

**MINUTES  
CITY OF LAKE ALFRED  
CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2015  
7:30 P.M.  
CITY HALL**

**Call to Order:** Mayor Nancy Z. Daley

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. John Dame

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

Staff attendance: Police Chief Art Bodenheimer, Public Works Director John Deaton, Finance Director Amber Deaton, Parks and Recreation Superintendent Richard Weed.

**CITY MANAGER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The week of March 16-21, 2015 is the community clean up week. The City Clean-up date is Saturday March 21. Meet at City Hall at 9 am to pick up bags and other clean up items. The city will be collecting furniture, construction debris, yard trash and tires. All hazardous materials can be dropped off at the Public Works Facility. For further information visit [www.mylakealfred.com](http://www.mylakealfred.com) or call Public Works 863-291-5275.

Saturday, March 28, 2015 is the Spring Festival at Lake Alfred Addair Middle School (LAAMS). The LAAMS leadership class is planning a Spring Festival, please contact Mrs. Swartz for further information and pricing.

Wednesday April 1, 2015, the Lake Alfred Library will hold Easter Egg Hunts starting with the toddlers hunt on Wednesday from 10 till 11am. Then the hunt for ages 5 and older will be held on Friday, April 3rd starting at 4:30pm.

Thursday April 2, 2015 the Community Gardening Workshop at the Mackay Gardens and Lakeside Preserve will be held at 10 am. The topic this month is "More Edible Landscaping" by Master Gardener Pat Cherundolo. Pat returns to share more of her knowledge of edible perennials that can provide years of beauty in your yard and also provide a remarkably healthy salad.

Sunday, April 5, 2015 is the Guided Nature Walk at the Mackay Gardens and Lakeside Preserve at 2pm. This free tour is led by experienced interpretive guides. For more information, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (863) 291-5272

Tuesday April 7, 2015 will be the Municipal Election will be held for the purpose of electing two commissioners, and to consider three charter referendum items at your voting precincts.

Saturday, April 11, 2015 is our Heritage Day Event, at Central Park from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm. The bulk of the activities will take place in the late morning and early afternoon. There will be special events throughout the day including: Family best citrus dessert contest, Touch-A-Truck Ultimate play zone, Food truck rally, Orangeapult, Arts & crafts, music and more. There is a dedicated webpage for this event, which is LAheritageday.com.

April 24-26, 2015 is the Hydroplane Racing on Lake Alfred. US Title Series professional hydroplane racing by teams from all over the USA will ascend on Lake Alfred on April 24th thru 26th from 10 am to 5 pm. The event will raise money to support the local Lions Club Eye Bank and their other community projects. The event will cost \$5 and kids 10 and under are free to enter. Food and beverage vendors will also be on-site. Come out for an action packed event for the whole family, for more information contact Steve at 863-557-6986.

City staff is still continuing with the wayfinding program. The bid was awarded to the contractor. The City has submitted the plan to the state and they have returned comments. The City responded and is now waiting on a FDOT permit.

### **CITY ATTORNEY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no legal announcements.

### **RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS**

**Ella Hale, 675 East Thelma Street**, stated she had gone by Mr. Gaines home to speak with him. She reiterated her concerns from the previous meeting regarding the evaluation of the City Manager and the lack of professional development criteria. She spoke with Mr. Duncan after the last meeting on how to improve. Stated she was upset at the Meet the Candidates forum for the comments towards Commissioner Duncan in his absence. She discussed the individual candidates' participation on the Chamber of Commerce. She stated she has been a member of the community for 40 years and seen many City Commissioners and Managers. She discussed the candidates' websites and the info on them. She stated many people participate on boards and committees when called upon by the public. She cited Mayor Daley's involvement in the preservation of Mackay Gardens. She then discussed the beginnings and history of the Veterans' Memorial and Commissioner Duncan's participation. She stated that Mr. Duncan is easy to find around the city and he assisted her during her illness while her son was overseas. She stated that Mr. Duncan works hard to represent the people of Lake Alfred.

**Kimberly Martin, 570 East Lemon Ave.** stated she lives in the Fruitland park area. She thanked the Commission, Police Department and sanitation for their hard work. She stated that she thinks the community is safe and crime is low. She also stated that the Police Department and Commissioner Maultsby are helpful to the community.

**Rodney Thompson, 640 North Pennsylvania Ave.,** stated he appreciated Mr. Duncan and thinks that the community is safe. He asked the response time by the Police Department within Lake Alfred. He stated that the Police Department and Public works is doing a great job.

