

**MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024
7:00 PM
CITY HALL**

Call to Order: Mayor Nancy Z. Daley called the City Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers located at 120 E. Pomelo Street, Lake Alfred, FL 33850.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Deacon Carl Wilkey of the First Baptist Church of Lake Alfred provided the invocation and **Mayor Daley** led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: City Clerk Linda Bourgeois

City Commissioners in attendance: Mayor Nancy Z. Daley, Vice Mayor Mac Fuller, Commissioner Brent Eden, Commissioner Charles Lake, and Commissioner Jack Dearmin.

Staff in attendance: City Manager Ryan Leavengood, City Attorney Seth Claytor, Public Works Director John Deaton, Finance Director Amber Deaton, Growth Management Director Ameer Bailey, Community Development Director Gus Karpas, and Fire Chief Robert Turner.

The City Manager announced the following:

1. The Bluegrass Bash will be held on Saturday, January 13, 2024, at Lions Park from 11:00 AM until 7:00 PM.
2. The City Offices will be Closed on Monday, January 15th in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.
3. The next City Commission meeting will be held on Monday, January 22, 2024.

City Attorney Seth Claytor said he hoped everyone had a great holiday and that he remained grateful to serve the great City of Lake Alfred.

Recognition of Citizens

James Allen of 8453 Fussell Road in Polk City introduced himself. He shared his family's graduation history from the City of Auburndale and said he has lived in the Green Swamp now for six decades. He said this area has been protected for over five decades from overdevelopment and the water supply. This property needs to be protected for generations to come. He continued and said he found out about three weeks ago that the City annexed three large plots of land north of I-4. He said a development company is soliciting people to annex 150 acres north of Old Grade Road and Deen Still Road. He said he thought the City of Lake Alfred was devious in not informing the people who live north of I-4 about annexation, let alone consider their thoughts and ways of living. He said a few individuals were blinded by dollar signs to leap I-4 and go north and he thought this action was nothing but an act of greed. The people north of I-4 have chosen to live in the Green Swamp to stay away from overdevelopment and city life. We the people do not need the city nor do we want the city in our community. He said the city should be ashamed of itself for conspiring to do what was done on the south side of I-4. The city will regret that one day and all the city wants is more, more and more. The city has not heard the last of the great people in the Green Swamp community. Thank you for letting me speak this evening and have a great evening.

Nelly Crumley of 11450 Old Grade Road in Polk City introduced herself and said she and her husband had resided there for thirty-eight years. Her husband is a native and she has lived in Polk County most of her life. She is concerned about learning of the recent annexations and that she may have an industrial business not far from her home. She said we have chosen to live in a rural setting with an average travel distance of 25 miles or more to work or shop. This is the cost we chose with the privacy, no street lights, and no traffic at all hours of the night and day. We choose to live this way and can see wildlife on or around the property, garden, and have farm animals. Correspondence received from Claire Clements for Southern Citrus Groves looked like junk mail and that is why a lot of residents said they didn't receive the letter. The letter said they were looking to annex a 150-acre property into the City of Lake Alfred and that we should annex our properties too, and also that she would help. After researching this, it started in December of 2022. The City's letter that was enclosed by Ms. Clements stated some inaccuracies such as county vs. city costs and she spoke about the millage rate and the cost of garbage and recycling. We are not in favor of the annexation for the following reasons:

Comprehensive Plan

1. Policy 1.1.15 – Heavy Industrial Classifications – The primary function of the Heavy Commercial / Industrial classification shall be to accommodate the facilities necessary for the processing, fabrication, manufacturing, and distribution of goods. The City shall direct future heavy commercial/industrial development to areas that are well integrated into the transportation network and surrounding land uses. This was requested on the Stettner application which is 113 acres and properties on Old Grade Road have Agricultural and Residential Rural (ARR) and this is not a compatible land use.
2. Policy 1.10.1(b) - No areas of urban development or uses that are not functionally related to land uses that predominate the adjacent area. Again, properties on Old Grade Road have Agricultural and Residential Rural (ARR) and this is not a compatible land use. No match there.
3. None of the individuals on the annexation applications, with a name referencing Claire Clements with the Southern Citrus Groves actually live on their property or acreage.
4. Policy 1.10.1(e) - No leapfrog/ scattered development or ribbon/ strip commercial development patterns. The properties are at least five miles from the properties that Claire Clements represents and there must be properties in Lake Alfred for development rather than putting it in rural residential areas. Is the City and Claire trying to leapfrog from I-4 to Deen Still Road against your policy?
5. The letter from Claire Clements had the enclosed information from the Lake Alfred Community Development Office and it appears to be an attempt to use Old Grade Road to what is referred to as a strip or corridor.
6. With the City's recent annexation of the Stettner property and the properties represented by Claire Clements the residents of Old Grade Road would be sandwiched between two sizeable industrial properties.
7. The City of Lake Alfred has annexed land that now has new subdivisions and there are no less than 13 named subdivisions within your limits. The Silverlake subdivision has no less than 960 single-family lots. Land grab.

8. This area of the Green Swamp is a critical area of state concern and what will be the impact on the resources of the Florida Aquifer, wetlands, flood detention areas, and the water table in the Green Swamp?

Thank you for allowing me to address the points and reinforce the opposition to this annexation.

Mayor Daley pointed out that Claire Clements is not a representative of Lake Alfred.

Ms. Crumley said that along with the letter from the city she said she was working with the City of Lake Alfred.

City Manager Leavengood commented and said Claire Clements was a land broker, has been to our meetings, and purchased many of the properties in question up 557 south of I-4 then flipped them to developers and the like. He said what is triggering that action is that we know where we are along the I-4 corridor between Tampa and Orlando. He said we have witnessed extreme development in the area, and they don't have the protection of the Green Swamp. He spoke about the traffic and said we were the next exit down. He spoke about the protection of the wetlands and then spoke about the uplands where the development is now occurring in Lake Alfred. He spoke about the City's letter saying it was a standard letter generated in the past to inform residents about the benefits of annexation. While we have provided the letter to areas such as Experiment Station Road and Kings Pointe, the letter received by the residents was not sent by the city. The city of Lake Alfred only wants to annex those properties that want to come in voluntarily.

The City Manager continued and said he respected the residents north of I-4, living the rural lifestyle, and he doesn't want to take anyone in who does not want that. He provided some examples of areas where people didn't want to come into the city and stated the City of Lake Alfred would not force anyone to come into the city. This is generally a voluntary process and 99% of the time we operate voluntarily. He spoke about the City's plan to annex up to I-4, and beyond that, it is nowhere near our planning horizon. He spoke about the limiting factor of providing the services of water, wastewater, sanitation, police, and fire; the infrastructure necessary to support the area. He continued and said he understands the fear, the disruption to the way of life and he respects it. He said the city is not actively looking to annex anything north of I-4 anytime soon.

Ms. Crumley referenced previous minutes that stated this area was a major part of the puzzle to get north of I-4 and that you believed that Deen Still Road would be a major corridor and that you want in on those actions, so it tells her the city has a desire to reach Deen Still Road. Her concern was that a request was made to change the zoning from agricultural to heavy industrial. That is next to the Frasier/Bimbo land and across from a preserve. It may not be in a year or two but there is no desire to be sandwiched between two industrial properties and that is what they are requesting for future zoning of heavy industrial.

The City Manager said he did say it was a big piece of the puzzle to annex and also to the eastern boundary. He showed a presentation on the location of the annexation and said Hilochee was 95% of that annexation, he showed the eastern utility boundary line to Haines City and explained that Hilochee may be allowed to put in an activity center like Circle B Ranch.

Ms. Crumley questioned the compatibility of the use across the street which is a preserve and the City Manager said we have not processed any land use or zoning applications and the applicant

can request whatever they want. We have not gone through that process and there is no immediate plan to go through that process. The land use and zoning process is a slow process.

Ms. Crumley said the applicant requested heavy industrial so a warehouse, across from a campground, across from a preserve is not compatible. The City Manager said that heavy industrial is not a zoning category that is allowed in the Green Swamp. However, the code allows for industrial and the only applicable use would be for a warehouse.

Growth Management Director Bailey explained there was an area on the voluntary annexation petition where the applicant could put what they would like for land use and zoning. After an application is received, the staff works with the applicant to discuss the request, and what is and is not allowed. We show them the conservation requirements and with Stettner requesting heavy industrial we will meet with them and let them know it is not an allowable use in the Green Swamp.

The City Manager said 80% of the Hilochee annexed area is wetland, and then said of the 20% of upland, they have to give an additional minimum of 30% of the land to open space as an aquifer recharge.

Mayor Daley said the city is not in the business of getting you all to annex into the City of Lake Alfred. There are no plans for involuntary annexations. If an eligible and contiguous property owner wants to annex into the city, we may not legally be able to say no.

The City Manager presented on the growth and development that occurred in Polk County with Champions Gate to Clermont, Highway 27, and the Four Corners area to Davenport, and you don't have to be the Oracle of Delphi to realize where the growth is going to come from next. We are the next exit down. He spoke about the other highway corridors of CR557 and CR559, Highway 17/92, and Highway 27. He said the residents off of Old Grade Road are getting the traffic from alternate routes such as the truck traffic from Highway 33. He said that Deen Still Road is slated to become a major corridor because it connects Highway 98 in Lakeland, through Highway 33, Old Grade Road, and Highway 27. He continued and spoke about the proposed traffic improvements to have it slated for a four-lane road to become an east-west corridor running parallel to I-4. He went on to say we have seen the State make changes with the dog bone at the interchange and that is going to generate more traffic. We have the County that advanced the CR557 four-lane project, which used to be on the 20-year horizon because we are becoming the detour traffic route. He provided an overview and said that these are the forces we are dealing with and responding to now.

He went on to say when he talks to people, his number one recommendation is to not sell your property. When the property sells and ownership changes hands that is when these risk factors or opportunities come in. The old joke from lawyers is that possession is 9/10s of the law. If you don't want the way of life to change and you want to hang on to it, he recommends hanging on to your property or selling the development rights. The City is in the business of providing services, water, sewer, law enforcement, and when they come to us. Some Cities are aggressive and actively pull in entire areas and go through massive involuntary annexations. He provided examples. The plan was always for the City to make it to I-4. The whole talk of going all the way to Deen Still Road, there is nothing on the books that we have and that is going to require planning efforts and it might be at the 15-20-year planning horizon.

Ms. Crumley asked what we did with the properties that Claire Clements represented since they had already filled out voluntary annexation petitions for the City of Lake Alfred. Five of the individuals filled them out in December 2023, the last piece came in March of 2023.

The City Manager said that was a good question. Annexation in and in itself is not the biggest risk factor, it's only one of them, the larger issue that is relevant to annexations is the services because we have to provide services to the area.

Ms. Crumley said that most residents are rural and have their well water and sewer. We are self-sufficient. The only thing left is the property tax and police and fire service. That millage rate is higher than the County and the recycling and garbage are more. It will cost more and in Polk City, if they put the water lines out, even if you didn't connect to it, you were charged.

The City Manager said his point was that he expects this whole I-4 corridor will turn into South Florida in the next thirty years. It will be like between Fort Lauderdale and Miami. It's just the way things are going and shared a personal experience of the growth in Pinellas County. He is trying to set realistic expectations for the timeline. Annexation north of where we are is a liability because, if we annex tomorrow, how are we going to get up there and service the area? I will have to have police and fire stations, and sanitation. He continued and said that Claire Clements could buy as much property as she wanted and collect annexation petitions, but it does not mean the city would process and annex the property. The two properties we took north of I-4 were the end of our line at this point. I'm not going to say we will never annex those properties. I am going to manage the expectations that a lot of planning and investment has to occur before we can realistically do that.

Ms. Crumley asked where she had to go to get notice of the Stettner pushing for his zoning and how to keep the residents abreast of this so that we can oppose it and the City Manager said the City sends out mailers to the surrounding properties. Ms. Crumley asked how far the City noticed property owners because the City Clerk told her it was 300 feet. The City Manager said nothing was being done behind closed doors. He said Ms. Crumley made a very good presentation and he will draft a letter to respond to those comments to send to her, the City Commission, and anyone else in the audience.

A brief discussion occurred regarding having the residents' addresses, and a petition, and that the petition was not yet complete.

Ms. Crumley said the letter could be sent to her.

Mayor Daley said she is a Green Swamp advocate and said that development is coming from the west of Highway 27 and it was Polk County allowing it to happen. We don't have any control over development. For her, the County would be more of a concern than the City because they have the resources.

