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**HIGH SPRINGS  
CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
JUNE 26TH, 2025  
CITY HALL**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor Grunder called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM

**ROLL CALL CITY COMMISSION:**

Mayor Tristan Grunder – Present  
Vice Mayor Andrew Miller – Present  
Commissioner Wayne Bloodsworth – Present  
Commissioner Chad Howell – Present  
Commissioner Katherine Weitz- Present

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Jeremy Marshall, City Manager  
Jami Echeverri, Asst City Clerk  
Diane Wilson, Finance Director  
Danielle Adams, City Attorney  
Kevin Mangan, PIO  
Antoine Sheppard, Police Chief  
Jason Taylor, Police Lieutenant  
Joseph Peters, Fire Chief  
Jason Kytte, Public Works Director  
Jennifer Applebee, Parks and REC Director

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Invocation by

Pledge of Allegiance

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Approve the Agenda of the June 26th, 2025, Commission Meeting.**

Commissioner Howell Motioned to approve the agenda of the June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Commission Meeting.

Vice Mayor Miller Seconded

Motion carried 5-0

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: MINUTES OF THE MAY 22, 2025 COMMISSION MEETING and MINUTES OF THE MAY 22, 2025 BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Commissioner Weitz motioned to approve the minutes of the June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Budget Workshop and Commission Meeting

Commissioner Howell seconded

**Motion Carried 5-0**

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

**PRESENTATION OF FY 23 AUDIT**

Brendan McKittrick with James Moore presented the 2023 fiscal year audit.

CRA Budget deficit \$188, is that unusual?

Mayor Grunder asked, if the “messiness” between funds, has been resolved and are there standards to prevent this from happening again.

Staff Wilson advised yes, the discrepancies have been resolved and new policies have been put into place to keep things running smoothly.

Commissioner Howell – did we pinpoint why the general fund was 1.2 million in debt.

Staff Wilson explained that while the budget was exceeded, the funds were still in place to cover the overage. She thanked Brendan and James Moore.

Public Comment: None

**(F) UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Discussion on options for the alcohol ordinance.**

Mayor Grunder encouraged both staff and citizens to remain respectful, and that while we know it’s a sensitive and long-running topic, we will get through it.

Attorney Adams offered additional clarification on what is needed to move forward. She explained the various options as well as some of the pros and cons of each.

Commissioner Howell discussed the idea of including a manufacturing provision for an ordinance.

Commissioner Weitz advised that she had made a record request with the county, asking which of the High Springs constituents had reached out to them. One of the results of the record request was from a local business owner who was unhappy about the limitations of being able to sell the beer manufactured at the local brewery.

Commissioner Howell and City Manager Marshall explained that there were state limitations in place that prohibited manufacturing, distributing, and vending, so that is not a city law that can be addressed.

Commissioner Weitz proposed a long term special event permit that lists the Sundays to the end of the year that could be used while the High Springs Brewing Company pursues the steps of placing the issue on the ballot for referendum.

Commissioner Bloodsworth, he would prefer to leave the ordinance as it is now. He elaborated on the various concessions and allowances that have been made for the brewery since its opening. He discussed the food truck allowances, Sunday special event permits etc. He does not believe in putting the issue on the ballot.

Mayor Grunder stated he does not agree with not allowing the issue to go to the ballot for a vote. He thinks all citizens should be allowed to have a say in the issue.

Vice Mayor Miller asked for clarification on repealing the ordinance.

Attorney Adams explained the legalities and process for changing or repealing an ordinance.

Mayor Grunder asked, if the ordinance is repealed would the city revert to the County's ordinance.

Attorney Adams explained.

Commissioner Weitz motioned to continue supporting the effort to get their petition going and to avail themselves of the special event permit to be open on Sundays while pursuing the 10% of registered voters' signatures.

(No second motion dies)

Commissioner Howell motioned to instruct the City Attorney to bring back an ordinance carving out stating businesses that manufacture their own alcohol on site can sell alcohol on Sundays.  
(No second motion dies)

Mayor Grunder passed the gavel to Vice Mayor Miller.

Commissioner Grunder motioned to put the alcohol ordinance on the ballot.  
Commissioner Grunder amended his motion to direct the City Attorney to bring back the requisite documents necessary to put the question to the electorate  
Howell seconded.

**Commissioner Grunder amended his amended motion to include direct the City attorney to bring back the requisite documents necessary to put the question to the electorate, "mirroring the petition that the High Springs Brewing Company is putting forth."**

**Commissioner Howell Seconded.**

Vice Mayor Miller opened the discussion for public comment:

**Public Comment:**

Dana Pasquarilla – is concerned this topic has been drawn on too long and believes it is a personal vendetta against the brewery. She expressed disappointment in Commissioner Bloodsworth's comment regarding allowing votes.