**Police Chief Art Bodenheimer** responded that generally the response time is generally less than five minutes

**Lowell Schmidt, 365 E. Sanford Street**, stated as a previous City Commissioner and a participant in trainings and conferences that everyone has represented the City well. However he had concerns about a current Commissioner. He stated that many of the Commissioners are helpful to the public. He also commended the City Departments, directors and employees.

**Joseph Hults, 824 James Way**, stated that he was pleased about the positive public comments and he concurs.

**City Manager Leavengood** yielded the floor to **Police Chief Art Bodenheimer**. Chief Bodenheimer stated that Officer Juan Lopez and K-9 Officer Wil competed last week in the United States Police Canine Association Region 1 field trials which included 50 K-9 teams from around the State of Florida. Chief Bodenheimer stated he was very proud of the Polk County Officers and especially Officer Lopez and Will. He stated they did very well and received 6 different awards for the K-9 team efforts. They are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place** – Susie Rogers award for a dual certified team (narcotics and patrol)
- 1<sup>st</sup> place** - Combined 2 man dog team with Bartow PD Officer Michelle Smith and k-9 Hasj (This was combined scores between the two officers)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place** - Over all for all 50 dog teams that were represented
- 4<sup>th</sup> place** - Criminal apprehension
- 5<sup>th</sup> place** - Obedience
- 5<sup>th</sup> place** - Overall for all narcotics teams.

**PROCLAMATION:**

**Mayor Daley** read the proclamation for April 7<sup>th</sup> as the Mayors Day of Recognition. The Mayor and the City of Lake Alfred encourages residents to recognize the positive impact of national service in our city; to thank those who serve; and to find ways to give back to their communities.

**CONSENT AGENDA: APPROVE CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES 3/2/15.**

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

There were no public comments.

<b>MAYOR DALEY</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>VICE MAYOR LAKE</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER DEARMIN</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER DUNCAN</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER MAULTSBY</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**AGENDA**

## 1.) INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH POLK COUNTY: SIX-CENT GAS TAX

**City Manager Leavengood** stated that in July of 1987 the City of Lake Alfred approved an Interlocal Agreement with Polk County for the purpose of providing for the distribution of the proceeds of a six-cent local option gas tax being proposed by the County. In June 1987, the Board of County Commissioners adopted the six-cent local option gas tax for a 30-year period ending on August 31, 2017. In anticipation of its “sunset”, the County Commission recently decided to consider a 30-year extension of the tax through August 31, 2047.

Florida Statutes allows the County to levy the gas tax, if prior to June 1st, the County establishes interlocal agreements with the municipalities representing a majority of the population in the incorporated areas. The County is following the same procedures in extending the gas tax as was used in its original adoption in 1987.

The gas tax proceeds are distributed using a formula of 40% based on road miles maintained by each recipient, and 60% for the population of the recipient. Lake Alfred currently receives \$124,240 annually from the six-cent local option gas tax.

This funding source is not as restrictive as the one used for the road resurfacing. This fund is used to subsidize operation in Public Works – Streets Division. This is not the City levying a tax. It is a County tax and they will have the final determination. The Interlocal establishes the agreement to accept the funding. The staff recommendation is to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Polk County relating to the division and distribution of the Six-Cent Local Option Gas Tax.

**Vice Mayor Lake** asked if this is a tax that currently exists, if the tax was going to increase, and where the money would be spent.

**City Manager Leavengood** stated that the tax has been paid for 30 years and the tax is not going to increase. The County is planning to extend the time period to collect the tax. The agreement is not to approve or disprove the tax. The agreement states that the City still wants to receive the distribution of the tax. Last year the City received \$124,000. This tax is not as restrictive as the local option gas tax (\$75,000 per year for transportation projects) and it will be a separate line item in the budget.

**Commissioner Maultsby** asked what would happen if the City did not approve the Interlocal agreement.

**Mayor Daley** stated that the County may still collect the tax but the City would not receive a distribution of the tax. The tax is collected county-wide and then distributed to the cities. It is not based on the taxes collected within the city limits.

**City Manager Leavengood** stated that the County needs the majority of the cities to approve the distribution. If the majority of cities within the County approved the tax would still be collected and Lake Alfred may still receive the distribution since it is based on a formula.

**Commissioner Dearmin** moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Polk County relating to the division and distribution of the Six-Cent Local Option Gas Tax; seconded by **Commissioner Maultsby**.

**Joseph Hults, 824 James Way**, based on the need for street resurfacing, he asked if the money could be used to promote the current schedule.

**Mayor Daley** stated that this could be addressed during the budget cycle.

**City Manager Leavengood** restated that the money is currently in the budget and the money is currently allocated to operation. If the money was moved from operation there would be a gap in funding. However the distribution can be addressed during the budget and capital improvement process.

