

**MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 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: Deacon Charles 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 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, Finance Director Amber Deaton, Community Development Director Amee Bailey, Fire Chief Robert Turner, Parks and Recreation Director Emily Deal, and Police Chief Art Bodenheimer.

The City Manager announced the following:

1. The next City Commission meeting date is Monday, October 9, 2023.
2. The Heroes and Hotrods event will be held at Lions Park on Saturday, September 30th from 8 AM – 3 PM.
3. On Friday, September 29th at 11:30 AM there will be a ribbon cutting for a mobile unit Burning Leaf Cigar Lounge, LLC at 155 N Lake Shore Way. (Former SouthState Bank) parking lot.
4. He provided an update on the brick paver patio area at the Mackay Gardens and Lakeside Preserve and the Central Park Project for the on-street parking and the basketball courts.
5. He showed the Heroes and Hot Rod events layout at Lions Park and requested for people to judge the event.
6. He recognized a Discovery Leadership Academy student in the audience that came to visit the City Commission meeting after participating in a mock City Commission meeting this morning.

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

Recognition of Citizens

There were none.

Mayor Daley read the National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Month proclamation into the record. There were no organizational representatives in attendance.

Mayor Daley presented the Consent Agenda for consideration.

Consent Agenda:

- 1.) City Commission Meeting Minutes for September 14, 2023
- 2.) City Commission Announcements

Commissioner Lake made a motion to move item number three, the Lions Park bid award, from the consent agenda to item number ten on the regular agenda. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Dearmin**. The motion was unanimously approved.

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 Dearmin made a motion to approve the revised consent agenda and the motion was seconded by **Vice Mayor Fuller**. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Daley presented the item of business. She said the State Law requires the first substantive issue to be discussed at this hearing is the percentage increase in the millage over the rolled-back rate and the reasons ad valorem taxes are being increased. The City of Lake Alfred's proposed operating millage is 6.850 mills and is 19.5% more than the rolled-back rate of 5.7320 mills. The ad valorem proceeds resulting from the difference between the proposed rate and the rolled-back rate will be used to offset the increased operating expenses of the city.

- 1.) Public Hearing: Resolution 27-23: Final Millage Rate

The City Attorney read Resolution 27-23, in its entirety, into the record.

The City Manager presented the analysis. He said over the past several months the City Commission has been presented with and given approval to the various draft sections of the FY 2023/2024 annual operating budget including Capital, Expenditures, Revenue, and Payroll.

The proposed FY 2023/2024 budget assembles the previously approved sections into the final budget with updates from July's experience and obtaining final revenue and expenditure projections. The proposed budget is balanced with the proposed millage rate of 6.850 which is a 0.139 mills reduction of the current year's millage rate of 6.989. The proposed millage rate of 6.850 represents a 19.5% increase over the rolled-back rate of 5.7320 mills.

The staff recommendation is to approve Resolution 27-23 adopting the millage rate of 6.850.

Commissioner Dearmin thanked the city staff for lowering the millage rate and said it shows the taxpayers we are doing what we can.

Commissioner Lake thanked the City Manager and the Finance Director.

Mayor Daley opened the public hearing on Resolution 27-23. There were no members of the audience that came forward to speak to the mayor and city commissioners. The public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Lake made a motion to approve Resolution 27-23 adopting the millage rate of 6.850 for Fiscal Year 2023/2024. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Eden**. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Daley presented the next item of business.

2.) Public Hearing: Ordinance 1524-23: FY 2023/2024 Annual Budget

The City Attorney read Ordinance 1524-23, in its entirety, into the record.

The City Manager said that staff was recommending approval of Ordinance 1524-23 on the second and final reading.

Commissioner Eden thanked everyone for doing a great job and putting money back into the community.

Mayor Daley congratulated the City staff and said she was proud of the City Manager and Finance Director for keeping the debt service low.