Ms. Crumley asked if the residents wanted information sent to them, would they be able to call the City Clerk and request that information? The City Manager said absolutely, but you can't do a standing public records request; however, he doesn't mind if we have pertinent action items on those two properties. Ms. Crumley asked about the third parcel, Hilochee.

Growth Management Director Bailey addressed the Hilochee parcel saying they met with the planning staff at the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the land use and zoning for Hilochee is proposed to be recreational open space on the uplands and conservation on the wetlands.

The City Manager said this is a very slow-moving iceberg, it may be another twenty years before there is any growth in the area and it is market-driven. We are all dealing with it. He said he hears a lot about how the city is in this for greed or money but this level of development is borderline unproductive. For him to do his job productively it would be 2%-4% maximum growth per year. level of growth we are experiencing is more of a challenge than an opportunity.

James Allen asked if the Florida Department of Environmental Protection solicited the city for annexation and the City Manager stated the annexation was involuntary.

Allison Clark of 6802 Fussell Road in Polk City said in 1995 they signed an LPA [Land Protection Agreement] on 900 acres of land for no development. She said if these warehouses are built, they will be at the back of their property. We did it with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). We sold our development rights to the State of Florida and no one can develop on our property. If we go to the back of our property that is where these warehouses are going to be built on Deen Still Road. She said back then there was an entity that was called the Green Swamp Land Authority and it said that north of I-4 in the Green Swamp there would be no development. She will provide that information to the city. They hired a lawyer with a lot of other people to stop the development.

Mayor Daley said she had been on the City Commission for over twenty years and they did a whole Green Swamp Overlay District to protect the area with open space requirements and recharge areas. She said sometimes those documents get updated and Ms. Clark said the person she spoke to last night, head of the Sierra Club, said it has not been changed. Ms. Clark spoke about developers destroying the land and buying mitigation credits. The Mayor and the City Manager said the City does not allow mitigation credits; however, if the County allows it, the city can't control it.

Jason Wilkey of 160 S. Pennsylvania Avenue in Lake Alfred said he also owns 50+ acres off of Deen Still Road. He has been to many meetings and said that he took an interest in buying investment properties and had found a developer had bought a bunch of property off of Cass Road. He mentioned it to someone at the table here and the response was how did you know that? Quite offensive to me because this is a public government. He said he is not anti-government he is just anti-big-government and he is also anti-corrupt government. He thinks it is obvious that the city stepped across the line. The people are unhappy because they are here and pacified people don't show up to the meetings. He encouraged them to remember that if they like their position, just remember they have crossed the line because we can fill these spots and the spots can fix this. The power is in the people which is a government by the people and for the people which it should be and if it is not, it will be. Thank you.

Karis Miller of Green Oak Lane in Polk City asked about the property on the corner of Green Oak Lane and Old Grade Road has a big commercial/industrial sign on it right now for sale. She wondered how that could be based on the comments we are having today. The other comment was about the warehouses they could put in. She said she used to travel seven miles to Highway 27 in seven minutes and now she has to leave an hour ahead of time and then to get home, 90% of the time the trucks at Amazon Warehouse have the entire road blocked. If there is going to be any development, what are we going to do about the infrastructure, roads, and development along Deen Still Road? The Mayor said that was in the County and Ms. Miller said between the sand trucks and semi-trucks the roads were destroyed. When she moved in, it was like a dirt road without even a stop sign at Highway 27. She wanted to know what the City would do to make sure the infrastructure was good to put the warehouses in if it was light industrial.

The City Attorney thanked Mr. Allen and Ms. Crumley, saying he appreciated her diligence and effort in the research, it was very well-spoken, and for Ms. Clark informing the Commission of the LPA. These are all relevant issues that have to be resolved when a property owner is seeking some type of development approval, permit, or order. This is not the City saying it is going to develop a warehouse or want the property to be zoned X, Y, or Z. In the State of Florida, property owners have constitutionally protected property rights related to land use and/or applications for development approval, and if a property owner wants to petition the City to either annex or rezone, the city must process some through our normal channels. The city has an objective set of criteria we look at and most decisions will fall under a quasi-judicial or legislative function. Most of the time it goes through our Planning and Zoning Board and comes to the City Commission for final approval. He encouraged all of them, if the City does receive an application, please come in because a lot of what we talked about here tonight is germane to the decisions made by the appropriate officials of the City. We can't control what a third-party entity will market or put out, but in no way, the City did not and has not endorsed the actions of the individual in question. If all of you show up, you will make a difference, and one way or another you will be heard. Thank you for your attendance this evening and if you have any questions related to legal review along those lines, he would be more than happy to field those as submitted through the City Manager or the Clerk's Office.

The Mayor thanked everyone for coming out and said we were willing to listen to their comments and input. We share the concerns. We also like the rural lifestyle and the small-town feel. Please stay vigilant, talk to your neighbors, and not be swayed by a third party that the City did not send out. She spoke about the letter saying it was true information and then expounded on some of the pros and cons of annexation. Hopefully, we can all work together and make the best of the growth situation that is happening around the State.

Commissioner Lake commented on the concerns that this was happening tomorrow and said anything that is happening through the State is always a 5, 10, or 15-year plan and every 5-year plan becomes a 10-year plan and the 10-year becomes a 15-year plan.

Reven Pate of 11550 Old Grade Road said that you mentioned the plan will take 5, 10, or 15 years but many people here may not worry about the time it takes. The property that I live in may very well have been mine at that time. In the time it may take to develop I may live there and have to deal with the problems. He would like to wholeheartedly oppose this because I, at the age of eighteen, will have to deal with this in the future. He would like to see the development set forth on occasion – which is Lake Alfred's new development – while slow. However other cities have been developing extremely well and watching the trend we can see that Old Grade Road is very well the next place to develop such as this. He said the property here, as Kyra mentioned earlier has been industrialized there is multiple industrial machinery leading up Old Grade Road and it seems to be a place where a construction company is based with heavy machinery and multiple buildings.

Growth Management Director Bailey said part of what is happening on the north side of I-4 is that it is one of the staging locations for the State Interchange roadwork. There was a lot of equipment housed there. Just north of that, there are several sand mines so some of that traffic is associated with those sand mines. Mayor Daley asked if sand mines are allowed in the County but not in the City of Lake Alfred and Director Bailey said that was correct.

