

Weekly Update

Witte Thoughts for the Commission for Week Ending August 23, 2019

“Enthusiasm is the mother of effort, and without it nothing great was ever achieved.”
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Upcoming Events and Meetings

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

Friday, September 6 from 5pm to 9pm: Food Truck Fridays at Melissa Park

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

Florida League of Cities Conference:

Great 2019 Conference in Orlando. The sessions and networking were great! You may notice the weekly update format is different, I have adapted my weekly update to be ADA compliant and friendly.

Lake Helen Lake Sediment Removal Project and Restoration Project Update:

On Friday, FWC called and said SJRWMD (St. Johns River Water Management District) will be the permitting agency for our appropriations project. The team at FWC, John from USACOE (US Army Corps of Engineers) and I will be meeting in early September. At the League of Cities Conference, I spoke with Abby Johnson to let her know as well so she can keep track of our project.

Police Officer Position:

We have advertised for the Police Officer Positions. Remember we have one full-time, one part-time and Reserve Officer positions available.

Budget Books are Ready!

The FY 2019/2020 Budget Books are ready at City Hall. The Budget is based on 7.3 mills. First Budget Hearing is set for Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 7:00pm.

Safe Routes to Schools Grant Update:

Chris Fagerstrom (City Engineer) and I will be meeting with Volusia County next week to discuss concept plans, project scope, and start outlining the interlocal agreement between the County and the City.

Intern:

Staff will be meeting with our Fall Intern Jake from UCF! He will be working on an Emergency Management Plan for Lake Helen. The goal is to have FEMA documents and procedures outlined in case of an Emergency or Hurricane.

Termite Bond Update:

Mr. Holder (owner of Holder Pest Control), City Attorney Simpson and I will be meeting at Hopkins Hall before the Charter Workshop to discuss the termite bonds and next steps.

Advisory Board Vacancies:

Historic Board, Personnel Review Board and Planning and Land Development Regulation Commission may have vacancies. Anyone interested in serving should contact Katie at City Hall before Tuesday, September 3rd. The renewal and selection of members to those boards will be considered by the City Commission on Thursday, September 12th at the Regular City Commission Meeting at 7:00pm. Those applying for renewal or the vacancies are requested to attend.

Variance for 540 McCracken Road:

Mrs. Michaels at 540 McCracken Road has withdrawn her application for Variance at 540 McCracken Road. She has decided to go another direction but is thankful to the commission and PLDRC for their review and consideration.

ADA Website:

One of the classes attended at the Florida League of Cities Conference was on ADA Websites. Some of the members of the Volusia League of Cities want to discuss a resolution. I have obtained a Resolution from Hallandale Beach which I have shared. We will continue working on ADA website compliance.

Update on the Tropics:

- Tropical Depression Chantal poses no threat to Florida or the United States. Invest 99L also poses no threat to Florida or the U.S. at this time.
- Locally heavy rainfall is possible across South Florida today and across Central and South Florida over the weekend. As a cold front approaches, rain chances will increase further across much of the state.
- Current rainfall totals across the Peninsula are 1-3" this weekend with locally higher totals of 4" possible. However, if 98L moves farther inland, higher rainfall totals may occur along the East Coast.
- Due to antecedent saturated soil conditions across the Peninsula, some isolated flooding is possible, especially in low-lying, poor drainage, or urban areas. There is a Marginal Risk of flash flooding today in South Florida.
- Onshore winds may be occasionally gusty. This combined with waves around 2-3' may result in at least a moderate rip current risk for East Coast beaches this weekend.
- Due to recent rainfall, several Big Bend and West Coast rivers remain in minor flood stage, but have generally crested and are falling.

Public Works New Hire – Stephen Condell started on Monday

Stephen started Monday morning! We welcome Stephen to the team!! He's excited about the diversity of work he is able to perform and that he has an 8 minute commute that isn't at 5:00am.

Budget Hearing – Thursday, September 5th at 7pm. Budget Books are in your Box!

Your budget books are in your mailbox at City Hall! Agenda Packets should be ready early next week.

Employee Insurance Open Enrollment

Open Enrollment for Employees will be next week. The minimal rate increase equates to no increase for employee only health or dental, no increase to family HMO dental, no increase to Optional Vision Insurance and only a \$2.82 per month increase for family PPO dental. We are enjoying the partnership with Florida League of Cities.

Lauren and I did meet with Colonial Life this week who offer many services (except for Health Care). They were not able to compete with the Florida League of Cities rates. We continue to shop and stay on top so that we ensure we are getting the best services for the best available price.

Weekly Update by City Administrator Becky Witte.

Please do not hesitate to contact me anytime at 386-228-2358 or bwitte@lakehelen.com.