

CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

March 16, 2015

Mayor Joe LaCascia called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

ROLL CALL – Sheandolen Dunn, Assistant to the City Manager

Present: Mayor Joe LaCascia, Vice Mayor Mike Blethen, Commissioner Don Kimsey, Commissioner Keith Prestage, Commissioner Wanda Harris, City Manager Patricia Jackson and City Attorney Thomas Cloud

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM - Yes

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Prestage to approve the Consent Agenda; this motion was seconded by Commissioner Harris.

Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS - None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joel Chandler (1355 Forest Park Street, Lakeland, FL 33803) – spoke in regards to Polk City's Ordinance 2013-1299, which imposes a \$100 flat-fee for lien searches, and asked the City Commission to rescind that Ordinance and issue a refund to those persons that have paid that fee since it was collected. Discussion between the Commission, City Attorney and City Manager ensued. When asked about the amount of the refund, City Manager Jackson advised it was \$4,800.

Motion by Commissioner Prestage to instruct the City Attorney Cloud to prepare an ordinance to repeal Section 74-98(e) of the Code of Ordinances, to instruct staff stop taking the fee immediately, and to issue refunds totaling \$4,800 to those persons that paid the fee since this ordinance has been in effect in 2013; this motion was seconded by Commissioner Kimsey.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA

Discuss and Approve of CDBG Project Proposal for FY 2015-2016

City Manager Jackson opened discussion about the CDBG Project Proposal for FY 2015-2016 with Polk County. It is the City's desire to install an automatic door button for handicap accessibility at the entrance of City Hall. The funding earmarked for Polk City is \$7,662.00. To date, we are not certain on what it would cost to install the handicap accessibility button; but the cost would not exceed \$7,662.00. There will be a public hearing for public input. The application will need to be submitted by May 15.

Motion by Vice Mayor Blethen to approve the CDBG Project Proposal for FY 2015-2016; this motion was seconded by Commissioner Prestage.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Acceptance of Fiscal Year 2014 Audit

FY 2014 Audit was presented by Mike Brynjulfson (President, Brynjulfson CPA's). After a lengthy presentation, he stated that overall the City remains in a period of stabilization; the City has had a "clean" audit for the last three to four years. There were no instances of non-compliance to report. City Staff has taken the necessary steps to ensure the financial position of the City remains stable.

Mayor LaCascia provided final comments on the audit presentation, expressing appreciation to Finance Director Pam Lawson for her financial work over the last several years to date, as well as City Manager Jackson.

Mayor LaCascia asked the City Commission to consider giving City Manager Jackson a salary increase of \$3,000. Discuss at a later workshop or talk about tonight.

Motion by Mayor LaCascia to discuss City Manager Jackson's salary; this motion was seconded by Commissioner Kimsey.

Under discussion Mayor LaCascia suggested a \$3,000 increase. Commissioner Prestage recommended \$4,000 was more adequate. Vice Mayor Blethen agreed on \$3,000. Mayor LaCascia polled each Commissioner to see if they wanted to increase by \$3,000 or \$4,000; the majority wanted \$4,000.

Final Commission Consensus was for City Manager Jackson to receive a \$4,000 pay increase; which would increase her salary from \$72,000 to \$76,000 and will begin March 30, 2015.

City Attorney Cloud stated the City Manager's Employment Contract would have to be amended to reflect a salary of \$76,000.

Motion by Commissioner Prestage to amend City Manager Jackson's Employment Contract to reflect a salary of \$76,000, effective March 30, 2015; this motion was seconded by Commissioner Harris.

CITY MANAGER / CITY CLERK ITEMS

Annual Yard Sale – Held on Saturday, March 7, 2015 was a success.

Sounds of Polk City – Letters were sent asking for volunteers to serve as committee members; to date we have four people who are interested.

Board of County Commissioners Workshop – Tuesday, March 17 to discuss Impact Fees.

Polk County Day in Tallahassee – Commissioner Harris will not be attending.

Community Center/Storm Shelter - is coming along nicely. We are approximately 60 days out.

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS - None

COMMISSIONER ITEMS

Vice Mayor Blethen – Thanked staff for a good audit. Thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Polytechnic is taking applications for admission.

Commissioner Kimsey – Asked commissioners to drive down First Street (south side) to the park. There is no need for this area to be zoned Commercial.

City Attorney Cloud spoke to clarify acreage requirements and public noticing/hearings and this area has been identified by DCA as the Green Swamp.

City Manager Jackson recommended having a Workshop to discuss this area in detail and staff from Central Florida Regional Planning Council will be present. Everyone will be notified of the date for this Workshop.

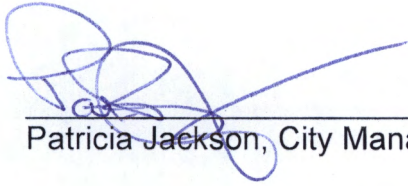
Commissioner Harris – Paving on Honeybee is coming along. Thanked everyone for attending. She will not be able to attend the Legislative Sessions at the Capitol.

Commissioner Prestage – Thanked residents for their concern for Polk City. Encouraged other residents to come to City Commission Meetings and address their concerns.

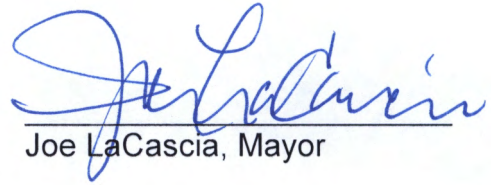
Mayor LaCascia – Thanked everyone for their compliments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

ADJOURNMENT – 8:27 pm



Patricia Jackson, City Manager



Joe LaCascia, Mayor