

**REGULAR MEETING
LAKE HELEN CITY COMMISSION
February 18, 2010
7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

A REGULAR MEETING of the City Commission of the City of Lake Helen, Florida was called to order by **Mayor Snowden** at approximately 7:00 p.m. Present were **Mayor Snowden, Commissioners Burton, Lane and Robbins**. Also present were **City Attorney Lonnie Groot, City Administrator Don Findell** and **City Clerk Nancy Wilson**.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Snowden

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Burton gave the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance.

DELETIONS OR MODIFICATIONS TO AGENDA

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTES:

December 10, 2009

These minutes were tabled until next meeting because the incorrect version was given to the Commissioners to review

CONSENT AGENDA:

Bills – February 18, 2010

Commissioner Robbins asked about the Cummins Power bill. She thought we had a maintenance agreement with them. Rick Mullen says they bill it as they provide services now. She also asked about the USA Bluebook charge of \$811.82 for a 2” solids handling pump. Mr. Mullen explained that their pump had to be replaced because once a petroleum product is used in the pump, it can’t be used for any water applications. The experimental Penn Suppress product that was used on Hobart Street is a petroleum based product and it rendered the pump useless so they had to buy another one.

PRESENTATIONS

Mary Swiderski and Rafael Montalvo from VCOG gave a presentation about Smart Growth.

Mary Swiderski, Executive Director of VCOG

(The information discussed in this presentation is all available as public records at City

Hall)

Ms. Swiderski defined smart growth as a set of principles for managing growth and sustainability and said the most important principle is to preserve open spaces, farmland, natural beauty and critical environmental areas. Other principals include utilizing compact development, mixed land uses, and encouraging community and business collaboration. These principles help strengthen communities by attracting development, providing transportation and housing options with as few ecological footprints as possible. She talked about smart growth and how we need to take it seriously to reach a state of sustainability. Ms. Swiderski provided a brief history of the development of the smart growth principles. She added that Volusia County has grown at such a rapid rate that it has been difficult to preserve the environment while dealing with development. The County made smart growth a priority in 2003 and formed the Volusia County Association for Responsible Development (VCARD). The VCARD Smart Growth Implementation Committee evaluated growth issues and published its final report in 2005 but these recommendations were not considered when the County amended its charter. In 2006, VCOG members formed a committee to begin implementation. Endorsing "Map A" as the Environmental Core Overlay (ECO) map, was the first accomplishment. VCOG then hosted a smart growth summit to share the proposed recommendations with citizens, governments and business leaders. A technical review committee was formed and Rafael Montalvo is the facilitator.

Rafael Montalvo, Facilitator, Smart Growth Implementation Committee

Mr. Montalvo said he works for the Florida Conflict Consortium created by the State legislature to mediate controversial public policy issues. The VCOG Smart Growth Committee asked the Technical Committee to develop tools to implement a smart growth program. They authored conservation development recommendations that included a model conservation ordinance, a Joint Partnership Agreement (JPA) and a model which provides a vehicle for smart growth planning. The conservation ordinance outlined the difference between the County and the Technical Committee's approach to conservation which resulted in the County amending its smart growth plan to be more in line with the Technical Committee. This Committee developed a JPA resolution and a model process for developing the JPA which was designed so neighboring jurisdictions would talk to each other about their plans for smart growth.

Ms. Swiderski said she provided Council with a copy of VCOG Resolution No. 09-03 which the County Council passed unanimously at their last meeting. The resolution requests that jurisdictions schedule an introductory smart growth workshop, amend their comprehensive plan to acknowledge the ECO map and adopt a resolution indicating areas of interest for smart growth. She added that looking at sustainable smart growth is the way to protect our environment. My job is to make sure that what I've done will make a difference to those in the future. I ask you to join us in this plight, recognize the ECO map in your next comp plan amendment and look at JPA's as a way of communicating with your neighbors and insuring smart growth in your future. Smart growth also includes green development.

The City Commission and the City Administrator discussed Lake Helen growth, how we compare to surrounding communities and Lake Helen's uniqueness. **City Attorney Groot** also weighed in on this topic and talked about the Bert Harris Act (Private Property Rights and Protection Act).

BI-MONTHLY REPORTS:

City Engineer - *no report*

Local Planning Agency (PLDRC) – *no report*

Historic Preservation Board – *no report*

Parks and Recreation Board

Sean Abshire, Co-chairman

On February 28th at 2pm, the closing ceremonies for kickball will be held at the ball field. He asked the Commissioners to attend.

