

**MINUTES  
CITY COMMISSION  
MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2023  
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:** Pastor Kimberly DuBreuil of the First United Methodist 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 Charles Lake, Commissioner Jack Dearmin, and Commissioner Brent Eden.

**Staff in attendance:** City Manager Ryan Leavengood, City Attorney Seth Claytor, Public Works Director John Deaton, Community Development Director Ameer Bailey, Fire Chief Robert Turner, Parks and Recreation Director Emily Deal, and Police Chief Art Bodenheimer.

The City Manager announced the following:

1. The City Commission meeting dates in September are Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM for the budget hearings.
2. Discovery Leadership Team on September 21, 2023, at 9:30 AM.

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

### **Recognition of Citizens**

**Ronnie Robinson** of Health Markets Insurance of 125 Lakeshore Way thanked the City Commission for the support and for attending the ribbon cutting this past Tuesday. He said he sincerely appreciated all of the elected officials and city staff that showed up. He shared about looking forward to helping the many families and small businesses in Lake Alfred with their insurance needs. We appreciate your support. Thank you.

**Richard Eisert** of 942 Inverness Way said he had a couple of comments. He said the construction site has now been turned into a dumping ground. He said he is getting tired of calling about this and that it had to be addressed. He continued and shared a noise complaint he made with the Police Department and said he had the right to remain anonymous. He said the dispatcher requested his personal information. He then tried to do a Freedom of Information Act request and was told the person was not there. He said he tried to get ahold of the Police Chief and wanted to talk with him. He continued and shared about another Police Department incident and said he records all of his interactions with the police for a reason. The first amendment allows me to do that.

**Mayor Daley** said she had a question about not being able to file a complaint anonymously and City Attorney Claytor shared that if a person was filing a code enforcement complaint it is required before that complaint can be investigated, the person taking the complaint must get a name,

address, and phone number. There are no longer any anonymous complaints that can be investigated by a code official. There are certain carve-outs and provided an example.

**Richard Eisert** spoke about the Florida Statute related to noise coming from a vehicle and the City Attorney said that Florida Chapter 316 related to vehicular traffic and noise which would be a traffic infraction but it would have to be in the City of Lake Alfred in order to enforce those traffic laws. It depends on the nature of the complaint. City Attorney stated that there may have been a misunderstanding as to whether the complaint was related to an ordinance or a uniform traffic control issue.

**Richard Eisert** said the dispatcher questioned him on the complaint and that person was not a sworn officer of the State or the City. He spoke about no one having been dispatched, materials being burned on the construction site, accountability, and ADA accessibility of the sidewalks in his neighborhood. He continued and spoke about a previous incident of being allowed to speak, the right to address and readdress the government, and not being given the same opportunity.

**Ron Pestone** of 160 W. Haines Blvd. said we have the finest public officials and the finest employees in the State. He takes offense to all of it. This is the closest you are going to get to Heaven. If he doesn't understand that. Move.

### **Police Department Swearing-In Ceremony**

**Police Chief Bodenheimer** said Lieutenant Holden was hired by the Lake Alfred Police Department on 10/24/2022. Due to some issues getting the proper uniforms we have delayed his official swearing-in ceremony. He is married to a police officer and has two children. Lt. Holden came to the Lake Alfred Police Department with vast experience in years of service and special investigations during his tenure with other departments and has been a department head within a police department. Lt. Holden has been a vital part of helping complete some of the department goals since he was hired. It is my pleasure to have this swearing-in ceremony with Lt. Holden.

The City Clerk conducted the swearing-in ceremony for Lieutenant Larry Holden.

**Police Chief Bodenheimer** said Officer Robinson was hired by the Lake Alfred Police Department on July 5, 2023. Officer Robinson came to the police department with experience as an officer with another department. She is married and has 2 children. Officer Robinson is currently in the field training program and is expected to complete this program within a few months. She has already learned things while training in Lake Alfred that she said she has never done in her life. With the no-retirement city policy, we look forward to Officer Robinson being with the department for many years. It is my pleasure to have this swearing-in ceremony with Officer Robinson.

The City Clerk conducted the swearing-in ceremony for Police Officer Manisia Robinson.

**Police Chief Art Bodenheimer** presented Officer Clyde Harris with his five years of service award. He said This is another one of my favorite things to do for our Police Department employees. Tonight, we celebrate with Officer Clyde Harris. Officer Harris began his career with the Lake Alfred Police Department on 08/20/2018. He came to our department with over 11 years of police experience. I often tell people, if you don't want to work with children then you shouldn't complain about them. Officer Harris has taken that statement and realized the joy it is when we can work with children and make a positive difference in their lives.

He continued and said Officer Harris is one of our awesome officers who covers Discovery Academy of Lake Alfred as a school resource officer. Officer Harris is also known as Coach Harris and enjoys coaching a girl's fast-pitch softball team and training canines in his off time. I would like to thank Officer Harris for his 5 years of service to the Lake Alfred community and children from all areas around us. I look forward to having Officer Harris with the Lake Alfred Police for many more years. He concluded by Congratulating Officer Harris.

The Mayor read the Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation into the record and it was accepted by Margaret Wheaton of the Wings of Teal organization.

**Margaret Wheaton** of 330 S. Carolina Avenue thanked the City Commission for their continued support and introduced the representatives of the Wings of Teal, the Ovarian Cancer support group of Polk County, Karla and Scott Voorhees, and Brunilda Gautier.

**Karla Voorhees**, Vice President of the Ovarian Cancer support group said she would like to take this opportunity to thank the City of Lake Alfred for their support by every year doing a proclamation. This brings awareness to the community and women out there, like she is, everyday fighting for our lives. By the grace of God, we have support from Lake Alfred. Thank you.

**Brunilda Gautier** thanked the City Commission and said she is a two-time survivor and a part of the Ovarian Cancer support group. It means a lot for us to be here. Thank you and God bless you.

The Mayor thanked the ladies for their work and for coming out tonight.

**Mayor Daley** presented the Consent Agenda for consideration.

**Consent Agenda:**

- 1.) City Commission Meeting Minutes for August 7, 2023
- 2.) City Commission Announcements
- 3.) Edward Bryne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant

The analysis was inserted by the City Clerk. [Florida Administrative Code requires that the units of government in each county reach a consensus concerning the expenditure of these funds, including the projects to be implemented. To verify this consensus, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement requires each applicant to obtain a letter of support from at least 51% of the local units of government, representing at least 51% of the county population. The following federal fiscal year amounts have been allocated to fund projects in Lake Alfred.

- 2019/2020 Allocation \$ 19,760
- 2020/2021 Allocation \$ 15,000
- 2021/2022 Allocation \$ 24,000
- 2022/2023 Allocation \$ 25,657

Approval of this item will authorize the mayor to sign the fund distribution for Polk County and a letter of acceptance to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

The floor was opened by the mayor to public comments 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** presented the first business item.

1.) Public Hearing: Resolution 24-23: Code Enforcement Non-Ad Valorem Assessment

The City Attorney read the title of Resolution 24-23 into the record.

The City Manager presented the analysis. He explained these were hard costs incurred by the City for the abatement of properties. In July of 2014 the City adopted by ordinance elements of the International Property Maintenance Code providing a unified set of building and property maintenance standards. Coupled with this ordinance were interlocal agreements with the Property Appraiser and Tax Collector that allowed for actual costs incurred by the City through the code enforcement process to be recovered as a non-ad valorem assessment on the property tax bill.

Each year the City must propose a Resolution to collect liens accumulated in order to move the assessment to the tax roll. Notices to property owners were mailed via certified mail, as well as regular First Class, and were published in the newspaper 20 days prior to this hearing. The staff recommended approval of Resolution 24-23.

**Mayor Daley** asked what the process was if the collection was unsuccessful and the City Attorney said the assessments are placed on the tax bill and if they are not paid, they become a lien on the property. He continued and said the agreement with the property appraiser and tax collector allows for certain fees for their services of collection.

**Mayor Daley** said is there a process where the assessment can be collected in a period of time with payments or does it have to be a one-time payment. The City Attorney said once the roll is certified, the property owner will receive its tax bill and they will have a certain amount of time to pay, and if it goes unpaid there is a statutory process for the issuance of tax deed certificates, and then a quiet title action.