Janet Evans – expressed discomfort over the atmosphere that has been created in the community. She does not agree with the personal judgment against those who do not support changing the brewery. She is concerned about disrespectful comments on social media.

Kiffin Ayers – discussed the divisiveness that has occurred on social media. He thanked Mr. Marshall for showing an option and opportunity to put things on the ballot so it can be voted on by citizens. He explained the manufacturing of alcoholic beverages.

Marshal Rossen - Commended Commissioners Weitz and Bloodsworth on their opinions on the ordinance. He discussed his thoughts on the religious aspects of such an issue.

Austin Douglas – not every citizen is religious, and the law should reflect that.

Attorney Adams cautioned the commission on making legislative decisions with religious ties as it could carry legal concerns.

Lanier Smith – defended the chamber of commerce being involved.

Tim (unable to understand last name) – is concerned about the 51% of funds from food provision, he disagrees with requiring this because there is no way of regulating this.

Commissioner Weitz – discussed the negativity on social media and elaborated that it is truly nothing personal, despite what is said on Facebook etc.

Commissioner Bloodsworth – has never publicly or privately condemned the brewery. He explained all he wants to see and do is follow the ordinances or laws set in place. He stated there is a vendor checklist for food trucks that is supposed to be completed for every vendor that wants to be there, and that of the 15 or so food trucks the owners have mentioned, there are only two completed applications on file. He does not have a disagreement with the brewery but they are not in compliance.

**Motion Carried 4-1 with Commissioner Bloodsworth voting against.**

City manager Marshall expressed concerns about a blanket special event permit allowing openings on Sunday. He would like direction from the commission on if this is appropriate or if there is a new standard for approving Special Event Permit.

Attorney Adams advised that when the ordinance was drafted, it was with the intention of approving federal holidays and major events in coordination with the City itself. She advised if they want to allow a permit for being open on every Sunday, it could be a good idea to have that approved by the commission.

**(G) CITIZEN REQUESTS AND COMMENTS – FOR ISSUES NOT ON AGENDA (PLEASE STATE NAME FOR THE RECORD – LIMIT COMMENTS TO 5 MINUTES)**

David Linch – discussed the historic concrete streets in the city and wants to see them preserved. Discussed his concerns about children on electric scooters at a high rate of speed. Also discussed his disapproval of the High Springs Brewing Company using the High Springs name.

Don Decker – with the Historical Society, invited new members to join and showed that they have new brochures and information for the public.

**COMMISSIONER RESPONSE:**

**(H) NEW BUSINESS**

**DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT MOVING THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING DATE OF AUGUST 14, 2025, TO AUGUST 21, 2025.**

Commissioner Bloodsworth requested moving the date of a regular commission meeting in August as he will be out of the country.

Vice Mayor Miller advised that he may or may not be in attendance depending on his prior commitments but that he would do his best.

Commissioner Howell motioned to move the meeting to August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

Commissioner Weitz seconded.

**Motion carried 5-0**

Attorney Adams explained that their firm has a conflict in July and asked if we could hold the July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting on July 22<sup>nd</sup> to accommodate.

Motioned to hold the second meeting in July on July 22<sup>nd</sup> instead of July 24<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Bloodsworth Seconded.

**Motion carried 5-0**

**DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON AWARDING THE BID FOR ITB # 2025-01, ROAD PAVING PROJECT.**

Staff Jason Kytte gave an overview and explanation of the improvement projects and the different bids received.

Kevin Smith – Project manager gave an explanation of the company's experience and their confidence in completing the improvements.

Commissioner Bloodsworth addressed the historic concrete streets in town, and while beautiful and unique it would be astronomically expensive to replicate them and bring them to an appropriate size for modern traffic.

Commissioner Weitz Motioned to award the bid for ITB project 2025-01 to Hicks Asphalt and Pavement.

Commissioner Miller Seconded

**Motion carried 5-0**

**DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON NOMINATING A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE HIGH SPRINGS CITY COMMISSION TO SERVE ON THE JOINT WATER AND CLIMATE POLICY BOARD WITH THE COUNTY.**

Vice Mayor Miller motioned to nominate Commissioner Weitz to serve on the joint Water and Climate policy board with the County.

Commissioner Howell Seconded

**Motion Carried 5-0**

**DISCUSS BALANCES OF ALLOWED USES OF GENERAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT FEES.**

Staff Wilson gave a brief explanation of the general government impact fees, their uses and the different types implemented in the city.

**DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON ORDINANCE 2025-03, AN ORDINANCE GRANTING TO DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA, LLC d/b/a DUKE ENERGY, AN ELECTRIC UTILITY RIGHTS OF WAY UTILIZATION FRANCHISE; PRESCRIBING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS RELATED TO THE OCCUPANCY OF MUNICIPAL STREETS AND RIGHTS OF WAY IN THE CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS FLORIDA, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ELECTRIC SERVICE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Attorney Adams read Ordinance 2025-03 by title only.

Commissioner Weitz motioned to accept ordinance 2025-03 as ready by title only.  
Commissioner Miller seconded

Public Comment:

## COMMISSION AGENDA

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Katie Christian – a director of government and community relations for Duke Energy, just introduced herself and thanked the commission.

### **Roll Call:**

Mayor Tristan Grunder – yes

Vice Mayor Andrew Miller – yes

Commissioner Wayne Bloodsworth – yes

Commissioner Chad Howell – yes

Commissioner Katherine Weitz- yes

### **Ordinance 2025-03 Passed 5-0**

**DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON RESOLUTION 2025-H, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS, FLORIDA; RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF FIRE SERVICES, FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS IN THE CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS, FLORIDA; DESCRIBING THE METHOD OF ASSESSING FIRE SERVICES ASSESSED COSTS AGAINST ASSESSED PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS; DIRECTING THE PREPARATION OF AN ASSESSMENT ROLL; AUTHORIZING A PUBLIC HEARING AND DIRECTING THE PROVISION OF NOTICE THEREOF; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

Attorney Adams read Resolution 2025-H by title only.

Chief Peters gave a brief summary of the fire assessment and its use in the city and explained the need for an updated study and the numbers provided.

Vice Mayor Miller asked for clarification on notifying citizens of a rate increase. He explained he is uncomfortable with the idea of raising rates without notifying people.

City Manager Marshall and Chief Peters each explained that citizens still get proper notification from the city whenever a rate needs to be increased, implementing the resolution with the new study just allows a updated fiscal spread that better suits the current taxpaying population which has grown substantially since the last fire assessment study was completed. Mr. Marshall elaborated that all the resolution does is give the commission the powers to raise the assessment fee when needed without having to go back out for a new study (the initial resolution and study get sent to citizens on their annual ad valorem tax roll notice.)

Commissioner Weitz motioned to accept Resolution 2025 - H as read by title only.  
Commissioner Howell seconded

### **Roll Call:**

Vice Mayor Andrew Miller – yes

Commissioner Wayne Bloodsworth – yes

Commissioner Chad Howell – yes

Commissioner Katherine Weitz- yes

Mayor Tristan Grunder – yes

### **Resolution Passed 5-0**

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT/UPDATE:** Presented and discussed with staff that afternoon for a first amendment auditor presentation to go over to dos and not to dos. She advised that at staffs recommendation, they would be bringing a policy forward outlining public areas etc.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT/UPDATE:** Provided an update on the priest theatre advising the state architect returned to work and that while there were some minor changes, it would be going out for bid soon. There is a meeting Monday for the water treatment plant, and he would have more to discuss and update on this at an upcoming meeting.

**COMMISSIONERS:**

**Howell:** Thanked Parks and Rec for maintaining good parks and is excited to see how popular the pickle ball courts have become.

**Bloodsworth:** Thanked staff and Mr. Marshall for being easy to work with and obtain information whenever he has a question or concern.

**Weitz:** Mentioned employee Dralynn Swick who would be retiring in July after 23 years with the city. Asked the attorney for direction on large volume public record requests that get separated. (Attorney Adams advised that this is a very touchy topic and that her advice would be not to incur risk of violating public record rights by charging fees for a public record when the statute is clear on allowing separate requests.)

**VICE MAYOR:** Spoke of a community outreach program that asked residents of certain areas what improvements they would like to see in their neighborhoods and communities and would be interested in something similar for High Springs. He also invited all citizens and staff to an event at Legacy Park at 6:30 pm on July 12<sup>th</sup> for a play that he would be featured in. The vice mayor discussed wanting local businesses in the CRA district to participate in a storefront decorating contest for Christmas, themed around Charlie Brown Christmas. Lastly, he selected his employee of the week as Maresa Sanchez with the utility billing department.

**MAYOR:** wished the girls playing softball in Lake City good luck and thanked everyone for coming.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN.**

**Commissioner Howell motioned to adjourn.**  
**Mayor Grunder adjourned the meeting at 8:56**