

Weekly Update

Witte Thoughts for the Commission for Week Ending September 6, 2019

"Hurricane season brings a humbling reminder that, despite our technologies, most of nature remains unpredictable." Diane Ackerman

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Monday, September 2, 2019: Closed – Labor Day

Tuesday, September 3, 2019: Closed – Hurricane Dorian

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 6:30pm: First Budget Hearing (rescheduled from 9/5)

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

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

Hurricane Dorian:

Hurricane Dorian was a great exercise for us and luckily no major damage in Lake Helen.

Lake Helen Lake Sediment Removal Project and Restoration Project Update:

The meeting with SJRWMD (St. Johns River Water Management District) to discuss the scope for the project for the Appropriations Bill was cancelled due to Hurricane Dorian. Working on rescheduling now.

Safe Routes to Schools Grant Update:

Chris Fagerstrom (City Engineer) and I met with Volusia County regarding the Safe Routes to Schools Grant. The funding was reduced from \$673,960 to \$508,000. There will be a minor modification where the sidewalk at Michell Brothers goes to Pleasant Street instead of through Orange Avenue. There will also be no sidewalk on the Ivy Hawn side of Ohio Avenue. There is also a 10% matching requirement, surveys and Right of Way acquisition to be completed. The City is responsible for reimbursing the County for time and expenses over the grant. Design will begin in 2021 and construction in 2023. I anticipate we should consider budgeting approximately \$30,000 for the next 3 budget years (FY 20/21, FY 21/22 and FY 22/23).

I-4 AutoMall Update:

The City of DeLand has received application of the change to the Planned Development. I will be meeting with DeLand soon to discuss the project modifications. The City of DeLand and the City of Lake Helen will be taking the applications to Planning Board and City Commission concurrently. I spoke to Mr. Hurley yesterday, he is very excited to get this moving.

Relief for the Abaco Islands:

Lake Helen Girl Scout Troop will be collecting the following for the Abaco Islands. Please bring to City Hall by 4:00pm today. Water, Non-Perishable Food, Toiletries, Feminine Hygiene Products, Ready made baby formula, Diapers, Wipes, Hand Sanitizers, Cleaning Supplies, First Aid Items, Heavy Duty Work Gloves and Tents.

Weekly Update by City Administrator Becky Witte.

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