

MINUTES  
TOWN OF MONTVERDE  
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014

The Town of Montverde met in regular session on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium.

**Council Present:**

President Glenn Burns  
Vice President Joe Wynkoop  
Jim Peacock  
Arthur Nix  
Jim Pierce

**Staff Present:**

Mayor Troy Bennett  
Anita Geraci-Carver, Town Attorney  
Mary Gillis, Financial Director and Town Clerk  
Sean Parks, Town Planner

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mary Gillis performed the roll call and it was determined that quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Need approval for January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 regular Council Meeting minutes and February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 Council Workshop minutes.

**MOTION to approve both minutes by Jim Pierce; SECONDED by Arthur Nix.**

President Burns refers to the word “kickback” on page eight in paragraph two; he suggests using a different word.

Councilman Peacock points out that the January Minutes mention moving the copier discussion to the February Council Meeting but it’s not on the agenda for tonight. Mayor Bennett says they’re not ready; Mary Gillis says the rep is still working on it.

**For: All**

**Against: None**

## **MAYOR and COUNCIL**

### **Mayor Troy Bennett:**

Mayor Bennett presents to Council two more committees; the Public Safety Committee and the Parks/Rec/Visioning and Roads Committee. He says they combined those departments together because it made sense. Mayor Bennett suggests committee members. Mayor Bennett needs approval from the Council for these additional committee members. He says they will set up a separate meeting for February 25<sup>th</sup> and 7:00 PM for all committee members as well as the Council Members.

**MOTION by Arthur Nix to approve the new committee members; SECONDED by Jim Peacock.**

**For: All**

**Against: None**

Councilman Nix says he can't make the meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>, but he will give his notes to Mayor Bennett so he can speak for him.

### **Golf Cart Ordinance –**

Mayor Bennett asks if the Council want to wait until Jim Stivender comes in March. Vice-President Wynkoop says they should wait until March.

### **Sherriff's Contract –**

Mayor Bennett says the Sheriff's Contract will be in March. Jim Ley, Mayor Bennett, and Mary Gillis met with the Sherriff today over the contract.

### *Jim Ley, 17328 First St*

Mr. Ley says the Chief Deputy and Sheriff answered every question he asked them and were very receptive to ideas. The Sheriff agreed to let the Town of Montverde step out of their contract, if they ever wanted to, with enough notice. He says the Sheriff was also receptive to the idea of off duty officers as well as a combination of both for the rest of this fiscal year. Mr. Ley says he feels like the meeting went very well.

Mayor Bennett says if they elected to do the combination deal and have hourly officers, the Sheriff's office would coordinate through Montverde's Deputy Andrea McKane. Jim Ley says Andrea McKane would be the primary Deputy and all hourly employees would be coordinated by her. Vice-President Wynkoop asks Andrea McKain how she feels about it; she says it's the first she's heard of it but it sounds good. Councilman Nix says it would solve the issues they discussed before about who would have to coordinate. Jim Ley says it would also eliminate friction and allow the Town's primary Deputy to have input.

Vice-President Wynkoop asks if they do the split between the full time Deputy and the part time Deputies, will they work with the Town on money. Jim Ley says the Sherriff did say they would be

willing to negotiate a better rate; they could also discuss paying the Sheriff's office directly. Mayor Bennett says the contract price will remain the same, but the off duty pay and/or overtime pay, which is currently thirty-five dollars (\$35.00), is a rate that he believe the Sheriff was willing to negotiate on.

Jim Ley says they were given option on types of personnel; such as secondary employment or overtime employees. He says again that Andrea McKane would have input about all new personnel. Mayor Bennett says they are talking about starting off slow and easy; having someone there on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday afternoons.

Vice-President Wynkoop asks what the Council should task the committee to do in the next 30 to 60 days. Mayor Bennett says the contract that's in place is good until October, but it needs to be signed.

