

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

October 8, 2018

5:30 PM

Oakland Auditorium

1. CALL TO ORDER

At 5:47 p.m., Mayor Morris West called the Town Hall Meeting to order on Monday, October 8, 2018 in the Oakland Auditorium located in 915 Avenue E. NE Haines City, Florida.

Mayor Morris West, Commissioner Roy Tyler (6:20p.m.), Commissioner Horace West and Commissioner Anne Huffman were in attendance. Vice Mayor 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. INVOCATION

Former City Commissioner Joseph Hamilton provided the invocation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor West led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Morris West welcomed everyone to the Town Hall Meeting and provided instructions on how the meeting would be conducted. Each individual was allotted four minutes of uninterrupted speaking time to voice his or her concerns. City staff would take notes, and provide an overview of the meeting for the directors. The department directors will then address the questions and it will be compiled in the form of one document.

Overview of Requests and Comments

1. Dolphus Howard requested for the City Commissioners to consider renaming Cook Field to Oakland Athletic Field.
2. Janet Smith thanked the City Commissioners for the pool, and provided the background on naming Cook Field. Commissioner Huffman said she would like to see the pool named after Mrs. Janet Smith. Mrs. Smith said she did not do this for the recognition, she did it for the citizens.
3. City Attorney Reilly provided clarification on the name Ben T. Graham Park, and said the name would come back to the City Commission in the form of a Resolution.
4. City Attorney Reilly further provided clarification on the proposed naming policy, which was discussed at a workshop in the beginning of 2017, and City Manager Feacher said it was coming back at the next meeting for a formal vote by Resolution.

5. City Clerk Bourgeois provided clarification that the City did not own the South Parcel of Oakland Cemetery or Oak Hill cemetery, and explained the databases for the two cemeteries were in-house and not available online.
6. Jackie Rampergas spoke about the condition of the houses around her properties (35 Ash Street; 69 Cedar Street; and 418 S. 14th Street - Rose Hall) and wanted to know if there was anything that could be done to help revitalize the area.
7. Hattie Fisher-McDowell thanked the City Manager for the assistance with the debris around her house. She went on to speak about the dead trees along Martin Luther King, Jr., and said there was a light pole that looked like it was going to fall on or near Claude Holmes Boulevard. In addition, she said there were cracked sidewalks with grass growing through and wanted to know if the city could help clean them up.
8. The City Commission discussed the tight turn radiuses when taking a right hand turn onto Avenue E and F in the Oakland community.
9. Commissioner Huffman said there was a need for privacy and buffers around the Public Works and Utilities facility.
10. A discussion ensued about the CSX mowing contract of the railroad right of way. It was requested for the city to mow more than the four times a year. In the event that was not possible, it was recommended to mow the four times from May to October.
11. A comment was made that the CSX property from Main to Ash was mowed but from Ash to Claude Holmes Blvd. it looked unkempt.
12. Mary White spoke about the grass growing between the cracks of the sidewalks and that they were in need of pressure washing. Her second concern was the stormwater drain that was once fixed was still flooding. She said, we need our taxes to come back to us.
13. Further discussion surrounded the need for stormwater drain repair to be placed on the curve area when leaving Winn Dixie (Curve at 5th and North Avenue).
14. Phyllis Hall thanked the City Commission for the fence at Oak Hill. She said she was pleased with the results. She also shared about snakes moving around in her neighborhood, and that the residents were placing moth-balls outside to protect their property from the snakes.
15. It was suggested to use city equipment to take care of mowing the empty or vacant lots in the city.
16. It was recommended to use the prison crew to come in and clean the city and/or mow the vacant lots.
17. Shanita Dowdell spoke about the tree companies and their trailers being parked in front of their houses full of tree debris. She said the debris attracts cockroaches and requested to look at the code for those types of trailers. She also asked about where the city was

with fixing the railroad crossings in the city. It was recommended for city staff to provide her with the CSX information so she can call them as a citizen. It was further suggested to have the citizens of Haines City call so maybe CSX would take notice, rather than just city staff calling in complaints.

18. Erma Loretta Cox shared a story about a snake in her house. She said she thinks they are on the move from the mowing near the shoreline of Lake Boomerang.
19. Olivia Wiley requested a traffic light at Bates and 10th street or on Patterson. It was explained to her the road was not owned by Haines City.
20. Mattie West said people were playing their music so loud between 8 am - 6 pm that it disrupted her quality of life. She would like to see more enforcement options.

The City Commission discussed several options regarding citizen's concerns, provided information, and said they appreciated their attendance.

There was no formal action by the City Commission.

5. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:23 p.m., the Town Hall Meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED: _____

BY: _____

ATTEST:

Linda Bourgeois
City Clerk