



**CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP HAINES CITY, FLORIDA**

**MINUTES**

**November 16, 2023, 6:00 p.m.**

**City Hall Commission Chambers**

**620 E. Main Street, Haines City, FL 33844**

**Phone: 863-421-9921 Web: hainescity.com**

Commissioners in Attendance: Mayor H.L. Roy Tyler  
Vice-Mayor Omar Arroyo  
Commissioner Anne Huffman  
Commissioner Morris West  
Commissioner Vernel Smith

Staff in Attendance: City Attorney, Fred Reilly  
Deputy City Clerk, Erica Sanchez  
Rick Sloan, Deputy City Manager

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The mayor called the City Commission Meeting to order at 6:00 on November 16, 2023, in the City Commission Chambers, located at 620 E Main Street, Haines City, FL.

**2. CODE COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES-TRAILER REVIEW**

City Attorney Reilly presented this item.

the purpose of this Memorandum is to:

A. provide the City Commission with the text of Chapter 11, Article II (Inoperable vehicles and other abandoned property) of the Code of Ordinances, so that the The City Commission can discuss whether revisions to this Chapter are appropriate.

and

B. make several recommendations in relation to prospective amendment to Chapter 11, Article II.

Commissioner Huffman mentioned that she knows about at least 4 or 5 residents who are not in compliance with the city's code.

Code Compliance Supervisor Steve Shifley said that the situations that Commissioner Huffman is referring to are legally parked. It's when they park on vacant lots that the problem arises.

Commissioner Huffman said that this is a major problem in the city, and she has noticed a house with a horse trailer. As she pointed out, such activities shouldn't be permitted in residential areas.

Code Compliance Supervisor Steve Shifley stated that that case would be considered out of compliance with the code.

Deputy City Manager Rick Sloan stated that they would look into adjusting the staff hours so that they can find after-hours violators.

Commissioner West asked for clarification on other abandoned properties and asked if they were given a 72-hour notice.

Mayor Tyler said this topic is about people who are always attempting to push through the rules. He said you have a great number of people in this town that take pride in their neighborhood, and they owe it to their neighbors to take care of their properties. He said we should consider some kind of retribution for those who continue to break the rules.

City Attorney Reilly read section 11-35 of the code of ordinance which talks about the authorization to go on private property.

### **3. UTILITY/WATER BILL REVIEW**

Deputy Finance Director Andrea Pratt presented this item.

She explained in depth the process of the billing statement. Some topics that were discussed were spoke about the due dates, late fees, Disconnection, payment arrangements, and emergency water repair and service.

Vice Mayor Arroyo asked if auto pay was an option. The Finance Director Omar DeJesus said that although the system is out of order at the moment it will allow you to pay automatically.

Commissioner Huffman said she couldn't figure out how to register to auto pay. She also asked what the process is if the bill is due on a Sunday and if there is a fee to pay with a credit card.

Commissioner West said that the residents don't understand how to read their bill. He asked for clarification on the \$50 fee for same-day service.

Commissioner Huffman expressed her concerns about the fees that are charged to the elderly who live on a fixed income and about the process to registration process for autopay. She said that it's too much work to make an elderly resident enter their routing number when they can pay with their credit card.

Finance Director DeJesus said that the bill has a QR code to make the process easier.

Vice Mayor Arroyo said that the cost is being observed and that the city is not making money from the fees.

Mayor Tyler said that there is also a credit card fee.

Commissioner Huffman said that it is a shared cost when a worker goes from one house to another.

**4. AGENDA REVIEW**

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

Without any further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59.

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Roy Tyler, Mayor

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Sharon Lauther, MMC, City Clerk