

Week Ending: August 9, 2019

Witte Thoughts for the Commission

Long but productive Commission Meeting. Next week is Florida League of Cities. Confirmations have been made and if you have any questions or need anything, please let me know!

"You've got to think about big things while you're doing small things, so that all the small things go in the right direction." Alvin Toffler

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Monday, August 12 at 6:30pm
Police Pension Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 13 at 9:30am
Special Magistrate Hearing

Thursday August 14 to 18
Florida League of Cities Conference

Monday, August 26 at 7:00pm
PLDRC Meeting

Tuesday, August 27 at 8:00am
Historic Preservation Board

Tuesday, September 5 at 7:00pm
First Budget Hearing

Blake Playground Progress

The Playground Progress is AMAZING! Rick Mullen is getting amazing results with his fundraising efforts, Public Works employees – Austin, Sefe and Jason are amazing in their assembly of the equipment. We have amazing volunteers and community members who are donating and assisting. Lauren is coordinating the efforts and working with vendors on getting the equipment. The Playground Committee is working on the finalization of the layout with Rick as well as assisting with fundraising and the 5k Stressbuster preparation!



FEMA - small project closeout- Still in the process of closing our FEMA projects for Matthew and Irma. I was told on Thursday we might have some movement by the end of the month.

HMGF- Army Corps permit was received, now they want an ERP permit.... HMGF is tough! We are working on it.

Fall on Euclid Avenue - The Blake Memorial Church parishioner that fell has been in contact with our Florida League of Cities Insurance. Rick has had the tree removed and is in the process of fixing the sidewalk. We have a plan to check all the sidewalks along Euclid Avenue before the Home Tour. If you see or hear of an issue – please let us know right away.

Advisory Boards: Historic Board, Personnel Review Board and PLDRC may have vacancies. Anyone interested in serving, please contact Katie at City Hall to learn more.

Lake Helen Lake Sediment Removal and Restoration Project:

Army Corps of Engineers is starting to look into Lake Helen Lake and if it would require a permit. They plan to attend our permitting meeting in August or September (date TBD).

FWC was on the Lake last week and is planning to come by next week to discuss some options and the project.

Budget Hearings: Our first Budget Hearing is set for Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 7:00pm and Final Budget Hearing on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at 7:00pm.

Meeting Recap

- Police Officer Vacancy will be advertised soon
- Advisory Board Vacancies will be advertised this month.
- Budget is ready for 7.5 or 7.3.
- Miss Lake Helen Cassadaga will soon be under the League for Better Living
- Lake Helen Lake Committee will be assisting with the Lake Education Day in September or October (\$1,500 Catalyst grant)
- Blake Memorial CO should be issued today
- 7 new home COAs approved last night!
- Continuance of variance for McCracken to be brought back in September (as long as home owner is available)
- City Charter will not be on the ballot in November
- 1st reading of Tree Permit Ordinance and Duke Franchise was approved. 2nd readings in September.
- Butler's Express Event Application was approved
- Public Works new hire Stephen Condell and a new vehicle was approved
- 141 W Main Street will have an RFP prepared in the Fall
- Submeter Agreement for Lake Helen Villa – test run in September, first bills in January
- CodeRed services approved. Training to begin in September
- Tyler Open Edge and Portal approved
- Saddle Club PA system dates approved
- Vice Mayor to represent the City of Lake Helen at the Congressional Black Caucus in September. He will not be at the September 12th Regular City Commission Meeting.
- Municipal Elections Agreement Approved
- Impact Fee discussion to be continued...

I appreciate the Commission and the accomplishments that are being recognized. Thanks for your support and all you do for us!

HMGP – Virginia Dr & Ohio Culvert Update:

We received our Army Corps of Engineers Permits! But, the HMGP team has asked for an ERP permit. So we are putting that together now.

Duke Energy Smart Meter Installation Program

Smart Meter Installation project will be coming to Lake Helen approximately August 12th.

Duke Energy requires contractors to notify all customers of their meter exchange with a direct mail postcard (developed by Duke Energy Florida) approximately two weeks prior to starting installations in a neighborhood. Residents are expected to receive the postcards on July 29th.

The postcard features contact information (contractor's phone number and Duke Energy's website) should a customer have questions or want to schedule an appointment. The Florida Smart Meter Help Line is:

Scope Call Center BLUE – 1-888-254-4381

Customers can verify the date the postcard was sent and can connect customers to their contractor, if they need to set up an appointment. You can also include this number on your website if it is helpful.

If they have general customer service questions, they can call 800-700-8744.

Customers have the option to opt of the AMI program, but there is a cost. The Public Service commission has approved an "opt-out" cost. Customers will be billed a one-time opt out fee \$96.34 and a recurring monthly charge of \$15.60.

Installations occur Monday through Friday during normal business hours, however, there may be cases when evening or weekend installations are necessary

Customers do not have to be home to have the meter exchanged. Once the meter has been converted, customers will receive a door hangar. If the customer would like to be home, they can call the number included on the postcard to make an appointment.

There may be a brief interruption of service during the exchange so customers may have to reset clocks.