Councilman Peacock asked if they talked about doing strictly hourly Deputies. Jim Ley says the Sheriff was not opposed to it, that's why they decided to do both for the next six months to see how the Council likes it. Mayor Bennett says their concern was that it would lead to inconsistencies in service and also who would manage it hourly-wise. Mayor Bennett says there are two issues: are they happy with the service they are getting or are they looking for more coverage. The second issue is do they feel like they are getting the value for the money they are spending.

Councilman Pierce says their neighbors are paying the same amount that the Town is paying in taxes for Police coverage; they are talking about going above and beyond with Police coverage. He says what they are talking about is managing the extra money that the Town of Montverde residents pay for additional Police coverage. Mayor Bennett says the Sheriff told him during the meeting that they have lost 65 officers due to the economy and none of them have had a raise in five years. He says they pay their taxes to get a reactive Police force but they pay more to get a proactive Police force, and that's the decision that they have to make.

Councilman Nix says to let the committee handle some of these issues. Vice-President Wynkoop says they should task the committee with helping Andrea set and manage the schedule for the first 90 days. Jim Ley says the Sheriff was very polite about the subject but said that he didn't want his Deputy to be bounced all over the place. He says the committee will need to fall back and rely on Andrea McKane to avoid friction. Vice-President Wynkoop asks if they can control when the deputies are there and not there. Jim Ley says the Sheriff was okay with setting certain times but with notice and within reason. Vice-President Wynkoop says Andrea McKane should get with the committee so they are on the same page and then meet together every 60 to 90 days to regroup. Jim Ley says he believes that he, Mayor Bennett, and Mary Gillis are all on the same page about avoiding the friction point; Andrea McKane is the Sheriff's employee. Mayor Bennett says it is a good partnership. He tells Vice-President Wynkoop that he feels he is headed in the right direction but maybe they are getting a little ahead of themselves. The committee needs to decide what they want to do short term.

Councilman Pierce says there is auxiliary money in the budget on top of the Sherriff's Contract money; now it's about someone in current administration figuring out where to spend the extra money. Mayor Bennett says six hours, three times a week equals \$540.00 a week for 52 weeks equals \$28,000 a year. Councilman Pierce says there is \$10,000 in the budget right now. Jim Ley says they will need more in the summer. Mayor Bennett says task one would be to figure out the schedule and a program.

Vice-President Wynkoop asks if the Minutes are on the website. Consensus – yes, they are. Vice-President Wynkoop says his main concern was the Sheriff's Contract.

**President Glenn Burns:**

President Burns asks Sean Parks if he's going to be discussing the Conceptual Plan on Economic Development. Sean Parks says yes.

**Jim Peacock:**

Councilman Peacock states that St. John's Water Management has approved the additional withdrawal for Niagara. The contract says that Niagara agrees to reduce withdrawal from the upper aquifer by 2016 and gradually increase its withdrawal from the lower aquifer by 2024. A permit condition was also included that allows the permit to be revoked or the withdrawal reduced if an aquifer test shows that withdrawal from the lower aquifer does not promote the benefit anticipated. Councilman Peacock says the District staff concluded that this withdrawal will have less impact on surrounding natural systems.

**Arthur Nix:**

Councilman Nix says they got a response back to their CUP and it basically said ten years. They are going to get the same amount they had previously, roughly 103 million a year. He says they asked for more but they knew they were shooting high. The problem is that Montverde has not had enough growth. Right now the Town uses about 70 million a year, so that gives them a little over 30 million. The Town has to tell St. John's Water Management something tomorrow. If they do go forward with some of development, the developments will need to attempt to get irrigation off of Lake Apopka or have their own wells; they will not be able to attach to Montverde's system.

Mayor Bennett says if someone ran one zone of a sprinkler system in their yard for eight hours every day for one month they would use 400,000 gallons of water.

Councilman Nix says they would have to require new developments to have an alternate source for water. Mayor Bennett asks Councilman Nix what he wants to do about the CUP; does he want to go back and ask for more, since they only requested 10% more. Councilman Nix says Jennifer told him this was the best they were going to get. Mayor Bennett asks what happens if they go over. Councilman Nix says they would need to go back and re-permit. He says they have 30 million gallons of potable water a year. Councilman Pierce says their usage is down; Montverde Academy did move over to all well water. Councilman Nix says it's not a bad deal.

