

**MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION
MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 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: Police Chief Art Bodenheimer 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, Police Chief Art Bodenheimer, Parks and Recreation Director Emily Deal, Human Resources Director Margarita Martin, Growth Management Director Ameer Bailey, and Community Development Director Gus Karpas.

The City Manager announced the following:

1. The Ridge League of Cities Dinner will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2024, in Lake Wales at Lake Ashton Clubhouse. Reception starts at 6:00 PM with dinner at 7:00 PM.
2. The next City Commission Meeting will be on Monday, February 5, 2024.
3. The City Manager thanked everyone who came out to the Bluegrass Bash, and the City staff. The event was a great success.
4. The Historical Society held an event at the Evans House which is a 100-year-old house off of CR557. It was well attended.

City Attorney Seth Claytor said he remained grateful to serve the great City of Lake Alfred.

Recognition of Citizens

James Allen 8453 Fussell Road, Polk City, Florida. He said the Hilochee Wildlife Extension Ordinance and Resolution gave no indication it was annexing property on Old Grade Road. He spoke about how that didn't give the residents a heads-up, and how the ordinance title didn't give a reference to the actual properties. He provided examples.

Director Bailey said the ordinance had the title of the largest targeted property which was the Hilochee Wildlife Management Area which included the CR557 extension. She explained there was a table within the ordinance that detailed each parcel identification number, the property owner, and addresses.

The mayor asked about the legal description and the director explained that the ordinance also included an overarching legal boundary description. That is for the benefit of the property appraiser and other jurisdictions to change it on their end.

James Allen said it was for the entire annexation but did not give the people living north of I-4 the heads up. He spoke about not knowing about the annexation until four weeks ago, opposing any housing development in the Green Swamp, and losing sleep over the annexation. He continued and spoke about the City's comprehensive plan, saving his pennies to retire where he wanted and not in a city, and the development companies destroying the lives of the people who live there. He asked if the city was working with Claire Clements to develop the 150 acres buying land for development.

The mayor replied the City was not buying land and spoke about the Green Swamp Overlay District. At this time, the City has no designs to be north of that area or Deen Still. She suggested they consider conservation easements and get paid not to develop their properties.

James Allen spoke about the property not being able to develop with the County's comprehensive plan. He shared that he spoke with the state representative and that he may have something to say when the City tries to change the zoning because it borders his property.

The mayor said she understands his feelings and shared she is the biggest proponent of saving the water and an environmentalist of that area.

James Allen said he was sure that where the trailers are on the I-4 interchange would be a gas station and it was backed up with water now. They have a dyke around and the run-off will end up in people's yards.

The mayor said people are landowners and they have landowner rights just like you do. They have the right - and James Allen said - to destroy this place, and the mayor said - and you have the right to protect it.

Nelly Crumley 11450 Old Grade Road, Polk City, Florida. Asked if a resolution only gave the legal descriptions of the properties.

The City Attorney spoke about the Urban Services Report when there is an involuntary or a piece of the annexation that is involuntary. It is termed involuntary because there is not a petition submitted by the property owner for voluntary annexation. There would be a Resolution accepting the Urban Services Report; however, the annexation itself is done by Ordinance.

Nelly Crumley said after researching the resolution, the ordinance was the only place where you see all of the parcels and on the last page, you see the Fraiser, Stettner, Bimbo, and Ameriport parcels listed. You don't get that heads-up until the first and second readings as it is embedded in there and you have to dig to see that the three parcels north of I-4 were tacked on.

Nelly Crumley spoke about how the north of I-4 properties were only contiguous with the Hilochee property, the city's future annexation plans were not on the website, the current future land use and zoning maps were outdated on the website, and she provided examples of recent land use and zoning amendments. She said the maps are embedded in the minutes [agendas]. There have been no updates to the city's boundaries since the Hilochee annexation.

Information was shared that Hilochee future land and zoning maps would not be updated because no changes have been made to the existing county designations.