PUBLIC FORUM: *none for this meeting*

PUBLIC HEARINGS: *none for this meeting*

COMMISSION CONSIDERATION:

Consideration of request by Lou Gutshall to donate money for improvements to Hopkins Hall and Melissa Park

Ed Blackman was in attendance to answer any questions. The League for Better Living wants to contribute funds for two projects in Lake Helen using proceeds from the Biennial Lake Helen Christmas Home Tour. The first project consists of closing in the crawl space under the stage at Hopkins Hall and installing rolling storage “sleds” to hold chairs. Currently, there is no storage area at this site for these chairs so they are propped against the wall. The projected cost of this project is \$1500 and the City will not incur any expense. Mr. Blackman described how the work would be performed and gave specifics about the project. The rollers exist under the stage from when these “sleds” existed many years ago. They would hold about 75% of the chairs and the remaining 25-30 chairs would easily fit in the foyer closet. In the future, it’s possible that another “sled” could be added to hold the remaining chairs. The crawlspace is open to the elements but the chairs will be adequately protected especially with minimal spraying for insects.

Commissioner Robbins made a motion to accept the donation from the League For Better Living for the \$1500 to be used for storage of chairs at Hopkins Hall
Commissioner Burton seconded

All zones and the Mayor voted yes

The second project is the construction of an additional bathroom accessible from the outside at Melissa Park. Others have made donations of their time and materials and the Home Tour Committee would like to contribute \$2000 to augment that. Again, there will be no cost incurred by the City. Currently, at Melissa Park the two bathrooms are only accessible from the inside so when the building is not open, there are no facilities for people who are using the park. Lou Benton has proposed that there be one bathroom accessible from the outside for everybody to use. The new, handicap

accessible bathroom would leave room for a storage closet. He says this would eliminate the need for possible septic and drainfield replacement. Rick Mullen, Public Works Supervisor, has proposed that the existing bathrooms remain intact and that a new bathroom be added on to the existing structure. He explained that outside bathrooms can get dirty quickly and may not be acceptable to those renting the facility. After a lengthy discussion about the pros and cons of each plan, City Administrator Findell said under Mr. Mullen's option we'd have to have the Health Department come out and evaluate the septic and drainfield. He then asked Commissioner Burton to poll those who are most likely to use the park and facility to see how they feel about the two options.

Commissioner Robbins made a motion to accept \$2000 from the League for Better Living for a bathroom at Melissa Park with the ultimate plan to be determined

Commissioner Burton seconded

All zones and the Mayor voted yes

Consideration to award the contract for the South Summit Avenue Street Improvement project

Steve Danskine from ECT said that the bids for the S. Summit Ave project were opened on February 11. Barracuda Building Corp. was the lowest bidder at \$62,907. Bids ranged from that amount to a high of \$119,000. Barracuda Building has done work for the City before and was pleased with their performance. We've rechecked their references and recommend awarding the project to them

This is a different low bidder from last time. The second lowest bidder this time was the low bidder last time and the second lowest bidder last time did not bid this time.

Commissioner Burton asked how this would impede travel on Summit Avenue. To which Mr. Danskine said that the roadway must remain open throughout construction.

Commissioner Robbins made motion to accept ECT's recommendation to award the project to Barracuda Building

Commissioner Burton seconded

Zone 1 – yes; Zone 2 – yes; Zone 3 – no; Zone 4 – yes; Mayor – yes

Motion passes 4-1

City Attorney Groot explained how Shoemaker Construction was very disappointed that he wasn't awarded the project. Commissioner Basso said the reason he voted 'no' was because he has done business with both companies. The rebidding was an unpleasant experience and he wanted it on the record that he voted 'no' yet there was no need to recuse himself.

Consideration of request by the West Volusia Saddle Club to waive the rental fee at the Equestrian Center for Equifest 2010

Betty O’Laughlin
715 McKenzie Road

Ms. O’Laughlin first discussed the County Council meeting she attended earlier in the day and gave her opinion on the Smart Growth Initiative.

She said people are being very responsive about participating in the Equifest event. Chief Chester has agreed to take care of public safety using a reserve officer. She described what events they’ll be having and what horses will be there. They’ve just added \$6,000 worth of sand to the arena making the footing better. This has made the arena more viable and more attractive for rentals. We are the caretakers of the arena and we are cash strapped so we’re asking for the fees to be waived. They will be donating profits to the food pantry, 4th of July activities and some facility that cares for animals. They want to borrow the tents but they’ll put them up and take them down. We’ll also clean up the park afterwards.

Commissioner Robbins asked if they will receive stall rent. Ms. O’Laughlin answered yes and added that the money will be given to the City. The stall rent is \$15 per day.

Commissioner Basso asked what the dollar value is of the fee we are being asked to waive. **City Administrator Findell** answered ‘\$1000’ and at the last Equifest event, we didn’t get any percentage of proceeds over and above that fee. Ms. O’Laughlin went into more detail about the different performances and activities that they’ll have that day.

