

CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

May 16, 2023

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

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

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

ROLL CALL – Assistant City Manager Sheandolen Dunn

Present: Mayor Joe LaCascia, Vice Mayor Wayne Harper, Commissioner Charles Nichols, City Manager Patricia Jackson, and City Attorney Thomas Cloud

Absent: Commissioner Micheal T. Blethen

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Nichols to approve the April 18, 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 3/0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Donna Martin (513 1st Street) spoke regarding LDC Changes for outside display of merchandise outside of a retail establishment.

City Attorney Cloud explained that this item needs to go before the Planning Commission first.

Commissioner Nichols is in favor of this item being presented to the Planning Commission.

Vice Mayor Harper is in favor, but other businesses have been in violation of the current ordinance.

Kathy Delp, Development Services Director responded that the Dollar General Market was the only business in violation of the Code. Gas station only has propane tanks and ice machines outside.

City Attorney Cloud will prepare an amendment working with CFRPC.

The City Commission provided Consensus for this item to go before the Planning Commission.

Mrs. Delp reiterated that until an Ordinance is passed, outside items are still prohibited.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

City Commission Vacancy – District #2

Brian Knouff (449 Honeybee Lane) submitted a letter of interest for the City Commission Vacancy District #2 Seat. Mr. Knouff shared his background with the Commission and addressed any questions they had.

Motion by Vice Mayor Harper to approve Brian Knouff to fill the District #2 vacancy; this motion was seconded by Commissioner Nichols.

Motion carried by Voice Vote 3/0.

City Manager Jackson administered Mr. Knouff's Oath of Office.

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.

Commissioner Nichols stated he is not in support of City staff working all weekend and the regular work week. That would place a major toll on staff and volunteers. More in favor of a two-day event.

City Manager Jackson stated if this is an event NOT on City property, Polk City would have to purchase a different type of insurance. Vendors would be required to have certificates of insurance.

City Manager Jackson stated for this type of event, there will need to be at least 40 volunteers.

Commissioner Knouff requested clarification on exactly what each employee would be doing throughout this event.

City Manager Jackson provided a thorough explanation on the employees' role during the event. She also reiterated setting aside \$25,000 each year in the budget now, through 2025.

After hearing the update and lengthy discussion, the request for \$100,000 was **approved by Voice Vote**. All funds will be disbursed through Financial Services with appropriate documentation. Commissioner Charles Nichols was also appointed as the Liaison from the City Commission to the Centennial Celebration Committee.

Re-Appointment of Planning Commission Members

City Manager Jackson stated Polk City's Planning Commission has two members whose terms ended December 31, 2022, which are William Fienga and David Prins. Staff would like to recommend the abovementioned members be re-appointed for the term beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2024.

Motion by Commissioner Nichols to approve the re-appointment of William Fienga and David Prins for the term beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2024; this motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Harper.

Motion carried 4/0 by Voice Vote.

Approval of Easement with Mt. Olive Shoes "South"

City Manager Jackson stated the Mt. Olive Shores Lot Owners Association of Polk County, Inc.'s President has submitted a letter requesting an easement in order to access their weir and effect repairs to it from City property.

This was discussed at the April meeting, and the Commission instructed the City Manager to proceed with the City Attorney regarding the Easement Agreement, along with the description of the Easement. The extended portion is approximately 3,382 square feet.

Motion by Commissioner Nichols to approve the Mt. Olive Shores South Easement Agreement; this motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Harper.

Motion carried 4/0 by Voice Vote.

Approval of Purchase of Water Meter Registers

City Manager Jackson discussed the need to purchase 200 Water Meter Registers to replace registers that are no longer working. The total costs of these registers will be \$37,714.00, which is above the City Manager's spending limit.

Staff requested approval of the purchase of 200 Water Meter Registers from Empire Pipe and Supply in the amount of \$37,714.00.

Motion by Commissioner Nichols to approve the purchase of 200 water meter registers from Empire Pipe and Supply in the amount of \$37,714.00; this motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Harper.

Motion carried by Voice Vote 4/0.

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

- 1) MOSS Easements - Missing two exhibits. Will correct and move forward.
- 2) Utility Rate Case - was recently handed down by the 4th District Court of Appeals, regarding the Town of Indian River Shores versus City of Vero Beach. This was a Utility Rate Case, where Indian River Shores was receiving services from Vero Beach. Arguing that their contract allowed them to get a reduced rate that would have led to subsidy by the provider to the outside city limit customer. The Appellate Court ruled NO. Inside city limit customers cannot subsidize out of city customers. This affects every city in the State of Florida.

CITY MANAGER ITEMS

Reminder - FDOT Vision Planning for Polk City – May 23, 2023 – 5pm – 7pm. 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.

Special Events – 200 letters have gone out regarding Safe Haven Halloween and Christmas. Will be doing a contract again with Orlando Fun Crew.

FCCMA – City Manager Jackson will be at the FCCMA Meeting May 31 – June 4 in Orlando.

Polk County/Fire Station – City Manager Jackson will be meeting with Polk County next week to continue discussions about the new Fire Station and the Sprayfield. Will provide an update after the meeting.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS

Commissioner Nichols – None

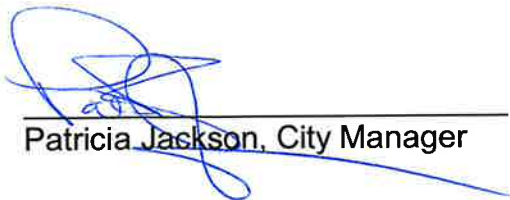
Vice Mayor Harper – Welcomed Polk City’s newest Commissioner, Brian Knouff

Commissioner Knouff – None

Mayor LaCascia – Welcomed Commissioner Brian Knouff

ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

ADJOURNMENT – 8:15 pm



Patricia Jackson, City Manager



Joe LaCascia, Mayor