Director Bailey stated that annexations are driven by applications, whether or not they are connected and adjacent, and if they are in our path line for utilities. She provided examples and explained the evaluation process.

The City Manager spoke about the City's comprehensive plan, allowing light industrial warehouses, that 80% is wetland, the county allowing impacts on the wetlands, and the city does not. He concluded by saying the number one holdout is to not sell the property and that he is thankful for the Green Swamp because it will limit the development that we will experience relative to everyone else.

The mayor spoke about how the city had purchased property downtown to control what would be developed.

Nelly Crumley said she was only able to find the last city limits map in the minutes [agenda] and the City Manager said that was a fair ask and we would update the maps. She continued and asked does the city had any representative, employee, or entity who was conducting any communication with Claire Clements or Southern Citrus Groves to gain Lake Alfred city limits connectivity with any or all parcels off of Old Grade Road that she represents for voluntary annexations. She spoke with Claire Clements this morning and she said she speaks with many people in the city and not one specific person.

The mayor said hello to her one time at a City Commission meeting and the City Manager said she communicates with the staff regularly. Claire has an interest in quite a few properties that she has purchased as she is a land broker. The mayor said she had no authority to distribute a letter on Lake Alfred letterhead nor did she have any permission from anyone here to do that. The City Manager explained that the letter was a general template and she did not have permission to use the letter.

Nelly Crumley asked where on the website she would find the prospective future annexations. Do we just have to continue to look for the information?

Director Bailey explained the advertising requirements and said she would send her a link to where she can sign up for legal notifications based on keywords such as Lake Alfred and/or Annexation.

Nelly Crumley thanked the City Commission.

Rick Coleman of 485 N. Lakeshore Way spoke about a \$10.00 debris pick-up charge on his utility bill. He explained the history of where they used to place their debris, spoke about how the sanitation trucks stopped going down the alleyway due to not being able to safely turn around, and that the pile is now used by many residents.

Director Deaton said the charge had been credited back to the account and explained the was a new sanitation driver who was unfamiliar with the way the larger piles were handled. The City charges for additional scoops to offset the landfill charges.

Margaret Wheaton of 330 S. Carolina Avenue shared about the upcoming Friends of the Library 50% off sale this Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. She concluded by sharing that the Friends of the Library will have a new Lake Alfred Friends of the Library sale.

Arron Burr of 943969 Polk City Road and his family have owned the property for 64 years. He said he couldn't get out of his road and now the city wanted to build 1,000 more homes before the roads were four-laned. Why? He spoke about the annexing in the Green Swamp saying it was flat and low. He said most water goes north under I-4 and the rest goes under CR557 into the Lowery Marsh. He said the northside water flow is blocked and they are backed up due to the replacement of three culvert pipes with a weir. He has 4 ½ acres of land and now they can't walk on two of those acres due to water.

Director Bailey said that this was the staging area at the interchange by the Turnpike Authority that was associated with the improvements at the interchange. They had received permits from the county before the annexation in order to use that area as a staging area.

Leslie Bailey 943 Old Polk City Road said people from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, who stopped construction to unblock their pipes, there was an argument about that - the water does not flow north there but it does. Back in 2008, the property was high and dry, and up until about two years ago when they started this, now we are flooded. They said there were no pipes there and we have pictures showing there were pipes there and they are not there anymore.

The mayor said that would be a different agency.

Arron Burr said let's not build on the 20% that is dry because there are bobcats, coyotes, and deer. Everything can't live in the water. We don't want building in the Green Swamp and we don't want the City. Thank you.

Kay Losey lived in the area for twenty-three years and said her property on Lake Lowery Road used to be dry. Within the last six or seven years the front of her property has water standing, about a ¼ acre in the corner, and in the back, she couldn't fence it because the fence posts are underwater. She spoke about the condition of the roads, that she moved because she sold her 3 ½ acres to a developer for \$66,000, and the property is underwater. She asked why they want the property when you can't build on it. Why can some people do stuff to their properties and others can't? The regular people who bought the property for cattle can't.

The mayor said since the property is in the county the city doesn't have any jurisdiction to address the situation. She encouraged her to check with the county.

Kay Losey said one side of the road was the St. Johns Water Management District and the other side was the Southwest Florida Water Management District. She asked who you pay to do this stuff for you. If you have the money, that is the way it is.

The mayor replied not in Lake Alfred.

Mayor Daley closed the recognition of citizens.

Police Officer Swearing-in Ceremony

Police Chief Bodenheimer introduced Officer Jose Hernandez and his family. He said he started in career in Law Enforcement in 2019 with St. Lucie Sheriff's Office. He shared a short story about Officer Hernandez and said it was an honor to do this ceremony tonight.

The City Clerk conducted the Swearing-in Ceremony for Jose Hernandez.

Employee of the First Quarter – Thomas Mackie

Director Deaton said Thomas is a driver in our sanitation department, so most of the time you don't see him a lot. He does a great job for the City of Lake Alfred. Thomas is very dependable and cares about his work. He will get out and clean up trash on the side of the road, this is a pet peeve he has, and I think it is good for the City. We are happy to have a driver of his caliber work for Lake Alfred. Thomas Mackie said he wished everyone cared about the City of Lake Alfred as much as he does.

Mayor Daley presented the Consent Agenda for consideration.

Consent Agenda:

- 1.) City Commission Meeting Minutes for January 8, 2024
- 2.) City Commission Announcements

Mayor Daley opened the floor to public comments and seeing no one, she closed the floor to public comments.

Commissioner Lake made a motion to approve the consent agenda and the motion was seconded by **Vice Mayor Fuller**. The motion was unanimously approved. [Commissioner Dearmin was absent during the vote.]

Mayor Daley introduced the first business item for consideration.

- 1.) Public Hearing: 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. On January 8, 2024, the City Commission approved the ordinance on first reading. A courtesy notification will be transmitted to the Department of Economic Opportunity.

The staff recommendation was for approval of Ordinance 1537-24 on the second and final reading.

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

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

Mayor Daley introduced the next business item for consideration.

2.) Public Hearing: 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. On January 8, 2024, the City Commission approved the ordinance on first reading. 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.

The staff recommendation was for approval of Ordinance 1539-24 on the second and final reading.

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

Mayor Daley asked what this parcel had to do with Eden Hills and it was shared that the staff was working with the City Attorney and the applicant related to the City's open space requirements.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the potential framework that would allow for off-site open space, the potential for land banks to acquire environmentally sensitive areas, and developer agreements that would dovetail into the Unified Land Development Code to allow for flexibility.

It was mentioned that there may be an opportunity to conduct a full study of the Green Swamp to preserve certain areas.

Mayor Daley asked if they were allowed to transfer development rights from one property owner to another if that were to happen.

The City Attorney replied and said when we are dealing with areas of critical state concern or environmentally sensitive areas, the code provides for certain methodologies or restrictions for that type of property but the code is silent and provides no guidance as to what the City Manager was talking about. It will come down to legislative prerogative. We have had good communications and worked well across the table trying to come up with a methodology or justification to present to the City Commission for the City Commission to decide the future. The recommendation for the annexation before you is for approval.

Vice Mayor Fuller made a motion to approve Ordinance 1539-24 for the annexation of JMBl Development (Delbert Collins Road) on the second and final reading. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Eden**. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Daley introduced the next business item for consideration.

3.) Public Hearing: Resolution 04-24: ADA Transition Plan Adoption

The City Attorney read the title of Resolution 04-24 into the record.

The City Manager presented the analysis. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a comprehensive Federal civil rights statute enacted in 1990. Comprised of five major parts, or "titles," the ADA's purpose is to provide a "clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities". Portions of the law that predominantly apply to the City fall under Title I: Employment and Title II: State and Local Government with some elements of Title III for those business entities utilizing or leasing City facilities.

