

CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MINUTES

June 4, 2018

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

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

ROLL CALL – Assistant to the City Manager Sheandolen Dunn

Present: Mayor Joe LaCascia, Vice Mayor Wanda Harris, Commissioner Mike Blethen, Commissioner Don Kimsey, and City Manager Patricia Jackson

Absent: Commissioner Randy Carroll, City Attorney Thomas Cloud

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Draft Polk City Economic Development Strategy – DEO Competitive Florida Partnership Grant

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury and Mike Wadley (CFRPC) presented the draft Polk City Economic Development Strategy to the City Commission and addressed any questions or concerns from the City Commission. Polk City was awarded two grants from Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. This is a culmination of conversations with the City, demographics and where Polk City is headed. This grant gave Polk City the opportunity to put a plan in writing. "MyPolkCity" is an effort through Florida DEO to kick off Polk City's vision. In 2014 Polk City adopted a Vision Plan. Established Downtown core area.

Commissioner Kimsey commented that Polk City is a "Bedroom Community" Several stores are empty today. What can be done to bring businesses to Polk City?

One suggestion was to establish a bicycle rental in the area of the Van Fleet Trail, which could possibly attract an eatery.

Mayor LaCascia stated the businesses are watching and once demographics are out there, the businesses will come. However, the demographics have to come first. The nail salon is a perfect example of the need in Polk City. In the next five to eight years the economy will flourish.

City Manager Jackson stated Polk City has never had this done, so this is the roadmap to growth.

Commissioner Blethen is pleased with the "mypolkcity" brochure. Would like to get a copy in everyone's hands.

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury reiterated this is update and conversation and the feedback is awesome.

Mayor LaCascia stated approximately 500 new rooftops are coming with children. Polk City is the fastest growing city in Polk County.

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury provided an overview of the process for developers with Polk County and the Polk County School Board.

Commissioner Kimsey commented on the awesome fishing pier in Polk City, but there is no parking. People could come to a fishing tournament, they will eat lunch, go to the bait shop, purchase gas and beer.

Mike Wadley (CFRPC) encouraged City staff to send the "mypolkcity" brochure to realtors.

Lengthy discussion on the future goals for Polk City.

Draft Polk City Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury and Mike Wadley (CFRPC) presented the draft Polk City Parks and Recreation Master Plan to the City Commission and addressed any questions or concerns from the City Commission. This came about from the 2014 Visioning and all the projects discussed are grant funded. The Parks and Recreation Plan looks at the population today, the facilities Polk City has and what may be needed in the future. In January 2018, an initial meeting took place where residents discussed what they would like to see in Polk City. As discussion continued, many residents were not aware of the facilities that already exist in the City. Other examples of City amenities are a community garden, movies at Freedom Park, additional street lighting. In March 2018 draft concepts began for improvements to existing parks and heard comments about the green swamp which is a significant part of being in Polk City. Marketing Polk City's assets moving into an ecotourism trend. A "Show Me The Money" survey was done at a workshop which resulted in 39% wanting improvement of the existing City facilities; 32% having City parks and recreation programs; 29% wanted connections such as sidewalks throughout the City. The latest workshop was May 19, 2018. Lengthy discussion on additions to Freedom Park and the Van Fleet Trail.

Mike Wadley spoke briefly on the cultural corridor of Polk City. The key to connectivity is sidewalks.

This Master Plan is a work in progress.

CITY MANAGER ITEMS- None

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS - None

COMMISSIONER ITEMS

Commissioner Blethen inquired about what Polk County wants to do with SR 33 and Berkley Road traffic from Fountain Park.

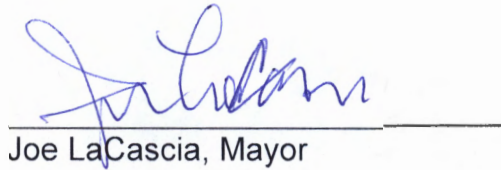
Mayor LaCascia responded TPO and FDOT knows what is going on and takes the position of wait and see what happens. They are in discussion about a proposed traffic light at Mt. Olive Road and SR 33. Polk City is not being treated any different than any other city.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

ADJOURNMENT – 8:10 pm



Patricia Jackson, City Manager



Joe LaCascia, Mayor