

CITY COMMISSION MINUTES
February 21, 2023

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

Pastor 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 Micheal T. Blethen, Commissioner Charles Nichols and City Manager Patricia Jackson, City Attorney Thomas Cloud

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Vice Mayor Harper to approve the January 17, 2023 (Regular City Commission Meeting), as well as the Reports and Other items on the Consent Agenda; this motion was seconded by Commissioner Blethen.

Approved by Voice Vote 4/0.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

Mayor LaCascia presented a proclamation for the Irish American Heritage Month.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Clifford Byrd (619 Smith Road) spoke regarding the property for sale next to the Cemetery. Inquired if Polk City would have an interest to purchase this property.

City Attorney Cloud advised does the city have a need for the cemetery. What is the Fair Market Value? What Polk City would pay for the property? What would the property be used for?

Brief discussion ensued.

Virginia Bermeo (8739 Rindge Road) spoke on the possibility of a red light being installed at Mt. Olive Road and SR 33.

City Manager Jackson explained there will be a red light installed as part of the requirements placed on the developer of the warehouse coming in on the west side. This light must be installed prior to the operation of the warehouse. The warehouse construction was to resume in February, but has not, so we are not sure at this moment when the construction will resume.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 2022-11

Marissa Barmby (CFRPC) provided a thorough overview and discussion of Ordinance 2022-11 – Annexation - An Ordinance of the City Commission of Polk City, Florida; voluntarily annexing property into the Corporate limits of Polk City, Florida, pursuant to section 171.044, Florida Statutes; amending the city boundary to include said property; providing findings; providing for notice by publication of the proposed annexation; filing a certified copy of the ordinance as provided by law; providing for conflicts, severability, and an effective date. **Second and Final Reading**

City Attorney Cloud 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 Blethen to approve Ordinance 2022-11 on **Second and Final Reading**; this motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Harper.

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

No further discussion by Commission or the Public.

Motion carried 4/0.

ORDINANCE 2022-12

Marissa Barmby (CFRPC) provided a thorough overview and discussion of Ordinance 2022-12 – Future Land Use Amendment – An Ordinance of Polk City, Florida, amending the Future Land Use Map of the City’s Comprehensive Plan by changing the Future Land Use Designation of approximately 1.37 acres from Polk County Convenience Center-X (CC-X) to City Convenience Center-X (CCX) in the Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern; transmitting said amendment to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for finding of Compliance; providing for findings, severability, conflicts and an effective date. **Second and Final Reading**

Mrs. Barmby explained that this Ordinance and its companion (Ordinance 2022-13) were forwarded to DEO and SWFWMD for review. There were no comments back to Polk City from any of the agencies.

City Attorney Cloud read this Ordinance by title only. Mayor LaCascia opened the Public Hearing.

Barbara Zukowski (5041 Southshore Drive) spoke in regards to the draining in this area and what will go in this area.

Marisa Barmby explained the process and before this property is developed, the developer still has numerous stages of approvals to go through before final approval can be done.

No further discussion by Commission or the Public.

Mayor LaCascia closed the Public Hearing.

Motion by Commissioner Nichols to approve Ordinance 2022-12 on **Second and Final Reading**; this motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Harper.

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

Motion carried 4/0.

ORDINANCE 2022-13

Marissa Barmby (CFRPC) provided a thorough overview and discussion of Ordinance 2022-13 – Zoning – An Ordinance amending the official zoning map of Polk City, Florida, to change the zoning for approximately 1.37 acres located at 0 State Road 33 (Parcel Number 24-27-01-000000-012020) from Polk County Convenience Center-X (CCX) to City Convenience Center-X (CCX) in the Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern; providing for severability, and providing an effective date. This is a companion to Ordinance 2022-12. **Second and Final Reading**

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

Motion by Commissioner Blethen to approve Ordinance 2022-13 on **Second and Final Reading**; this motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Harper.

No Discussion by Commission or the Public.

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

Motion carried 4/0.

CATTLE GRAZING LEASE AGREEMENT

City Manager Jackson stated in 2015 Mr. Bush contacted Polk City regarding five acres the City owns adjacent to the Joshua Land property which he currently leases for his cattle business. Upon accidental discovery there is no perimeter fence in place. Therefore, his cattle was free to graze on the five acres that Polk City owns. It is Mr. Bush's desire to continue occupying this property and will maintain such at his expense.

Upon discovery that the 2015 lease expired, Mr. Bush desires to renew the lease for five years in the amount of \$10.00 per month, but with an automatic extension for an additional five (5) years, which would terminate this lease in 2033.

Motion by Commissioner Nichols to approve the Cattle Grazing Lease Agreement with the terms as presented; this motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Harper.

Motion carried by Voice Vote 4/0.

Resolution 2023-01 - Polk City Employee Handbook

City Manager Jackson briefly discussed the new Employee Handbook that was presented at the January 17 meeting. This item was tabled until the February 2023 to address the lunch hour time frame.

Motion by Commissioner Blethen to adopt Resolution 2023-01 as presented; this motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Harper.

No Discussion by the Commission or the public.

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

Motion carried 4/0.

CITY COMMISSION VACANCY – DISTRICT #2

City Manager Jackson briefly discussed the District #2 vacancy on the City Commission. This vacancy will be advertised on the City’s website and in the newsletter and will include a map of District #2. If persons are interested in serving on the Commission, they must submit a letter of interest.

City Commission provided a consensus to advertise the District #2 Vacancy.

CITY MANAGER ITEM - None

CITY ATTORNEY

SB 740 has been introduced, looking at whether or not to decrease the Florida counties from 67 to 40. The constitution must be amended. Will keep the Commission on the progress of SB 740.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS

Commissioner Nichols – None

Commissioner Blethen – None

Vice Mayor Harper – None

Mayor LaCascia – None

ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

ADJOURNMENT – 7:35 pm



Patricia Jackson, City Manager



Joe LaCascia, Mayor