In July 2022, the City of Lake Alfred started the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (SETP) process and completed the work required to develop a Transition Plan. The Transition Plan consists of the evaluation of city-owned facilities, parks, playgrounds, docks and boat ramps, pedestrian right-of-way, city programs and services, the website, and city policies and procedures.

The purpose of this Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan is to create a roadmap for the City of Lake Alfred to transition into achieving ADA compliance with those projects that were identified in the field survey report.

For this process, the City of Lake Alfred established an ADA Compliance Team comprised of representatives from each city department and one resident volunteer. The team reviewed the field survey report and selected the projects for ranking based on the level of risk of the required improvement. The identified projects are the basis for the Transition Plan and the plan itself is a requirement of the law and demonstrates a good faith effort by the City to proactively address necessary ADA improvements.

While there is an extensive project list that has been identified in the Transition Plan, most improvements are maintenance in nature and will be addressed through regular operating budgets. Additionally, the City is budgeting \$100,000 per year for ADA projects including new sidewalks which will be used to improve access around the City as well as address some of the more substantive projects identified within the Transition Plan.

The staff recommendation was for approval of Resolution 04-24.

The City Clerk thanked the City Commission for their support and presented the Transition Plan for consideration.

Overview

- Provided an overview of the ADA Title requirements.
- New constructions and alterations to existing facilities.
- ADA program accessibility.
- Effective communication and options to achieve compliance.
- Conducting the Self-Evaluation and creating the Transition Plan.
- The Transition Plan identified and ranked the larger ADA projects.
- Other deficiencies noted within the Field Survey Report will be considered maintenance.
- Modification of our facilities, policies, procedures, and practices.
- Public outreach and the designation of the ADA Coordinator.
- Public notice requirements and the Grievance Policy and procedures.
- Acknowledged and thanked the ADA Compliance Team and shared their involvement.
- Reviewed the timeline from the ADA Coordinator appointment in July of 2022, to the City Commission presentation in January of 2024.
- Provided detailed information on ADA-identified projects through 2030.

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

Mayor Daley said this was an awesome report thinking about how much work went into it. She congratulated the City Clerk/ADA Coordinator on a great job. She continued and spoke about the evaluation of having a crosswalk placed outside City Hall. She said along Mackay Blvd. there is only one crosswalk with a lot of people using the fitness trail. She wasn't sure if it would be an ADA project or maintenance however, there may be a potential to evaluate the area with curb cuts.

The City Manager explained that the Transition Plan is just one component or tool. He spoke about the complete streets program and resurfacing the road saying that there will be an ADA lens on the project. That will help evaluate the intersections for eligibility of a raised crosswalk or we can look at other components so that every time we do a roadway resurfacing project, we will be looking for those ADA improvements. It goes back to the complete streets which also have the element of pedestrian travel as well.

Mayor Daley said some people don't know they should stop for pedestrians in the crosswalks. She suggested signage be installed for safety.

Commissioner Lake commented that there were ADA improvements about three years ago with the installation of the automatic doors at City Hall. He shared that the City Clerk conducted the site visit at the Gardner House and the toilet paper and towel rack he installed was slightly off. We know we have to move those and he knows we will need to start prepping the back of the Gardner House for the ramp installation. Hopefully, we will get enough interest in the site. He said we also had a conversation about creating a video of the upstairs rooms for those who can't traverse the stairway so they can have the same experience as those visitors who can.

Commissioner Eden said thank you for the thorough report and hopefully, we can get some of those things advanced sooner with the budgeting and grant funding. Thank you.