**Mayor Daley** opened each individual case for a public hearing.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Parcel ID</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	26-27-27-490100-000519	0 US Hwy 17/92	\$13,000.00
2	26-27-28-493500-005150	670 Lemon Ave.	\$168.72
3	26-28-05-524000-000910	380 Davis Ave.	\$143.56
4	26-28-05-524000-000900	390 Davis Ave. W.	\$143.56
5	26-28-05-523500-000290	1120 Cross Ave. S.	\$3,000.00

**Mayor Daley** opened the public hearing for 0 US Hwy 17/92. There was no one in attendance that came forward to speak to the mayor and city commissioners. The public hearing was closed.

**Commissioner Eden** asked what the assessments were for and how the charges got to \$13,000. The City Manager said this was a larger property that had a lot of debris and junk like tires.

**Director Bailey** said the property owner was deceased and over time this property became a dumping ground and required a lot of time and materials to clean up. It took larger equipment to remove downed trees, a bush hog, and several days to accomplish. No one was overseeing the property. There was only one time it was abated to bring the property into compliance.

**Commissioner Eden** asked if we had done this before and it was shared by the staff that several years ago the City did this process, the city stopped during Covid, and the advertisement requirement costs exceeded the abatement costs so there was not a benefit to the City to pursue the collection.

**Mayor Daley** opened the public hearing for 670 Lemon Avenue. There was no one in attendance that came forward to speak to the mayor and city commissioners. The public hearing was closed.

**Mayor Daley** opened the public hearing for 380 Davis Avenue. John Rivera of Cerberus Investments LLC approached the podium to speak.

**John Rivera** of 380 Davis Avenue said he had paid \$42,000 for the property which was way over the market price. He said he was not the owner of the property when the abatement occurred. He said he had paid everything and brought the property up to code. As we speak, there should be permits pulled to build a house there. Once it is built it will generate taxes for the City and money for him. Right now, he is not happy. It is not your fault; it is his because he said he did not do his due diligence prior to purchasing the property. He said he didn't think he should have to pay it because it was before him and he was not aware of it.

**City Attorney Claytor** cautioned the City Commission to keep in mind that the assessment amounts represent hard costs incurred by the City and to waive them without some public purpose would be using public money for a purely private purpose which is constitutionally prohibited in the State of Florida. There would have to be a public purpose for the waiver of costs that were expended by the municipality.

**Director Bailey** provided a history of the property saying when he purchased the property it was slated for demolition and explained the county's process. Mr. Rivera came in and removed the extremely damaged structure and brought the property into compliance.

**City Attorney Claytor** asked Director Bailey that if by removing the structure he was eliminating a detrimental public nuisance and Director Bailey replied and said that was correct, and it had been deemed unsafe.

**Mayor Daley** asked if there was any methodology for him to get some credit for doing that which we didn't have to do and Director Bailey said since we had applied for the demolition on his property and he took care of it we were able to switch the application to a different structure, 1120 Cross Avenue, to have that structure removed. There is not necessarily a credit as far as the code enforcement violation for staff to wipe the slate clean that is why it is here at the City Commission. This is a one-time mowing fee.

**City Attorney Claytor** said, again, that the City Commission would need to identify a public purpose for not imposing the assessment and it would be something that would directly go toward the expenditure of the funds. Because the funds were directly spent for the benefit of the property.

The City Manager, addressing the City Attorney, said the City Commission was told they had discretion and they don't so how would the City Commission weigh that out? He asked for an example.

The City Attorney said that, if the abatement occurred immediately preceding the demolition and, in that particular instance, the abatement was required for the demolition for access, the property owner's abatement of the structure would have alleviated the justification and purpose for the abatement and therefore the abatement expenditure. He said that Mr. Rivera did a great service for the community; however, from a legal standpoint, the expenditure of tax monies from the public coffers must be accounted for and any waiver supported by a legitimate public purpose.

A discussion ensued with an example regarding alleyways and donated easements, if there was anything legally the City Commission could do, the timing of the abatement, and the property had to be cleared before the County could abate the structure. The abatement occurred several months before the new property owner was conveyed fee simple title, there were municipal liens on the property, the assessments attach to the real property, and the tax roll process occurs only once a year.

