

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

February 18, 2013

Mayor Joe LaCascia called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Pastor Walter Lawlor, New Life Community Church, gave the invocation.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Joe LaCascia.

ROLL CALL – Linda Walker

Present: Mayor Joe LaCascia, Vice Mayor Mike Blethen, Councilor Trudy Block, Councilor Don Kimsey, City Manager Patricia Jackson and City Attorney Thomas Cloud.
Absent: Councilor Kelly Downing.

A quorum was established.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor LaCascia moved the Financial Statement from the Consent Agenda to New Business.

Mayor LaCascia made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of February Financial Statement; the motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Blethen.

Roll Call: Councilor Kimsey-aye, Vice Mayor Blethen-aye, Councilor Block-aye, Mayor LaCascia- aye

4-ayes

0-nays

PRESENTATIONS AND/OR RECOGNITIONS

There were no presentations and/or recognitions.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearings.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor LaCascia advised the item for Republic Services was postponed.

Safe Routes to School Grant

City Manager Jackson advised Polk City was not awarded this grant in 2012, and she has authorized Envisors to submit the grant again this year on behalf of Polk City (within expenditure limitation); however, the City Manager advised it is beneficial to have support of City Council when it comes to scoring the application.

Councilor Block made a motion to approve the Safe Routes to School Application for 2013; the motion was seconded by Councilor Kimsey.

Roll Call: Vice Mayor Blethen-aye, Councilor Block-aye, Mayor LaCascia-aye, Councilor Kimsey-aye

4-eyes

0-nays

The motion carried.

Improvements of SR 33 from I-4 to Oak Avenue – FDOT – Utility Work Agreement Florida Department of Transportation

City Manager Jackson advised the City was notified approximately three weeks ago regarding this Project. Kathy Delp, advised DOT is putting in turn lanes at the Polk County Park and Voyles Loop Road. The rest of the package is for re-surfacing. Discussion took place regarding the project itself and the utility locates that is in the process of being done, and once those are completed, GAI Consultants will mark the plans for DOT showing where the City's utilities are located. City staff is seeking approval of the Final Negotiation Package, which is due back to DOT March 6th. Attorney Cloud asked if the utility lines were in easements or the DOT right-of-way; Kathy Delp advised she did not know, as the permits for the use of the right-of-way would have been issued prior to her working for the City (it was noted it should all be in the right-of-way). After further discussion, Attorney Cloud suggested City Council could approve upon Attorney Confirmation the utility lines are there because there is a permit.

Vice Mayor Blethen made a motion to approve the Final Negotiation Package for improvements of SR 33 from I-4 to Oak Avenue upon confirmation of a permit; the motion was seconded by Mayor LaCascia.

Roll Call: Councilor Kimsey-aye, Mayor LaCascia-aye, Vice Mayor Blethen-aye, Councilor Block-aye

4-eyes

0-nays

The motion carried.

Financial Report for January 2013

Mayor LaCascia had some questions/comments on the financial ramifications the Mt. Olive Wastewater Treatment Plant demolition would have on the budget. He asked

about the \$38,000 that was budgeted for operating expenses at Mt. Olive WWTP – what portion of that is estimated not to be expended. Pamela Lawson, the Finance Director, advised the total operation is being shifted to the Cardinal Hill Plant. Mayor LaCascia asked if there would be an actual savings to the City in shutting down the Mt. Olive WWTF; Pam advised the savings is unknown at this time. Mayor LaCascia then asked what has been accomplished by removing the Mt. Olive WWTP. Mike Cherniak, with Woodard & Curran, advised when the budget was done they didn't anticipate the cost of the infrastructure – line breaks, including labor costs that would have been incurred. Councilor Kimsey asked how the City will be saving money now by using the Cardinal Hill Plant; Mike Cherniak advised the City will save on capital costs, as well as lower solid handling cost. Councilor Block commented the Mt. Olive WWTP needed improvements, i.e. pumps, motors, infrastructure, etc.; the City is saving money by not having to put a lot of work into the Mt. Olive WWTP. Vice Mayor Blethen also mentioned the City would not be spending money for labor costs, chemicals, etc. The City will be able to see a better picture once the Cardinal Hill Plant has been running on its own for a while.

Mayor LaCascia made a motion to accept the January Financial Statement as rendered; the motion was seconded by Councilor Block.

