

CITY COMMISSION MINUTES
August 13, 2024

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

Sheandolen Dunn, 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, Commissioner Micheal T. Blethen, Commissioner Rick Wilson, Commissioner Michelle Pettit, City Attorney Thomas Cloud and City Manager Patricia Jackson

Absent: Commissioner Charles Nichols

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Blethen to approve the **July 16, 2024** Regular City Commission Meeting, Department Reports, and other items on the Consent Agenda; this motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson.

Motion carried unanimously by Voice Vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ORDER OF BUSINESS

520 – 2nd Street Supplemental Complaint to Re-foreclose

At the June 18, 2024 City Commission Meeting, this property was presented to the City Commission to consider a motion to Release the Lien. This property went into foreclosure and was sold at Judicial sale for less than the principal due on the mortgage.

The City Commission denied the request for a Lien Release.

On July 10, 2024 Polk City received notice of a lawsuit regarding this property.

City Attorney Cloud encouraged Polk City to accept the original offer of \$1,500.

Mayor LaCascia asked if Polk City knew that this lien was subordinated to an existing foreclosure.

City Attorney Cloud responded, No. Because we are not required when filing liens, to do a title search. There is nothing the City missed here.

Commissioner Blethen stated Polk City is now setting a precedence. Inquired about why Polk City could not assist this homeowner is getting control of all the liens that were placed on the home.

City Attorney Cloud explained that the homeowner lost the home to the bank, which had absolutely nothing to do with the lien fees. Once the bank steps in, there is nothing the City can do.

Staff recommended the City Commission consider accepting the \$1,500 settlement as presented by Attorney Steven Greenfield.

Motion by Commissioner Blethen to accept the \$1,500 settlement as presented by Attorney Steven Greenfield.

Motion carried 4/0 by Voice Vote.

Christmas Parade Approval – Saturday, December 7, 2024

As we move forward finalizing plans for the 2024 Christmas Parade, FDOT now requires City Commission approval for the City's parade. The City Commission Meeting minutes from this meeting will be submitted as proof of approval, along with the electronic Road Closure application to FDOT.

The 2024 Christmas Parade is set for Saturday, December 7, 2024, beginning at the intersection of Orange Boulevard/Broadway Boulevard and will conclude at Freedom Park.

Mayor LaCascia asked if we have a new Santa and Mrs. Claus?

City Manager Jackson and Chasity Guinn responded Yes!

Staff recommended approval of 2024 Christmas Parade.

Motion by Commissioner Blethen to approve the 2024 Christmas Parade; this motion was seconded by Commissioner Pettit.

Motion carried 4/0 by Voice Vote.

Engagement with Gray Robinson P.A. for Lobbyist Services

City Attorney Cloud explained the purpose of the Engagement Letter and having a Lobbyist in Washington to advocate for Polk City will be a huge benefit. Polk City will have access to apply for major funding available for Water and Wastewater projects. Polk City could risk not getting any funding without the Lobbyist Services.

The Lobbyist Services Agreement is \$5,000 per month (\$60,000 annually). This Agreement can terminate with a 30-day termination notice if Polk City is not happy with the services.

Mayor LaCascia explained that he is concerned about funds at this point, based on items that were approved at the July meeting.

Joanna Knowles, Finance Director explained that Polk City would be using ARPA funds for the projects discussed at the last meeting.

Craig Fuller, CivilSurv, explained that a new plant will be an estimated cost of \$17.5 million.

Commissioner Blethen inquired about the kind of reporting Polk City would receive from the Lobbyist?

City Attorney Cloud stated that he can acquire that information for the Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Wilson to approve the Engagement Letter with Gray Robinson P.A. for Lobbyist Services; this motion was seconded by Mayor LaCascia.

Roll Call Vote: Mayor LaCascia – aye, Commissioner Blethen – aye,
Commissioner Pettit – aye, Commissioner Wilson – aye

Motion carried 4/0 by Voice Vote.

Planning Commission Candidate – Terry Oliver

Polk City's Planning Commission had two vacancies due to the resignation of Rick Wilson and Antonio Thomas not being reappointed.

Terry Oliver has submitted their application of interest.

Mr. Oliver spoke briefly about himself and his desire to be on the Planning Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Blethen to approve Terry Oliver's appointment to the Planning Commission; this motion was seconded by Commissioner Pettit.

Motion carried 4/0 by Voice Vote.

CITY MANAGER ITEMS

City Manager Jackson provided project updates on the following items:

ANALYSIS:

The following projects are designated for the second portion of the ARPA funds in the amount of \$682,162. This will be in the 2025 budget as a Cash Carry Forward for the Revenue side. The projects listed will be paid for with these funds.

-Voyles Loop Lift Station Repairs – currently going out for bid, price to be determined upon receipt of bids – Approved at the November 21, 2023 City Commission Meeting.

-Cardinal Hill Bar Screen – \$319,500 – Approved at the May 21, 2024 City Commission Meeting

APPROVED AT THE JULY 16, 2024 CITY COMMISSION MEETING - THREE (3)

AGREEMENTS

- Down Well Inventory Survey– 20 wells – Not to exceed \$50,000
- Fate and Transport Agreement - not to exceed \$43,300
- Re-rating the I-4 RIBS - not to exceed \$30,000

Additional projects will be brought to the September City Commission Meeting.

Staff recommended approving the use of ARPA funds for the abovementioned projects. In the amount of \$682,162.

Motion by Commissioner Pettit to approve the use of ARPA funds for the abovementioned projects; this motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson.

Motion carried 4/0 by Voice Vote.

Mt. Olive Road Force Main - bids have been advertised, had a mandatory pre-bid meeting, and bids are due back by September 4, 2024 at 2:00 pm

Cardinal Hill Project – Notice to Proceed has been given.

Matt Williams WTF is back online.

Commonwealth 5,000-gallon HydroPneumatic Water Tank - had its five-year engineering inspection. The overall tank was reported to be in fair operating condition; however, the following issues are to be addressed. We will get a quote to refurbish it, as well as replacing the 5,000-gallon tank. At this age of the tank, it is the recommendation to replace it.

Brynjulfson CPA, PA.- Will no longer be doing Polk City’s audits. His contract expires after this year’s audit is presented in September. Mr. Brynjulfson will assist with some of the functions that George Cotellis assist Polk City with (mainly bank statements).

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

Most of the items on City Attorney Cloud Consent Order Status Report for August 13, 2024, were already discussed by Craig Fuller and/or City Manager Jackson during the meeting earlier tonight. A Consent Order Status Report will be given to the City Commission monthly.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS

Commissioner Blethen – Discussed the Christmas Parade Grand Marshal selection

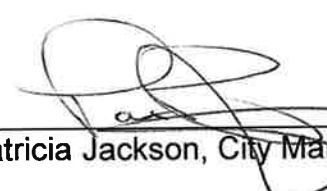
Commissioner Pettit – None

Commissioner Wilson – None

Mayor LaCascia – Commended the Utilities Team on their work on Jericho on last Friday’s Water line break. The Team worked 12 hours to get the problem fixed. Great Job! Commissioner Wilson commented on their work on Bascom Court several days ago as well. Great Job!

ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

ADJOURNMENT – 7:05 pm



Patricia Jackson, City Manager



Joe LaCascia, Mayor