Mayor Daley opened the public hearing on Ordinance 1524-23. There were no members of the audience that came forward to speak to the Mayor and City Commission and she closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Dearmin made a motion to approve Ordinance 1524-23 adopting the FY 2023/2024 Annual Budget on the second and final reading. The motion was seconded by **Vice Mayor Fuller**. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Daley introduced the next business items for consideration.

3.) Public Hearing: Ordinance 1525-23: Lake Lowery FLU Designation

4.) Public Hearing: Ordinance 1526-23: Lake Lowery Zoning Designation

The City Attorney read the title of Ordinance 1525-23 into the record.

The City Manager presented the analysis. He said on August 7, 2006, the City Commission approved Ordinance 1161-06 annexing approximately 40.15± acres into the city limits. These parcels are part of the Tree-O Groves properties north of Old Haines City Lake Alfred Road and US Highway 17/92, west of Lake Lowery Road and southeast of White Road. The current land use and zoning is Industrial and Conservation.

The proposed Future Land Use designation is Residential (RES) and Conservation (CN) and the proposed zoning is Vintage Residential Neighborhood (VRN) and Conservation (CN) zoning districts.

FLU & Zoning Request Summary

FLU Categories	Zoning Categories	Proposed
Residential (RES)	Vintage Residential Neighborhood (VRN)	15.27± ac
Conservation (CON)	Conservation (CN)	24.88 ±ac

On July 13, 2023, at their regular meeting, the Planning and Zoning Board unanimously voted to recommend that the City Commission approve the future land use and zoning district assignment requests.

The Staff recommendation is for approval of Ordinance 1525-23 on the second and final reading.

Mayor Daley opened the public hearing on Ordinance 1525-23.

Shelton Rice of Peterson and Myers from 225 E. Lemon Avenue Lakeland, Florida said he appreciated working with Director Bailey on this project. He respectfully requested a favorable vote on the land use.

Mayor Daley closed the public hearing.

A brief discussion ensued about the Vintage Residential Neighborhood being four units per acre.

Commissioner Lake made a motion to approve Ordinance 1525-23 for the Future Land Use Designation of Lake Lowery (Tree-O Groves) as presented on the second and final reading. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Dearmin**. The motion was unanimously approved.

The City Attorney read the title of Ordinance 1526-23 into the record.

The staff recommended approval of Ordinance 1526-23 on the second and final reading.

Mayor Daley opened the public hearing and seeing no one, she closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Dearmin made a motion to approve Ordinance 1526-23 for the Zoning Designation of Lake Lowery (Tree-O Groves) as presented 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.

5.) Resolution 28-23: Bad Debt Write-off

The City Attorney read the title of Resolution 28-23 into the record.

The City Manager presented the analysis. He said as a part of the closeout process for the end of the current fiscal year city staff is requesting authorization to expense any outstanding utility billing accounts as bad debt. Overall, the percentage of the accounts to be expensed as bad debt is less than 1% of the budgeted utility billing revenue. The total amount for the 2022/2023 fiscal year is \$10,252.35.

In years past the write-off has ranged from approximately \$9,500 to \$15,000 so this amount is within the average range compared to previous years. While the debt is written off for accounting purposes collection efforts continue after the debt is written off the ledger.

The staff recommended approval of Resolution 28-23.

Mayor Daley asked how the city handled a deceased person who was on the list and Finance Director Deaton said the City did not go after the estate. However, typically the family tries to take care of all debt owed.

A brief discussion ensued about how the city collects the bad debit and it was shared when the person comes back into the City to open another account with an outstanding balance that they would be required to pay the outstanding balance before a new account could be opened.

Mayor Daley opened the public hearing and seeing no one, she closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Lake made a motion to approve Resolution 28-23 authorizing the write-off of bad debt for the fiscal year 2022/2023 in the amount of \$10,252.35. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Eden**. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Daley introduced the next business item.