**Jim Pierce:**

Councilman Pierce says he will yield his discussion until later.

## PRESENTATIONS

### **Presentation by the Fish and Wildlife Commission on Lake Apopka:**

Dennis Renfro introduces himself as part of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; he is the Resource Manager for the entire Harris Chain. Mr. Renfro is at the meeting tonight to show the Town what they've been doing to make Lake Apopka better. One of their main goals is to increase the quality of the fish and wildlife habitat by expanding the coverage of desirable aquatic plants and habitat. Lake Apopka was the bass capital of the world. He says the key to success is access for anglers. Currently there are four launch points. The Montverde lake access has deep water; the west and south shore lines are 15 feet deep. He says they have found 12-pound bass as well as other popular species.

Mr. Renfro says there are a lot of benefits to having lake access in Montverde; anglers will spend money on lodging, marina services and supplies, restaurants, groceries, fuel, recreation and entertainment, and shopping. The estimated spending is \$74.00 per boat launched. The north shore is one of the top three bird watching spots in the state of Florida.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission have been planting desirable aquatic habitat; to date they have put in about 437,000 bulrush plants at a cost of about \$115,000. They have also put in about 39,000 spatterdock plants, covering 80 acres, at a cost of \$117,953.00. They are planning on planting another 60,000 spatterdock plants in the summer of 2014 at a cost of about \$200,000.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission also installed 41 one quarter acre artificial fish attractors in 2013 at a cost of about \$120,000.

He mentions that the Department of Health says the game fish are safe to eat, except for the brown bullhead.

Mayor Bennett asks if Montverde has the only public Lake Apopka access ramp. Mr. Renfro says Magnolia has one too, but they're in Orange County. Montverde has the only public access in Lake County. Councilman Peacock asks how low the lake is compared to normal levels. He says that it is two feet below normal; not enough rainfall plus evaporation.

Mayor Bennett asks about the alligator population. Mr. Renfro responds that the alligators have been moving around but he's not sure if they are increasing.

Vice-President Wynkoop asks how long it will take to make the lake cleaner. Councilman Nix asks if he means water quality and Vice-President Wynkoop says yes. Mr. Renfro answers that it's really hard to put on a number on that; it is improving slowly though.

*Resident* asks if they are still dredging at Magnolia, Mr. Renfro says no.

*Resident* asks if the plant fisheries are hazardous for navigational equipment, Mr. Renfro says no they're not because of the water depth.

Billy Bates asks if the 300,000 stocked fish each year is just in Apopka, Mr. Renfro says yes; 100,000 a year go into Lake Harris alone.

*Resident* asks if they stock every year or every other year, Mr. Renfro says he has only been on this system for three years and the goal is to stock every year.

Mayor Bennett says that Montverde is the “gateway” into the environmental controlled area; they have the deepest part of Lake Harris, the North Shore, and the Ferndale Reserve. He mentions that should be part of their mission statement. Mayor Bennett says there will be money available from February 4<sup>th</sup> through April 4<sup>th</sup> and is considered a “refunding.” He says that have to submit a shovel ready project that is already permitted to be given the money to pay for the ramp and the courtesy dock.

Sean Parks, Town Planner, says the efforts are alive and well to restore Lake Apopka. The State believes the restoration is possible. The Department of Economic Opportunity grant has been awarded to the Town of Montverde to do economic planning. He says they are putting the steps in place to maintain their small town charm and capitalize on it. There have been workshops and a data inventory analysis has been completed. The next step is to put actual goals and objective together as well as capital projects that might be necessary to achieve their goals. He says he thinks it is a wonderful idea for Montverde to go ahead with this capital project; he calls it their gateway to the North Shore boat ramp facility. Commissioner Parks says Mayor Bennett asked him to put together a concept plan of what might occur if they were to move forward with this. It is the only public access on the west side of Lake Apopka.

Sean Parks says ecotourism works very well for Lake County. The North Shore is one of the top birding destinations in the south-east. There is money being invested by the State, Orange County, and the City of Apopka; he says it is time to stake a claim and put the plans in place to capitalize on it.