The City Manager asked how many cities in the area had Transition Plans and the City Clerk/ADA Coordinator said after submitting a public records request to the local municipalities only two produced their Transition Plans and that was the City of Lakeland and the City of Lake Wales. She reminded the City Commission that while every municipality was required to conduct the self-evaluation, only those cities with 50 or more employees were required to have the Transition Plan. She had the Southeast ADA Specialist as a guest speaker for the Polk County City Clerk's Luncheon a few months ago.

The mayor asked if the ADA also touched on the website ADA requirements and the response was yes and also with Human Resources such as job descriptions, interviews, and reasonable accommodation requests. The City Manager added the Summer Program, policies, and leased facilities.

Vice Mayor Fuller thanked the City Clerk/ADA Coordinator and the ADA Compliance Team saying he has been watching things advance well ahead of schedule. It is great to see everyone digging in. Thank you again.

Mayor Daley opened the Public Hearing.

Richard Eisert of 942 Inverness Way said he would like to apologize for his past comments. If it had been known to him this was being worked on for the past several years, he would not have gotten so excited, and now that I see that it has been worked on for several years, he apologized. He asked how the city would hold the builders accountable to ensure that the ADA ramps were installed in the subdivisions.

The City Manager said there will be an ADA lens on all projects. The city went back out and retrofitted the intersections in his subdivision and going forward the potential ADA compliance issues will be flagged during the site plan reviews and also during the final site walkthroughs.

Mayor Daley closed the Public Hearing.

Mayor Daley thanked the ADA Compliance Team for their hard work.

A discussion ensued about having an ADA guest speaker or a public service announcement for the Ridge League of Cities and also the Polk County City Manager's monthly meeting. This is not a plan that will sit on the shelf, there will be funding, and within two years, the city has increased the budget to \$100,000.

The City Attorney spoke about the emerging trends with ADA and shared about the websites being a hot-button litigation issue a few years ago with cities taking down the websites.

Mayor Daley asked if putting the deficiencies out there could those identified projects motivate others to come after the city. The City Manager said the plan provides a defense.

Commissioner Dearmin thanked the City Clerk/ADA Coordinator for the hard work. He shared about seeing her office filled with ADA and building signage. He said the State Legislature was working on mobility plans that tie in with ADA compliance.

Commissioner Lake made a motion to approve Resolution 04-24 adopting the ADA Transition Plan. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Eden**. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Daley introduced the next business item for consideration.

4.) Bid Award: Police Department Generator

The City Manager presented the analysis. On December 7, 2020, the City of Lake Alfred City Commission authorized the city staff to apply for a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) project, to purchase and install permanent generator(s), at the Public Safety Complex. The HMGP project will protect the City of Lake Alfred Public Safety Complex by replacing the existing 125 kW generator with a new 140 kW generator with all necessary accessories for its operation including the connection to a transfer switch.

The following companies submitted bids for consideration.

1. Pinnacle Central Company, Inc.	\$97,286
2. Accurate Power and Technology	\$91,804
3. CJ's Sales and Service of Ocala	\$85,000
4. Integrated Power Services	\$52,150
5. Zabatt Power Systems	\$69,144

The lowest bid from Integrated Power Services was deemed unresponsive.

The grant will cover 75% of the cost of the generator and installation (or \$51,858) with a net cost to the City of \$17,286.

The staff recommendation is for approval of the bid award to Zabatt Power Systems in the amount of \$69,144.

Director Deaton said when he contacted the lowest bidder, they were trying to change the unit type, give him a new price, and did not bid it with the installation included. We disqualified them. The second company was very professional on the phone, remained solid on the price, and included the installation in the bid.

Commissioner Dearmin asked if the generators were all the same and it was shared by Director Deaton the units were not the same however the specifications for the units were.

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

Commissioner Dearmin made a motion to approve the Police Department Bid Award to Zabatt in the amount of \$69,144.31. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Eden**. The motion was unanimously approved.