6.) Resolution 29-23: CWSRF Loan Application – Wastewater Nutrient Removal

The City Attorney read the title of Resolution 29-23 into the record.

The City Manager presented the analysis. The wastewater treatment facility was originally constructed in 1954, the last improvements to the facility were performed 15 years ago and are showing signs of wear and outdated equipment. The City is planning for the replacement of various equipment and intends to upgrade and expand the facility to incorporate advanced nutrient removal. With this proposed project, the City intends to upgrade the facility, expand treatment capacity, increase treatment/nutrient removal levels, and offset groundwater withdrawals via aquifer recharge.

The proposed resolution begins the process of applying for loan funding through the State Revolving Fund (SRF). The process is divided into three steps:

- 1.) Facility Plan
- 2.) Design
- 3.) Construction

On August 7, 2023, the City Commission approved Task Order No. 12 with CPH, Inc. for a Wastewater Facilities Plan which is the first step in the process. The proposed resolution authorizes the submission of a loan application to begin the request for inclusion into the program is \$80,000. This project will allow for a 1 MGD expansion.

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program through the FDEP allows for principal forgiveness associated with the debt obligation on the plant. The engineering consultant believes that we would be eligible for up to 50% forgiveness on the loan. The amount of principal forgiveness would be known before committing to design or construction.

The staff recommendation is for approval of Resolution 29-23.

Mayor Daley clarified that this item was for \$80,000 and not a 3M dollar loan and the City Manager said correct this is the baby step into the program, 2 M for design, and then you get into the actual construction a few years later. We don't have to commit before we know. He reviewed the loan process, the reasons for the master plans, and the Raftelis studies.

Mayor Daley asked if the City was confident that with the upcoming water cooperative money, we are going to have to borrow on top of this wastewater money.

The City Manager spoke about a lot of volatility occurring due to the rate of growth, continuing to update master plans, connection and impact fees, and rates to dial in. He spoke about the revenue sufficiency, operational capacity, building up a war chest of funding, the increases in connection and impact fees, and the debt service component.

Mayor Daley shared about the past when the City had prepared for all the housing units and then the downturn happened and the houses didn't get built. How do you balance that now?

The City Manager said there is always an element of risk and the City would try to minimize the risk window. He said unlike the downturn in 2008, everyone is moving to Florida and said he felt that Lake Alfred was insulated in the regional market. Some of the old debt is falling off when the new debt is coming on. By the time we build the wastewater plant and get it online we will pretty much be at capacity. He said even the builders had learned from the downturn and now only built the developments in phases. He continued and said he felt confident that the city was in good shape to pull the trigger.

Mayor Daley shared the history of what happened in 2008 with the impact fees that had to be reimbursed to the developers that didn't build. She said a former City Manager had a vision to set that money aside so we had money in the bank for repayment and had received the interest.

Mayor Daley opened the public hearing.

Greg Rothberg of 650 E. Grapefruit Avenue said he had recently moved here from Tennessee but originally from Pensacola, Florida. He and his wife operate Well Wishing Properties and they just invested 1M dollars in Lake Alfred. He bought two duplexes and intends to invest in about ten more. He asked to lower the impact on the residents why are the builders not required to pay the infrastructure and the fees going in for the development? This way the cost is not taken by the residents it is taken by them.

The City Manager said we do. We have the reputation of having some of the highest impact fees in Polk County. The Master Plans calculated the impact and connection fees that are tied to growth. He shared about how the developers built the infrastructure and then when it's platted and completed they turn the infrastructure over to the City. They even pay to run the pipes now and if the City needs we will only pay the upsizing on having them place a larger pipe in the ground for future development.

Greg Rothberg asked about the future vision and building 1,000 more homes and this is going to put us at capacity, is there a way to put a plan in place such as any builders going forward or requesting permits will now be required to levy the cost on that?