Sean Parks says the Concept Plan shows what is called the Blueway – routes suitable for canoeing, kayaking, and boating. They are proposing floating docks at least five feet wide. Before continuing, he points out that these are all just concepts. The Pentz property, consisting of three acres, could have a picnic area, canoe and kayak rack, a restroom facility, and a place for interpretive display for Native Americans since their history is rich on that side of Lake Apopka. There are 14 spots for trailers and five regular parking spots. There are conceptual plans for trails and sidewalks, as well as a 40 foot landscape buffer to the north and the west side.

Mayor Bennett says the other thing they talked about was coming down Broad Street and connecting to their main trail. There is also a right of way on the Osgood property they could use; he says they have had meetings with them where it was determined that if the time comes where the property gets developed, the developer has discussed giving Montverde maybe four acres on the other side of the boat ramp so they would have both sides of the boat ramp for parks and recreation. Mayor Bennett says the goal tonight is to get the Council’s approval to go negotiate with Mr. Pentz who shows an interest in selling this particular property to the Town of Montverde. He says if they were to get a contract on it, they would most likely turn it over to the Parks and Rec/Visioning committee team to let them come up with some ideas and then present their ideas to Council.

Councilman Peacock asks if they can upgrade the dock without parking spaces; Mayor Bennett says they can’t; the lack of parking spaces has always been their hindrance. Vice-President Wynkoop asks if the acreage for parking is three acres or 1.8 acres. Sean Parks says he thinks it is 2.8 acres.

Mayor Bennett says he thinks this is a continuance of the mission statement of the economic program Sean Parks is trying to develop with the North Shore area.

**Mayor Bennett opens up for Public Comment.**

*Resident* asks how many people on the Council live on Lake Apopka; no one. He asks how many own a boat; three say yes. He says he lives on Lake Apopka; he cannot get across the lake and he cannot get past the island. He says until someone comes in and dredges some channels across the lake, they'll never get to the North Shore. Councilman Pierce asks if the commercial fisherman fish every day, *resident* says they are in flat bottom boats. He says he cannot get near the middle of the lake in his boat.

*Resident* asks if they are going to attract boaters, how they intend to make the lake accessible for those without flat bottom boats. Councilman Pierce thinks they will attract more canoes, kayaks, and small fishing boats rather than big boats. *Resident* says they have a lot of gators near their dock. He also says to reap the benefits of this idea, Fish and Wildlife is going to have to put channel markers and dredge channels. Dennis Renfro says he doesn't have any issues on the west side.

*Resident* says he launches a 22 foot boat and can run on the west side of the lake without a problem. He says it's a little tough to launch because the existing ramp is not level, but that's the only issue. Sean Parks says one of the things they are proposing is to come up with a very specific guide to Lake Apopka and the North Shore for boaters and people coming into the Town. He also proposed navigation maps to be handed out with the guide to show water depths and good fishing.

*Resident* asks if there are going to be bathrooms. Sean Parks says there will be a restroom facility, but a dry toilet type. He says if anyone wants to see an example, drive out to the John's Lake boat ramp.

*Resident* asks if the Visionary committee has ever looked into long range goals, such as storing boats and running tours. He also asks what they will do if they run out of parking space. Councilman Pierce says there are 180 acres adjacent to this property, but they don't own it. Mayor Bennett says he has a good point but right now their focus is their mission statement. Sean Parks says this is perfectly timed with the DEO grant. Mayor Bennett asks permission from the Council to go negotiate this and bring them a contract. Councilman Nix says there is no way they will get it permitted before April 4<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Bennett says the only thing they need to present is the boat dock. Dennis Renfro says if Montverde purchases the land and builds they can go through the process of matching funds and put in a double ramp with one floating dock; they can contract or have their boat ramp crew put it in. Mayor Bennett asks if they would have to engineer it. Mr. Renfro says they would need to go through the application process. Councilman Nix says someone is going to have to do the building plan for it. Mayor Bennett says the parking area is a separate subject; he was trying to get the dock in first since there is such a small window that the funding is available. Councilman Nix says the funding is contingent on having the parking. Mayor Bennett says it was that way before, but they recognize and accept the vision. Sean Parks asks if they will be adding this to their Comprehensive Plan/Capital Improvement program.

