

**Town of Pomona Park - Town Council & Public Hearing Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 14, 2020 (6pm)**

Mayor Joseph Svingala presided. Council present were Dr. Robert Warren, Lynda Linkswiler, CarrieAnn Evans, Patricia Mead, James Griffin, and Victor Szatkowski were all present. Attorney Sherar, Clerk Donna Fontana, Treasurer Kelly Krupski and Maintenance Supervisor Bruce Wolfred were all present.

Mayor Joseph Svingala led in the pledge to the flag. Mayor Svingala called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and welcomed everyone. There was a moment of silence in remembrance of Town resident Beverly Phillips.

**Meeting Minutes:**

The Mayor requested approval of the Minutes from 12/10/2019 & CATF 5/7/2019. Mayor requested that we no longer list the Beautification Minutes on the Agenda every month because we don't vote on them. Councilwoman Evans said wouldn't that include the CATF minutes because we weren't there. Attorney said that you have to show that you had it in your packet to show that you had the meeting in compliance with the requirement to have the meeting. You're not voting on it you're just appending it to show that it was done. Councilwoman Evans made a Motion for approval of 12/10/19 and it was seconded by Councilman Warren, unanimous to approve.

**Guest Speakers:**

Kathy Baker and Mike Tibble did not show. Discussion ensued about the CDBG grant and if we abandoned part of the CDBG and move it to other things that were already identified by the CATF team. Mayor said, we need to drop that drainage project (Perry/Middleton) from the CDBG, stay with the other side of the road drainage and add something else to the grant, because that thing is going to be no where near finished tomorrow. The state is not going to want to do what we want them to do tomorrow. Clerk to ask surveyor to remove the drainage per Mayor's request. Mayor said, so everybody knows that we have been trying since last spring to get a surveyor and its been absolutely nobody except the gentleman that Craig sent to us and his cost was \$39,500. Attorney said, I don't think we should cut it out because DOT could say they will cover part of the cost of the drainage and you would need the survey. Treasurer said, the grant application has not released yet. It is supposed to release at the end of January. You have 90 days after it gets released that's why Mike was saying without a survey, he can't give us anything. Councilwoman Pat asked, why would we do drainage before they put 17 in? Kelly said, CATF voted on this. Attorney said, DOT has been diverting drainage off the road through the culvert behind the Pizza place over to that pond that's in the middle of Perry St. and then it goes down Perry to Middleton and then to the lake. It is flooding the guy on the corner of Middleton & Perry and everybody else tells me it causes flood damage. Councilwoman Pat said, this is a problem that we have been talking about for 30 years. It's come up before the Council numerous times and nobody has solved it yet and I can't imagine that DOT is going to think about solving anything until they 4 lane 17. Attorney discussed imminent domain actions. We won't know until after the meeting tomorrow. Clerk said, we may have to call a special meeting for the CATF to change what will be covered for the grant, maybe the roof on the Community Center, the bathrooms at the beach and the pavilion and the sidewalks down East Main &

Broward. That survey will be lower than \$39,500. Mayor said, we have to determine if we are taking the complete drainage out, everything, what are we going to spend \$500,000 on? Because what's left after that drainage is not \$500,000. Mayor said, whereas that side (East) is convoluted with the State, this side (West) is convoluted with where you're running the water off to because right now its being run onto private property that we don't own so we have to own the property first. I think we are at a point where we drop the drainage out of this one and put everything else in that we can think of. Clerk said, I don't know how we would have time to go to that property owner, have that section surveyed that we need and make a proposal on purchasing that for drainage. Mayor said let's look at CATF list and see what we could add to this.

### **Public Hearing items:**

Resolution 2020-1 Authorizing the Purchase of a Kubota L3901 DT Tractor. Bruce Wolfred explained the tractor use and answered questions presented. Councilwoman Mead made a motion to pass Resolution 2020-1, seconded by Councilwoman Evans, unanimous vote to approve.

Resolution 2020-2 Authorizing the Adoption of the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement. Clerk explained that we have an agreement that was signed 2003 and this is an update to that requested by the Governor's office. Bruce said we need to prepare and submit an Emergency Management Plan since we sign this agreement and so they won't drop us. Councilwoman Evans made a motion to pass Resolution 2020-2, seconded by Councilman Warren, unanimous vote to approve.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Councilwoman Linkswiler gave an update for Beautification First Saturday Breakfast, served 45 people, proceeds \$247.50. We talked a lot about how to increase business. We ordered business cards to pass out with information about the breakfast. We talked about making flyers.