**Mayor Daley** asked why this would come to the City Commission. The City Attorney said we were here to provide the property owner with due process and, in this particular case, there is no legitimate reason that has been articulated, at least at this point, that would seemingly justify the waiver of the assessment costs. He recommended that the amount assessed remain enforced or collected but that is the decision for the City Commission.

The City Manager asked the Community Development Director if not, but for Polk County demonstrating the interest in the demolition, would we have ordered the abatement. The director said yes, we would have still abated the property because we still had code enforcement action and were getting complaints.

Information was presented that the properties presented tonight were the abatements that had occurred over the past year, the property had been abated multiple times in the previous years, and it wasn't brought forward on an assessment roll.

The City Manager said he viewed this as if we had abated so Polk County could have access in order to do the demolition, then really the abatement, because Polk County requested it so it is part in parcel to the demolition of the property, and since the private property owner came in and did the job of the County for us, by him doing the abatement, he sees the abatement linked to the overall demolition and the property owner had interceded on the City's behalf and did the abatement for us.

**John Rivera** said the properties in the area are abandoned and not being taken care of, as an investor he can take that property, fix it, make it livable for someone and they would pay taxes to the City. Now you are penalizing me for precisely doing that. If he had let the County demolish the building it would have been cheaper for him as he paid \$17,000 because it had asbestos. He told the code enforcement officer he would do it and he did. He said he didn't do his due diligence, he overpaid for the property and \$143.00 is really nothing, it is just the principal. He is a small private investor who made a mistake. The City should step in and help out.

**Mayor Daley** said if we were doing this for the county to demolish the house then the County should have been billed for it and not the land owner.

The City Attorney asked if the City had the abatement hearing for demolition. Director Bailey said the City did have the hearing and advertised same for four consecutive weeks as required by Florida law. The staff said we were well into the abatement process when he purchased the property. The property owner has been deceased for five or six years, the property was stickered, and a lot of notices and conversations with the neighbors, it was mowed multiple times, and the special magistrate reduced the administrative fines. The only thing he paid was the administrative cost for going through the code enforcement process.

**Mayor Daley** asked if there was any avenue to reduce this amount and the City Attorney said he is not sure the City Manager's attempt rises to the level it needs to waive the expenses however, this is a decision that the City Commission will have to make. City Attorney applauded the City Commission and the City Manager for presenting a basis for consideration.

**Vice Mayor Fuller** asked who had paid the previous mowing abatement costs and Director Bailey said it has had the assessments go on the tax roll in the past.

A discussion ensued regarding the difference between a fine and an assessment, the abatement is a benefit to the property, and it stays with the property.

**Commissioner Lake** said he still didn't understand why the previous owner was not being billed and it was shared by the staff that the costs were placed on the tax roll in the past and since the taxes were not paid that is why the property went for sale as a tax certificate.

The City Manager said that for potential Habitat for Humanity land, this is the City's opportunity for the city to go through the fine, abatement, and foreclosure process or a tax deed sale process to acquire the land. We are the redeveloper of the last resort.

**John Rivera** said the tax lien on the property was \$5,000 and he ended up paying \$42,000 so there is a surplus, what happens to that surplus? His understanding is that that surplus should have taken care of anything and all the liens that were on the property. If something fell through the cracks, that should not have been his problem, that should be the City's problem.

The City Attorney said the surplus runs in favor of the property owner and the deceased property owner in this case. In this instance, the surplus most likely became property of the decedent's estate, and the City of Lake Alfred was not a party to the quiet title action and/or tax sale.

**Mayor Daley** said she didn't see an avenue forward legally at this point where we can't just forgive the money and she is sad about that.

The City Attorney said that the City is under a statutory time frame to certify the Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll to the tax collector's office, and the property owner was diligent in remediating the issue(s) on the property; however, for the purposes of public finance, the City is dealing with the expenditure of public funds and tax revenues, and the law is clear that said monies cannot be used for private purposes. It would be at the discretion of the City Commission to find that the expenditure is not for a private purpose and/or identify a public purpose for said expenditure(s).

