

CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

August 17, 2020

Mayor Joe LaCascia called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

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

ROLL CALL –City Manager Patricia Jackson

Present: Mayor Joe LaCascia, Vice Mayor Don Kimsey, Commissioner Wayne Harper, Commissioner Micheal T. Blethen, Commissioner Randy Carroll, City Attorney Thomas Cloud, and City Manager Patricia Jackson

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Harper to approve the July 20, 2020 (City Commission Workshop) and July 20, 2020 (Regular Meeting) minutes; this motion was seconded by Commissioner Carroll. **Unanimously approved by Voice Vote.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Baker (525 Orange Boulevard) – Spoke regarding bidding on projects. Has a company that may want to bid on projects.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Appointment to Planning Commission – Alternate Member – Antonio Thomas

Polk City's Planning Commission currently two alternate vacancies. Polk City's Land Development Code requires that members of the Planning Commission must be a registered voter of Polk City, and a full-time resident of the city, owners or appointed employees of businesses within the City limits, or live within five miles of the City limits in unincorporated Polk County.

On July 15, 2020, Mr. Antonio Thomas submitted his volunteer application to serve on the Planning Commission as an alternate. Mr. Thomas is a resident of Polk City and meets all the requirements to serve on the Planning Commission as an alternate. Mr. Thomas' term will be set for January 1, 2020 and end December 31, 2022.

Mr. Thomas spoke introduced himself and spoke briefly to the City Commission as to why he desires to serve on the Planning Commission.

Motion by Vice Mayor Kimsey to approve Antonio Thomas' appointment as an Alternate Member to the Planning Commission; this motion was seconded by Commissioner Harper.

Motion carried unanimously by Voice Vote.

Approval of Lease with Polk County for Fire Station

Mayor LaCascia briefly discussed the Polk County and Polk City renewing a lease agreement for certain land and building located at 200 Commonwealth in September 2015. That lease is now up for renewal, and Polk County would like to continue with the Lease, which is a benefit for Polk City.

The renewal will be for a period of five years, which would end on September 30, 2025.

Move to approve the Lease Agreement between Polk City (Landlord) and Polk County (Tenant) for a period of five years commencing October 1, 2020 and expiring September 30, 2025.

Motion by Vice Mayor Kimsey to approve the lease agreement with Polk County for the Fire Station located in Polk City; this motion was seconded by Commissioner Harper.

Motion carried unanimously by Voice Vote.

Resolution 2020-07 – A Resolution of City Commission of Polk City, Florida adopting the 2020 Polk County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Mitigation Strategy Update.

City Manager Jackson provided a thorough explanation and purpose of this Resolution. A Resolution of the City Commission of the City Commission of Polk City, Florida; approving its portion of the Polk County Local Mitigation Strategy. Adoption of this Plan ensures Polk City's eligibility to participate in funding opportunities in the years ahead. The LMS is updated every five years.

Please visit <http://polkcountylms.org> to review the updated plan.

Adopt Resolution 2020-07 Polk County Location Mitigation Strategy Update.

Motion by Commissioner Harper to adopt Resolution 2020-07 Local Mitigation Strategy Update; this motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Kimsey.

Roll Call Vote: Mayor LaCascia–aye, Commissioner Carroll–aye, Vice-Mayor Kimsey–aye, Commissioner Harper–aye, Commissioner Blethen–aye

Motion carried unanimously.

Mt. Olive Road Wastewater System Evaluation – Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions, Inc.

Mayor LaCascia stated due to the growth along Mt. Olive Road that is in the Polk City's Utility Service Area, Polk City requested a proposal from Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. to evaluate the Mt. Olive Road Wastewater System to review the existing conditions as well as future demands on the System.

The proposed residential subdivision, known as "The Landings at Mt. Olive" is currently in the Development Review Process and is planned to add approximately 382 homes to Polk City. Two onsite lift stations are anticipated to be constructed as part of "The Landings at Mt. Olive" Development, and are anticipated to discharge to the west through the new sanitary force main along Mt. Olive Road before discharging into the existing lift station at Mount Olive Shores South (Lift Station #10). The cost of this evaluation is \$13,745.