President Burns clarifies that if they buy the property, the Fish and Wildlife Commission will use the cost of the property to match to put in the second boat ramp. Mayor Bennett and Mr. Renfro say yes. Mr. Renfro says if they can go through with it by April 4<sup>th</sup>, it looks very possible. Councilman Nix asks how much they will have to contribute, just talking about the dock. Mayor Bennett says if the Town of

Montverde buys the land, the Fish and Wildlife Commission will match the price and put in the ramps and dock.

Councilman Pierce asks President Burns how the bike trail is coming along. President Burns says that it is open and is 14.5 miles. There is a dedication on February 20<sup>th</sup> at Magnolia Park at 12:30 PM. Sean Parks says this is perfect timing; Apopka has plans to have water taxis connect to surrounding towns, including Montverde.

Jim Ley says he would like to see this idea develop.

Mr. Renfro says they put cameras at ramps; there is a camera at this particular ramp and he says it's amazing to see how often many different people come to fish on Lake Apopka. He says the cameras are there for quick and easy access; they take data to determine management.

Fish attractors are on MYFWC.com.

Mary Gillis says the property appraiser's website says the land is 255 x 340 which equals 1.8 acres.

Councilman Pierce tells the audience that they discussed this at the retreat.

**MOTION by Jim Pierce to approve negotiations with Mr. Pence; SECONDED by Glenn Burns.**

**For: All**

**Against: None**

President Burns asks if they need a Comprehensive Plan amendment. Mayor Bennett says yes. Sean Parks says they are going blend it in with the current Comprehensive Plan amendment and will list it as a policy and on the capital improvements. He says they will need to schedule a workshop or discuss it at another meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Discussion of Draft Ordinance Prohibiting Gated Communities**

President Burns says the ordinance is fine; it was talked about at the retreat. Councilman Nix feels that gated is not community friendly. Mayor Bennett thinks there are people that lean toward the fact that Montverde does not yield gated communities. He asks the citizens how they feel about preventing gated communities in their Town. The consensus is to go forward with the ordinance. One *resident* says he thinks property values will increase if gated communities are allowed in Montverde. President Burns says that properties outside the gated communities will go down. Councilman Peacock says it is a developer issue; the developers establish if it's a gated community. Councilman Pierce says there are only two properties in question, the old Montverde Estates property and Osgood. He asks why it has to be on the books if they can disapprove it when brought to Council. Anita Geraci-Carver says she didn't find any cities that prohibit gated communities. The city of Asheville in North Carolina added a category called "Gated Communities" to their list of conditional uses in some zoning districts.



*Resident* asks if they pass it, can the developers apply for a variance. Mayor Bennett says yes. Councilman Nix says gated communities are single streets. Councilman Pierce says if a developer comes to them without this ordinance and they want to build a gated community, does the Council have the right to tell them no. Anita Geraci-Carver says they wouldn't have anything to prohibit it. Councilman Pierce asks what happens if the ordinance is in place and the developers ask for a variance. Anita Geraci-Carver says they won't meet the criteria for a variance. Councilman Pierce asks if they can remove the 4<sup>th</sup> "Whereas" on the draft. Mayor Bennett says it's just a draft. *Resident* says he thinks they are portraying a negative image by saying "no" to any and all gated communities. Councilman Nix says they could develop but without a gate; they don't want a one road in, one road out kind of community. *Resident* says that people who want to be involved in the community will be involved with the community regardless of any gate.

Councilman Pierce asks if there is anything in place preventing current Montverde communities from putting up gates. Anita Geraci-Carver says they could, but then they would have to be responsible for their own streets. If the Council were to put this ordinance in place, those communities would be prohibited from gating also.

Mayor Bennett points out that it is merely a discussion. Councilman Nix says they should wait another month. Councilman Pierce says bring it to March. Councilman Nix says he seconds that motion.