The mayor asked if they could continue it and the City Manager said they could continue it as a non-conformity. The mayor clarified we wouldn't annex a sand mine but also would not allow it in the City of Lake Alfred and the City Manager responded that was correct. You could not create a

new one but they would receive a letter of non-conformity – not shutting it down – but if the use ever stopped or went away then our regulations would likely prevail.

Raven Pate said he would like to mention that the traffic may very well triple with new development and said he would like to keep Old Grade Road the way it is today. He is concerned that the annexations and industrial zoning will not only ruin the rural aspects but also harm the environment surrounding it. Even if it is not industrialized within the Green Swamp but also going towards Deen Still Road.

Eric Michael Buxton 5771 Stage Coach Road and his sister Lori Wetmore Buxton of 5801 Stage Coach Road. He said they had twenty-one acres and nothing but Gopher Tortoises and a lot of wildlife. You all put that up on the corner over there and said it doesn't affect us but I'll tell you right now we have a pond in the back yard and that swamp has now taken over the pond because as you develop it is pushing the water towards us. We have a dirt road we drive down we are not going to be able to pass through. You don't understand what you are doing to us. It is like nobody cares as you say we have to have these environmental studies to even put in a septic tank. We do this and we turn around and you just fill in land and ruin it and then act like we are an issue. You, people, have to remember you work for us, we don't work for you, this is America. I just want you to know that.

Mayor Daley asked if there were any more public comments and there were none.

At 8:13 PM, the City Commission Meeting was recessed.

At 8:16 PM, the City Commission Meeting was reconvened.

Roll Call: City Clerk Linda Bourgeois

City Commissioners in attendance: Mayor Nancy Z. Daley, Vice Mayor Mac Fuller, Commissioner Brent Eden, Commissioner Charles Lake, and Commissioner Jack Dearmin.

Mayor Daley presented the Consent Agenda for consideration.

Consent Agenda:

- 1.) City Commission Meeting Minutes for December 4, 2023
- 2.) City Commission Announcements
- 3.) Lightning Loader Truck Purchase
- 4.) Water Tower Repair

The analyses were inserted by the City Clerk. [Lightning Loader Analysis: The City has budgeted \$200,000 for the replacement of a lightning loader (claw truck). The difference in the price quotes is dependent upon various choices in the truck's chassis. The staff recommends the purchase of a Petersen truck with the 2025 Freightliner M2-106 Chassis in the amount of \$199,303.66. The Freightliner Chassis is consistent with the other loaders in the fleet.

Water Tower Repair Analysis: The City of Lake Alfred's Utilities Department is responsible for the operation, maintenance, and repair of City-owned waterworks infrastructure, as well as the supply, treatment, storage, and distribution of drinking water.

The water tower requires regular maintenance and approximately every 5 years it needs to be pressure washed, have rust removed, and be repainted. Due to the highly specialized nature of

the services needed, the City is proposing to use H2O Towers, LLC. as the sole source for the repairs on the project. They previously performed the work for \$49,500 back in 2017.

This final round of maintenance should sustain the tower until we are ready to decommission it when the second water plant is constructed and comes online. Staff is requesting H2O Towers to perform restorative maintenance on the water tower in the amount of \$64,500.]

The floor was opened by the mayor to public comments on the consent agenda and there were no audience members that came forward to speak.

Commissioner Lake made a motion to approve the consent agenda and the motion was seconded by **Commissioner Eden**. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Daley introduced the first business item for consideration.

- 1.) Public Hearing: Ordinance 1535-23: ULDC Text Amendments – Planning and Zoning Board Composition

The City Attorney read Ordinance 1535-23 into the record.

In 2021, the City Commission approved Ordinance 1440-20, adopting a new and restated Unified Land Development Code (ULDC). Prior to the current ULDC, the city had two separate boards: The Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment. The Planning Board served strictly as the local planning agency reviewing amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Unified Land Development Code. The Board of Adjustment reviewed all variances. The Board of Adjustment consisted of seven (7) members and the Planning Board consisted of seven (7) members and two (2) alternates. Therefore, when merged into one Board the membership of seven (7) members and two (2) alternates was utilized with a few members from each Board moving to the new Board. Since the creation of the Planning and Zoning Board, there have been new members who had not previously served on either of the previous Boards.

Based on the research and analysis provided, staff recommended changes to Section 9.2.2.C to modify the membership of the Planning and Zoning Board reducing the membership appointments, and retaining the use of alternates, with no changes to the length of the term.

On October 12, 2023, the Planning and Zoning Board voted (4:3) to recommend changes to Section 9.2.2.C Planning and Zoning Board (Appointment) to the City Commission to increase the regular members and eliminate the use of alternates.

On December 4, 2023, the City Commission approved this ordinance on the first reading. City staff has worked with the City Attorney to draft the proposed language as recommended by the City Commission that will provide for a transition schedule that will result in a 5-member board that will allow for up to two alternates. A courtesy notification will be transmitted to the Department of Economic Opportunity.

The staff's recommendation was for approval of Ordinance 1535-23 on the second and final reading.

The mayor opened the public hearing.

Herb Nigg of 700 S. Ilakee recommended the City Commission appoint John Reinert as a regular

member.

John Reinert of 690 S. Illakee asked why we want to reduce the number of members on the board. He thinks that having more people involved in making decisions for our continuing growing city would be more of what we want and not fewer people involved in the decisions. Especially when we get down to a count of five, you have to have half plus one so you may not have enough to come to a majority with the number of people. He thinks it is kind of important that they all be regular members – No. 1 it should be and half plus one to make a quorum. And five people for a board? The mayor said we have five people and he said he understood but I think when you are talking about the Planning and Zoning Board and making things smaller – especially when you have volunteers willing to fill those positions – does not seem to look good. It's just a personal opinion.

The mayor said thank you and said we had looked at all of the other cities in the general area and we had a lot more members on our planning board than most of the cities in our range of population. So, in deciding to keep our membership down to five, we would have them living in different geographical areas of the cities so they would have a different input. In her mind, we should have a diverse group of young and old, male, and female, different races, and diverse people who have different opinions. That is why we want a concise number and we are not having anyone walk the plank. We want to get the board down to a management number.

The mayor closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Lake commented on his experience with the Planning Board and said five members with two alternates worked well.