Approved ordering more directional signs to remove the vendor's market. We are selling "We love Pomona Park" aprons for \$18. We are planning to put a small cookbook together to sell for \$5. We ordered condiment racks for the tables which will help up setup & clear faster. We will have the stone ready for Patricia Bergquist for the memorial on 2/15.

Bruce Wolfred – The Mayor requested that I do a weekly maintenance summary and provide it to the Clerk and have her send it with her notes that she sends. I will coordinate with Donna when she wants to get those out. I will send out the major things we run into. The last water sample at ballfield failed again. I found that someone tied the irrigation well into the potable well. I spoke to the health department and explained that I would find the splice and isolate it and to get it back on the potable well only. Now the concession stand and the bathroom are back on the potable well. I built a draft system to be able to be able to chlorinate the system. The samples have been retaken and submitted. I now have a sample point at the well now. This should fix the problem. Clerk said, kudos to Bruce because this was a lot bigger than what he is making out to be. Its been like that forever and he's the one that found it and corrected it. Shirley said, we are so happy to have you on board here at Pomona Park. Have you drawn diagrams when you get through? Bruce said, there was nothing that told me anything. I've created a book now so that whoever follows me, all of this is diagramed and documented. The bathroom that we leave open, there is no sink. I will be installing a new sink by the end of the

week. Tomorrow we will start pressure washing the Community Center and at the Mayor's request, the wood part of the front of the stage. We are going to paint that prior to the 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. We got the right of way cut back just north of Geo's. We added security lights underneath the overhang at the maintenance shop and in the back by the shed and the one on north end of Town Hall. The handicap bathroom assistance alert is installed and anyone with a key to the front door can get into that bathroom. Joyce asked, is there anyway that can be incorporated into the other restrooms? Bruce will check into that. Councilwoman Evans was concerned about kids ripping them out of the wall. Hasn't the bathroom renovations been in the budget for years? Clerk said, that is not in the current budget, but it was included as an unmet need in the CDBG grant. Bruce said, he has only received one quote for annual a/c service and that was from Southern Air. I need more specifics on what will be included in that service.

The Mayor said, on that safety alarm system for the restrooms, the officers of the Senior Program offered to pay for 1 of the systems to go into the restroom.

Treasurer Kelly gave the financial review. Councilwoman Evans asked about equipment and furniture for \$4438.91. Kelly said, this is from 2008. Motes knows this. After the audit is complete, they will assist us in deducting all of these charges that were either duplicates or didn't clear and are still sitting in your balance. Councilwoman Evans also asked about overtime on page 28 \$227.81, pg. 29 \$42.00, \$67.50. Kelly said, the \$227.81 is financial & administrative and there are budgeted hours of overtime. You are probably looking at road & street, park & rec overtime. This is from when they had to close the beach. The Trial Balance carries over everything that has been spent this fiscal year. Clerk said, there was half an hour that we paid Bruce because it was a Friday afternoon for the ballpark, where a hole with a piece of metal was protruding. That was the only new thing. Councilwoman Evans was curious if anyone is using the library internet? Kelly explained that it is not working. Clerk was not aware that it was not working. Kelly said, she ordered a new router and now its not working again but I will get it working again. We do have a pc that is on it and some people do use the wireless. Kelly explained that she and Donna have spent countless hours on the phone with AT&T trying to get this working.

### **New Business:**

Councilwoman Linkswiler discussed the need to replace the main entrance steps to the Community Center. She showed a picture and said this is our welcome mat. Chunks are out of the concrete. Councilman Griffin said, I would like them removed and put new ones in. The steps are not equal, they are different heights. Clerk explained that Lynda discussed this with me and then I spoke to Bruce about it. Bruce said its beyond his scope. I contacted Do All Concrete and asked him if it can be repaired or should we bust them out and remove them. I will continue to try to get bids on this. It will have to be ADA compliant. If we do it through the grant the ramp may have to be included. Bruce said, the minimum step height is 6 inches and maximum is 8 inches, you can below that you just can't go beyond that. Councilwoman Evans brought up the book ben at the Community Center and said all she ever sees is adults sitting on it and smoking, it's very unattractive. Judy said, she just had someone tell her that they saw a man taking books and sitting down and reading them to his kids. Mayor said, he has told people that they can bring them home and bring them back.

