



City of \_\_\_\_\_  
**HAWTHORNE**  
Florida

6700 SE 221<sup>st</sup> Street  
PO Box 1270  
Hawthorne, FL 32640  
Telephone (352) 481-2432  
Fax (352) 481-2437

**Minutes**  
**Regular Commission Meeting**  
**March 17, 2009**

**A. Call To Order**

Mayor Roberts called the Commission Meeting to order at 6:30PM. Board Present: Mayor Roberts, Vice Mayor Martin, Commissioners Rutledge, Randall and Bouie. Staff Present: City Clerk Mayes and Deputy Clerk McGruder. Commissioner Bouie gave the Invocation and Commissioner Rutledge led the pledge of allegiance.

**B. Approval of Agenda**

Moved to approve the agenda.

Motion- Vice Mayor Martin

Second- Commissioner Randall

Vote- 5-0

**C. Recognitions, Proclamations, and Guests**

None

**D. Consent Agenda**

Motion- Commissioner Randall

Second- Commissioner Bouie

Vote- 5-0

**E. Public Hearings**

1. Ordinance 2009-09 (Second Reading) Annexation 08-3 Gregory and Belinda Lubben  
City Clerk Donna Mayes summarized the Ordinance and recommended approval.

Motion- Commissioner Bouie

Second- Commissioner Rutledge

Vote- 5-0

**F. Regular Agenda**

Mayor Roberts announce that Alachua City Manager Mr. Clovis Watson Jr. (Consultant) is running late and we would just go to the next regular agenda item.

1. SHIP Report

Mayor Roberts read the report from David Hruska asking to City Commission Board to approve a loan for Ms. Francis Rollins. Commissioner Bouie excused herself because the recipient for the loan is a family member.

Moved to approve SHIP loan 09SHIP.29 in the amount of \$7,500.00 for Ms. Francis Rollins.

Motion- Vice Mayor Martin

Second- Commissioner Rutledge

Vote- 4-0

## 2. Interim City Manager

Mayor Roberts suggested to the Commission Board to except the recommendation of Alachua City Manager Mr. Clovis Watson Jr (Consultant for the City of Hawthorne). Mr. Watson stated he looked over several applicants for the Interim City Manager position with Mayor Roberts and thinks the Mayor did a great job trying to deal with the situation the City is in. Mr. Watson introduced Ms. Linda Rice Chapman as his recommendation for the Interim City Manager. Mr. Watson also added that Ms. Chapman is an attorney and has several years of experience in Government. The Commission Board asked a series of questions addressed to Mr. Watson and Ms. Chapman. Mr. Watson informed the board that Ms. Chapman is not interested in becoming the permanent City Manager. She is willing to fill the position at \$50,000 per year which is \$5,000 more than the previous City Manager was making due to her experience in law. He anticipates Ms. Chapman to be on board for 12 weeks. In reference to benefits she will sit down with the Mayor and negotiate on a short term basis. The Commission Board thanked Mr. Watson and Ms. Chapman for their willingness to help the City of Hawthorne. Vice Mayor Martin also thanked city staff, especially City Clerk Mayes.

Moved to except the recommendation from Mayor Roberts and Alachua City Manager Mr. Clovis Watson Jr, (Consultant for the City of Hawthorne) and make Ms. Linda Rice Chapman as Interim City Manager for the City of Hawthorne.

Motion- Commissioner Randall

Second- Commissioner Bouie

Vote- 5-0

## 3. Recreation

Vice Mayor Martin stated he has issues dissolving the recreation department. He is concerned that we don't have an alternative back up plan for the children in the city. Vice Mayor Martin asked the Commission Board to give the new Interim City Manager a chance to decide what we should do with the recreation department. Alachua City Manager Mr. Clovis Watson Jr (Consultant for the City of Hawthorne) said Ms. Chapman has not had time to evaluate the recreation budget for the City of Hawthorne. He did add that the City of Alachua recreation department started out as volunteer recreation department. Commissioner Rutledge and Commissioner Randall both stated they do not want to see the recreation director lose his job, but wouldn't mind cutting his salary in half or making the position part time. Mayor Roberts recommended letting the new Interim City Manager evaluate the recreation budget.

## 4. Ordinance 2009-10 (1<sup>st</sup> Reading) Fire Services MSTU

Mr. Harry Carter, Chairman of the Advisory Panel informed the Commission Board about the meeting with Alachua County Fire Chief Bailey, Mayor Roberts, and himself to refine the fire agreement between the Alachua County and the City of Hawthorne. During the meeting the County informed Mr. Carter they wanted the fire building deeded to them and if they left the City the building would return to the City. The Advisory Panel doesn't see the City of Hawthorne getting back into the fire business for another 10 years. Alachua County can be in the fire station by May 1 if the MSTU ordinance is passed. They are not interested in the City's truck but they will help sell the truck. They will not do away with the current debt owed to them, and they also declined to hire any of our current fire staff because they are part time employees. Alachua City Manager Mr. Clovis Watson Jr (Consultant for the City of Hawthorne) added he is an advocate for the MSTU, but he does not think the City of Hawthorne should deed the building



Special Commission Meeting is scheduled on March 30, 2009 at 6:30PM for the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading on Ordinance 2009-10 Fire Services MSTU

**I. ADJOURN**

Moved to adjourn the March 17, 2009 Commission Meeting at 8:50PM.

Motion- Commissioner Randall                      Second- Commissioner Bouie

Vote- 4-0

These minutes for the March 17, 2009 Regular Commission Meeting are submitted for approval.

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Donna R. Mayes, City Clerk

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DeLoris Roberts, Mayor

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Lakesha H. McGruder, Deputy Clerk