Commissioner Eden made a motion to approve Ordinance 1535-23 ULDC Text Amendments on the Planning and Zoning Board Composition on the second and final reading. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Lake**. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Daley introduced the next business item for consideration.

2.) Ordinance 1536-24: Comp Plan Amendment: Transportation-Related Amendments

The City Attorney read the title of Ordinance 1536-24 into the record.

The City Manager presented the analysis. On June 6, 2022, the City Commission approved Resolution 09-22 for Kittleson and Associates, Inc. to prepare the Transportation Master Plan for the City of Lake Alfred. The Master Plan is intended to be used as a basis for planning for current and future roadway improvements.

The proposed amendments also acknowledge the City's participation in the planning efforts of the Polk Transportation Planning Organization and the Florida Department of Transportation. The elements to be updated include the Transportation Element, Capital Improvement Element, and Definitions Element.

The text amendments include the adoption by reference of the Transportation Master Plan. The master plan also serves to identify and prioritize necessary improvements to the City's existing transportation infrastructure system to meet current and projected multimodal travel demands. The level of service (LOS) standards is updated and new evaluation criteria were established for pedestrian and bicycle users. Other minor changes include new transportation-related definitions, updated cross-references, and the inclusion of the FDOT's Vision Zero goals.

On December 14, 2023, the Planning and Zoning Board held a public hearing on the proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment and voted unanimously to provide a recommendation of approval to the Lake Alfred City Commission. If approved, the Comprehensive Plan text amendment will be transmitted to the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) for review.

The staff recommendation was for approval of Ordinance 1536-24 on the first reading.

The mayor opened the public hearing and seeing no one, she closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Dearmin commended the City staff for the planning efforts and Mayor Daley said that Lake Alfred had always been good with the Master Planning and Overlay Districts with the implementation and follow through with the plans.

Commissioner Dearmin made a motion to approve Ordinance 1536-24 Comp Plan Amendments – Transportation Related Updates on the first reading. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Eden**. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Daley introduced the next business item for consideration.

3.) Ordinance 1537-24: ULDC Text Amendments – Downtown Overlay District

The City Attorney read the title of Ordinance 1537-24 into the record.

The City Manager presented the analysis. In 2021, the City Commission approved Ordinance 1440-20, adopting a new and restated Unified Land Development Code (ULDC) repealing the previous code adopted in 1993 as amended. While many sections of the ULDC were entirely new, the Downtown Overlay District (DOD) standards remained mostly unchanged. During a recent application review, staff recognized the opportunity for improvements based on the recent increases in construction and property values. The proposed amendment is designed to provide the intended flexibility for small improvements to properties in the DOD by changing the method to evaluate the value of improvements.

On December 14, 2023, the Planning and Zoning Board held a public hearing on the proposed Unified Land Development Code Amendment and voted unanimously to provide a recommendation of approval to the Lake Alfred City Commission. Upon approval of the first reading, the second and final reading will be considered on January 22, 2024. A courtesy notification will be transmitted to the Department of Economic Opportunity.

The staff recommendation was for approval of Ordinance 1537-24 on the first reading.

The mayor opened the public hearing and seeing no one, she closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Eden said he appreciated that the City could adapt to the times and **Commissioner Dearmin** said he thought that because things have changed it needed to be done.

Commissioner Lake made a motion to approve Ordinance 1537-24 related to the ULDC Text Amendments for the Downtown Overlay District on the first reading. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Dearmin**. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Daley introduced the next business item for consideration.

4.) Ordinance 1538-24: ULDC Text Amendments – Natural Resource Protection Standards - Floodplain

The City Attorney read the title of Ordinance 1538-24 into the record.

The City Manager presented the analysis. In 2021, the City Commission approved Ordinance 1440-20, adopting a new and restated Unified Land Development Code (ULDC) repealing the previous code adopted in 1993 as amended. While many sections of the ULDC were entirely new, sections of the Natural Resource Protection Standards remained mostly unchanged for compliance with state and federal regulations.

During the recent 5-year Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM) cycle visit regarding floodplain protection standards staff discussed recent changes and state and federal laws. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) made changes to the minimum standards for participation in the Community Rating System (CRS) program and changes were made to the Florida Building Code regarding building in the special flood hazard areas. The proposed amendment is designed to remove conflicts created by the recent state and federal changes, to ensure the City maintains its participation in the CRS program, to provide recommended higher standards for critical facilities, and to reduce the impact of repetitive losses due to flooding.

On December 14, 2023, the Planning and Zoning Board held a public hearing on the proposed Unified Land Development Code Amendment and voted unanimously to provide a recommendation of approval to the Lake Alfred City Commission. If approved, the Comprehensive Plan text amendment will be transmitted to the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) for review.

The staff recommendation was for approval of Ordinance 1538-24 on the first reading.

Director Bailey spoke about the natural resource protection areas and working with the State. She explained that the program provides for a 20% reduction in their flood insurance. The Florida Division of Emergency Management was a part of the review and we are glad we can continue to provide improvement to the protection of our natural areas. The mayor asked if this had anything to do with the insurance flood zone area and Director Bailey said absolutely. The mayor asked if it changed certain people's status and Director Bailey said this had nothing to do with map changes it is strictly policy changes in regards to development when it occurs and they have floodplains on their area or the buffer areas for wetlands.

The mayor opened the public hearing and seeing no one, she closed the public hearing. There were no comments from the City Commission.

Vice Mayor Fuller made a motion to approve Ordinance 1538-24 related to the ULDC Text Amendments for the Natural Resource Protection Standards [Floodplains] on the first reading. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Dearmin**. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Daley introduced the next business item for consideration.

5.) Ordinance 1539-24: JMBI Development Annexation (Delbert Collins Road)

The City Attorney read the title of Ordinance 1539-24 into the record.

The City Manager presented the analysis. Pursuant to Florida Statutes Chapter 171, the City may consider the annexation of unincorporated areas of a county that are contiguous to the municipality, compact, and will not create an enclave. The applicant has submitted to the City voluntary annexation petitions under Chapter 171.044 to request the annexation of one (1) parcel into the city limits of Lake Alfred. The property is located at 0 Delbert Collins Road.

The total area is approximately 7.75± acres. The property is currently vacant with some areas previously used as a citrus grove. The property contains areas of special flood hazard area (Zone 'AE').

