job well done presenting the artwork and a successful event. She asked for better coordination with Parks staff regarding keeping the air conditioning running during special events.

#### **Emory Pierce, Vice Mayor**

##### Water Meter Project

Council Member Pierce is pleased that the projects are moving forward regarding the Radio Read Meters as it should be priority. He would like to see a bar chart which lists the other projects by Energy Systems Group with estimated dates for bidding and bid openings as a guide to keeping the project on track.

##### Personnel Policy

He requested that a complete final version notating new amendment sections be presented to Council a couple of weeks prior to July 18<sup>th</sup>. City Manager Norman-Vacha confirmed staff is currently working on finalizing some policies to allow sufficient time for review prior to the next City Council meeting. Council Member Bradburn stated that she did not need another copy of what has already been approved by Council but would need the new amendment sections. Mayor Burnett recommended a workshop on the Personnel Policy prior to adopting a final version.

#### **Joe Bernardini, Council Member**

##### Red Light Cameras

Council Member Bernardini pointed out there has been several newspaper articles published recently concerning red light camera issues.

##### Quarry Golf Course Sign

He requested that Council be notified of any future changes beforehand as he was not aware that the sign was going to be taken down and replaced with a big bucket. He assumed it was going to be placed near the Enrichment Center. City Manager Norman-Vacha explained there are plans for a new sign at that location and there are continuing efforts with Cemex and the Hernando County Mining Association for placing mining equipment on site to promote the museum.

Council Member Bradburn announced Tommy Bronson indicated there are onsite plans for a rock crusher next. She thanked Mr. Bronson for this partnership to profile history.

##### Human Resources Meeting/Internal Affairs Investigation

He asked Council Member Pierce did his recollection of his individual meeting with Human Resources, the City Manager and the Police Chief, correctly reflect in the notes taken. Council Member Pierce confirmed that they did.

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He stated that he was not aware there was an open Internal Affairs Investigation during these meetings. Council Member Bradburn stated she felt Council Members were briefed adequately on the matter.

### Complaint Investigation

He addressed Mayor Burnett on hiring an attorney without a set monetary limit to investigate a recent employee allegation and requested Council Members be briefed on matters such as this prior to an investigation. He felt the City Manager should have been placed on administrative leave during the investigation.

Mayor Burnett indicated City Council policy was followed by direction of the City Attorney in a time sensitive matter currently under investigation. A final report of findings/recommendations will be provided to Council Members. He directed the City Attorney provide Council Members with a copy of the policy for their information.

Council Member Pierce supported Mayor Burnett in his timely action on this matter. He agreed with Council Member Bernardini that the City Manager should have been placed on administrative leave during the investigation. He requested a cost estimate of time spent to date by the special magistrate and an update every two (2) weeks.

Mayor Burnett indicated special counsel is working with Human Resources under his direction and he will provide the information to Council Member Pierce as requested. He assured Council Members will be kept apprised of the investigation progress. He did not find it necessary to put the City Manager on administrative leave during the investigation.

Council Member Bradburn reminded Council of their role in personnel matters with its limited authority and the importance of maintaining professional conduct during such public matters.

### **Joe Johnston, Vice Mayor**

#### Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council

Vice Mayor Johnston indicated during a recent meeting it was announced WRPC staff has decreased from fourteen (14) to five (5) in the past two (2) years due to budget cutbacks.

### **Frankie Burnett, Mayor**

#### Proclamation to Mountain Family

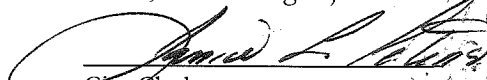
Mayor Burnett informed Council Members a proclamation was sent to the family on behalf of a recent family member passing.

#### Father's Day Recognitions

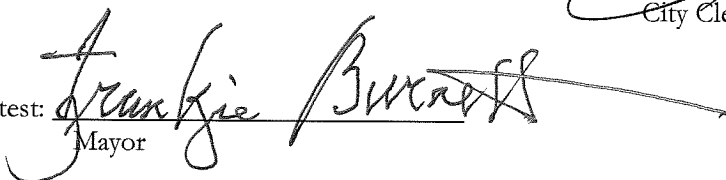
He stated recognitions were presented to Tommy Bronson; Tom Hogan, Sr.; Jim Kimbrough; Gene Manual, Sr.; and Peter Burnett.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to bring before Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

  
City Clerk

Attest:

  
Mayor