Clerk discussed that the Mayor wanted to have an ad placed for the Community Center rentals. Beautification and Senior Program wanted to advertise also. We thought if we did one ad we could divide up the price between the 3 groups and it would keep our price down. Joyce said that the Journal has a section for events that is free and that the Senior Program is going to use that. Judy said beautification will also use that. Clerk said, Palatka Daily has the same thing and Pat had me send the Tree Board Arbor Day to them. Shirley said, Neighborhood Watch has been in it for years.

Clerk discussed the current 2 hour a week Sheriff coverage that we have in place. One Deputy is a K9 unit and he proposed a once a month 6 hour shift which would help him to change up the hours and try to work the drug issues. His name is Deputy Jerry Gentry and his partner is Halo. Deputy Gentry has been the most successful in enforcing all laws within the Town. We have the money in the budget to cover this additional cost. Some of you saw what was going on at the Community Center with several officers there. They came up here to the Circle K in swat like uniforms covering their faces and arresting people. There were 3 under cover vehicles. There is a lot going on right now. The proposed price would be 6 hours every month for 8 months at \$30 an hour, totaling \$1440.00. That could be taken from the \$6000 that we received from the sale of 117 Hill St. which was placed back into the General Fund and has not been identified for any allocation. Someone asked if we would still have the 2 hours a week. Clerk said, yes, this would be in addition to that. We have requested Deputy Gentry ONLY to be on the 6 hour monthly detail. Councilman Griffin made a Motion to use Deputy Gentry for 6 hours every month for 8 months at \$30 an hour, seconded by Councilwoman Evans. Councilwoman Evans asked if that's all he is willing to do is 6 hours. Clerk said, we could start with 6 hours and then discuss it more. Mayor said, I would like to see if we could combine this one and the next one, the Town Hall cameras, and get a grant to cover both of them. Clerk said, we don't have time to wait for the Town Hall cameras... Mayor said, we've been waiting now for 40-50 years so what's another month? Clerk said, so why keep waiting that makes no sense. Mayor said, I'm just saying I like grants. I like to spend money that's not ours. Councilwoman Mead said, I don't like to wait on a grant, we need to do something now. Councilwoman Evans said, do we need to make a Motion on the cameras? Clerk said, well he brought that up in the discussion of your open Motion so we can jump forward and say that in regards to the Town Hall security cameras, you guys have security cameras at the beach, security cameras going up at Mayor's park and we have none here. All the activity is now happening here. I gave you a list on your handout which didn't include a stabbing that happened on Friday night. Councilwoman Mead said, before we go to the cameras we have a motion. Clerk said, yes but he wants to combine them. Councilwoman Mead said, he can't do that. Mayor said, ok no one wants to combine them. Art said, I think we ought to triple what we are spending on Sheriff's right now. It's money well spent. Mayor asked all in favor, motion passed with unanimous vote to approve.

Clerk reviewed the break down for the cell phones for the administrative staff, Bruce, Kelly and myself. I spoke with Bruce on whether his team should have cell phones or radios and he felt that the radios would work better for his team. We reviewed the cost breakdown on the sheet provided. Councilwoman Evans made a Motion to approve the phones and radios as proposed, seconded by Councilman Griffin. Mayor said, just so you know the \$900 that was just mentioned for this budget year, that would have gone in every single year because that was \$25 a month to pay for the phones that the maintenance crew had on their own. Instead of doing that



we are going this way. Judy said she thought it might be cheaper to buy a year card. Councilwoman Evans modified her motion for the Clerk to go with the less expensive cell phone option and it was seconded by Councilman Griffin. Motion passed unanimously.

