

CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

September 4, 2020

Mayor Joe LaCascia called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.m.

ROLL CALL – Assistant to the City Manager Sheandolen Dunn

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

Absent: Commissioner Randy Carroll, City Attorney Thomas Cloud

ORDER OF BUSINESS

2020 Christmas Parade Route Discussion

Mayor LaCascia provided a brief history of events leading up to this workshop regarding FDOT.

FDOT has reached their position on Polk City's Christmas Parade. Polk City must have an alternate route.

Mayor LaCascia asked Sheandolen to call FDOT and let them know it is not necessary for them to attend this meeting. However, they will need to meet with City staff at a later date.

Commissioner Blethen just wanted to understand FDOT's position on not using Deen Still Road to SR 557.

Mayor LaCascia stated the main issue is COVID-19 and people most likely won't attend for this reason.

Keith Prestage, Public Works Director has another option that will need to be discussed with FDOT; choosing another route that won't affect any traffic. But can't do this until we talk to Polk County on the options. The proposed route will be about the same distance, but how do we tie it into the gift-giving at Freedom Park. As of this date, we just really don't have time for the 2020 parade. But, staff is working towards the 2021 parade planning. This problem with FDOT is not going away.

City Manager Jackson suggested staging on Orange Boulevard and start the parade on Barfield Road and end on the other end of Barfield.

Commissioner Harper stated Polk City is asking for a once a year and no more than an hour and a half road closure for the parade. It is clear that FDOT does not want to cooperate. However, I am ok with not having a parade because of COVID-19; but Polk

City must continue to fight with FDOT. Suggested getting the businesses in Polk City needs to send letters of support to FDOT.

Vice Mayor Kimsey suggested just having an event at Freedom Park for Christmas.

Commissioner Blethen agrees with Commissioner Harper, and would like to see all conversations with FDOT documented. He will not vote to cancel the parade because of FDOT.

City Manager Jackson stated that Sheandolen Dunn handles the FDOT application process and Keith Prestage handles detailed logistics. Lengthy discussion took place regarding the communication timeline between FDOT staff and Polk City staff as we knew it to date. The parade route and COVID-19 are the critical factors hampering the planning of Polk City's parade.

Commissioner Harper would like to see FDOT perform a traffic study on a Saturday to review semi-truck traffic.

City Manager Jackson explained that other cities have appropriate detours which will allow major roads to be used for parades. Polk City does not have a variety of detours.

Keith Prestage asked if we are still in a state of emergency?

City Manager Jackson stated the CDC Guidelines indicate no more than a crowd of fifty (50) people.

After lengthy discussion regarding an alternate plan in place of the Christmas Parade, the City Commission provided consensus for staff to make preparation for gift-giving to needy families at Freedom Park.

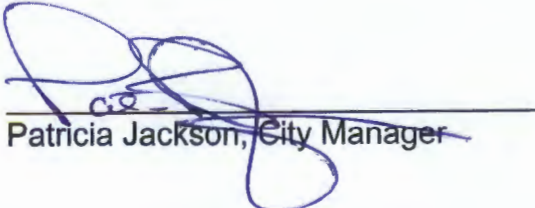
CITY MANAGER ITEMS - None

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS - None

COMMISSIONER ITEMS - None

ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

ADJOURNMENT – 3:45 pm


Patricia Jackson, City Manager


Joe LaCascia, Mayor