

A workshop meeting of the City Commission was held on December 3, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in the Commission Chamber at the Municipal Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Eugene Fultz.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Michael S. Carter; Betty Wojcik; Christopher Lutton; Jonathan Thornhill; Eugene Fultz, Mayor

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

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

[Full staff memos are incorporated into the minutes. Meetings are recorded, but not transcribed verbatim.]

Agenda Item 2. Legislative Delegation Hearing – December 16, 2013

[Begin agenda memo]

SYNOPSIS

This is a discussion on topics to present at the Legislative delegation hearing on December 16, 2013.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Commission discuss possible topics or requests to be presented to the Polk County Legislative Delegation at its hearing on December 16.

BACKGROUND

Each year before session the Polk County Legislative Delegation holds a hearing to listen to the requests and concerns of the county, its municipalities, and the public before session begins.

Mayor Fultz will attend and present a list of issues of concern to the City of Lake Wales. Staff is seeking direction from the commission on what topics should be presented.

Possible discussion items suggested by staff include:

- Support funding of FRDAP Grants as the City of Lake Wales has submitted a grant for the Skate Park
- Funding Support for Florida's Libraries
- Support of the Lake Wales Charter School efforts
- Oppose legislation that restricts or eliminates municipal revenues generated under the communication services tax and the local business tax.

OTHER OPTIONS

Do not make a presentation to the delegation.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

[End agenda memo]

Mayor Fultz asked the Commission for comments.

Commissioner Carter said he would like the sales tax issue mentioned again as he would like the city to be able to take advantage of our sales tax exempt status through contracts. He has spoken to several different leaders in Tallahassee and they were uninterested in correcting this as it is their main source of revenue. Commissioner Lutton clarified that the City must buy items themselves to avoid paying sales tax. Commissioner Carter said it should be easier to use sales tax exempt status. Kenneth Fields, City Manager, clarified when sales tax does not have to be paid, such as purchasing materials directly, and when it does such as a contractor purchasing materials for a city project.

Commissioner Wojcik said she agreed with the suggested list. She asked that additional grants for beautification efforts at entry ways be made available.

Mayor Fultz suggested the needed improved signage at the Airport. Commissioner Thornhill concurred and said additional help is needed with Airport projects. Commissioner Lutton commented that the airport road needs improvement. Mr. Fields agreed and said this project is included in the Master Plan.

Commissioner Wojcik said additional signs directing visitors to the historic downtown are also needed.

Commissioner Carter asked for a clarification on the listed communication tax issue. Mr. Fields explained that proposed cuts of the communication and business taxes will result in lost revenue to the City. This is an issue of concern to the Florida League of Cities as well.

Commissioner Carter said that sidewalks are needed along the South side of HWY 60.

OPENED PUBLIC COMMENT

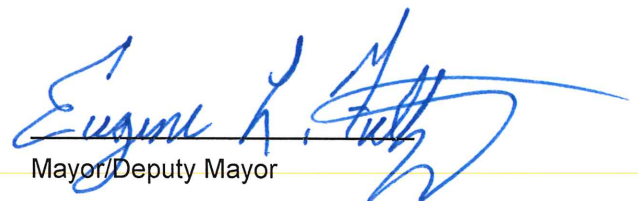
Jack Van Sickle, 4060 Ashton Club Drive, would like to see the remaining 6-8 miles of dirt roads paved. For example, Grove Avenue, Miami Avenue, and Ray Martin Road are dirt roads and need to be paved.

Clara VanBlargan, City Clerk, said that the area in front of Viking Recycling on HWY 60 was dangerous and needs to be looked at for safety improvements. When the county approved Viking Recycling to go in there, they did not require a turn lane, which made that area very dangerous.

CLOSED PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Fultz explained that these items will be refined into list for presentation. Commissioner Wojcik recommended giving the list to Leadership Lake Wales for their Tallahassee trip in the spring to share with our legislators and other leaders.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.



Mayor/Deputy Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk