

CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

July 27, 2017

Mayor Joe LaCascia called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL – Assistant to the City Manager Sheandolen Dunn

Present: Mayor Joe LaCascia, Vice Mayor Wanda Harris, Commissioner Don Kimsey, Commissioner Mike Blethen, Commissioner Randy Carroll, Attorney Jason Zimmerman (in City Attorney Thomas Cloud absence) and City Manager Patricia Jackson

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Discussion of Public Works / Utilities Facilities

Mayor LaCascia briefly discussed background regarding the Public Works facility and what led to this and the need for a facility. This will not be any specific building discussed. For quite a while now we've been in discussion about taking back the Utility Operations and this would require hiring a Public Works Director. Keith Prestage further elaborated on this subject.

Mayor LaCascia opened the Public Hearing.

Sandra Cutts (315 Central Avenue) is in favor of a much needed facility and being mindful of Polk City's future.

Commissioner Kimsey is in favor of a Public Works facility.

Commissioner Carroll expressed his viewpoint regarding the need of a facility.

Commissioner Kimsey inquired about how much acreage would be needed for a facility.

Mayor LaCascia stated there are a number of options, but at this time, this is just the discussion phase and in the future we will explore all options. We are focusing on if Polk City has a need for a Public Works facility or not.

Keith Prestage, Public Works Director responded between three to five acres to utilize. We need to consider the future when looking at Polk City's growth and accommodating those needs.

Mayor LaCascia stated there is a critical need for a facility and there is no need in trying to put this off any longer. Polk City is in need of a Public Works facility.

Keith Prestage stated Polk City is already three years behind on having a facility. The current process and storage is not working.

Lengthy discussion ensued.

City Manager Jackson stated we currently service approximately 7,500 customers (inside and outside the City limits).

Mayor LaCascia stated the City Commission is unanimous in directing staff to move forward with plans for a Public Works/Utilities Facility.

City Commission provided consensus.

Paving – Additional Streets

Keith Prestage discussed the need for paving in several areas of Polk City. At the June meeting, the City Commission gave approval to mill and resurface Haynes Circle, Sunset Blvd, Sunshine Blvd, Sunrise Blvd, Broadway Blvd. NE, W Arborvitae Ln. It has since come to staff's attention that Marklen Loop and Bougainvillea Avenue North (Matt Williams, just outside City Hall) needs to be milled and repaved as well. Therefore, these streets need to be added to the original Ranger Construction contract for repaving. The financial impact for this addition is \$61,318.

Mayor LaCascia requested clarity.

City Manager Jackson stated the \$61,318 will come from the General Fund as the City has already spent the restricted funds for paving. The original paving project total was \$117,413.40 and now adding the \$61,318 for Bougainvillea and Marklen Loop increases the grand total to \$178,731.40. The streets can't last another year.

Keith Prestage stated the next phase after this repaving project in the future would be to Overlay, which is cheaper than milling and resurfacing.

City Manager Jackson stated it takes four years to save enough money from taxes for paving in order to do a large project. We are fortunate that we have enough money from the Gas Tax and General Fund.

Sandra Cutts (315 Central Avenue) – Inquired about Citrus Grove Blvd. being on the list for paving. Inquired about what would be done with the leftover millings.

Keith Prestage responded Citrus Grove Blvd is not list for repaving. The millings will be saved for other projects in the City.

Motion by Commissioner Carroll to approve additional streets for paving to the original Ranger Construction contract; this motion was seconded by Commissioner Kimsey.

Vote: Commissioner Carroll - aye; Commissioner Kimsey – aye; Vice Mayor Harris – aye; Commissioner Blethen – nay; Mayor LaCascia – aye

Motion carried 4/1.

Law Enforcement

City Manager Jackson discussed adding a Deputy for the night shift. Waiting on cost from the Polk County Sheriff's Office. Previous costs have been approximately \$80,000. Does Polk City want to do this?

Mayor LaCascia asked if there has been a demand for this? Would like to wait until the population in Polk City increases before we make a final decision on this.

Deputy Poindexter discussed response times for 911 calls in Polk City. The response times have been within five (5) minutes. The deputies stay close to the area. In April, May, June and July there is a trend at the Dollar General Market and the PCSO has several methods in place to catch the illegal activity.

Commissioner Kimsey stated that a Deputy's presence is going to deter crime.

Mayor LaCascia stated PCSO provides the City Commission with a Daily Crime Report and a Narrative, which gives us a good idea of what's going on in Polk City. Reiterated he would like to wait until the population in Polk City increases before we make a final decision on this.

Commission consensus to move the law enforcement matter to a later date when there is more evidence that additional law enforcement is necessary.

Millage Rate

City Manager Jackson stated Polk City has to certify a proposed millage rate. We use a rolled-back millage rate to give to the property appraiser for the first notice going out to the citizens for their property taxes. This year the rolled-back rate is 7.9547, which is a zero percent (0%) increase. That is the rolled back rate Polk City will send to the Property Appraiser's Office. However, before the budget is presented, we will be working on a lower millage rate. In order to go ahead and get it certified to the Property Appraiser, showing no increase; we will proceed with this rolled back rate, then the City Commission can make any changes it deems necessary.

Attorney Zimmerman stated this is the first step in this process and Polk City is not locked into that number. However, it is always easier to reduce the number.

Commission consensus provided.

Utilities Department

City Manager Jackson stated there has been discussion for two years regarding Polk City taking back its Water and Sewer Operations and Maintenance. In order to do this, Polk City has to give Aquarina a 90-day notice to terminate the Agreement. Polk City is ready to take back the Operations and can do it efficiently. Approximately \$65,000 will be the savings. Aquarina Waterworks has served Polk City well. In the budget process, there will four (4) additional employees for the Utilities Department. Two employees will be dual certified in Water and Wastewater with their Operators License. A Field Technician, certified to handle lift stations, a Meter Technician will handle meter installations, readings, audits and meter repairs.

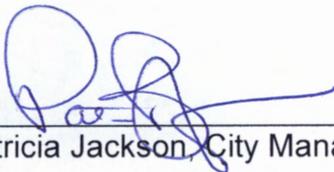
Motion by Commissioner Kimsey to take back Water and Sewer Operations and give Aquarina Waterworks a 90-day notice to terminate the Agreement for services; this motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Harris.

Vote: Commissioner Carroll – aye; Commissioner Blethen – aye; Vice Mayor Harris – aye; Mayor LaCascia – aye; Commissioner Kimsey – aye

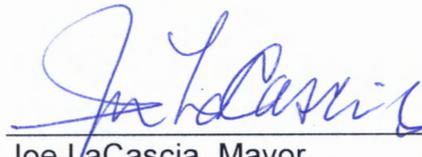
Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

ADJOURNMENT – 7:10 pm



Patricia Jackson, City Manager



Joe LaCascia, Mayor