**Mayor Daley** said she has not seen any evidence of that in our discussion.

**Commissioner Eden** said the City Manager's rationale made the most sense to him.

**Mayor Daley** said it is a legal issue and that if we don't follow it every time to the letter of the law and be fair about it to every citizen it wouldn't be right.

**John Rivera** said we are being penny-wise and dollar-foolish. Understand how it looks to the private sector when we are being penalized for helping the City out. It has saved the City a lot of money.

**Mayor Daley** closed the public hearing on 380 Davis Avenue.

**Mayor Daley** opened the public hearing for 390 W. Davis Avenue. There was no one in attendance that came forward to speak to the mayor and city commissioners. The public hearing was closed.

**Mayor Daley** recognized former City Commissioner Albertus Maultsby in the audience.

**Mayor Daley** opened the public hearing for 1120 S. Cross Avenue. There was no one in attendance that came forward to speak to the mayor and city commissioners. The public hearing was closed.

**Commissioner Lake** asked where Cross Avenue was and why would it cost \$3,000 and it was shared by the staff it was in Echo Terrance and there was a tree removed from the home to prevent further damage.

The owner is deceased, this property has not gone to tax sale yet, and this was the property that the application was switched to for demolition.

**John Rivera** said he wanted to pay for this today because he did not want this to go to the tax roll.

After a brief discussion, it was recommended by the City Attorney to make a conditional approval and allow the property owner to come in and pay before the certification is sent to the tax collector's office.

**Commissioner Lake** made a motion to approve Resolution 24-23 and authorize the City Manager to take all necessary actions to certify and transmit the assessment roll with the condition of payment made by the property owner for the removal of 380 Davis Avenue. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Dearmin**. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Mayor Daley** presented the next business item.

## 2.) Resolution 25-23: Water Plant Property Conveyance

The City Attorney read the title of Resolution 25-23 into the record.

The City Manager presented the analysis. The City of Lake Alfred and HR Lake Alfred Preserve, LLC. entered into a Purchase and Sale Agreement authorized by the City Commission on June 20, 2023, for the purchase of the water plant property at 4020 Old Lake Alfred Road.

On June 30, 2023, the parties transacted the closing and delivered that Warranty Deed for the property. The Warranty Deed was recorded on July 11, 2023, in Official Records Book 12757,



Pages 620-622, public records of Polk County, Florida. The proposed resolution officially accepts the conveyance of the property. The staff recommended approval of Resolution 25-23.

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

**Commissioner Eden** said it was a great opportunity for the future.

**Commissioner Lake** asked when we would start construction and Director Deaton said the plans are anticipated to be 90% complete at the end of the month, the construction phase will go out to bid next year, and it would take about eighteen months to complete.

**Commissioner Dearmin** made a motion to approve Resolution 25-23 for the acceptance of the Water Plant Property Conveyance. The motion was seconded by **Vice Mayor Fuller**. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Mayor Daley** presented the next business item.

## 2.) Resolution 26-23: Park Land Property Conveyance

The City Attorney read the title of Resolution 26-23 into the record.

The City Manager presented the analysis. The City of Lake Alfred and HR Tampa Bay, LLC. (Tree-O Groves) entered into a Purchase and Sale Agreement authorized by the City Commission on June 20, 2023, for the purchase of the park property.

On June 30, 2023, the parties transacted the closing and delivered the Warranty Deed for the property. The Warranty Deed was recorded on July 11, 2023, in Official Records Book 12757, Pages 614-616, public records of Polk County, Florida. The proposed resolution officially accepts the conveyance of the property. The staff recommended approval of Resolution 26-23.

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

**Commissioner Lake** asked if we were planning on building a park on the property or if we just purchase the land for access to the water plant property.

The City Manager said it was both. There were multiple benefits of the acquisition and he provided the background on the reason for the purchase.

**Commissioner Lake** made a motion to approve Resolution 26-23 for the acceptance of the Park Property Conveyance. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Eden**. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Mayor Daley** asked if the City Commission needed to have a discussion item on the agenda about having the City Attorney and City Manager return to the dais for the City Commission meetings. The City Manager said they get to make that decision.