Motion by Commissioner Harper to approve the Mt. Olive Road Wastewater System Evaluation by Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$13,745; this motion was seconded by Mayor LaCascia.

Commissioner Harper asked if a study is being done on the existing system? Is there a plan by Polk County to make any road upgrades.

City Manager Jackson stated unless a R-O-W is done, there is not much that can be done. This R-O-W would be at the City's cost. There is nothing showing in the TPO 5-year plan at this time.

Vice Mayor Kimsey and Commissioner Blethen asked if there was another company other than Wood Environmental.

City Manager Jackson stated No. However, we can try to get three proposals.

It is the consensus of the Commission to go out for RFQ's for the Mt. Olive Road Wastewater System Evaluation.

After lengthy discussion, **motion by Commissioner Harper** to **withdraw** his original motion; this motion to withdraw was also seconded by Mayor LaCascia.

Motion to withdraw the original motion was carried unanimously by Voice Vote.

Audit Presentation – FY 2019 – Mike Brynjulfson

FY 2019 Audit was presented by Mike Brynjulfson (President, Brynjulfson CPA's). Polk City had no material errors. The Bank Statements are up-to-date. However, Polk City is in good financial condition. After a lengthy presentation, Mr. Brynjulfson addressed questions by the Commissioners.

The Commissioners expressed their appreciation to Mr. Brynjulfson and City Staff for their work on the FY 2019 Audit.

Motion by Commissioner Harper to approve the Presentation of the Financial Statement ending September 30, 2019 by Mike Brynjulfson; this motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Kimsey.

Motion carried unanimously by Voice Vote.

CITY MANAGER ITEMS

Christmas Parade

City Manager Jackson opened discussion regarding the Special Events 2020 (Halloween and Christmas Parade) as discussed in the 6pm Workshop. We are requesting to cancel due to COVID-19 and the crowds are not going to abide by the social distancing rules set forth. Also, FDOT has changed the parade route and staging. Staging the currently at Orange Boulevard and come down Commonwealth and end at Freedom Park. This year we cannot do that. FDOT wants that as a detour. This road is not wide enough for two-way traffic. Look at the proposed route by FDOT, the reroute is thru Citrus Grove, thru Berkley – this is not going to work. We would like a year to plan a new type of Christmas event. If the Commission does not want this cancelled, we will try to figure something out. The parade is not going to happen with the proposed route from FDOT. So, we are asking the Commission to allow us to cancel this year. If we don't do it like FDOT wants it done, they will not approve the Road Closure Permit. We considered Smith and Barfield Roads area, but that is way too long of a parade and folks would have to park on the right-of-way and that won't work because that is county road.

City Manager Jackson stated we are requesting cancellation because of COVID-19.

Motion by Wayne Harper to approve cancelling the Special Events this year; this motion was seconded by Mayor LaCascia.

Vice Mayor Kimsey stated he does not want to see the parade leave. But, we really don't have any other alternatives.

Commissioner Blethen stated he is personally at a point to tell FDOT to "stick it!". They don't come to Polk City! They don't know our community! There are no other options other than SR 33. We have one main road in this community. We cannot go down the side roads for a parade. We are asking FDOT for two hours. FDOT is completely bullying, for lack of a better term. I've been here long enough to see the Polk City Elementary Fair come to an end. If we allow FDOT to push us to end this, we won't see the parade again. I personally do not think..... we have all been on the sidelines of the parade. Polk City is not being irresponsible by still having the parade, other than the permit required by FDOT. That's just my opinion!

Mayor LaCascia stated if you've never dealt with FDOT, I will have Patricia and Keith characterize that for you.

City Manager Jackson stated FDOT almost did not give us the Road Closure Permit last year. The traffic has greatly increased north and south and we have no good detours in Polk City. This is the main factor!

Mayor LaCascia inquired about exactly what FDOT is saying.

City Manager Jackson stated FDOT gave us the proposed routes.

Public Works Director Keith Prestage stated if we can come up with alternate routes that DO NOT STOP TRAFFIC for any reason, then we have something to work with. But, the heavy traffic on SR 33 will tear up the roads throughout Polk City. The rep for FDOT is not saying they won't work with us, but there is not an option that will not stop traffic.