The action currently before the City Commission is only on the annexation of the property into the City. If approved, establishing Future Land Use and Zoning designations would be considered in future action items presented to the Planning and Zoning Board and City Commission. If approved on the first reading, the proposed Ordinance will be presented for the second and final reading on January 22, 2024.

The staff recommendation was for approval of Ordinance 1539-24 on the first reading.

The mayor opened the public hearing and seeing no one, she closed the public hearing.

Clarification was provided on the parcel location and then the mayor asked what the upland acreage was on this parcel and Director Bailey responded it ~6 ½ acres.

Commissioner Lake made a motion to approve Ordinance 1539-24 for the annexation of JMBI Development (Delbert Collins Road) on the first reading. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Eden**. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Daley introduced the next business item for consideration.

6.) Public Hearing: Resolution 01-24: Wastewater Treatment Facility Plan

The City Attorney read the title of Resolution 01-24 into the record.

The City Manager presented the analysis. On August 7, 2023, the City Commission approved a task order with CPH, LLC. for the development of a Wastewater Treatment Facility Plan. The City's Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) was originally constructed in 1954. The last improvements to the facility were completed 15 years ago when the plant was expanded from 600,000 gpd to 1 million gpd (MGD). The City's 10-year water supply plan and wastewater master plan identified the need for expansion of the wastewater plant to accommodate growth, and because of aging infrastructure. The expansion is tentatively identified as a 1.0 MGD expansion of the treatment capacity.

Additionally, the City is planning on the replacement of various equipment and intends to incorporate advanced wastewater treatment (AWT) including nutrient removal. As a part of this process, the City has submitted a request for inclusion (RFI) and has been approved for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Planning Loan.

Since the City of Lake Alfred is pursuing funding through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) Clean Water State Revolving Funds (SRF) Program, the Wastewater

Treatment Facility Plan is a required element of this process. Through the FDEP SRF Wastewater Facilities Program, up to fifty percent (50%) of the costs incurred for this project are eligible for principal forgiveness, with the remaining cost covered by a low-interest loan.

Process

Authorize application (Request for Inclusion) – 9/28/23 (Resolution 29-23)

Create and Adopt a Facility Plan – 1/8/24

RFQ – Design

Design

RFQ – Construction

Construction

The staff recommendation was for approval of Resolution 01-24.

Scott Breitenstein and Cassie Brown of CPH were in attendance.

- The Wastewater spray field is located within the Withlacoochee Study Area (WSA) that FDEP is investigating for total nitrogen reduction impairment.
- The draft Facility Plan was submitted to FDEP for placement on the February 2024 priority list meeting for funding of the design.
- CPH recommends increasing the WWTF design capacity to 2.0 MGD and implement Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) treatment (4-Stage Bardenpho).
- Project description and need for improvements
- Cost comparison analysis of selected alternative
- Environmental review – Preliminary Ecological Assessment Report
- Public Participation – City Commission Meeting
- Financial feasibility – Capital Financing Plan has been submitted
- Project Schedule – aim to be constructed between October 2024 and October 2026
- Recommended retrofits and reviewed the proposed improvements
- The preliminary estimated capital construction cost is \$22,600,000.

The mayor opened the public hearing and seeing no one, she closed the public hearing.

The mayor asked about the financing of a low-interest loan and the terms while also having the opportunity to talk about appropriations to the legislature.

The City Manager said this program is similar to an appropriations grant at up to 50% loan forgiveness. He said there will be an RFQ for a Governmental Consultant in the future as a part of our strategy.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the use of connection fees, the Marianna Acres debt falling off, and another due to fall off in 2027.

The mayor asked if this would cause us to raise rates and it was shared that the City had already conducted and adopted the rate study last year incorporating the debt service load and the alternate water supply. We have put as much as we could in the connection fees. A percentage of connection fees can be used for growth-related expansion of the infrastructure.

The City Attorney said pre-existing debt service is not an eligible expense for certain restricted funds such as connection fees. Projected or planned growth, something that is represented in

the Capital Improvement Element of the Comprehensive Plan is available for allocation and earmarking for the purposes of satisfying the rational nexus test for the expenditure of such restricted funds.

Vice Mayor Fuller thanked them for being here tonight.

Commissioner Lake asked if this would replace the WWTF or would it be in addition to what is existing and Mr. Breitenstein said the city was expanding on what was there.

Commissioner Lake made a motion to approve Resolution 01-24 adopting the Wastewater Treatment Facility Plan. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Eden**. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Daley introduced the next business item for consideration.

7.) Public Hearing: Resolution 02-24: Revised Water Facilities Plan

The City Attorney read the title of Resolution 02-24 into the record.

The City Manager presented the analysis. The City is currently in the process of designing and constructing a second water plant for infrastructure redundancy and resiliency as well as to accommodate future growth. On December 2, 2019, the City Commission approved Resolution 22-19 authorizing the application for a State Revolving Fund Loan for Drinking Water Facilities. Through the SRF Water Facilities Program, up to fifty percent (50%) of the costs incurred for this project are eligible for principal forgiveness.

On March 1, 2021, the City Commission approved Resolution 08-21 which formally adopted the Water Facility Plan. While submitting the required documents for the funding, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection requested that the plan be modified for the new site location.

The revised facility plan is attached with modified figures showing the updated facility location and updated environmental report.

Process

Authorize Application (Request for Inclusion) – 12/2/19 (Resolution 22-19)

Create and Adopt a Facility Plan – 3/1/21

RFQ – Design – 10/4/21 City Commission Accepted Ranking

Design

Revised Facility Plan – New location – 2/24

RFQ – Construction

Construction

The staff recommendation was for approval of Resolution 02-24.

Scott Breitenstein presented on the Revised Water Treatment Plant.

Overview

- Resolution to adopt the Water Treatment Plant No. 2 (WTP #2) was in March of 2021.
- Construction documents submitted to SRF for placement on the February 2024 Funding agenda.

- During the design phase the proposed WTP #2 site location moved to a property off of Old Lake Alfred Road.
- The Revised Facility Plan is being presented to inform the City Commission and the public of the changes due to the new site location.
- There was a revised Ecological Assessment.
- The figures were revised.
- Project description and need for improvements – updated site location
- Cost comparison analysis of selected alternatives – alternatives remained the same
- Environmental review – Preliminary Ecological Assessment Report & Sand Skink Survey added for the new location
- Public Participation – City Commission Meeting
- Reviewed the new site layout.

