

Week Ending: February 1, 2019

Witte Thoughts for the Commission

I look forward to seeing you tomorrow at the long-awaited Public Works Ribbon Cutting Ceremony (at 11:00am at 551 Lemon Avenue). The volunteers, donations and the savings recognized in this building are a testament to Rick Mullen's leadership and the generosity and support of Lake Helen as a whole. A light lunch and tours of the facility will follow the short ribbon cutting ceremony. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be donated by Waste Pro.

"Only by giving are you able to receive more than you already have."

~Jim Rohn~

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Meetings

Thursday, February 14th at 7pm
City Commission Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 26th at 7pm
City Commission Special Meeting

Events

Saturday, February 2nd at 11am
Public Works Ribbon Cutting
at 551 Lemon Avenue

Saturday, February 2nd at Noon
Market in the Park
Doggie Plop Bingo 50/50

Saturday, February 23rd
Zerbini Family Circus at the EQ Center

FEMA Update: Our Project 6007 (Hurricane Irma) is currently awaiting the final review by the State. The next step in the process after the State's final review will be the final review and signature from the City of Lake Helen.

After FEMA allocation it will go to the state of Florida for review and disbursement of funds. At this time no city in Volusia County has received reimbursement for Hurricane Irma.

½ cent sales tax: 2/5 at 10:05am

On February 5th at 10:05am, the County Council will consider Ordinance 2019-4 for the ½ Cent Sales Tax. They ask cities to have representatives at this meeting to show support.

Ordinance 2019-4: levying upon voter approval a half cent local infrastructure sales tax for twenty years for roads, sidewalks, bridges, water quality, and stormwater and flood control; and requiring a citizens review committee.

Audit:

Michael has been in this week and we have been working together to gather items for the auditor. We will continue to work on these items to complete the FY 17/18 Audit.

Lake Helen Lake:

As you have seen in emails this week, the FWC has placed a temporary moratorium on the FWC's aquatic herbicide treatment program throughout the state. Commissioner Connell has composed a powerful letter to the FWC Commissioners and Executive Director. Mr. Joe Hammett and Mr. Todd Preston of the Committee to Save Lake Helen Lakes have sent letters along with Mayor Raisler.

On Wednesday, Kipp Frohlich called us (Mayor Raisler and I were able to speak with him). He informed us that the moratorium will postpone our project until at least February 21st (their next Commission Meeting). Lake Helen is a high priority per Mr. Frohlich. The discussion of FWC's aquatic herbicide treatment program will be on the 21st of February in Gainesville. Kipp is confident Lake Helen Lake will be treated although it may not be until March.

He encourages attendance at the February 21st FWC Commission Meeting at Best Western Gateway Grand, 4200 NW 97th Boulevard, Gainesville, FL 32606. For More Information: <https://myfwc.com/about/commission/commission-meetings/february-2019/> ****Joe Hammett has confirmed he will be in attendance****

**** At the February 14th Regular Lake Helen Commission Meeting I will have an agenda item for consideration of sending a letter (composed by Commissioner Connell) to each FWC Commissioner****

Financial Management & James Moore : I met with Zach from James Moore regarding a scope and cost of services on Tuesday. He is still working on cost and proposing a letter of engagement to assist with our Technology Upgrade to Tyler. He plans to attend the February 14th Regular City Commission Meeting. If the City Commission will be utilizing a Financial Management Contract in lieu of an employee, I will ask the Commission to consider hiring a part-time bookkeeper (18-28 hours a week) to assist in the daily financials.

Duke Poles:

New Monarch Butterfly Spring Banners will be hung soon. Thanks to Dennis Geyer – DTS for assisting!
The light on the pole at the corner of McKenzie and Cook Street has been reviewed by Duke. They will need to replace the entire pole. Their team has until December 2019 to replace the pole.



Decker's LH Grill:

Decker's LH Grill will be getting a mobile stage for outdoor entertainment at Decker's LH Grill. This mobile stage will be made by Tim Hogan (a local craftsman). Stay tuned to Decker's LH Grill website for information on live outdoor entertainment in the spring.

Halifax Humane Society Trap and Release Program:

Brenda Gawlikowski shared some information with me this week on the Halifax Humane Society Stray Cat Trap and Release Program. Lauren is working on compiling information for the City Commission to consider.

New Volunteer Forms:

Thanks to Mayor Raisler for creating some Lake Helen Volunteer Forms. They have been reviewed by our City Attorney and are available on the city website: <https://lakehelen.com/volunteer/>

Meeting with the County Manager George Recktenwald and Councilwoman Barbara Girtman

Mayor Raisler and I met with Mr. Recktenwald and Councilwoman Girtman on Wednesday. We discussed Lake Helen Lake and a potential partnership with the ½ cent sales tax for the removal of the Lake Helen Lake land bridge. We have added this to our ½ cent sales tax list (under water quality partnerships). We also discussed the Fire Assessment. Mr. Recktenwald will follow up on Scott Simpson's request of the DR420 calculation. We discussed tree replacement as well. Last year trees were removed along the county right of way on W. New York Ave. I will work with Clay Ervin and his team to secure some grant money or trees for replacement.

A Note from Michael Pleus needing support for the Bridge Program - helping to alleviate poverty and homelessness in West Volusia.

Email from Michael Pleus on January 30, 2019: "Bridge Partners: I spoke with George Recktenwald, County Manager today and he indicated that our request would need to be put on the **February 19th agenda**. He asked me to have Mayor Apgar send a letter requesting it with some details about the request. I put together the attached letter that the Mayor signed, and it was hand delivered today. The Mayor and I are going to schedule meetings with the Council members individually before the 19th to gauge support and what our presentation should cover. My sense is that we need a strong show of support on the 19th. I would ask that you make every effort to attend if you can. I will let you know what time it is on the agenda once I get that information. Thanks in advance of your continued support of the Bridge and helping to alleviate poverty and homelessness in West Volusia!"

Please let me know if you would like me to forward you a copy of the letter or more information.