The City Manager said we do and that is why we do the Master Plans because you want to catch it in stride and smooth into it. He shared about our recent increases and said you see it on the horizon and make them pay for it in the beginning.

Mayor Daley closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Eden commented and said in the Enterprise Fund where this is going on and comparing overall assets and liabilities, we are about 4 or 5 to 1. Which is good. He asked what we were looking at, on a monthly basis, as a potential liability in deposits in impact fees.

After a brief discussion, the City Manager said that, pursuant to Florida law, the City may not require the pre-payment of impact fees; however, while the builders do not have an inherent option to prepay impact fees, a builder may request a Developer's Agreement and/or Development Agreement which provides for the pre-payment of impact fees. For such situation(s), the appropriateness and legal sufficiency of any such agreement(s) will be determined on a case-by-case basis, and any agreement(s) would come before the City Commission for consideration.

Commissioner Dearmin made a motion to approve Resolution 29-23 authorizing the CWSRF Request for Inclusion Loan Application to be submitted. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Eden**. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Daley introduced the next business item.

7.) Resolution 30-23: Statutory Business Impact Statement

The City Attorney read the title of Resolution 30-23 into the record.

The City Manager presented the analysis. He said effective October 1, 2023, CS/CS/SB 170, Chapter 2023-309, Laws of Florida, amends Section 166.041 of the Florida Statutes to require preparation of a "business impact estimate" before the adoption of a new municipal ordinance. A "business impact estimate" is a written document that contains specific information relevant to the local business community such as:

- A summary of the proposed new municipal ordinance
- An estimate of the direct economic impact of the proposed new municipal ordinance on private, for-profit, businesses;
- An estimate of direct compliance costs that businesses may incur if the proposed new municipal ordinance is adopted;
- Identification of new charges and fees imposed on businesses subject to the proposed new municipal ordinance;
- An estimate of expected regulatory costs and revenues; and
- A good faith estimate of the number of businesses impacted by the proposed new municipal ordinance.

The new business impact estimate statute does not apply to several categories of municipal ordinances such as: (a) ordinances required for compliance with state or federal law; (b) ordinances relating to debt; (c) ordinances relating to the adoption of budgets and revenue sources; (d) ordinances required to implement a contract or agreement; (e) emergency ordinances; (f) procurement ordinances; and (g) ordinances that implement growth policy, planning and land development regulation. The new statute also does not apply to ordinances that implement the Florida Building Code or the Florida Fire Prevention Code.

To ensure compliance with the new business impact estimate statute, a "Business Impact Estimate Policy" has been drafted in the proposed resolution. The policy tracks the language of the law and would require that a business impact estimate be prepared for every non-exempt ordinance introduced before the City Commission after October 1, 2023. The policy also fills in certain gaps left in the statutory language and requires estimates of economic impact, compliance costs, charges or fees, regulatory costs, revenues, and likely number of impacted businesses generated by City Staff to be the product of reasonable and honest efforts (i.e., a "good faith" effort) to convey appropriate and relevant information.

The policy would also require private parties that propose, request, or sponsor a new non-exempt municipal ordinance to generate a business impact estimate at private expense or permit assessment and payment of a “pass-through charge” equal to the City’s cost to generate an estimate at public expense. The policy reserves authority to the City Commission to waive a pass-through charge at its discretion. He explained that the key was a non-exempt ordinance and said historically 99% of our ordinances fall into the exempt category. This is a precautionary measure to get on the books just in case.

The staff recommendation is for approval of Resolution 30-23.

Mayor Daley said her question was going to be what we would be doing to that in theory, we would be doing to be oppressive on our businesses.

A discussion ensued about the example of potentially changing a street right of way, creating a new right-of-way has to be done by ordinance, this being a belt and suspenders approach to the new law, wanting to make sure we had sufficient support by this action in a potential challenge, and creating carve-outs for a pass-through of fees. This creates options for the City Manager and the Community Development Director.

Mayor Daley opened the public hearing and seeing none, she closed the public hearing.