<b>MAYOR DALEY</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>VICE MAYOR LAKE</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER DEARMIN</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER DUNCAN</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER MAULTSBY</b>	<b>AYE</b>

The motion was approved by unanimous voice call vote

## **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. His career includes researching local history.

The central Florida area opened due to a road project commissioned by Zackary Taylor to go from Tampa to Sanford. Forts were established at approximately one day's ride, one of which was Fort Cummings in current day Lake Alfred. The road goes through in 1830 and allows travel to occur across land by wagons. Surveys began in 1843 and allowed the land to be divided and sold to private individuals. B.F. Whitner was the lead surveyor assigned to work in this area, and his work was extremely precise despite the harsh working environment. He petitioned the federal government for hazard pay based on his journals. He mentioned the fine sand which was later used to make telescope lenses. Whitner's team used trees as a point of reference for each post set, and Mr. Stevens stated showed that they have been able to locate these posts from the plats and notes.

Lake Alfred and the wagon trails are evident on 1930 aerials. The next stage of development was the railroad. This began the economic development which was dominated by two industries. Both the Florida Cracker history and citrus industries began as remnants of Spanish occupation. The Florida Crackers rounded up stray cattle and citrus was brought in to prevent scurvy on the ships. The cattle industry did not need land ownership, however it was needed to cultivate citrus. These industries are still prominent today.

In the 1880s, Henry Plant then followed the same corridor produced by Cummings and established the railroad. Mr. Stevens showed the parcels given to the railroad for the development of the transportation system. Lake Alfred was a crossroads for the Henry Plant Railroad and the SR 17 corridor railroad south to Punta Gorda. Lake Alfred was the location for the turntable to turn the train on to the different tracks where the railroads intersected. He heard a story of how the railroad would blow a whistle and the citizens of Lake Alfred would come out to help turn the trains.

Another factor that led to the development of Central Florida was consumption. Many people were directed by doctor to go to sanitariums in Central Florida. One such sanitarium was located between Auburndale and Lake Alfred on the shores of current day Lake Ariana, which was previously named Lake Sanitary.

**Mr. Stevens** showed a plat with one of the first citrus groves in the area from around 1900. The area is between Lake Alfred and Auburndale near current day Adams Barn Road. Citrus was already established in north Florida, but it was decimated by freezes in the late 1800's. Citrus became a leading economy due to the ability to move the citrus by rail. Polk County and Lake Alfred is the citrus hub which also led to the establishment of the Citrus Research Center in Lake Alfred.

**Mr. Stevens** then showed a 1906 platted named Codington. This plat established the community of Lake Alfred.

**Mayor Daley** asked about the initial road and Mr. Stevens explained that the initial road was a corridor through the bush. They also created bridges to cross by land rather than by boat. The forts served as a stopping spot for pioneers and provided safety during the Seminole Indian Wars.

**Commissioner Dearmin** asked about the canals and Mr. Stevens explained that the canals allowed for local transport and recreation. The also had a significant impact to the land since the interconnection of the lakes caused the lake shorelines to dramatically change. The railroad also added to the creation of the timber industry which led to saw mills. Timber was needed for the railroad timbers, housing and other industries. Mr. Stevens mentioned a story about a saw mill on one side of Lake Alfred and timber was floated across the lake to be put on the railroad.

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

### **RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS**

**Ella Hale, 675 East Thelma Street**, wanted to thanks Mr. Hults for his previous statements. She also mentioned about a diving board on the lake and the Mr. Sam Devito, Jr. has memorabilia from the old train depot.

**Public Works Director John Deaton**, stated Scott Breitenstein, the contracted City Engineer lost his wife to cancer over the weekend.

### **COMMISSIONER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

**Mayor Daley** has been working on Centennial video with PGTV, having filmed at the Historical Museum, Mackay, and downtown. She stated PGTV also spoke with Betty Shinn by the Historical Museum.

**Commissioner Dearmin** went to Polk County Day in Tallahassee last week and the delegation was recognized in the House of Representatives.

**Vice Mayor Lake** attended Institute of Elected Municipal Officials 3 class on self-evaluation and how to react with others. He also mentioned the City Clean-up day and Love it LA will follow. Lastly, he congratulated Officer Lopez and Wil for their accomplishments.

**Commissioner Duncan** thanked the citizens for voicing their opinions and he is available to address concerns.

**Commissioner Maultsby** stated that the City is on track and new homes are under construction and being sold before complete.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Daley adjourned the meeting at 8:41 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ameé N. Bailey  
Deputy City Clerk

Reviewed by



Valerie Ferrell  
Interim City Clerk