



**City of**  
**HAWTHORNE**  
**Florida**

MINUTES  
COMMISSION MEETING  
Tuesday, February 20, 2024  
6:30 PM

**A. CALL TO ORDER**- Mayor Randall

1. Invocation- Vice Mayor Bouie-Hutchinson
2. Pledge of Allegiance- Commissioner Cue

**B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** with amendments.

Moved to approve the agenda.

Motion- Commissioner Howard      Second- Vice Mayor Bouie-Hutchinson

Mayor Randall	Yes
Vice Mayor Bouie-Hutchinson	Yes
Commissioner Howard	Yes
Commissioner Martin	Yes
Commissioner Cue	Yes

Vote 5-0

**C. RECOGNITIONS & GUESTS**- None

**D. COMMITTEE REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

1. Presentation- Developing Grant Strategy

Ms. Allison Megrath of Megrath Consulting, Inc. gave a presentation on her grant services. Ms. Heather Surrency, Mr. Larry Tilbury, Ms. Jennifer Tozzo, Ms. Lauren Pelkey, Mr. Gilbert Randall asked questions regarding the grant services.

2. Proclamation- Human Trafficking Month

Mayor Randall read the proclamation proclaiming the month of January as Human Trafficking Month in the City of Hawthorne.

3. Proclamation- Black History Month

Mayor Randall read the proclamation proclaiming the month of February as Black History Month in the City of Hawthorne.

**E. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

1. Ms. Jennifer Tozzo- Sunday, April 7, 2024 “Run your Buns Off” event. Half of the money collected will go towards the Alzheimer’s organization. She also gave an update on Hitchcock’s Plaza.

2. Mr. Bobby Franklin- Hawthorne Area Community Foundation meeting February 27, 2024, at 6:00PM at the First Methodist Church.

3. Mr. Gilbert Randall- Please have staff check behind Cox Cable. He thinks they buried his water meter.

4. Ms. Lauren Pelkey- Is it Cox Cable or AT&T coming to Hawthorne?

5. Ms. Marian Rucker- the other company is asking people to let them come into their home to put in their box and running cable. Will Cox Cable be only internet or cable also?

6. Mr. Matthew Surrency- suggest checking with Florida Attorney General and FLC to see if this Sweden company has permission to do what they are doing.

7. Mr. Cameron Burrus- update on Hawthorne Library. Renovations and possibly expansions will be done to the library this year.

8. Ms. Lauren Pelkey- in her neighborhood the property on the corner grass is very high and blocks the view when you are coming around the corner. Can she clean the property?

9. Mr. Michael Wells- If there is overgrowth on property can the city direct the property owner to clean it?

City Manager Martin there are 3 fiber optic companies in Hawthorne. GRUCOM (GRU), AT&T, and Cox Cable.

#### F. ROUTINE ITEMS

1. City Commission Minutes

Commission Meeting- January 16, 2024

Moved to approve the minutes.

Motion- Commissioner Martin                      Second- Commissioner Howard

Mayor Randall	Yes
Vice Mayor Bouie-Hutchinson	Yes
Commissioner Howard	Yes
Commissioner Martin	Yes
Commissioner Cue	Yes

Vote 5-0

2. Street Renaming

City Manager Martin stated the names will be an additional sign under the official street sign. So residents' address will not change.

A. SE 65<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Chester Shell Avenue

Moved to rename SE 65<sup>th</sup> Ave as Chester Shell Avenue.

Motion- Vice Mayor Bouie-Hutchinson                      Second- Commissioner Howard

City Attorney Hoehn read the resolution by title only.

Discussion:

Commissioner Cue stated Mr. Chester Shell was his great-grandfather and his family is very happy the city is doing this recognition.

Mayor Randall- Mr. Shell paved the way for so many black children in our community to get quality education and think he is well deserving of this honor.

Mayor Randall	Yes
Vice Mayor Bouie-Hutchinson	Yes
Commissioner Howard	Yes
Commissioner Martin	Yes
Commissioner Cue	Yes

Vote 5-0

B. SE 215<sup>th</sup> Street to Eddie Lee Martin Street

Moved to rename SE 215<sup>th</sup> Street from the corner of SE 65<sup>th</sup> Avenue to SE 69<sup>th</sup> Avenue as Eddie Lee Martin Street.

Motion- Vice Mayor Bouie-Hutchinson      Second- Commissioner Howard

City Attorney Hoehn read the resolution by title only.

Discussion:

Commissioner Martin gave thanks on behalf of his family and thanked the city for honoring his father.

Ms. Jennifer Tozzo, Ms. Sharon Surrency, and Vice Mayor Bouie-Hutchinson shared their memories of Mr. Martin.

C. SE 211<sup>th</sup> Street to Cornelius Ingram Drive

Moved to rename SE 211<sup>th</sup> Street from the corner of SR20 to the corner of SE 65<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Cornelius Ingram Drive.

Motion- Commissioner Martin      Second- Vice Mayor Bouie-Hutchinson

City Attorney Hoehn read the resolution by title only.