### **Personnel Policy Manual**

Mayor Bennett states that the Council has already approved it once but there have been some minor adjustments in the drug free workplace policy. Anita Geraci-Carver says this won't comply with the statute but they will work on that later. She says the Town is receiving a 5% discount on insurance because they're a drug free workplace; their drug free policy is already attached. She says what they'd like to do over the next few months is try to get in line with the statutory drug free workplace just to ensure there are no hiccups in the future if they insurance company asks for further documentation. Mayor Bennett says without it they would lose their 5% discount. He says it's a solid personnel policy now. Councilman Pierce asks how long a new employee's probation period is. Mayor Bennett says its 90 days. Councilman Nix asked if they changed it to six months. Mayor Bennett says yes. Councilman Pierce says they are circumventing the protections that a worker has. Anita Geraci-Carver says that six months is standard.

*Resident* asks if there is a mandatory testing period; he also asks what requirements are for getting tested. Mayor Bennett says they're tested when initially employed as well as when there is an accident on site. Anita Geraci-Carver says they will also test if there is reasonable suspicion. There is no random testing.

*Resident* asks if the Fire Department volunteers can be drug tested. Mayor Bennett says they have addressed that in the policy.

**MOTION by Jim Pierce to approve the new Personnel Policy Manual; SECONDED by Jim Peacock.**

**For: All**

**Against: None**

#### **Award of Recreational Grant Project to S&J Earthworks**

Mayor Bennett says Earthworks won the bid at \$157,000. Steve Shaffer does not want to do the construction bond; he wants to hold a retainer in the amount of 20%. Councilman Pierce asks if it costs Steve Shaffer money. Mayor Bennett says it will cost him about \$15,000 for the performance bond. Mary Gillis says that a bond typically costs 10%. Councilman Nix says he feels 10% is kind of high but it's probably at least 8%. Mayor Bennett says the contract is written without a performance bond, but instead it includes a higher retainage percentage. The contract says 25% for retainage, but Mayor Bennett spoke to Steve Shaffer and he's asking to make it 20% instead. Anita Geraci-Carver says she wants a larger retainage amount because it protects the Town. The Statute shows that for public projects less than \$200,000, the legislature lets the local government address the bond issue on their own. Mayor Bennett says the project will probably be a four to five week project. Anita Geraci-Carver says Steve Shaffer agreed to give them lien releases; if something were to happen and Steve Shaffer doesn't complete the performance bond the Town has no remedy other than the money that's been retained. She says it's not an unreasonable time frame.

**MOTION by Arthur Nix to approve the Award of Recreational Grant Project to S&J Earthworks at 20% retainage and waiving of the bond; SECONDED by Jim Pierce.**

**For: All**

**Against: None**

#### **Renewal of Franchise Agreement with SECO**

Councilman Pierce says Leesburg has a franchise fee contract for five years with SECO. He says the thirty year agreement scares him because of the non-compete; he wants to get a legal opinion. Mayor Bennett says that Leesburg has a 15 year agreement; Councilman Pierce says Clermont has a 30 year agreement, and Tavares has a 25 year agreement but he isn't comfortable agreeing to a 30 year agreement. Mayor Bennett asks what happens if they don't sign the agreement. Anita Geraci-Carver says the agreement gives SECO the ability to be in the Town right-of-ways and SECO is then committing to paying the franchise fee. Mayor Bennett says that SECO's contract says they have the right to modify the agreement at any given time.