Mayor Daley said this was an unfunded mandate because it costs the City Money and the City Manager agreed and said the legislature has made it more complicated and burdensome even with the accounting.

Commissioner Eden made a motion to approve Resolution 30-23 related to the Statutory Business Impact Statements. The motion was seconded by **Vice Mayor Fuller**. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Daley introduced the next business items.

- 8.) Accela Software License and Services Agreement
- 9.) Bryne Software Technologies, Inc. Implementation Agreement

The City Manager presented the analysis.

After researching several building and permitting software solutions to suit the needs of the City of Lake Alfred, the Community Development Department is proposing to enter into an agreement with Accela. Accela automates the steps needed for permit processing including the assignment of tasks, tracking of reviews, and sending notifications to keep processes running smoothly and on time. Some features are having an online resident portal, electronic document review, built-in reporting capabilities, and GIS mapping.

Byrne Software Technologies, Inc. provides the deployment of Accela for the current and future needs of the City of Lake Alfred. The company will manage the project, convert the current data, customize the payment processor to integrate with the City’s current system, and integrate the GIS using Polk County’s maps.

The addendum to the Bryne Software Technologies, Inc. Implementation Agreement is to ensure home venue privilege, public records compliance, sovereign immunity, and vendor acknowledgments.

Polk County and several other local municipalities utilize Accela. The City has coordinated with Polk County and the vendors to utilize the Polk County building permit structure. This provides consistency for customers and allows the City to use the larger organization pricing.

Funding has been allocated in the upcoming FY 23/24 budget for the purchase of the software program. As this software is for the issuance of building permits it is paid for out of permit fee revenue and will not have an impact on the general fund.

The City Manager deferred to Director Bailey and she said the City Manager had hit the vast majority of her talking points. She said they are very excited because over two years ago they had written off Accela due to the price of the software. She explained how she was talking with the County staff to be able to work together on how to get the emergency management evaluations to the County quicker and they said we wish you had Accela. Between their efforts, we are the first one who is using the County's permitting structure but in our own cloud environment. This way the County can plug right in and use the data for their reports and be able to export the data for emergency purposes or assist us in some other emergency situations. Now they are working with other cities to use the structure and pricing. Without the County's cooperation, we would not be able to get this Tier One software. She went on to talk about Bryne being the implementer and working with the County on the fee structure. Our goal is to be active and operational on January 1, 2024. We are appreciative of the City Commission for having this in our Capital Improvement Program.

Mayor Daley opened the floor to public comments on the Accela Software License and Services agreement with addendum.

Brian Heath, an employee of Bryne Software Technologies, of 1000 S. Harbor Island Blvd. Apt. 2605, in Tampa, Florida. He said a community the size of Lake Alfred shouldn't be able to acquire this software application and yet you have precedence with Oracle. You are punching above your weight class. He said he thought our situation would be a national interest story and spoke about a national conference with over 700 entities. He said this business model cooperating with Polk County shows creative leadership to make this possible and it is going to be of interest nationwide. Lake Alfred is going to become an interesting story. He shared one other example of another partnership with Hillsborough County and them wanting the configurations of the City of Tampa, but unlike yours, Hillsborough County paid the City of Tampa over \$800,000 for that data. This is something you are getting for free.

The City Manager spoke about relationships and said he would pass this on to the management and elected officials of Polk County. He said the staff recommendation was for approval of the Accela Software License and Services Agreements and Addendum in the amount of \$48,043.45 over a three-year period and the approval of the Implementation Agreement and Addendum with Bryne Technologies, Inc. in the amount of \$113,885. All of this is tied to restricted permit fee revenue.

Mayor Daley said this is a great example of intergovernmental cooperation and shared a story about nearby cities suing each other for sharing water and developments. She is excited we are a flagship, a little city, and congratulated Director Bailey.