Town Hall Cameras. Councilwoman Evans said, I can understand these cameras that you have at the beach and the park. They have these cameras that you can purchase for inside and outside that if there's any movement your cell phone is alerted. Clerk said, you can do that with these cameras as well, it was never set up. Councilwoman Evans said, its senseless to have them. Clerk said it is not and here's why. Since I've been here, we have gone to Hill's to get camera footage because of what's been going on here at Town Hall. They are hanging out here after hours. Councilwoman Evans asked but how will you enforce it? Clerk said, because we will have their faces. Right now, we have shadows in the dark. I got it right now where we pulled up the stabbing that happened Friday night. The fight happened on this side where we put the brand new light. The problem with Hill's cameras is there is no light underneath their awning so its all dark. Even with our brand new light its too dark from their cameras until a car passes by that triggers their motion light. Then we can see more what's going on over here. Even with that when I try to zoom in on it, we can't see faces. I've done a couple of reports with the Sheriff's office. One for the vandalism of our deer and the other one was for the theft of the cones. They can't do anything because they can't see faces. Once the cameras are up there it will make them realize they shouldn't be doing some of what they're doing. Not only that, think about it. This is the hub of your Town. The beach is great, the ballparks are great. This is where everything happens, this is where all of your records are. Someone could easily break in and vandalize it. Councilwoman Evans asked if we have an alarm system on the office. Clerk said, no we have nothing. Councilwoman Evans said, I think we should at least have motion sensors and an alarm system. Councilman Griffin said, I think the doors should be changed to where you can see out as a matter of safety. Our staff should be able to see who's coming at them. Councilwoman Evans said, I know at the vet's office we have a panic button that goes to the Crescent City Police Department. There could be a panic button here. Shirley said, if you get an alarm system then the alarm company will get the call. Councilwoman Evans said, you girls are here alone a lot and you need something. Shirley said, the way that door is positioned it is not safe. Bruce said, there are some flood lights on the back that are not working so I will get those fixed. Clerk handed out pictures printed from Hill's camera when the stabbing happened, but they are very hard to see. Councilwoman Mead asked, somebody stabbed somebody on our bench. Clerk said, no, the fight started over here with 2 groups of young people and then they all went over to the Circle K and started the fight again. The one that had been beaten up the worst stabbed the other one. After that the one that was stabbed and his group came back over here, sat in that bench for 20 minutes before the fire department arrived and then 2 Deputies, an ambulance and then 2 more Deputies. It was 3 cm from his heart. The Circle K got it on camera over there. The proposal is for 5 cameras, 2 on each front corner and 1 on the back. Councilwoman Evans asked about the cost per site. Clerk said, it is ADT monthly fee of \$89.34. Total of \$714.72 for the monthly fee which there is plenty of money in the communications budget to cover this. Councilwoman Evans asked, if we approve this tonight is it something that we can apply for some kind of grant at some other juncture or time to pay the cost for it. Clerk said, so put them in now and then try to get a grant for the recurring cost? Yes. Judy said, there was a break in at the Community Center when the wedding was going on and someone broke into people's cars and stole stuff. We need something there to. Shirley said, so start with this and then get it there

too. Clerk said, we have internet down there so it could be just the one time camera cost and then the monthly ADT fee. Councilman Warren said these cameras are becoming faster, smaller and I think the cameras that we're getting for Mayor's Park may not be what you want for Town Hall. Maybe we get higher quality cameras since we may get so many. Mayor said, so should we look for a grant, or have we paid for Mayor's park already. Clerk said, yes, the cameras have been ordered. Mayor said, personally again, I think this all should be done on a grant together. Councilman Warren said, me too, we think it should be done through a grant also but go find us a grant. Mayor said, I don't think you can apply for a grant to back track. Councilman Warren said, I think you're right. Do you want us to wait on this? Clerk said, did I mention there were 3 swat team today arresting people? Cameras will provide a level of security for us. We have nothing. Attorney said, FPL has a security light program. Clerk said, that's lovely. We have one right here that Bruce just put in on Friday and Friday night was the beating under the light that we can't see anything. Attorney said, that's cause now they can see each other to beat each other up. FPL will put them up and its like \$15 a pole. Clerk said, we've got lights at the Community Center. Attorney said, maybe hire a security consultant or check with the Sheriff Dept. Mayor said, I personally think we're just piece meal everything. A little bit here, a little bit some other time. The whole thing should be figured out as one package and get a grant to cover all of it. Clerk said, how long will that take? Hills across the street has cameras so that their stuff doesn't get stolen. Circle K has cameras so that they can report people stealing gas, etc. We don't have cameras at Town Hall. Mayor said, I'm not saying not to have them, I'm saying let's get the whole package together. Clerk said, you understand how long a grant process takes. Councilman Griffin said, the difficulty is the process that it takes to get a grant Joe. Attorney said, you guys don't know, call up the Sheriff's Dept. and ask them if they know of anything. Judy said, I just think for safety for these girls, we need to have something now. It could take 2 or 3 months to get a grant. Councilwoman Linkswiler said, I agree. Councilwoman Evans said, we've already been how many years here. Mayor said, yeah. Councilwoman Evans said, its going to happen wherever its going to happen. Whatever you're doing is not going to stop it. Shirley said, it is a deterrent. Councilwoman Evans said, another month is not going to stop it from happening if its going to happen. Councilwoman Mead said, we're not going to get a grant in a month. Lynda Linkswiler made a motion to approve the purchase of cameras for Town Hall with the monthly ADT costs, seconded by Councilwoman Mead. Councilmembers Linkswiler, Mead and Griffin voted for the motion, Mayor Svingala and Councilmembers Warren, Evans and Szatkowski opposed the motion. Mayor asked Kelly to call Sheriff's & research security grants, cameras, security alarms for the doors, motion sensors. I think that swing gate needs to go back on with a lock and a remote control for the two young ladies to open it when they want to open it. Councilwoman Linkswiler said, if someone walks in with a gun, they could see them coming with a camera.

Attorney said, Charlie Overturf, the Supervisor of Elections had a question about qualifications for elections. The qualification period is a short period of time in August in which you bring your petitions to the Clerk for her to determine whether or not you've met the qualification. If anybody is running for office, you have to have an account. You have to register with Mr. Overturf because you can't spend money for campaigning unless you have a campaign account. As soon as you open your account then you are subject to the quarterly filings. If you are not going to spend ANY money at all, zero, then you don't have to have an account. The campaign documents that have to be filled out for the state law purposes can be done at any time. If you

know that you're going to run in 2022 and you want to start now, you can get your petitions signed now, you could put a sign up now, but as soon as you spend money, or collecting money you've got to do all those things. Councilwoman Mead said, if you open an account you have to have a treasurer. Attorney said, you can open your campaign account for nothing.

Councilwoman Mead said, you can appoint someone, your husband or friend.

The other thing is there's been a couple of emails going around about the Fitness Center. I didn't know if you all are still interested in that or not. Clerk said, 2 gentlemen came into Town Hall that are considering buying it. They were looking for ideas of what the Town needs. I told them a fitness center. They have already seen 2 local ones fail. They were talking about storage and I said that's true and then maybe you could use a portion of it for a small fitness center with no classes. Attorney said, about a month ago, Donna, Joe and I had a discussion about whether or not we would be doing something with city Hall, making it bigger. This intersection is going to be a major something when they widen 17 and they may wipe out Town Hall. Trying to find space in Town after people know and are buying up land is a problem. I wouldn't be surprised that the State will take so much of this space that it will be worthless. Clerk said future planning needs to occur, 5, 10, 20 year planning. Councilman Griffin asked what about the RCMA building? Clerk said, they just renewed their contract for another 10 years. There was discussion about if we needed to cancel that contract to use that as Town Hall. Clerk said, we also talked about using the RCMA for a shelter. We had discussed that possibility with the EOC in Palatka.

The qualification period is the first Monday of August to the following Friday. You turn in your petitions starting at noon on the first Monday and ending noon on that first Friday. Shirley said, didn't we turn this into Mr. Overturf to handle. Mayor said yes. If you go to election office the girls at the counter will fill it out for you, the campaign, treasury and reporting information. The qualification, which is the petition, Donna deals with.

Questions and comments. – Shirley said, I have been on the Better Place Plan (County CATF) for 10 years and I've been as co-chair and then chairman for the last 5. I told them last month that wanted the co-chair Bo Brewer to have a turn as chairman. I am now co-chair. Clerk said, thank you Shirley for representing the Town in both positions.

Upcoming events: Were reviewed from the packet.

Councilman Griffin made a Motion to adjourn. Adjourned 8:12 pm.

*Joseph C. Overturf*  
3-17-20  
*H. J. Fontana*

