

## CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

April 18, 2023

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Mayor LaCascia called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

David Byrd, Little Flock Primitive Baptist Church gave the invocation.

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

### **ROLL CALL** – City Manager Patricia Jackson

**Present:** Mayor Joe LaCascia, Vice Mayor Wayne Harper, Commissioner Micheal T. Blethen, Commissioner Charles Nichols, City Manager Patricia Jackson, and Attorney Heather Ramos (sub for City Attorney Thomas Cloud)

### **Election of Mayor**

**Motion by Vice Mayor Harper** to nominate Joe LaCascia to serve another one-year term as Mayor; this motion was seconded by Commissioner Blethen.

**Motion carried unanimously 4/0.**

### **Election of Vice Mayor**

**Motion by Mayor LaCascia** to nominate Wayne Harper to serve another one-year term as Vice Mayor; this motion was seconded by Commissioner Blethen.

**Motion carried unanimously 4/0.**

### **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion by Commissioner Nichols** to approve the March 21, 2023 (Regular City Commission Meeting), as well as the Reports and Other items on the Consent Agenda; this motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Harper.

**Approved by Voice Vote 4/0.**

### **PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS**

Mayor LaCascia presented Water Conservation Proclamation for the month of April.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

William Lisanby (4918 Northshore Drive) spoke regarding an easement for maintenance where the canal borders City property. Would like the easement graded.

Attorney Ramos responded that the HOA would need to have an agreement with Polk City. Will need to speak with the HOA President.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCE 2023-01**

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury (CFRPC) provided a brief overview and discussion of Ordinance 2023-01 – An Ordinance of Polk City, Florida; amending Section 2.05.02, Polk City Land Development Code, removing requirements for City Commission approval of boat docks and providing for corrections; repealing all ordinances in conflict; providing for codification; and providing an effective date. **Second and Final Reading**

Attorney Ramos read this Ordinance by title only. No one spoke for or against this Ordinance. Mayor LaCascia opened the Public Hearing. Mayor LaCascia closed the Public Hearing.

**Motion by Commissioner Nichols** to approve Ordinance 2023-01 on **Second and Final Reading**; this motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Harper.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mayor LaCascia–aye, Vice Mayor Harper–aye, Commissioner Blethen–aye, Commissioner Nichols–aye

**Motion carried 4/0.**

**CDBG Project Update**

Ron Cauthen, (Chastain-Skillman) presented and discussed the FY 2019-2020 CDBG Project for the NW Section of Polk City, which includes Citrus Grove Boulevard. City Manager and Staff have met with Chastain-Skillman regarding the item listed below:

-Geotechnical Report (No Base beneath Pavement) – work with what we have, add overlay, letter acknowledging existing condition)

The only outstanding item is the paving of Citrus Grove Boulevard. Since the estimate was done back in October 2020, there have been drastic price increases, almost doubled. With costs steadily rising, this project could exceed \$1.1 million. Therefore, the City Commission will need to address how Polk City should proceed.

The City Commission was asked to address how Polk City should proceed with the Citrus Grove Boulevard Paving Project.

After lengthy discussion, the City Commission cannot make an informed decision on this project until more updated information is received.

**Centennial Celebration Update – David Byrd**

David Byrd, Chairperson for the Centennial Celebration Committee presented the City Commission with a status report for the upcoming 2025 celebration. After hearing the update, there is still more information that the City Commission needs regarding exact dollar amounts of items from Mr. Byrd. He will bring at a later date.

**CITY MANAGER ITEMS**

**FDOT Vision Planning for Polk City** – A Community Workshop is scheduled for May 23, 2023. A flyer with pertinent details has been placed on the website, in the newsletter, as well as a separate email to everyone signed up through Utility Billing.

**CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS**

Two bills are currently making their way through the Legislative Session. 1) Financial Form requirements for elected officials to annually file Form 6. It is more detailed than Form 1 and may be a deterrent for folks to run for office as it digs deeper into a person’s financial life. The City Manager will still be able to file Form 1 (Financial Disclosure).

2) A proposed amendment to the Constitution, which would prohibit Non-Partisan Elections such as what we have in Polk City. This amendment would not allow city residents to participate in an election of their commission members if they are not a part of the same political party.

**COMMISSIONER ITEMS**

**Commissioner Nichols** – None

**Commissioner Blethen** – None

**Vice Mayor Harper** – City Commission Vacancy. No letter of Interest has been received. City Attorney Cloud will provide further insight at the next meeting. Attorney Ramos will speak with City Attorney Cloud regarding the vacancy concerns. All Commissioners have been emailed the maps which are color-coded by Districts.

**Mayor LaCascia** – Discussed the PRIDE Proclamation request that was emailed to him. Wants to know the other Commissioners thoughts on having this read into Polk City’s record. He is not comfortable with this proclamation.

Commissioner Nichols – no specific issue with this proclamation

Commissioner Blethen – will defer to the May meeting

Vice Mayor Harper – No comment

Chaplain Jill Bryan stated if this proclamation happens, she will move out of Polk City.

Garrett Goodrich stated that this proclamation goes against the values of his entire family.

David Byrd – suggested not signing the PRIDE Proclamation into Polk City’s official record.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None

**ADJOURNMENT** – 8:15 pm

  
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Patricia Jackson, City Manager

  
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Joe LaCascia, Mayor