Information was shared that the City Manager and the City Clerk were working on a City Hall renovation project, there was a sound engineer on-site who recommended replacing the ceiling speakers, and the audience would be able to hear them better from the dais.

A consensus was given for the City Manager and the City Attorney to return back to the dais.

### **Recognition of Citizens**

There were none.

### **City Commission Questions and Comments**

**Commissioner Lake** said he had a nice time at the Florida League of Cities conference and he learned a lot. We got a lot of exercise, because of the distance from the hotel rooms to the conference rooms. He said he recommended to the hotel manager to install a moving sidewalk before they go there again. He said the ribbon cutting was nice and there was a great attendance. He said the pizza was great. He continued and said the Harvest Meat Market is now demolished and soon we will be eating tacos. He said Labor Day is coming up, welcomed the new Police Officer and Lieutenant, and said it was important to remember Ovarian Cancer Awareness month. He went on to thank Director Deaton about the sidewalks by the Church. Thank you.

**Commissioner Eden** said as always, he wanted to thank both Chiefs in the back, all of the first responders, and all of the staff for a good job. In recognition of Ovarian Cancer Month, he requested everyone to pray for all those going through any type of cancer. He himself has had cancer impact two of his family members and it is just a horrible experience. Just keep them in your prayers. Thank you.

**Commissioner Dearmin** said the conference was great and he learned a lot of things. He said the Legislative Policy Committees will start up next month and should be ready for that. Thank you.

**Vice Mayor Fuller** said they had great meetings with the Florida League of Cities and he is looking forward to the upcoming meetings until the end of the year. He said it seems like between every meeting we have we have catastrophes and since we last met, the fires in Maui took a lot of people's homes, their lives, their properties, and their businesses. As you watched that unfold on television, we saw mayors, police chiefs, fire chiefs, and first responders so when Brent and I recognize those sitting in the back row representing our city, think about each one of them having that same potential every time a train or hurricane comes through town. He said keep those people in Maui and California with the tropical storm, in your prayers and your thoughts and those that run the cities. They all have families of their own to also take care of so on behalf of the back row he thanked the Chiefs and the Directors for what they do for the City of Lake Alfred. Thank you.

**Mayor Daley** thanked all of the audience members for their participation and for bringing things to our attention. It is good to have those discussions because we don't know what we don't know. She thanked Margaret Wheaton for coming out tonight with the Ovarian Cancer support group. She said she had some comments about the sidewalk at Central Park by the elementary school making it difficult for students to ride their bikes or walk to school, is there a way we can abate that?

The City Manager said the original plan was to start during the summer. Unfortunately, it got pushed into the beginning of the school year and it is sectioned off for a safe path to the school through the park. Director Deaton said the contractors are due on site tomorrow to pour the curbing and the sidewalk but the kids won't be able to walk on it until the on-street parking is

finished. The area is clearly marked as a construction zone and it is marked that way for their safety. We will keep pushing the contractor to get this opened for our school.


**Mayor Daley** asked if the crossing guard was still able to aid the students and Director Deaton said he saw them the other day and said they are doing what they can to help. Police Chief Art Bodenheimer said the Police Department and the Public Works Department worked together to get the safest route for the students through the park. It is fenced off with orange fencing and he has been down there every day since school began. The crossing guard is doing all she can. The biggest issue is with the adults who are not using those paths and walking on the opposite side of the road where we don't have sidewalks. We have done our due diligence and said he has had parents driving across the sidewalks to the basketball courts. He would ask the parents if their child was walking through here would they want a car driving on the sidewalk and backing up and every one of them said no. He concluded by saying that each day he sees improvements and being more respectful to one another. He said it is one of his pets to make sure that all children get to and from school safely.

**Mayor Daley** said the next meeting is going to be on September 14, 2023, and there is a Ridge League Meeting that night. We can't change our budget meeting so unfortunately; we will not be able to attend the Florida League of Cities President.

**Police Chief Bodenheimer** commended Fire Chief Turner for having the firefighters out on US 17/92, along with Polk County Firefighters and Sheriff department volunteers, during the first day of school. He would be remiss if he didn't share his appreciation.

At 8:55 PM, the City Commission meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Bourgeois, BAS, MMC,  
City Clerk