Ormond Shaw, a business executive in development in Florida with Accela, lives in Wekiva Springs, Florida at 131 Havlin Point. He shared about the impact that Accela has had in all sizes of cities, Counties, and fifteen states in our Country using our product. He said he was at the Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. with over six hundred companies that use their products.

They gave away ten prestigious awards and Polk County, Florida was one of them for their efforts in sharing this idea and concept in being able to help the cities and the citizens. He spoke about Benjamin Dunn and taking pictures of him and his wife. He thanked everyone saying he believes this will make an exceptional difference to reduce turnaround times and create complete transparency of where they are in the permitting and inspection process. Thank you all and good luck with your journey.

Vice Mayor Fuller thanked them and said he was happy to hear from those in the field. He is proud to hear the feedback they are giving him.

Mayor Daley closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Lake made a motion to approve the Accela Subscription Services Agreement with the City of Lake Alfred Form Contract Addenda in the amount not to exceed \$48,043.45. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Eden**. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Daley opened the floor to public comments on the Bryne Technologies, Inc. implementation agreement and addendum. There were none and she closed the floor to public comments.

Commissioner Dearmin made a motion to approve the Bryne Technologies, Inc. Implementation Agreement and the City of Lake Alfred Form Contract addenda in the amount not to exceed \$113,885. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Eden**. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Daley introduced the next business item.

10.) Lions Park Bid Award

The City Manager presented the analysis. The City of Lake Alfred has been working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on funding and anticipates approximately \$44,250 towards the cost of the dock replacement. The dock replacement is covered at 75% by FEMA along with up to 15% for mitigation (pivots), and a 25% (\$14,750) match by the City of Lake Alfred. The City is proposing to accept a bid that includes pivots as mitigation so that future storm-generated wave action does not destroy the dock again. The project was advertised on Demand Star. In April of 2023, the City solicited sealed bids for the replacement of the dock at Lions Park, and on May 10, 2023, at the bid opening, there was only one bid submitted so the City decided to go back out to bid. On September 7, 2023, at 2:00 p.m., the following sealed bids were opened:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. John Carver, LLC.
P.O. Box 797
Lake Alfred, Florida 33850 | \$59,000 |
| 2. Southeastern Marine Group, Inc.
Vero Beach, FL. 32967 | \$148,524 |
| 3. Underwater Engineering Services, Inc.
3306 Enterprise Road
Ft. Pierce, FL. 34982 | \$158,226 |

The staff recommendation was for approval of the bid award to John Carver, LLC in the amount of \$59,000.

Mayor Daley opened the floor to public comments on the Lions Park Bid award. There were none and she closed the floor to public comments.

Mayor Daley asked about the Mackay Dock and it was shared that the Parks and Recreation Director would present to the Mackay volunteers new design specifications before it goes out to bid again.

Commissioner Dearmin asked if it would be a floating dock and the City Manager said yes and it would have pivots to minimize destruction during intense wave action. The Mackay and Lions Park are the only two docks left in the city to complete.

Commissioner Lake made a motion to approve the Lions Park bid award to John Carver, Inc. in the amount of \$59,000. The motion was seconded by **Vice Mayor Fuller**. The motion was unanimously approved.

Recognition of Citizens

Brenda Arnold of 435 W. Pierce Street thanked the City Manager, the City Attorney and the City Clerk, saying they were all doing a great job. She also thanked all of the department heads. She said happy 90th belated birthday to Commissioner Charles Lake and concluded by saying she loved what we were doing in the City.

Greg Rothberg of 650 Grapefruit Avenue said this was his first meeting in Lake Alfred and was very active in Tennessee and was thankful for everything the City was doing and said it was very impressive to hear all the information and feedback on the correlation between the different departments in the City and the County. He said he is active where he lives and will be doing the Chamber of Commerce, so if there are any positions on the Planning and Zoning Commission or any other opportunities he would love to step up and help. We are still getting acclimated but whatever I can do to help, I will. He is currently with Florida Paints here and they bought the two duplexes on E. Grapefruit and they are living in one. He said all of their tenants love them, they put up fencing, trimmed the trees, and they will be putting up a firepit. The Mayor shared about the CRA in that area that he may want to look into to apply for property improvements. He concluded by saying thank you.