Discussion: None

Mayor Randall	Yes
Vice Mayor Bouie-Hutchinson	Yes
Commissioner Howard	Yes
Commissioner Martin	Yes
Commissioner Cue	Yes

Vote 5-0

D. Unnamed Street of athletic park to Eddie Joe Higginbotham Avenue

Moved to name the unnamed street that borders the south end of the Hawthorne Athletic Park as Eddie Joe Higginbotham Avenue.

Motion- Commissioner Howard      Second- Commissioner Martin

City Attorney Hoehn read the resolution by title only.

Discussion:

Ms. Heather Surrency and Commissioner Howard shared their memories of Mr. Higginbotham.

Mayor Randall	Yes
Vice Mayor Bouie-Hutchinson	Yes
Commissioner Howard	Yes

Commissioner Martin	Yes
Commissioner Cue	Yes

Vote 5-0

E. SE 58<sup>th</sup> Place to Betty Surrency Place

Moved to rename SE 58<sup>th</sup> Place as Betty Surrency Place.

Motion- Commissioner Howard      Second- Vice Mayor Bouie-Hutchinson

City Attorney Hoehn read the resolution by title only.

Ms. Susie Reeves- thank you to the city for honoring her mother and the family is thankful to the city for remembering her.

Mr. Matthew Surrency and Commissioner Howard shared their memories of Ms. Surrency.

Mayor Randall	Yes
Vice Mayor Bouie-Hutchinson	Yes
Commissioner Howard	Yes
Commissioner Martin	Yes
Commissioner Cue	Yes

Vote 5-0

F. Reverend Joseph Williams Street

The City Commission gave City Manager Martin permission to move forward with the street renaming of SE 214<sup>th</sup> Street.

3. Funding of City Employees Pay Raise

The City Commission and staff discussed staff being eligible for raises and merits. During the discussion City Manager Martin stated the paperwork was wrong because the UB Clerk rate of pay is incorrect.

Moved to table this item until we get the correct figures.

Motion- Vice Mayor Bouie-Hutchinson      Second- Commissioner Martin

Mayor Randall	Yes
Vice Mayor Bouie-Hutchinson	Yes
Commissioner Howard	Yes
Commissioner Martin	Yes
Commissioner Cue	Yes

Vote 5-0

4. Tank Color and potential logo change.

Moved to approve the recommended funding.

Motion- Commissioner Martin      Second- Commissioner Howard

City Attorney Hoehn read the resolution by title only.

Mayor Randall	Yes
Vice Mayor Bouie-Hutchinson	Yes
Commissioner Howard	Yes
Commissioner Martin	Yes
Commissioner Cue	Yes

Vote 5-0

\* The City Commission chose the desert sand color for the tank and Hawthorne, City of Champions as the new logo.

**G. PUBLIC HEARING**

FIRST READING- None

SECOND READING- None

**H. BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

1. Variance 24-01 (Dixon Setback Variance)

Mayor Randall opened the Board of Adjustment

Moved that the variance for Jeremy & Jaleesa Dixon is granted.

Motion- Commissioner Cue                      Second- Commissioner Howard

Citizen Comments: None

Mayor Randall	Yes
Vice Mayor Bouie-Hutchinson	Yes
Commissioner Howard	Yes
Commissioner Martin	Yes
Commissioner Cue	Yes

Vote 5-0

Mayor Randall closed the Board of Adjustment

**I. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. ACBOCC Joint Meeting

The City Commission agreed to the following:

April 2- City Commissioner Meeting

April 16- Cancel City Commissioner Meeting

April 23- Joint Meeting with Alachua County School Board

April 30- Joint Meeting with Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

**J. CITIZEN COMMENTS**- None

**K. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION**

1. City Manager Martin Report- gave updates on potholes on SE 69<sup>th</sup> Ave, ASO Substation, ASO writing more speeding tickets in Hawthorne, Drainage project in Lake Breeze subdivision, Wastewater Treatment Plant, getting money from CSX and FDOT, Federal Government fund for led in pipes in older homes.

2. City Attorney Hoehn- No Report

3. City Clerk McGruder- No Report

4. City Commissioners Report

Commissioner Howard- No Report

Vice Mayor Bouie- Hutchinson- No Report

Commissioner Martin- went to the Lakeside Baptist Church Valentines Ball and it was well attended by a lot of kids. Are they still having the Alachua County Economic Development meeting at City Hall this week?

Commissioner Cue- Hawthorne Girls Basketball Team is going to the State Playoffs in Lakeland.

5. Mayor Randall Report- To answer Commission Martin question, yes, the ACED meeting is Thursday at City Hall at 2:30PM. Food drive with Farm share is forth coming. Chester Shell Elementary need volunteers. Only one hour per week will help.

**L. ADJOURN** at 9:20PM

These minutes are submitted for approval.

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Lakesha H. McGruder, MCM  
City Clerk

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Jacquelyn Randall, Mayor