

**MINUTES
CITY OF LAKE ALFRED
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY DECEMBER 5, 2016
7:30 P.M.
CITY HALL**

Call to Order: Mayor Charles Lake

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Pastor Strawn

Roll Call: Those in attendance were Mayor Charles Lake, Vice Mayor Nancy Daley, Commissioner John Duncan, Commissioner Jack Dearmin and Commissioner Albertus Maultsby.

Staff attendance: City Manager Ryan Leavengood, Assistant Attorney Seth Claytor, City Clerk Ameen Bailey-Speck, Police Chief Art Bodenheimer, and Public Works Director John Deaton.

CITY MANAGER ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Manager Leavengood stated the upcoming Lake Alfred Public Library events include story time, Lego Mania, adult coloring, story time, jewelry, and computer class. The Library will also be hosting the Friends of the Library Book Sale and Mobil Career Source. Contact the Library for more information.

The City will hold its annual Employee Holiday Party on Friday December 16th at the Lions Club at 6 pm. Board members are invited to attend.

Santa Clause is coming to Lake Alfred and male volunteers are needed to make calls to kids on December 20th. Please let Parks and Recreation Department know if you are interested.

City Offices and the Library will be closed on Friday December 23rd thru Monday December 26th in observance of Christmas. Offices will also be closed on January 2nd, 2017 for New Year's Day. Changes to the Solid Waste schedule will be distributed and are posted on the City website.

The annual Lake Alfred Bluegrass & BBQ Bash, will be held Saturday January 14th from 11:00 am until 9:00 pm at Lions Park. Banners have been posted on the new frames. For more information please contact the Parks and Recreation Department.

The City participated in the Havendale Christmas Parade, the Lake Alfred Parade and events at Gardner Park which were a great success. This was the first time in many years the City had its own float, thanks to Richard Weed and pews donated by Commissioner Duncan.

City Manager Leavengood shared a compliment for work to recovery a plumbing company van by the Police Department. He provided an update on the new aluminum dock at Lions Park. The City purchased the materials and the dock was installed by the Canal Commission. The budget includes \$30,000 each year for this type of parks maintenance project. The City Commission will see additional proposals in January.

City Manager Leavengood stated that there were citizens in the audience regarding the utility rate structure. He presented data on Fruitland Park. The area has 98 users with 63% paying less. He also discussed the City's ability to show customers their daily water usage through a data log. This allows customers to understand usage and to assist with leak detection. Customers have started asking how to reduce consumption.

He gave a presentation on the water and sewer rate study to update the residents of Marianna Acres on the recent changes. The City changed from a flat rate system to a user based system. The City previously had an informal vacation policy which had no foundation in the code, ordinance or resolution. The vacation policy actually conflicts with the code (sewer availability for customers not connected) and could have been a violation of the bond to waive the fees for some users. Now everyone pays the base rate for access to the service and then customers pay for their individual usage. 95% of the utility's costs are fixed. The new rate structure is revenue neutral to promote fairness and conservation. The study accomplished a 25% reduction in the base rates for all customers with a breakeven point of 4,500 gallons of usage per month. If some customers do not pay the base rate then the base rates for everyone would need to increase. Due to good management, the water and sewer rates have not increase for 15-20 years.

The City Manager reviewed the vacation policies of other cities in Polk County. Seven cities do not have a vacation status or provide a slight reduction. The City is honoring the agreement for vacation rates until customers return. Customers that installed an irrigation meter in the past 5 years to utilize the old vacation policy will be reimbursed. The City is allowing customers to reduce their meter size to reduce their utility costs. Over time, the City may need to make additional changes. Other cities have lower base rates with higher usage rates. The City can review moving the sanitation billing from the monthly bill to the ad valorem assessment and reduce the overall costs. The City can also consider an interim vacation policy for sanitation.

Fred Dye in Lake Marianna Acres asked the cost to start a new service.

City Manager Leavengood stated that the deposit is approximately three times the base fee. If you turn off the service and re-open account within a year you are responsible for the base fee for the period the account closed.

Barbara Barzak 1907 Wynelle Court in Lake Marianna Acres was not happy with the new rate structure and plans to boycott Lake Alfred businesses.

Wes Warren 2137 Lois Blvd in Lake Marianna Acres and the President of Lake Marianna Acres HOA stated that there are 311 in Lake Marianna Acres with about 125 are seasonal residents. He recommends that residents turning off their water when they are to protect the home. Now they have an addition cost of \$35 to turn off and then \$35 to turn on in addition to the base fee while they are gone. Now it is not cost effective for them to turn the water off and protect their home while they are out of the state. If there is a leak there would be damage and a large charge in usage. He also stated that during the Utility Rate hearings, the vacation rate policy was never discussed. Therefore, he asked about reducing the base rate 50% when service is turned off at the meter.

John Deaton Public Works Director stated that every mobile homes has a valve to turn off the water at their home. If the resident does not know where the valve is located, they can call Public Works for assistance.

City Manager Leavengood stated that if customers show that they repaired a leak the account would be credited to normal usage. The City would like to have the community with in the City limits and it would save the community the 25% out of City surcharge. Nor would the residents pay the County Fire Assessment.

Commission Duncan asked about their sanitation service.

City Manager Leavengood stated that they pay for the sanitation on their tax bill for the entire year.

CITY ATTORNEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

Jean Brittan, 370 South Echo Dr., thanked the City for turning on the light at the fishing pier. She then asked how the street lights are paid for in Echo Terrace and about specific lights that are out in the area.

John Deaton Public Works Director stated that the City pays for lights around town, however they are maintained and repaired by TECO. He drives around town to monitor the lights and he works with TECO to get lights repaired. He also stated that TECO will be changing the bulbs to LED. He will contact TECO about the light in Echo Terrace.