Roll Call: Councilor Block-aye, Mayor LaCascia-aye, Vice Mayor Blethen-aye, Councilor Kimsey-aye

4-ayes
0-nays

The motion carried.

CITY MANAGER ITEMS / CITY CLERK ITEMS

- There will be a walk through on the CDBG Project next Tuesday; the project should be completely finished by the end of February
- The walk through on the Bond Project work is being done; it is expected to be finished by mid-March
- Demolition has started on the Mt. Olive WWTP; notification will be sent to FDEP once it is completed
- Florida League of Cities Legislative Action Days will be held March 19-20, 2013; if Council would like to attend, please advise
- Institute for Elected Officials will be held in Palm Beach June 21-23
- Polk County Days in Tallahassee will be March 12 should anyone like to attend
- A meeting has been scheduled in Tallahassee with the Department of Economic Development; the City Attorney, Kathy Delp, Jennifer Codo-Salisbury and she will be attending
- The new website is up and running; however, we are still working on a few items

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

City Attorney Cloud had nothing to report at this time.

MAYOR ITEMS

- Mayor LaCascia reported on the event that took place at Polk Correctional with the Polk Vision – Leadership Class. There were 30 people that attended and the Warden had the riot squad perform a “mock riot.” Reviews were good from everyone in attendance.
- Warden Rivera and his wife will be attending the Ridge League of Cities meeting with Polk City
- Mayor LaCascia advised he would not be available for the March meeting as he will be on vacation, which was planned last year. Vice Mayor Blethen will be conducting the meeting.

VICE MAYOR ITEMS

Vice Mayor Blethen mentioned the article in the Ledger featuring the Polk City Library; it was a nice write up with Linda Bush and what she is doing, particularly with the computers. Vice Mayor Blethen commented that Linda and Suzette are doing a good job with citizen and customer relations.

COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS

Councilor Block – Councilor Block passed out her report and reported the following:

- Councilor Block is concerned about the current legislation – Home Rule is under attack (she gave an example of her email she sent to the legislative delegation from Polk County)
- Councilor Block will be going to Washington, DC next week to meetings at the White House and the Capitol Building
- Councilor Block will be attending the Legislative Action Days in Tallahassee
- Councilor Block attended a meeting regarding retail databases to research the requirements for retailers interest in Polk City
- Councilor Block attended a class on “How to Define and Evaluate a Retail Trade Area”
- Councilor Block put together a brochure and would like to get approval; she is creating a packet for potential retail businesses and would like to include the brochure, as well as a letter to those businesses, and is asking for a consensus from Council for her to proceed.
- Councilor Block noted that she would like to have a booth at Freedom Park on March 27, 2013, when the Bike Florida Spring Tour (sponsored by Polk County Tourism & Sports Marketing) will be making a lunch stop. Local vendors will be on had to supply food to the bicyclists on that day.
- Councilor Block met with the Principal at Polk City Elementary; there may some opportunities to partner with the School. Mayor LaCascia commented the Principal is supposed to be getting with the City Manager on that same matter. She then discussed a project she is working on regarding making education stamps on food a city-wide effort.

It was consensus of Council for Councilor Block to proceed with the brochure and booth at Freedom Park.

Councilor Kimsey – Councilor Kimsey asked when the new water lines would be hooked up on the numbered streets; City Manager Jackson advised we are waiting on the as-built and then a release for the water to be turned on. Councilor Kimsey would like the sign to be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/REQUEST

There were no public comments or requests.

Councilor Kimsey made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Mayor LaCascia. The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Patricia R Jackson, City Clerk

Mayor Joe LaCascia

CONSENT AGENDA
February 14, 2013

MAY ALL BE APPROVED BY ONE VOTE OF COUNCIL TO ACCEPT CONSENT AGENDA. Council Members may remove a specific item below for discussion, and add it to the regular agenda under New or Unfinished Business, whichever category best applies to the subject.

A. CITY CLERK

1. Accept minutes – January 14, 2013 Regular City Council Meeting

B. REPORTS

1. Building Report – January 2013
2. Code Enforcement Report – January 2013
3. Finance Report – December 2012 and January 2013
3. Library Report – January 2013
4. Sheriff's Office Report – January 2013
5. Utilities Report – January 2013

C. OTHER