Recognition of Citizens:

Brenda Arnold of 435 W. Pierce Street said the city was doing a great job. She said I love you all. She thanked Ms. Brumbaugh of the Friends of the Library, the City Clerk for the work with the ADA, the Police Chief along with the Police Officer who was directing traffic in the morning, and Director Deaton for keeping the city clean. She spoke about the opportunity to secure areas in the public library, having the Summer Recreation program come to the library for programs, and hosting literacy programs. She shared a personal success story with someone she helped to learn how to read. She concluded by saying to keep up the good work and that she loves Lake Alfred.

Commissioner Questions and Comments:

Vice Mayor Fuller thanked the audience members for their attendance. He thanked the City Manager and city staff for standing up for what we believe in and what is best for our community. He addressed the two Chiefs and said he had the opportunity to spend time with their staff at the Bluegrass Bash and said they did a great job for us. He thanked the City Clerk/ADA Coordinator for the great job she does with everything. He shared about a plaque his grandmother had in his kitchen with a duck floating on the water but underneath the duck was paddling like crazy. He said he always thinks about the Clerk that way because she does so much for all of us. He continued and shared about his trip to Polk County Day in Tallahassee saying they had the opportunity to talk with them about our local challenges and what is going on in our area. The Florida League of Cities office had the group in there for about an hour and a half sharing with them about the proposed legislation and why the cities should consider a particular position. He said he was glad to be a part of the Commission and was glad we were doing it right. Thank you staff for everything you do.

Commissioner Dearmin spoke about the representation of Lake Alfred at Polk County Day and thanked the City Manager and his staff for dealing with the group. He said he knows that the city will maintain contact with the group, and said it was not reflective of the city. It is just the times we are in with the ongoing development in our area. He applauded the City Manager and said he was honored to be with the city and working together to make Lake Alfred a better place. That is the number one goal. He spoke about the Bluegrass Bash saying there was a good turnout. Thank you.

Mayor Daley echoed the compliments everyone made and added one more to the City Clerk for the detailed minutes of the last City Commission meeting saying it helped her read through a lot of the specifics of the discussion from the group north of the city. She pointed out that it is open enrollment for Discovery High School through January 29, 2024, and encouraged everyone to share the information. Thank you.

Commissioner Lake said the Bluegrass Bash was the time to chill out and wondered how people sit there in the cold. He shared about Tallahassee saying he got to meet with the legislators and got a chance to talk with them. He said it was easier to speak with them during the social event rather than at their office. He spoke with Josie Tomkow, Bill Braswell of Polk County, and the Chief Financial Officer of Florida Jimmy Patronis. He was excited that he got a photo with him. He said there were about fifty people who visited the Evans House on Saturday. He met a lot of people who were so involved in the history of the City. He went on to share about meeting Tori Evans who grew up in the house. He found out later that Evans Road in unincorporated Polk City was named after the Evans from the Evans House in Lake Alfred. He said he looks forward to attending the Growers Fertilizer Tour and said there will be a public meeting on the I-4 Master Plan on February 15, 2024, at 5:00 PM in Lakeland or by Zoom. It will be available online by video afterward. Thank you.

Commissioner Eden said he thanked Brenda Arnold for the positive reinforcement and as always both Chiefs and the first responders. He welcomed the new Police Officer Hernandez. He thanked the city manager, the mayor, and the city staff for their patience saying those in the group north of I-4 are not city residents. We understand the dynamics and we display patience for not sticking with the five minutes for public comments. Thank you and it is an interesting world we live with Disney World and the rural way of life in the area to the north. He believes that the main battle is with Polk County and at the end of the day the group just wanted to be notified and he

appreciates the staff doing that. He is a Bucs fan too but he has to say Go Lions because they haven't won a playoff game in thirty years and in less than ten days, they won two of them now. He is appreciative of that and shared he wished his grandfather was around to see it as there was always a joke of what was worse watching the Bucs (before Tom Brady) or the Lions. Have a good night and a good week, thank you.

Without further discussion, at 9:35 p.m., the City Commission meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Bourgeois, BAS, MMC,
City Clerk