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER – KENDON DANIELS

Public Works Director John Deaton stated that Kendon has been with the city since 2013. He started with the city working in the public works streets department. Kendon being a dependable and hardworking employee showed interest in the wastewater operating field. Kendon transferred to the wastewater department in 2015 and recently received his state of Florida DEP wastewater license and was promoted to wastewater plant operator. We are very proud to present him with employee of the quarter for a job well done!

As the employee of the quarter, Kendon will receive this certificate of appreciation, award pin, a day off with pay, and a \$50 gift certificate from a citizen donation.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Dearmin moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by **Commissioner Duncan**. The motion was approved by unanimous voice call vote. No citizen comments.

MAYOR LAKE	AYE
VICE MAYOR DALEY	AYE
COMMISSIONER DEARMIN	AYE
COMMISSIONER DUNCAN	AYE
COMMISSIONER MAULTSBY	AYE

City Manager Leavengood stated that he usually request the second meeting in December to be cancelled. He asked for consensus.

Commissioner Dearmin moved to cancel the second meeting in December, seconded by **Commissioner Maultsby**.

MAYOR LAKE	AYE
VICE MAYOR DALEY	NAE
COMMISSIONER DEARMIN	AYE
COMMISSIONER DUNCAN	AYE
COMMISSIONER MAULTSBY	AYE

AGENDA

1.) EXPENDITURE OF POLICE FORFEITURE FUNDS

City Manager Leavengood stated City maintains a trust for funds obtained through the forfeiture and sale of property obtained through law enforcement activities by the City's police department. The funds may be expended by the police department subject to approval by the City Commission on specific law enforcement activities including crime prevention and equipment purchases.

The police department is requesting to utilize forfeiture funds to purchase thirteen (13) ballistic vests for each police officer in the department at a total cost of \$10,751. In addition, the department is requesting to donate \$3,000 of the forfeiture funds to Polk County Crime Stoppers whose assistance helps solve criminal cases in Lake Alfred.

The total requested amount for both expenditures is \$13,751. The City currently has \$33,831 in the forfeiture account available to accommodate the requested expenditures.

Staff recommended approval of expenditure of police forfeiture funds in the amount of \$13,751.

Art Bodenheimer, Police Chief explained the forfeiture rules and acquisition of funds. The funds are from criminal activity where property was seized and then sold. He stated that the request meets statutory requirements. The money donated by the Southern Jeep Society will be saved for a different use. He spoke with them regarding the vest. The vest must be individually fitted and should be received within 45 days.

Vice Mayor Daley moved to approve expenditure of police forfeiture funds in the amount of \$13,751, seconded by **Commissioner Maultsby**. The motion was approved by unanimous voice call vote.

MAYOR LAKE	AYE
VICE MAYOR DALEY	AYE
COMMISSIONER DEARMIN	AYE
COMMISSIONER DUNCAN	AYE
COMMISSIONER MAULTSBY	AYE

Commissioner Dearmin moved to recess the city Commission, seconded by **Commissioner Duncan**. The motion was approved by unanimous voice call vote.

MAYOR LAKE	AYE
VICE MAYOR DALEY	AYE
COMMISSIONER DEARMIN	AYE
COMMISSIONER DUNCAN	AYE
COMMISSIONER MAULTSBY	AYE

The City Commission Meeting was recessed at 8:42 p.m. for the Community Redevelopment Agency Board Meeting and reconvened at 9:03 p.m.

Roll Call: Those in attendance were Mayor Charles Lake, Vice Mayor Nancy Daley, Commissioner John Duncan, Commissioner Jack Dearmin, and Commissioner Albertus Maultsby.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

Loretta Vittorio 260 Oak Lane thanks the City for the storage area and stated that the Christmas for Kids celebration will be held on December 17th at 10 am at the Highlands Center. There will be approximately 100 kids receiving gifts.

COMMISSIONER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Maultsby attended the RLC Dinner and the topic was CRAs. He stated that some legislatures want to reduce or eliminate the use of CRAs. He thanked Parks and Recreation and Commissioner Duncan for the float for the parades. He has enjoyed working for the City this year and he hope to continue to be a group of people that work together to get the job done.

Mayor Lake attended the RLC Dinner and they drove with the City of Auburndale in their van. He liked that the City Commission was all together on one float for the Havendale and Lake Alfred Parade with families. Thanked Parks and Recreation and Commissioner Duncan for working on the float. Merry Christmas

Vice Mayor Daley stated she also enjoyed float with family and that she was happy about vest purchase. She is hopeful that the City Manager can find a solution to address citizen concerns on vacation rates. She also hoped they would consider annexation, which would lower their

rates, eliminate the Fire assessment fee, and provide them with City services. Merry Christmas and all the other holidays.

City Manager Leavengood commented that staff will continue to review the rate structure for compromises. We may need Raftelis to take another look at the rates also.

Commissioner Duncan asked if they would need 51% of the residents or the entire community to annex Marianna Acres.

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He recently attended conference regarding sculptures and has some neat ideas to review with the Commission.

City Manager Leavengood stated the City would need 51% of the lots to annex. For other communities like Kingspoint or Cypress Greens, the residents rent to the lots. The property owner could choose to annex.

City Clerk Bailey stated that that the City would need 51% of the area annexed. It could be lots, streets, or the whole community.

Commissioner Dearmin wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He asked about the January schedule.

City Clerk Bailey stated that the January meetings are scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Monday. Since January has 5 weeks, the every other week schedule will be maintained into February.

Mayor Lake reminded everyone of the Legislative Committee meetings on Thursday.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Lake adjourned the meeting at 9:18 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ameé Bailey
City Clerk