Anita Geraci-Carver says she has some more comments written in the agreement and needs direction on property damage and the insurance coverage. She says SECO has the right to trim trees and since Montverde has a strict tree trimming ordinance she thought the Council might want to have SECO comply with their ordinance. Councilman Nix says they probably won't get much ground on that; SECO is responsible to the State and has overhead rights. Mayor Bennett suggests bringing it back in March. Councilman Pierce reminds Anita Geraci-Carver to inquire about a five year agreement.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Discussion Regarding Garbage Collection Opportunities

Mayor Bennett says they are going to get an extra service of yard pickup for \$10,000 less a year. He says he received an email from Platt Loftis of Waste Pro saying they were ready to implement the new price changes; the new rates are the same as the County, who is locked in for five years. If the Town saves \$10,000 a year, the citizens can save \$1.34 on each bill. There will be two pick up days, one for recycling and one for yard pick up. The more they recycle, the more they will save in disposal fees. Mayor Bennett asks the Council what they want to do with the savings. Councilman Pierce says to take it off the citizen's bill. Mayor Bennett says they'll bring the contract back in March.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

*Chris Hopkins* says thank you for nominated him to the Public Safety Committee. He says he doesn't feel Montverde should close the door on gated communities. He also says that he is all for improving Lake Apopka but he thinks they are putting the cart before the house by accepting the grant for the dock when the lake is too shallow for boats to cross. Chris Hopkins points out that the United States is 17 trillion dollars in debt and it comes from accepting grants like this one. He says he is counting on the Council to watch the citizen's tax dollars.

*James Gillman, 17708 Virginia Circle*

James says he is not looking to discuss the case, but wanted to discuss how long it has taken to go through the process and comments that Mayor Bennett has made to him. Mayor Bennett tells him that he cannot discuss an open case, that he must come back to discuss it at the March Council Meeting.

*Tom Stone* says he is there on behalf of Lake Sumter Student Government Association. There is an organization with the Lake County School Board called Families in Transition that is dedicated to helping the 2,000 students ranging between elementary school and high school that are homeless. He would like to see if the Association can work with Montverde and try to collect some donations for this semester; he says there are only eight weeks left. Mayor Bennett asks where the money would go. Mr. Stone says they are looking for material donations; if they received money, the money would have to be spent on material items and then the items would have to be donated. He says they are looking for canned food, can openers, deodorant, hygiene products, etc. Councilman Pierce asks if there is a flyer; they can put it in the newsletter which gets sent to all the homes in the community. Mr. Stone says they were hoping to set up a donation box site in the Town of Montverde. More than 2,000 students will benefit. Sean Parks says every May the County Commission collects food for the kids for over the summer.

*Jason Ramsey, 17643 Virginia Circle*

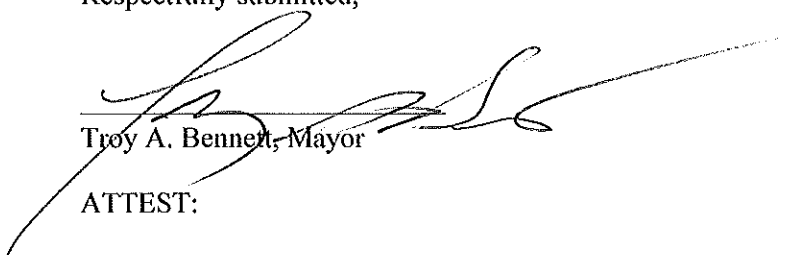
Jason says he got a letter from the Town seven to ten days ago regarding a Planning and Zoning Committee Meeting that was to happen three or four days after the delivery of the letter. The letter says to provide the Town 48 hour notice if assistance was needed but due to the weekend, a 48 hour notice could not have been provided. Sean Parks says the letters go out with at least ten days before the Council

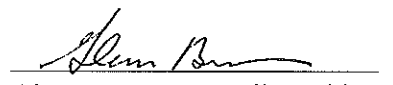
meeting. Mr. Ramsey says the letter was dated January 25<sup>th</sup>, but it wasn't put in the mail until January 27<sup>th</sup>, and it was received on February 1<sup>st</sup>. He mentions he is stating this just for information purposes in case it were to affect someone wanting to attend.

**ADJOURN**

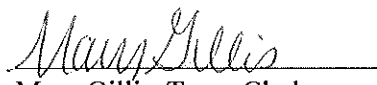
**Motion to adjourn by Jim Pierce; SECONDED by Arthur Nix at 9:40 PM. Passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
Troy A. Bennett, Mayor

  
Glenn Burns, Council President

ATTEST:

  
Mary Gillis, Town Clerk

