

CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MINUTES

November 16, 2020

Vice Mayor Kimsey called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

ROLL CALL – Assistant to the City Manager Sheandolen Dunn

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

Absent: Commissioner Randy Carroll

Agenda Review - City Commission Meeting – November 16, 2020

Mayor LaCascia reiterated the purpose of the Workshop is to discuss items being presented on the Regular Meeting Agenda and address any questions or concerns and ultimately be able to proceed in a more efficient manner at the Regular Meeting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Republic Services Amendment Three to Solid Waste & Recycling Collection Franchise Agreement 2021

Mayor LaCascia briefly discussed the Republic Services Agreement before turning the discussion over to Mary Boyer from Republic Services. On July 14, 2020 the City Commission approved a one-time three-year extension with an automatic increase of 1.5% per year.

Mrs. Boyer provided a thorough breakdown of what's being paid now versus what will be paid with the projected increase that Republic Services is requesting. Per home would be an increase of \$1.29 per home.

Mayor LaCascia reiterated that with the last increase that Republic Services requested, Polk City absorb that expense. If we move forward with another increase, the City cannot continue to incur those expenses; it will have to be passed on to the residents.

City Manager Jackson stated that if we proceed with this increase as proposed by Republic Services, it calculates to approximately 6%. We must look at the overall impact to the residents if this is presented to them.

Commissioner Blethen discussed competitive pay in Polk County as it would relate to the proposed increase being discussed.

City Attorney suggested splitting the difference between the 1.5% and the 3%, which would be a 2.25% increase.

Republic Services is willing to work with Polk City to come up with a satisfactory agreement.

Commissioner Harper would vote for the 3% increase for one year, but not passing any increase on to the customers.

Vice- Mayor Kimsey would like to see 2.25% increase and not pass on to the residents.

Commissioner Blethen stated due to the economic strain, he is in agreement with Commissioner Harper for 3% for one year, but not pass anything on to the customers.

Mayor LaCascia reiterated that we have approximately 600 additional homes coming into Polk City, which is additional revenue. However, we are especially sensitive to the citizens at this time. He is fine with a one-year contract at this time.

Lengthy discussion ensued.

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA) - City Attorney Cloud stated the State has published a new rule last Friday. Their proposing to take away approximately 35% of Polk City's water allocation for the water plants. There is no reason for them to do this. Polk City is having zero impact on minimal flows and levels and the district is documenting nothing Polk City must challenge this rule. There is a consortium to attack this rule and the City of Lakeland is leading the charge in this case. There is a cap of \$76,000 for the experts in this endeavor and the City of Lakeland has picked up half of the cost of the experts. Polk City's share will be \$3,800.

A Joint Defense Agreement has been drawn up for Lakeland, Winter Haven, Bartow, Fort Meade, Polk City and Eagle Lake. The City Attorney has the Agreement ready for Polk City's vote and signature at the Regular Meeting.

CITY MANAGER ITEMS - None

COMMISSIONER ITEMS - None

ADJOURNMENT – 6:50 pm


Patricia Jackson, City Manager


Joe LaCascia, Mayor