

**MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION TOWN HALL
HAINES CITY, FLORIDA**

January 25, 2018

5:30 PM

Library Community Room

1. CALL TO ORDER

At 5:33 p.m. Mayor H.L. Roy Tyler called the City Commission Town Hall meeting to order in the Library Community Room located at 111 N. 6th Street, Haines City, Florida.

Mayor H.L. Roy Tyler, Vice Mayor Morris West, Commissioner Anne Huffman, and Commissioner Horace West were in attendance. Commissioner Don Mason was excused.

Also in attendance were the following staff members: City Manager Deric Feacher, City Attorney Fred Reilly, and City Clerk Linda Bourgeois.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Tyler explained to the audience the procedural process anticipated for the Town Hall meeting. Audience questions, comments, concerns, or requests for information will be recorded and answered within a document prepared by the City Manager's office. This document will then be posted on the website and available for public inspection. The following individuals came forward to speak with the Mayor and City Commission.

1. Loretta Cox

- The railroad crossings in the City are rough. Specifically, the one by the fertilizer plant and city hall. She has to almost come to a complete stop before going over them due to the car's suspension.

2. Sean O'Donnell

- Wanted to know how much right-of-way the city owned by the railroad tracks.
- Asked about city maintenance of the sidewalks throughout the downtown area. He requested that they be assessed and scheduled for maintenance.
- Corner of 6th and Main Street is very dark. Street light is missing.
- Businesses in Haines City are struggling. Code Compliance has enforced removing banners from downtown and they need some type of exposure to the patrons. He recommended for a code review to allow for the banners. In addition, he requested the way finding signage to be implemented. His suggestion was to have signs with removable placards for businesses that may come or go.
- He requested to see the budget and was directed to the website.
- A request was made to revitalize the downtown historic district. The city will provide him with information on the Economic Development Council and Chamber of Commerce.
- Business incentives (program) to renovate the buildings within the downtown area.
- Grants or funding opportunities that may be available to business owners for revitalization.
- Look into buying downtown properties for a parking garage or ask the bank across the

street to utilize their parking lot. Parking is one issue that hinders access to the businesses because they can stay all day long and everyone else has nowhere to park. Imposing a time limit of two hour parking was discussed.

- If the city were to consider a parking garage, the foundational structure should be made to handle future expansion.

3. Jennifer Thompson

- Inquired about the developments on Highway 544. She will be provided with an updated citywide residential development map depicting each project.
- She requested that the meeting portal title on the website be renamed to City Meeting Schedule.

3. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:57 p.m. the Town Hall Meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED: _____

BY: _____

ATTEST:

Linda Bourgeois
City Clerk