Commissioner Blethen stated FDOT does have options.....build some roads! To just say no to us is just arrogant

Commissioner Harper inquired about what kind of penalty would Polk City face if we stopped the traffic for two hours. If there is an accident on I-4, traffic is stopped for hours. Will they fine Polk City \$1,000, \$10,000, etc.?

City Manager Jackson stated that they detour traffic.

Public Works Director Keith Prestage stated if we cannot get a permit, the Polk County Sheriff's Office will not shut down the road. FDOT and PCSO works hand in hand. We can submit application for a permit and see if it gets approved. We have not been able to come up with an alternate plan.

Commissioner Harper asked where the trucks go to detour.

City Manager Jackson stated they would Detour onto Deen Still Road.

Public Works Director Keith Prestage stated the amount of traffic has doubled.

City Manager Jackson stated the other detour was Mt. Olive or Berkeley in HoneyBee.

Commissioner Blethen there are no truckers coming from Deen Still, Clermont and Polk City. They can turn left on Deen Still and go towards Davenport and go that way. Southside can do the same thing.

City Manager Jackson stated the parade has gone on a long time, but at this point the traffic has more than doubled in Polk City.

Commissioner Blethen would love to have FDOT come here and present something. They've only given us problems, not solutions.

Public Works Director Keith Prestage stated Brian and Selina from FDOT presented this proposed plan.

Mayor LaCascia in a practical sense, we don't have time to come FDOT come in between now and the time for parade in the first week in December.

Public Works Director Keith Prestage stated FDOT would be willing to listen to other ideas. I've evaluated all the roads in Polk City and they roads would be torn up. We have exhausted all avenues literally riding through the City in an effort to come up with a plan.

Mayor LaCascia stated FDOT said come up with a plan.

City Manager Jackson stated FDOT gave us this plan. We don't agree with this plan. We cannot come up with a feasible alternate plan for obvious logistical reasonings. If we went with their proposed routes, this would involve blocking residential homes.

Vice Mayor Kimsey asked if we have any conversation with Kermit Weeks at Fantasy of Flight.

City Manager Jackson stated we do not have a relationship with him.

Vice Mayor Kimsey stated we can close down 559. If we had a better relationship with Kermit, maybe we could use his property. It would be nice if we did.

City Manager Jackson stated no we cannot! 559 is the parade route. We would still have to get a permit; the only other place is on Broadway.

Public Works Director Keith Prestage stated that FDOT will not be giving us a permit to close any State Road unless there is an official detour in place. We cannot do this on any of the options we have. If there is no way around it, no permit will be issued.

Commissioner Blethen asked if FDOT came to Polk City and rode the area.

Public Works Director Keith Prestage responded FDOT did not come out and ride with City staff, they rode it on their own and came up with the plan you see before you.

Vice Mayor Kimsey stated he just hates to scratch the Parade.

Commissioner Blethen asked when was the first communication with FDOT?

Public Works Director Keith Prestage stated two weeks prior to the 2019 parade.

City Manager Jackson stated FDOT did not get back to us until June 2020

Public Works Director Keith Prestage stated we closed SR 33 for 1 hour five minutes. Their issue is to keep the traffic flowing.

Mayor LaCascia we need to meet with FDOT almost immediately.

City Manager Jackson stated we can call them tomorrow to see if they can come out here to meet with Polk City Commission.

Commissioner Harper stated we still have the issue of Corona Virus and social distancing. We are gonna have a problem this year whether we get a permit or not, because of Corona. I don't want to see it stopped either. Stop the parade because of Corona! You cannot depend on the officials to have a vaccine before the parade.

We need to work our something with FDOT, yes, but this year make an exception because of Corona. No Halloween, No Santa Claus because of Corona would say use restraint and common sense about this. If it were not for the virus, I would say fight FDOT tooth and nail.

Mayor LaCascia stated we may be able to go back to FDOT and say it is with reservation, but the principle reason out of consideration of Corona, we feel we can work something out and would they be willing to look at something going down the road, but this year, we are mostly basing our decision to cancel on Corona. But leave the door open to figure out plans for next year.

Commissioner Harper stated he does not want to see the first person get sick with the virus as a result of being at a City function.