Beverly Moore, a snowbird from Illinois, said she just loves watching them work because they do such a good job. She said he lives at 165 E. Pierce Street. She said people come over here to get information and she stopped over the other day and spoke to Director Bailey because she thought she might need a ride over to Gessler Clinic. She put in touch with the Citrus Connection which she found out will provide her with rides after she fills out an application. Thank you all of you.

Commissioner Lake thanked everyone for the birthday wishes and his surprise birthday party. This is what you do after you become ninety years old, is attend meetings. He shared about looking into the Smart Communities but it is more geared towards Public Works and not the City Commission, he said he attended the Polk Regional Water Cooperative and they made him Secretary/Treasurer, and then he attended the Mayor's Roundtable which was a great event. He continued and spoke about doing more work at the Gardner House with more furniture going in there and said we are held up there for budget funds and Mr. Bailey had some surgery. Next week he won't be here, he will be in New Jersey at his granddaughter's wedding and will try to get back

for the Monday meeting. He said on October 10, 2023, there will be a Chamber of Commerce Meeting with Polk County Sherrif Grady Judd. He addressed the Discovery Academy student saying as you can see the real City Commission meeting is a little different but don't let it discourage you. Thank you for being here tonight.

Commissioner Eden said all of the panes at the dance studio were dark. Can we check on it? The City Manager said we would. He thanked both Chiefs in the back and all of the staff. He thanked the City Manager for the informative update and he thinks we need to take care of the working class. With inflation, it is hard to find good people and we want to keep our good people. Go Lions! Thank you.

Commissioner Dearmin passed on his sentiments and said it was an honor to be up here. He thanked the student and said he was impressed with her and her classmates. Don't be discouraged and keep moving on. He said as the City Manager said in his presentation being a part of it is the key. Enjoy life it is what is about. He is looking forward to this Saturday's event and said just enjoy. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Fuller thanked the students for being active and participating. He addressed her father saying he needed to be proud of the young lady. He thanked him for coming in tonight and sharing this time with us. He said last Thursday we had a meeting where there was nobody and having nobody is an indicator that we are doing it right. We had a great time meeting your group and what I wrote in your book, follow your dreams because eighth grade is a long way away from the end of your learning. He continued and said he was looking forward to the Heroes and Hot Rods event with an emphasis on the police and fire Chiefs. Thank you both for all you do. Thank you for rounding up the Jeep group and it's a great opportunity for the City to shine. He thanked the City Commission for allowing him to go to Washington, D.C., and shared his itinerary. He is all about learning and history and what we do here. Thank you.

Mayor Daley said she attended the Mayor's Roundtable and there was a good turnout. It is on YouTube if you want to watch it. We spoke about workforce housing and how the nurses, law enforcement, and first responders can't afford the houses so we need to have more affordable housing. Her comment was that we needed to pay them more because everyone should be able to afford the houses that are available in the community. She shared about the Florida League of Mayor's essay contest encouraging the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to participate with a prize of \$1,000 to the winner. She said School Board Member Lisa Miller was in attendance this morning and she shared the information with her. The essay is about "If I Was Mayor" and then talks about Home Rule. She mentioned a medical emergency that occurred at a Discovery High School volleyball game and said that our Police Department was the first on the scene. She was very proud and the child was transported and will be okay. The lakeside planting at the Mackay has been moved to October 3, 2023, and volunteers will be there. She encouraged anyone wanting to participate to join them in the morning at 8:00 AM. Thank you.

At 8:47 PM, the City Commission meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Bourgeois, BAS, MMC,
City Clerk