The mayor opened the public hearing and seeing no one, she closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Lake asked if this tied into the Polk Regional Water Cooperative and the City Manager said this was an infrastructure investment, explained the interconnections we had with the neighboring cities, and said this helps with growth and not permitted capacity.

Commissioner Dearmin asked about the capacity and it was shared that the new plant would be rated at 3 MGD.

The City Manager said this will help with pressure, the volume capacity, and the fire department. The master plan ensures we have the right pipe sizes in the right locations. This is not impacting the water use permit, only just ensuring we have the capacity and there will be a new 750,000-gallon ground storage tank. The existing is 500,000-gallon and the elevated water tank is 150,000.

Commissioner Dearmin made a motion to approve Resolution 02-24 adopting the Revised Water Treatment Facility Plan. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Eden**. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Daley introduced the next business item for consideration.

8.) Public Hearing: Resolution 03-24: FDOT Right of Way Maintenance Agreement

The City Attorney read the title of Resolution 03-24 into the record.

The City Manager presented the analysis. Following the FDOT Highway 17-92 improvements in 2008 the City entered into a three-year agreement to maintain the landscaping in FDOT’s right of way. The agreement was again renewed in 2011, 2014, 2017, and 2020. It is being presented back to the City Commission for an additional three-year renewal with updated amounts. Under the terms of the agreement, the City is responsible for basic landscaping services including mowing, litter removal, edging, and street sweeping. The reduction in the renewal is based upon a reduction in FDOT’s reimbursement formula.

Year	Amount	Difference
2008	\$20,110.34	
2011	\$30,315.37	\$10,205.03
2014	\$24,211.23	(\$6,104.14)

2017	\$29,220.07	\$5,008.84
2020	\$26,443.52	(\$2,776.55)
2023	\$25,649.02	(794.50)

The staff recommendation was for approval of Resolution 03-24.

The mayor opened the floor to public comments, and seeing no one, she closed the floor to public comments.

A brief discussion ensued about the higher expectations of the city's care vs the county, the city only maintains the medians throughout the City limits, the medians look great because of the extra care, and the City using professional arborists for consultation on the Crepe Myrtles. Further discussion surrounded the minimal increase if we maintained the bulb outs with complete streets and the potential to have a dedicated specialized crew for the medians in the future.

Commissioner Lake made a motion to approve Resolution 03-24 approving the FDOT Right of Way Maintenance Agreement. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Dearmin**. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Daley introduced the next business item for consideration.

9.) Planning and Zoning Board Appointments

The City Manager presented the analysis. On April 16, 2021, the Planning and Zoning Board was established by Ordinance No. 1440-20. This Ordinance abolished the Board of Adjustment and Planning Board. The new Planning and Zoning Board is designated as the local planning agency in accordance with F.S. 163.3174 and reviews development applications and the Technical Review Committee recommendations at a public hearing.

The duties of the board are to advise and make recommendations to the City Commission regarding applications or designations on property within the City, interpret and determine the intent of provisions outlined in the code that are unclear or in conflict with other regulations, and consider the need for revision or addition to regulations in this Code or the Comprehensive Plan and to recommend changes to the City Commission.

Ordinance 1535-23 modified the composition of the board to provide for a transition schedule that will result in a 5-member board and that will allow for up to two alternates. As a result of the transition schedule, the City Commission shall appoint 2 members for a three-year term.

The City has received applications or interest from four candidates wishing to be appointed (or reappointed) to the Planning & Zoning Board:

- Brenda Arnold, regular member expired December 31, 2023
- Wanda Daley, regular member expired December 31, 2023
- John Reinert, alternate member expired December 31, 2023
- Gregg Rothberg, new board application

There is no staff recommendation and it is at the pleasure and discretion of the City Commission. He commented that in the years past we were just happy to have any interest in serving on the

board. He said the staff pulled together some information and there are the diversity components as the mayor had suggested, the diversity of the professional background, or the location that they live in the city and provided examples. This is what the City Commission may want to consider and most certainly as you make appointments you have to look at the balance of the board to see who is coming on and who is coming off and how that changes the balance or composition. He yielded to the City Commission.

The mayor opened the floor to public comments.

Gregg Rothberg of 615 Grapefruit said he wanted to throw his name in the hat. He thanked the City Clerk because it was brought to his attention that the City was looking for people to step up and she was gracious enough to get him the information and he applied for it. He said his background is completely different. He said he was born in Pensacola, raised in Miami, and has been in Tennessee for fifteen years. He said they bought two duplexes and he lives in one unit and rents the other three out and I work for a paint company. He has been in the paint industry for thirty years. He is asking to be considered for his unique background because he doesn't have – from someone who is from the area – with interest within the area. I can think outside of the box. He is big in preservation, the lakes, fishing, and stuff like that but I have a big interest in it. He thanked the City Clerk for letting him know. Thank you everyone.

The mayor asked if any other applicants in the audience wanted to address the City Commission or non-applicants. There were none so she closed the floor to public comments.

The mayor said we are in a unique position because we haven't ever been in this position. Using the criteria, the City Manager mentioned makes it even, still, hard to choose between four people for two spots.

Commissioner Dearmin commended the mayor on the diversity we need to support everybody.

The mayor reviewed the existing board composition and the City Manager reviewed the transition schedule. The mayor asked about the discussion and suggested that everyone put out a first choice. It is the City Commission's discretion and the mayor said this was hard.

Gregg Rothberg asked if all of the applicants knew about the selection and if they were here, they could be called forward for questions.

Director Bailey said all of the previous board members requested to be reappointed. They had to send us an email and respond to us. She pointed out that both John Reinert and Brenda Arnold were here earlier and as you know Brenda is here often.

The mayor said the reason she suggested doing them separately is because Brenda has been very attentive to the meetings, her attendance, and her insight so she would like to consider her as her first choice. She has been a pretty valuable member. Commissioner Dearmin agreed. Commissioner Lake said Brenda has been involved a lot at our meetings and the mayor said she also volunteers for events. Commissioner Lake said he thought she deserved to stay on the board.

Commissioner Eden made a motion to approve Brenda Arnold as a regular member of the Planning and Zoning Board. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Lake**. The motion was unanimously approved.