Commissioner Blethen stated earlier today, we voted the coach in right here in this room. His boys are gonna be super close in wrestling.

Commissioner Blethen stated FHSAA sports start now all over Polk County. By the time we get to December. Is certain that in October, there will be a vaccine ready to go. I believe that the decision.....if we cannot find an option.....the parade is canned PERIOD!

Mayor LaCascia stated the City Commission wants FDOT to come here.

City Manager Jackson stated FDOT gave Polk City a pass last year. Then needed to know the time frame of the road closure.

Public Works Director Keith Prestage stated that we had to add Virtual Message Boards stating road closure.

City Manager Jackson also had to notify trucking companies in the area.

Mayor LaCascia stated the consensus is to have the FDOT to come here to discuss the options for the Polk City parade.

Commissioner Blethen stated I understand it is out of staffs control. But the flip side is we cannot continue taking from the people of Polk City.

Public Works Director Keith Prestage stated it won't be because we did not fight for this.

Pig Tails for Generators

Polk City needs eight (8) more pig tails for the generators for lift station hookups. Four (4) have been located. The original quote was in the amount of \$10,800, which was just for the pig tails. The final cost of \$14,921 from Southern Electric was for parts, materials and labor. This was an emergency and will be brought before the Commission at the 7pm Regular meeting to be ratified since this is above the City Manager's \$10,000 spending limit.

City Manager Jackson provided thorough clarification, reiterating this was an emergency expense. Lengthy discussion ensued.

Motion by Commissioner Blethen to approve the expenditure of \$14,921 to Southern Electric; this motion was seconded by Commissioner Harper.

Roll Call Vote: Vice Mayor Kimsey – nay, Mayor LaCascia – aye, Commissioner Blethen – aye, Commissioner Harper – aye; Commissioner Carroll – aye

Motion carried 4/1.

Bid for Utility Relocation – Multi-Use Trail

At the last meeting, City Manager Jackson acquired permission to go out to bid for the Utility Relocation. The quote received was for \$24,231, which is under our bid price. Would like to get permission to get two more quotes and use the lowest bid.

Odom Contracting does the majority of Polk City's Utility work and has been the lowest bidder; Odom also does good for the City and we've used him for several years now. A confirmation letter was received agreeing to have Odom Contracting to do the work.

Lengthy discussion ensued.

Commissioner Blethen stated as previously discussed, he would like for Polk City to acquire additional quotes for this project.

Motion by Commissioner Harper to approve Odom Contracting for the Bid for Utility Relocation – Multi-Use Trail in the amount of \$24,231; this motion was seconded by Commissioner Carroll.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Carroll – aye, Commissioner Harper – aye, Commissioner Blethen – nay, Mayor Lacascia – aye, Vice Mayor Kimsey – aye

Motion carried 4/1.

City ATTORNEY ITEMS

Update of the PRWC Mediation/Facilitation letter.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS

Vice Mayor Kimsey – Requested City Manager Check with Lake Alfred for electronic sign outside City Hall. He will commit \$1,000 to the new sign.

City Manager Jackson responded the signs are approximately \$30,000.

Commissioner Blethen – None

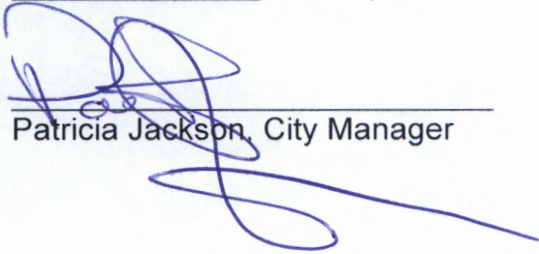
Commissioner Harper – None

Commissioner Carroll – None

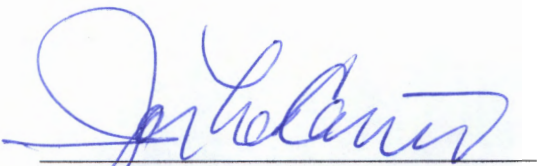
Mayor LaCascia – None

ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

ADJOURNMENT – 9.05 pm



Patricia Jackson, City Manager



Joe LaCascia, Mayor