

The meeting of the Lake Wales City Commission was held on July 21, 2015 in the Commission Chambers at the Municipal Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Fultz at 6:00p.m. following the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Dr. Jim Moyer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Terrye Howell, Eugene Fultz, Mayor; Jonathan Thornhill, Pete Perez

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Christopher Lutton

CITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Kenneth Fields, City Manager; Clara VanBlargan, City Clerk; Jennifer Nanek, Deputy City Clerk; Albert C. Galloway, Jr., City Attorney

Agenda Item 5. MAYOR

Agenda Item 6. ANNUAL REPORT

Agenda Item 6.1 Lake Wales Housing Authority - Presentation by Executive Director Albert Kirkland, Jr

Albert Kirkland Jr, Executive Director, presented the annual report. He said that with resources limited from HUD they are exploring new ideas such as redeveloping old properties. They started a few years back with Sunrise Park, the first phase is complete. Funding sources are unavailable for the next two phase. They are working to find ways to complete those phases. They are facing the same challenges with Grove Manor. They are reviewing possible other funding options. They are looking to offer affordable housing to the community and create programs to encourage homeownership. Those projects are what they will be working on this next year. He distributed copies of their recently completed audit report.

Deputy Mayor Thornhill asked about Phase II of Sunrise Park. Mr. Kirkland explained that currently Phase I is complete and that they have more land to add 55-70 units for Phase 2 and 3. Deputy Mayor Thornhill asked if one would have more height. Mr. Kirkland said that is planned for their Senior Unit but there are delays due to funding and criteria issues. Commissioner Howell asked what the status is of Grove Manor. Mr. Kirkland explained that they are in the planning stages. The main concern is displacing current residents. Commissioner Howell asked if there will be less homes there, Mr. Kirkland said about 200 homes can go there.

Agenda Item 7. PRESENTATIONS

Agenda Item 8. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Charles Anderson, Babson Park, expressed his disagreement with the ordinance restricting flags at the cemetery. The flag at his grandfather's marker was removed without notice. He asked for an exception for a flag to be displayed at the marker. Ms. Teresa Allen, Assistant Public/Support Services Director, reviewed the ordinance rules for American Flags on gravesites. The smaller flags, 4x6, can be incorporated into floral arrangements year round. Larger ones can be placed on gravesites during holidays such as Memorial Day. Ms. Allen explained that there was a citizen committee a few years who provided input into the decisions regarding flags. Deputy Mayor Thornhill confirmed that this issue was discussed on that committee and reviewed the ordinance rules again.

Borden Dean, President of the Homeowners Association in Lake Ashton, reported on a recent meeting with the County Fire Chief. The County Fire Chief told him that they invited the City of Lake Wales to join a consortium for \$100,000 and the City of Lake Wales refused. A new station is planned on Thompson-Nursery Road which will include an ambulance. Lake Wales does not have an ambulance, as they are a Senior Citizen community and they will need ambulance assistance most of the time. Fire Chief Jenkins explained that the county would not have put in that station if Lake Wales agreed to the deal. Coverage would have been reduced as Lake Wales would have had to cover more areas of the county. Lake Wales has 2 EMTs and a Paramedic and a good response time to Lake Ashton. We can give our citizens a priority. This deal was offered after the fire fee passed. Kenneth Fields, City Manager, explained that the ambulance will cover a huge area and are dispatched during any medical emergency but Lake Wales is normally first on the scene. Mr. Fields said that they did not reject the deal but made a counter offer to which there has been no response. Chief Jenkins offered to discuss the details at greater length at a later time. Mr. Fields said we can now dedicate more resources to our citizens through reduced out-of-county calls and improve our ISO rating.

Commissioner Howell asked how we can get their correct message out there on these issues. Mayor Fultz said that he explains these things one on one to the public. He also said that the fire department does indeed have a fast response time as he needed their help during a fall he suffered.

Agenda Item 9. CONSENT AGENDA

Agenda Item 9.1. Lease Agreements for Airport Ground Space

Deputy Mayor Thornhill made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion.

By Roll Call Vote:

Deputy Mayor Thornhill "YES"
Commissioner Howell "YES"
Commissioner Perez "YES"
Mayor Fultz "YES"

The motion carried 4-0.

Agenda Item 10. OLD BUSINESS

Agenda Item 11. NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item 11.1 ORDINANCE 2015-05, Cemetery Ordinance - 1st Reading

City Clerk Clara VanBlargan read ORDINANCE 2015-05.

ORDINANCE 2015-05

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAKE WALES, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING LAKE WALES CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE VI, CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION, AMENDING THE DEFINITION OF CEMETERY; ESTABLISHING RESPONSIBILITY FOR PERPETUAL CARE; ESTABLISHING TIMES OF AVAILABILITY OF THE CEMETERY MANAGER; ELIMINATING THE CEMETERY TRUST FUND; PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF CEMETERY FEES BY RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION; ESTABLISHING THE TYPES OF MARKERS OR DECORATIONS ALLOWED OR DISALLOWED WITHIN THE CITY'S VARIOUS CEMETERIES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Teresa Allen, Assistant Director for Public Services, reviewed Agenda Item 11.1. This ordinance establishes rules for the new cemetery which is for flat headstones only. Deputy Mayor Thornhill said that the rules are the same; this just allows for the new cemetery and makes it fit. Ms. Allen confirmed this.

Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve **ORDINANCE 2015-05** on first reading. Deputy Mayor Thornhill seconded the motion.

By Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Howell "YES"
Deputy Mayor Thornhill "YES"
Commissioner Perez "YES"
Mayor Fultz "YES"

The motion carried 4-0.

Agenda Item 11.2 ORDINANCE 2015-06, Amendment to Fire Prevention Ordinance - 1st Reading

City Clerk Clara VanBlargan read ORDINANCE 2015-06

ORDINANCE 2015-06

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAKE WALES, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 10, FIRE PREVENTION, SECTION 10-6(b)(2), LAKE WALES CODE OF ORDINANCES, TO PROVIDE FOR CALCULATION OF THE FEE FOR ANY FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENTS WITH POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OTHER THAN POLK COUNTY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Fire Chief Joe Jenkins reviewed Agenda Item 11.2. This ordinance allows for changes to the fire fee for Highland Park. The city won't be locked in to a specific rate.

OPENED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

CLOSED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Deputy Mayor Thornhill made a motion to approve **ORDINANCE 2015-06** on first reading. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion.

By Roll Call Vote:

Deputy Mayor Thornhill "YES"
Commissioner Howell "YES"
Commissioner Perez "YES"
Mayor Fultz "YES"

The motion carried 4-0.

Agenda Item 11.3 Certification of 2015 Taxable Value, Interim Millage & FY15'16 Budget Hearing Dates

Dorothy Ecklund, Finance Director, reviewed Agenda Item 11.3. Kenneth Fields, City Manager, said that we should be proud that we lowered our millage rate by 1 mil with the added fire fee unlike other cities and the

county that added a fee but did not lower their rate. At the next budget workshop more numbers should be in from the state and regarding insurance.

Commissioner Howell made a motion to approve the Property Appraiser's Certification of Taxable Value for 2015, set the interim millage rate at 7.3638 mills and to set the dates for the required public hearings for the final millage rate and adoption of the FY15'16 Budget as Thursday, September 3 and Tuesday, September 15. Deputy Mayor Thornhill seconded the motion.

By Voice Vote:

Commissioner Howell "YES"
Deputy Mayor Thornhill "YES"
Commissioner Perez "YES"
Mayor Fultz "YES"

The motion carried 4-0.

Agenda Item 11.4 Appointment – Planning & Zoning Board

The Mayor appointed Warren Turner to the Planning & Zoning Board for a term ending July 1, 2017. Deputy Mayor Thornhill made a motion to approve the appointment. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion.

By Voice Vote:

Deputy Mayor Thornhill "YES"
Commissioner Howell "YES"
Commissioner Perez "YES"
Mayor Fultz "YES"

The motion carried 4-0.

Agenda Item 12. CITY MANAGER

Agenda Item 12.1 City Commission Tracking Report:

Kenneth Fields, City Manager, reported that the Airport Road project is underway and the project has been integrated to incorporate an upgraded railroad crossing and new spur line to a new business that is opening on that road and will be annexed into the city. It was beneficial to everyone to do both jobs at once.

The work on West Central Ave and North Market Street will begin soon which will include lane closures, this is our major resurfacing effort for this year's budget.

Mr. Fields announced that the City of Lake Wales will receive a \$2400 marketing grant from Polk County Sports Marketing for Pioneer Days. The commission had approved the application when it was submitted and wanted to let the Commission know so he could have consensus to accept the grant.

Mr. Fields introduced Kevin Kieft, from the Chamber of Commerce, to share big news. Mr. Kieft announced Project Magician 2 which is Merlin Entertainment buying and moving into the Harley-Davidson Building. This facility will be a model building facility which will have 50 jobs and pay \$46,000 a year. This is the best option to have move into that building. They worked with both EDCs, Merlin Entertainment, Polk County and others. Mr. Fields said that this is great for Lake Wales and there are other possibilities for the LongLeaf Business Park forthcoming. Mayor Fultz said he was excited about this and encouraged those interested to apply as soon as possible.

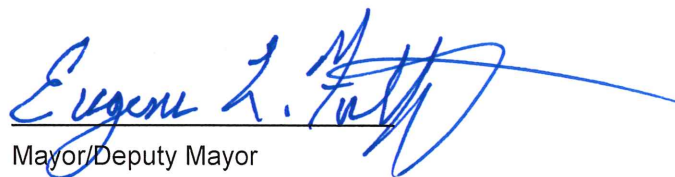
Agenda Item 12.2. City Commission Calendar

Agenda Item 12.3. Annual Reporting – Boards, Commissions, and Committees

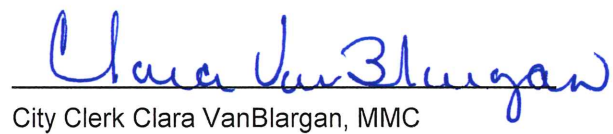
Agenda Item 13. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS

Agenda Item 14. MAYOR COMMENTS

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 P.M.


Mayor/Deputy Mayor

ATTEST:


City Clerk Clara VanBlargan, MMC