

Week Ending: August 16, 2019

Witte Thoughts for the Commission

A lot happening this week! I wanted to make sure I was able to share in my weekly update!

Florida League of Cities Conference. We will miss Commissioner Basso and Commissioner Wilson but we will bring a lot of great information back with us. Rick Mullen will be acting City Administrator for Thursday and Friday. I will be back in town Saturday afternoon.

"What we do is never as important as how we do it." Jane Nelsen

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Thursday August 14 to 18
Florida League of Cities Conference

Monday, August 26 at 6:00pm
Charter Workshop at Hopkins Hall

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

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

Wednesday, September 11 at 9:00am
9/11 Ceremony at City Hall

Thursday, September 12 at 7:00pm
Regular City Commission Meeting

Thursday, September 19 at 7:00pm
Final Budget Hearing

Magistrate Hearing -Another successful Magistrate Hearing on Tuesday. The Community seems to be happy with seeing progress on Code Compliance. Thanks to PD staff, Chief Walker and Katie Holmes. Katie is visiting DeLand to learn more about code compliance and hearings!

Fairground Local Plan - Spoke to Volusia County. The Fairgrounds Local Plan has been postponed again. They hope to have it to the PLDRC in October.

Smart Growth - Volusia County

As you may remember, the Elected Officials Roundtable asked for the cities and county to work together on the Smart Growth presentation which will be held at the Elected Officials Roundtable Meeting on Monday, September 9th. I have been working with the County to supply information on Lake Helen. Cities have met and they are working on the finishing touches of the Presentation.

Shimberg's Housing Study shows many of the cities with negative population growth. Lake Helen is one of these cities. I have asked the county to use our Comp Plan population projections:

Based on 2015 estimated population of 2,616

Based on 2020 estimated population of 2,888

Based on 2025 estimated population of 3,188

Based on 2030 estimated population of 3,520

Based on 2035 estimated population of 3,886

Lake Helen Lake Sediment Removal and Restoration Project: FWC

came by on Tuesday, as I said in the email following the meeting, the work area has been reduced. A pre-permit meeting will be scheduled hopefully by the end of the month. In September or October, I will be bringing forth an agreement with FWC for the allocation of funds at the conclusion of the project.

Police Officer Position - We have advertised for the Police Officer position(s). The position is open until September 16th.

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.

Mitchell Brother's Playground

Mayor Raisler received an email this week regarding the sate of Mitchell Brother's Playground. As you may know, it has been on the schedule for a while to remove the unsafe equipment. Public Works Director Rick Mullen plans to have the unsafe equipment removed in the next week or two.

HMGF - Virginia Dr & Ohio Culvert Update:

We received our ERP permit exemption on Tuesday, and I think I have submitted the last of the requirements. The next step will be requesting reimbursement for the Engineering Phase followed by execution of the construction agreement with request for advanced funding. I anticipate we will see construction early 2020.

C.O.R Nutrition Grand Opening

On Saturday, August 10th, C.O.R Nutrition held it's Grand Opening. Mayor Raisler, Vice Mayor Burton and I were there around 10am. Kelly Frasca was there bringing the West Volusia Chamber.

Safe Routes to Schools Grant

We don't want to forget our Safe Routes to Schools Grant! I spoke to Hilda at FDOT this week to make sure we are progressing. She is working on the 2021 plan year and will be coordinating the agreements. We should be receiving an agreement to review with the County of Volusia. We may have some costs associated with the Engineering and LAP partnership that cannot be covered with the Grant. This project will bring much needed sidewalks to Lakeview Drive (on Blake Park property), Ohio Avenue (in front of Ivy Hawn) and Pleasant Street to Michigan Avenue. We may need to begin Right of Way acquisition on Pleasant Street in the spring of 2020.



Pest Control / Termite RFP - As discussed at the last City Commission meeting, I have drafted an RFP for Pest Control Services. City Attorney Simpson is reviewing the RFP.

He also reviewed the current Bonds – one is good until 2020 and one until 2023. We will be meeting with Mr. Holder soon to discuss.

Advisory Boards: Historic Board, Personnel Review Board and PLDRRC may have vacancies. Anyone interested in serving, please contact Katie at City Hall to learn more. The selection of the open positions will occur on September 12th at the Regular City Commission Meeting (at 7pm). Those applying for vacancies are requested to attend.

Intro on Agenda: At the end of last meeting the Commission discussed adding an introduction / protocol on the agenda. I came up with this:

Welcome to the City of Lake Helen City Commission meeting. The agenda for regularly scheduled Commission meetings is posted in City Hall the week of the meeting. Agendas and all backup material supporting each agenda item are available at City Hall or on the city's website at www.lakehelen.com.

Persons desiring to address the Commission MUST fill out and provide the Deputy City Clerk a yellow "Request to Speak" form located by podium. After being recognized by the Mayor, persons are asked to come forward and speak from the podium, state their name and address, and direct all remarks to the Commission as a body and not to individual members of the Commission, staff or audience. Citizen comments during Public Comment and each section of the agenda where public comment is allowed are limited to three (3) minutes. Large groups are asked to name a spokesperson. The period of time is for comments and not for questions directed to the Commission or staff for immediate answer. Questions directed to the City Commission will be referred to staff and should be answered by staff within a reasonable period of time following the date of the meeting. Order and decorum will be preserved at all meetings. Personal, impertinent or slanderous remarks are not permitted. Thank you for participating in your city government.

Scott is okay with the language. Let me know what you think!