

**CITY OF BROOKSVILLE  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
201 HOWELL AVENUE  
BROOKSVILLE, FL 34601**

**MINUTES**

**October 1, 2012**

**7:00 P.M.**

Brooksville City Council met in regular session with Mayor Joseph E. Johnston, III, Vice Mayor Lara Bradburn, Council Members Joe Bernardini, Frankie Burnett and Kevin Hohn 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 Radacky, Director of Public Works; George Turner, Police Chief and Tim Mossgrove, Fire Chief. Members of the Hernando Today and Hernando Times were also present.

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

**CERTIFICATES, PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Proclamation for Fire Prevention Week October 7 – 13<sup>th</sup>**

Presentation of a Proclamation honoring Fire Prevention Week October 7-13, 2012.

Mayor Johnston read the proclamation in its entirety and presented it to Fire Chief Tim Mossgrove, who reviewed the significance of the week.

**Margaret R. Ghiotto Improvement Award – Residential Award**

Recognition of improvements to the property of Wanda Washington-Burnett, located at 754 S. Lemon Avenue.

Beautification Board Vice-Chair Sally Sperling and Mayor Johnston presented the award to Ms. Washington-Burnett.

**Margaret R. Ghiotto Improvement Award - Commercial Award**

Recognition of improvements to the property owned by Mr. & Mrs. William Combs, Sr., located at 303 West Jefferson, Combs Appliance.

Beautification Board Vice-Chair Sally Sperling and Mayor Johnston presented the award to Mr. Combs.

**CITIZEN INPUT**

Mayor Johnston asked for public input.

Christie Anderberg with Friends of Chinsegut Hill distributed information about their group and gave a brief history of it along with their efforts to save both the manor and surrounding property. She advised the State of Florida owns the property and USF has had a 99-year lease on the property and is responsible for maintaining the property but have backed out of the lease. The State of Florida, once the property has been appraised, will sell the property through the public bid process.

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Council Member Bernardini stated his concern to preserve this legacy and suggested Vice Mayor Bradburn get involved with her historical preservation knowledge.

Vice Mayor Bradburn felt this property is the most significant historical site beyond the tri-county area. She suggested other uses for the property, such as an educational elder hostile facility. She felt a local entity should not take on the facility due to lack of resources but a team approach could work or private investor. She suggested inviting candidate for Senate seat Connie Mack to the facility while he is in town. She felt this Council would support a resolution process. She felt it is not a done deal until it goes to the State cabinet or that it does not have to be sold at appraisal or above because it can go at much lower with no bids.

Council Member Hohn felt zoning could be an issue for a buyer and that should be used as leverage when selling the property to preserve it as a national monument. Ms. Anderberg stated there are restrictions with the property such as a cemetery and demolition of the house would be difficult to get through the State.

Ms. Anderberg indicated the USDA has pulled out of federal government properties in June and there is over 3,500 acres of surplus that will come before the County.

### CONSENT AGENDA

#### Minutes

April 18, 2011 Executive Session  
Travelers Casualty & Surety Co. of America & Chubb Group

#### Southwest Direct Agreement

Consideration of 1-year extension of the contract for utility billing services.

#### Purchase and Surplus of Police Vehicles

Consideration of the purchase of three police vehicles via the State Bid Contract and surplus of three vehicles.

#### Computer Replacement for Police Department

Consideration of purchase to upgrade Police Department computers.

#### Emergency Repair of School Street Lift Station

Consideration of emergency repair to the 88 HP Sewage Pump at the School Street Lift Station for the not-to-exceed amount of \$21,610.

#### Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Burnett and seconded by Council Member Hohn for approval of Consent Agenda.

Regarding Item 5, Lift Station repair, Vice Mayor Bradburn asked if it is for repair or replacement. Utilities Supervisor Will Smith advised it is a repair. Director Radacky advised it will be almost new with the replacement of all the parts. Council Member Burnett asked will there be a warranty on the repair. Director Radacky advised there will be a one-year warranty.

Motion carried 5-0.

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## REGULAR AGENDA

### Temporary Sign Ordinance No. 819 Update

Summary report on the effectiveness of the Temporary Sign Ordinance adopted on September 19, 2011, for a one year period.

City Planner Steve Gouldman reviewed and asked for direction to staff, which was discussed, as well as new businesses' options currently allowed for in the Land Development Code. He confirmed that only feather signs are not allowed in the current code. Council consensus was to let the ordinance sunset without renewal. No motion was necessary.

Vice Mayor Bradburn stressed the need to continually look for other ways to help new businesses get recognition. Council Member Burnett suggested Ambassador of Commerce and Employment Dr. Dennis Wilfong take Council Members to visit new businesses and listen to their requests.

## CITIZEN INPUT

Mayor Johnston asked for public input.

Inez Capote, RN advised she is studying Public Nursing and her research is to sit in on a City Council meeting to get involved in the community and make changes. She asked for the largest source of revenue and expenditures in the City of Brooksville. City Manager Norman-Vacha indicated revenue is ad valorem property taxes and expenditures are public safety.

## ITEMS BY COUNCIL

### Lara Bradburn, Vice Mayor

#### Mosquito Control Invoice

Vice Mayor Bradburn asked the City Manager to elaborate on the invoice received from Hernando County.

City Manager Norman-Vacha reviewed that last year the Board of County Commissioners attempted to change the Sensitive Lands Fund to allow mosquito control, but failed. Last September, they adopted an MSTU for mosquito control and notified the City in March with an invoice. The City then opted into the MSTU in July 2012 beginning October 1, 2012. She has notified the County that the invoice was issued prior to the City being aware of the expenditure nor having a mechanism in place to fund the services. The referendum question on whether to continue an MSTU will still be presented on the November election ballot.

Vice Mayor Bradburn did not support paying the invoice and felt a verbatim copy of Council's meeting with County representatives stating they had not billed the City and that they had absorbed it into their own budget.

Mayor Johnston felt that absent a written agreement with the County they have no grounds to make the City pay for those services.

City Manager Norman-Vacha will respond accordingly to the County with Council support and she will place it on correspondence-to-note.

#### Hall of Fame Ceremony

She asked that a letter from the Mayor be sent to inductees congratulating them on this honor.

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## Frankie Burnett, Council Member

### Staff Commendation

Council Member Burnett commended the City Manager and staff for always doing a wonderful job. He asked if staff has met with Ms. Covell regarding the Veterans Appreciation Parade. City Manager Norman-Vacha stated she is currently working on providing the Statute to her for reference.

## T. Jennene Norman-Vacha, City Manager

### Founders Week

City Manager Norman-Vacha reminded all that next week is the Founders Week Celebration with many festivities posted on the City's website along with signage throughout the downtown area.

## Joe Bernardini, Council Member

### Mosquito Control

Council Member Bernardini agreed to not pay the invoice and advised some streets listed are not within the City boundaries.

### Chinsegut Hill

He felt City Council could write a letter to Senators Dockery and Fasano asking if there is anything they can do to intercede on Chinsegut Hill and present letting the property go to private development. He asked that the City Manager correspond to slow down the process. Council concurred to allow her to make contacts.

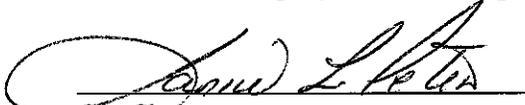
Vice Mayor Bradburn felt the Cabinet will have the last say and there will be a lot of changes with the upcoming election.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk