

**MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2015
7:30 P.M.
CITY HALL**

Call to Order: Mayor Nancy Z. Daley

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Those in attendance were Mayor Nancy Daley, Vice Mayor Charles Lake, Commissioner John Duncan, Commissioner Albertus Maultsby, Commissioner Jack Dearmin, City Manager Ryan Leavengood, Assistant City Attorney Seth Claytor, and Interim City Clerk Valerie Ferrell, and Deputy City Clerk Ameé Bailey.

Staff attendance: Public Works Director John Deaton and Parks and Recreation Superintendent Richard Weed.

CITY MANAGER ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Manager Leavengood introduced and welcomed Ameé Bailey to the City, who will be taking over the City Clerk position. She joins us from the Polk County team, and will be working as Deputy City Clerk through training with a swearing in ceremony to be held in June.

The City will conduct its Municipal Election on April 7th for the purpose of electing two commissioners, and to consider three charter referendum items. Qualifying for candidates will begin Monday, February 16th at 8:30am and close on Friday, February 20th at 12:00noon.

The Chamber of Commerce will host its monthly luncheon on Wednesday, February 18th at the Lake Alfred Addair Middle School beginning at 11:45am. Discussion topic will be "Parent and Business Involvement"

Also on Wednesday February 18th will be the regular Planning Board meeting with training session beginning at 6pm. The training is open to the public. This session will cover an overview of the planning process and ethical decision making.

The Lake Alfred Little League will kick-off the season with its Jamboree on Saturday, February 21st beginning at 9am. Mayor Daley will be throwing the first pitch of the season.

The Chamber of Commerce will host "Meet the Candidates" at Lake Alfred City Hall on Wednesday, March 11th from 5:30pm to 7pm. Also prior to the event, the Historical Society will be open for tours at their location.

He announced the Heritage Day Event coming April 11th at Central Park and stated flyers are being circulated. Parks and Recreation staff will be assembling activities including dessert contests, Police and Fire demonstrations, play zone, food truck rally, etc.

CITY ATTORNEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no legal announcements.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

Judy Schelfo, 640 E Lake View Road, stated the Purple Heart and Korean War Monument Dedication Ceremony will be held on Saturday, February 28th beginning at 11am.

Karen Boswell, 645 E Lemon Ave, shared her concern regarding criminal activity in the Highlands community. She asked for the assistance from the City Commission, City Manager and Police Chief to act on reducing crime in the area.

City Manager Leavengood stated he understands her concerns and certainly wants to do whatever is necessary to assist in their efforts. He will meet with the Police Chief to review possible avenues to address the criminal activity. He mentioned efforts from the City to assist with aesthetic issues, such as blighted properties, unsafe or abandoned homes and making improvements to parks, sidewalks, etc.

Vice Mayor Lake suggested creating a neighborhood watch program and working with the police department.

Ms. Boswell indicated that the neighborhood residents already do something similar, and have reported the locations of the activity.

Commissioner Maultsby added that he has witnessed the activity and is frequently in communication with the police department to assist.

Wanda Daley, 660 E Grapefruit Ave, stated she also informs the police department about activity she observes. She also added that the locations are not within abandoned or vacant property, but within actively leased or owned property. She indicated the activity occurs at all times, in open public observation very close to schools, churches, and parks. She then thanked the City Commission and City Manager for the use of the Highlands Community Center to provide a free summer program each year.

Brenda Drayton, 645 E Orange Ave, expressed her concern with Cypress Greens golf course and players damaging her property. She stated that golf balls are landing on her property, causing damage to her home and vehicle and is concerned that either herself or any of her guests may be injured. She also complained that tires are being dumped behind the golf course.

Commissioner Dearmin stated he recalls a screen installed above the fence to help protect the residents behind the golf course.

Assistant City Attorney Claytor stated he would advise that this is a civil matter between two private property owners, and it would not be the City's jurisdiction to require action. He stated Ms. Drayton will need to contact her insurance company to repair any damages. He also added the City Commission may direct the City Manager and staff to determine if there is a buffer required.

There was some discussion regarding options to assist, with a consensus from the City Commission directing the City Manager to investigate further.

Mayor Daley shared a letter from Barbara Hill of 350 Chamberlain Drive commending the Public Works Department and their immediate response to her concerns.

CONSENT AGENDA: APPROVE CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES 2/2/15.

Vice Mayor Lake moved to approve the City Commission Meeting minutes for the February 2, 2015 regular meeting; seconded by **Commissioner Dearmin** and the motion was approved by unanimous voice call vote.

There were no public comments.

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

AGENDA

1.) CITY “APP” UPDATE

City Manager Leavengood stated he wanted to provide an update to the City Commission on the City’s App, Lake Alfred 311, which went live in August 2014. The application has been active for about 6 months with staff responding to all types of requests, including right-of-way maintenance, code enforcement, potholes, etc. The application has been downloaded about 150 times and the City has received and responded to 70 tickets. He reviewed the feedback received and indicated more functionality is a common request, including paying utility bills. He said there will be a continuous effort to improve the functionality and shared his appreciation of the community support in using the application.

2.) CENTENNIAL PRESENTATION

Rob Stevens introduced himself as a local professional surveyor who has worked extensively within the Auburndale, Lake Alfred and Haines City areas as well as Central Florida. He reviewed the events that opened the wilderness into Central Florida occurred during the Second Seminole War during 1835-1842. He indicated Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Cummings was located at Fort Brook in Tampa, whose commanding officer was Zachary Taylor who later became the 12th President of the United States. Cummings’ task was to create a road from Fort Brook, Tampa to tie into the St. Johns River at Fort Mellon, Sanford. He went on to read from Cummings’ diary on June 24, 1839 describing the scene where Fort Cummings was located at the ridge near the Lake Alfred, approximately 46 ½ miles from Fort Brook. On June 31, 1839, Cummings wrote that Major Wilcox had completed Fort Cummings, and directed him to proceed towards Fort Maitland, and establish another fort to be named Fort Davenport. Overall, the distance from the Gulf of Mexico to St Johns River is 120 miles and Cummings described the scene as barren, sandy pine, picturesque, with thick hammocks and did not predict it to ever be

developed. He also noted Cummings observation that the land had never been traveled or occupied by anyone other than Native Americans.

In 1843, the US Government requested the entire Central Florida land area be surveyed and subdivided into tracts for private ownership, mostly to veterans from the military as compensation for their service. He noted that a survey control known as Washington's Parallel served as the first base line to map this entire area. The Parallel happens to run directly through downtown Lake Alfred. B.F. Whitner was the lead surveyor assigned to work in this area, and described the techniques used to mark corner posts within tracts. Whitner's team used trees as a point of reference for each post set, and was extremely precise in their placement. Mr. Stevens stated his own survey work has been based on the accuracy of posts set and uncovering evidence of these trees, all as noted by Whitner's team in the late 1840s.

Based on journal entries, Whitner described some ruthless weather and environment conditions while surveying in the area and requested an increase in salary from Congress. His contract stated he would receive \$4 per mile, and due to these hardships he requested an increase to \$8 per mile. His journal describes an incident where his supplies were raided and mules taken. After encountering some Native Americans and helping them with medicine and what supplies he had left, he was pleased to discover his remaining supplies and mules were returned to him that evening. Whitner also described the torrential rain and working in several feet of water on a daily basis, as well as a tremendously cold winter where ponds were frozen. Supplies had to be brought in by wagon across 60 miles on the new road constructed by Cummings.

Mr. Stevens concluded by sharing his respect and commendation of Whitner's work, which took 6-months to survey over 580 miles, which is an equivalent distance from Lake Alfred to South Carolina. He also noted that Cummings' road shaped much of the growth of the area, and demonstrated that the railroad line and US Highway 17/92 were built based on this.

A copy of Mr. Stevens' presentation is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS

There were none.

COMMISSIONER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Mayor Daley shared the Mackay volunteer day was a huge success and thanked everyone who was able to participate. Also, she shared a historic architect, Ed Pilkington, was able to offer his services to restore the garden arbor at Mackay. She stated the Steering Committee will evaluate the project and review potential fundraisers to pay for its restoration. Also, she inquired if the City Commission had any thoughts to adding a sign to the Veterans Memorial, fronting Highway 17/92 identifying the park as project by the City of Lake Alfred.

Commissioner Dearmin agreed that a sign should be placed at the Veterans Memorial. He also suggested the Police and Fire reach out to neighborhoods to assist with neighborhood watch. He also wished the Mayor luck in throwing the first pitch at the Lake Alfred Little League Jamboree.

Vice Mayor Lake stated the Commission all attended the ethics training held in Winter Haven last week. Also, he attended a Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Meeting, and shared the different perspectives of individuals needing transit service. He also serves on the Transportation Planning Organization and was reappointed to represent them on the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Committee. He thanked the City Manager and Public Works for the work at the Library parking lot.

Commissioner Duncan thanked the City Manager and staff for their work around the community, and stated the residents have noticed the improvements.

Commissioner Maultsby shared his concern with the criminal activity in the Highlands subdivision, concurring with the comments made previously in the meeting. He urged the residents to work with the Police Department to build a case and work with State Attorney's Office. He also commended City Manager and staff for improvements in the community, and also mentioned the amount of residential growth in recent months.

Mayor Daley also mentioned the Discovery High School charter application received a recommendation of approval from the State Charter Advisory Board, so their Charter designation will now be processed for an additional hearing in the next few weeks.

Judy Schelfo, 640 E Lake View Road, stated the Veterans Memorial sign, indicating it is a Lake Alfred park, was acceptable however the Purple Heart Monument was a Polk County project, since the Board of County Commissioners established the Purple Heart County initiative.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Daley adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Valerie Ferrell
Interim City Clerk