The mayor said that now leaves us with three people and one position. Commissioner Dearmin said he looked at the applications with Wanda and the diversity being involved and said he had no problem with Gregg Rothberg for the Fruitland Area as a part of the Planning and Zoning Board with new eyes and new vision.

Commissioner Eden said his only comment was – and he welcomes Mr. Rothberg as well – to the community. He knows Ms. Wanda has been a pillar of that area for a long, long time and he would hate to lose her, especially if she is interested. Not saying this because you just moved here recently but – I’m not sure who is – are there any terms up next year as well?

The City Manager said that next year, this December, you will have two members to appoint and one of those will be converted to an alternate. The year after that you will have a member and an alternate to appoint. 2, 2, 1, and then 2,2,1. If you wanted to add a second alternate you could.

Commissioner Eden said it was a tough choice and the mayor said it looked like Wanda had trouble making it to the meetings she had only attended about half, and Commissioner Lake said Wanda has been on the board but has missed a few meetings. The mayor said she has been making the recent ones.

The City Manager said she had suggested to the staff that she had thrown her name in, Wanda is a true community and wanted to make sure that there wasn’t going to be a vacancy. It was suggested she would be willing to rotate off for a term but again, it is the City Commission’s discretion but she is happy to serve as well.

The mayor agreed with Commissioner Dearmin’s comment about Gregg Rothberg being a fresh set of eyes. Vice Mayor Fuller said he was in alignment with that thought process as well.

Commissioner Dearmin made a motion to approve Greg Rothberg as a regular member of the Planning and Zoning Board. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Lake**. The motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Eden said if that was Wanda’s sentiments, he was okay but he didn’t want to take away a pillar of the community for fifty years.

Director Bailey said that Ms. Wanda loves us. She wanted to make sure there were no vacancies and actually would prefer to be reappointed in another year as an alternate. That would be her preference moving forward because as you mentioned she does struggle sometimes with getting here because she is a caregiver for her mother. That is what leads to her absences. She is always available to us and always wants to serve and she was happy to do whatever we needed her to do.

The mayor requested the city staff let Wanda know we wanted to consider her and if she wanted to back off, we understood that but we didn’t want her to think we didn’t want her anymore. Brenda Arnold and Gregg Rothberg were welcomed and thanked for their interest.

Recognition of Citizens:

None

Commissioner Questions and Comments:

Commissioner Eden said as always and thanked both Chiefs and then said he appreciated their service and all of the staff. He said thanked Ryan and Ameer saying they did a great job today.

He said it was nice to see all of the citizen participation. He concluded by saying he hoped everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and welcomed Mr. Rothberg. Go Blue, Go Michigan.

Vice Mayor Fuller said Happy New Year and thanked everyone for staying tonight. He said they were busy during the time off with the parades, employee functions, and things going on in the City. He said the Fire Chief and department did a great job. He said his church provided coffee and pastries for thirty-eight fire departments in Polk County and he volunteered to take care of Lake Alfred's finest. We had a great time with the B & C shifts. They did a great job. It was a great opportunity to visit and show our appreciation. He shared that a group of them will be going to Polk County Days on the 17th through the 19th and he is expecting an interesting meeting with that with the changes going on in the legislature. Our biggest change is going from Form 1 to Form 6 and in Polk County, we lost about five or six elected officials. St. Pete Beach lost four and he is tickled to death to participate on this Commission for the City. It is hard to sit here and shake their fist in your face and he doesn't take it personally because he knows it is coming from their heart. There is no malice meant. It sure is good to serve a City like this and he couldn't think of any other place he would like to be doing it. Happy New Year and thanks again.

Commissioner Dearmin expanded on what the Vice Mayor said saying we were very respectful and thought we handled it very well in letting them speak and we understand that we have thoughts and understandings of that as well. The mayor said they were really well behaved as well and the information they had was great. He acknowledged a great long-time friend, Mr. Bob Allen, of the Water Ridge community. He has known Bob for over forty years and they ran a 10K together.

Bob Allen spoke and said it was so good to see Jack, and we both worked together at Walgreens. He said he retired after forty years and that Jack is a great guy. He said the City Commission handled themselves well tonight and said the City Manager had been to one of his HOA meetings. You guys had it tough tonight and were amazing. We were very impressed with the way you handled it, very professional, and you let them talk. That is great because you have to listen to learn. We appreciate you. He introduced the others in attendance with him tonight.

Commissioner Dearmin said he hoped everyone had a good Christmas and New Year. We are off and running. Thank you.

Mayor Daley thanked the City Manager for being able to explain to the crowd and it was understandable. She thinks it waylaid a lot of fears. People come when they don't understand and they need someone to explain in a sane and rational way. I think he did that well and I thank you, sir. She brought up the water tower maintenance on the Consent Agenda and said there had been previous discussions on it having to be dismantled. She wanted to go on record that it is an icon for the City. Could it not be an art piece or statute for the City?

The City Manager said we could and that will be the longer issue that there will be structural elements on the tower eventually. He spoke about the structural analysis conducted by the cell phone tower and how the maintenance would help with the rust. It's not that you can't and if the City Commission wants it, it is just going to be a cost-benefit analysis. He provided some examples of maybe lowering it or providing a replica. He shares their sentiments. The mayor and Commissioner Lake said it needed a fish.

Commissioner Lake said he already talked about putting the fish on there and shared about how a City in Mississippi had lost its identity due to a highway going through and they took a water

tower, put it by a main road, and painted a fish on it. Our fish is on their tower. The Parks and Recreation Director said she supported the idea.

Mayor Daley said Happy New Year to everyone and yielded the floor to Commissioner Lake.

Commissioner Lake said we had a lot of parades and the Ridge League Dinner which was in Plant City with a big hall and not a lot of people there. We are going to Tallahassee next week and he watched a couple of webinars. One on Form 6 and the other on was on upcoming legislation. He said 1,198 bills were going through the process. He posted the question about if there would be any changes to Form 6 and the answer was no. We have to live with it for a while. He shared he attended the Celebration of Life for Betty Shinn and there were a lot of people there. Merry Christmas that passed, and Happy New Year. It's going to be a good year. Thank you.

The mayor thanked the audience for their attendance.

Without further discussion, at 9:46 p.m., the City Commission meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Bourgeois, BAS, MMC,
City Clerk