



CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP HAINES CITY, FLORIDA

MINUTES

March 20, 2025, 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:

Commissioner Anne Huffman

Vice-Mayor/Commissioner Morris West

Mayor, Omar Arroyo

Commissioner Vernel Smith

Commissioner Kim Downing

Staff in Attendance:

City Manager, James Elensky

City Attorney, Fred Reilly

City Clerk, Sharon Lauther

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the City Commission Meeting to order at 6:03 pm on March 20, 2025 in the City Commission Chambers, located at 620 E Main Street, Haines City, FL.

At this time, Mayor Arroyo discussed inquired why this workshop was happening since some of the Commissioners had stated they were not available. City Manager Elensky stated that at the last meeting there was a timeframe on the contract and there was some miscommunication as to which topic was to be discussed. City Clerk Lauther also stated that there was a consensus that the majority of the commissioners were not interested

in districts or term limits. There was further discussion that the districts should be tentatively scheduled after the election. Mayor Arroyo stated he called a meeting for a discussion of districts and term limits for Friday March 28, 2025 to discuss districts. Commissioner Huffman asked for clarification on when a meeting is called and only two commissioners show up. Attorney Reilly stated that there is not a quorum and a meeting cannot

2. DISCUSSIONS

2.a School Speed Zone Detection System

Chief Jay Hopwood gave an overview of the development of the school speed zone detection system. An ordinance was approved by the Commission. An RFP was done and there were three (3) companies that put in bids and presentation to staff. Staff selected Vera mobility following the City's bid process. Chief Hopwood stated that there are nine (9) different school zones to place the detection system however that can be discussed. Chief Hopwood stated that the detection system would help with speeding. Prior to installation there would be an educational component conducted for the citizens. Signage would be put up thirty (30) days prior to the speed detection system being put in place.

2.b RFP and Bid Tabulation

Finance Director, Omar DeJesus went over the bid process. Demonstrations and pricing structure was conducted with staff. The bid companies were announced that was received through the bid process. Vera Mobility was selected as this company as was the lowest bid. The RFP and bid tabulations were included with the contract. Commissioner Downing stated the last discussion had been on June 6, 2024. No other discussion was brought before the Commission. Finance Director stated that the staff does the negotiation of the contract prior to presenting to the Commission for approval. Discussion took place. Finance Director DeJesus stated that there were no upfront costs to the city. Commissioner Huffman inquired about how the system will be installed on the county roads. Commissioner Huffman asked why it takes so long to accomplish this process. This project has been going on for nine (9) months. Commissioner Huffman would like to see a greater sense of urgency for the city. Commissioner Huffman stated that negotiations should be faster, and the contract should be less than five (5) years. City Manager Elensky stated that he is working with the Finance Director to streamline the process. Director DeJesus stated that a lot of cities do not have this system and there was a learning curve to understand all of the nuances of the project. Projects are taking too long after approval during the

budget process. Finance Director explained the bid process and the purchasing policy. Staff attempted to obtain a contract in the most efficient and effective way and be fiscally responsible. Vice-Mayor West wanted to know who was responsible for the maintenance of the agreement. Chief Hopwood stated the vendor is responsible for maintenance. Vice-Mayor West also stated that five years (5) is too long. Commissioner Downing also feels that five (5) years is too long. Two years is an easier time frame to work with vendors in the event any problems would arise, and the city would not be stuck because of the five (5) year commitment. Commissioner Downing wants to know when will the commission decide which schools would be included in the contract. Commissioner Smith inquired to what matrix is used to select the school. Chief Hopwood will find out exactly how the schools are selected and what would be done in the event of a school closing or being renovated. Mayor Arroyo wanted to know how quickly the speed detection systems will be installed and how long will it take. The school year is almost over for the 2025 year. Chief Hopwood stated that installation could be as soon as the next school year to be up and running. There are three different schools with different start time so that has to be discussed. The Commission will decide where the speed detection systems will be installed. Attorney Reilly stated that the ordinance has approval for nine (9) schools. The hours also need to be discussed by the Commission. The selection has to be done by what is applicable as stated in the Florida Statute. Discussion took place as to when the contract will be brought back as an agenda item for approval. The current school year ends in approximately two (2) months. The contract currently states a five (5) year contract. Attorney Reilly stated that staff will get with the vendor and try to re-negotiate a three-year contract.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Without any further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 PM

Omar Arroyo, Mayor

Sharon Lauther, MMC, City Clerk

Fred Reilly, City Attorney