Commissioner Basso made a motion to waive the fees for Equifest 2010
Commissioner Robbins seconded

All zones and the Mayor voted yes

There was more discussion about the arena and how we might be able to attract more rentals. Ms. O’Laughlin concluded by saying they were going to take full responsibility for the event.

Consideration of Draft Water Resource Management Memorandum of Understanding

City Administrator Findell said, “The memorandum of understanding (MOA) relates to cooperative water resource management planning among local governments in West Volusia County. If executed, this document would bind Lake Helen with the other West Volusia cities and Volusia County in pursuing cooperative solutions to existing or potential future water management issues particularly how they support future population growth. The City Manager of Deland, Michael Pleus, says that execution of the MOU does not commit a jurisdiction to a particular project or solution. I am supportive of cooperative planning. It most often enhances working relationships across jurisdictions and can often lead to more well thought out programs and solutions than can be achieved by one jurisdiction alone. Though I generally support the MOA, I am concerned that it doesn’t recognize the growth management philosophy differences between Lake Helen and other parties to the MOU. Because of those differences (growth control/management vs. growth accommodation), the effect that Lake Helen has or will have on water resources is quite different than other West Volusia communities. Thus, our water resource management needs are quite different than other jurisdictions. The MOU may need to be modified to reflect that. I’m also

concerned about our financial participation in funding the costs of future studies, legal work and projects. I'd like the MOU to be modified to clearly reflect that no partner to the MOU is obligated for any future costs unless said partner executes a subsequent interlocal agreement specifying the partner's individual willingness to participate in the that agreement and the partner's actual amount of the costs. I'd like to move forward with caution and ensure that we have a complete understanding of the City's potential obligations. I don't want the City to obligate itself to financial participation in studies, legal expenses and project costs for which it may have no need."

Commissioner Basso said we want to participate in intergovernmental relationships but he has the same reservations as Mr. Findell has concerning how this ultimately would help us. There's more potential for harm than good other than showing our willingness to participate with other governments.

Commissioner Lane asked about the term of the MOA. It says the MOA "shall commence upon its execution by all Suppliers and shall remain in effect for four years unless extended beyond this term or terminated earlier by Suppliers." He wanted to know how and by whom these terms would be determined. **Mr. Findell** said that also needs to be clarified. **Commissioner Lane** said there must be some way to back out of it if after 4 years we're being taken advantage of. **Mr. Findell** responded that if the document is clearer on that point then we'll be covered. He added that the financial part concerns him. Communities with far more political and financial wherewithal will be requiring studies, legal services, etc. We have minimized our impact on resources and wouldn't benefit from what is needed by other, larger communities.

City Attorney Groot said there's not a true obligation rising out of this agreement but there is a commitment. **Mr. Findell** said over the next 4 years the intent is to engage in some expensive and extensive studies.

The Commission discussed this further and brought forth the pros, cons and Lake Helen's conservative water usage.

City Attorney Groot said, "What very well could result from this is that what Lake Helen has planned for itself is just fine. The other jurisdictions don't care and they don't care about your money. Suppliers (Cities) desire to cooperatively plan and implement water supply related activities which include, but are not necessarily limited to, conservation, reclaimed water augmentation and interconnects, construction of projects to maximize the availability of existing water resources and ultimately develop new sources of water supply. What I see could happen is that you can become a member of the understanding, the study could go on for four years, there is a plan to leave Lake Helen alone, 'your growth management plan is just fine, we don't want your money, we love you - we just want your water. You're not a very reliable partner if you're going to back out of all this now after we've joined in this together.' And that's where I see this could be heading." **Mr. Findell** agreed. I'm a proponent of working together and that's how I conduct my professional life and we do cooperate on all different types of large-scale activities and enterprises but if you take the position that all we want to do is to speak with one voice to the Water Management District I can tell you that that position would be contrary to Lake Helen's best interests. We took the opposite position when we went through our consumptive use permitting. We were very specific in separating Lake Helen's needs from the rest of Southwest Volusia County's needs. Even though it cost us a lot of money to go through that process it would have cost us exponentially more if we had tied ourselves to the other communities." **City Attorney Groot** said that an

agreement like this could be used against you to provide the water resources for the very type of growth that you're against.

Commissioner Basso commented, "At the very least, a memorandum of understanding should be more clearly understandable."

The Commission tasked **Mr. Findell** with pursuing these concerns. He would like to convey the concerns to Michael Pleus and see if the language can be modified to address them. "My concerns may be unfounded but at the same time they may be founded." **Mr. Groot** added, "This is a well written planning document. This is exactly what you want to write to commence the planning for multi-jurisdictional water issues."

Mr. Findell said, "The water issues faced by other local cities are of a very similar nature. What they are planning for is the accommodation upgrade and we are not. What I don't want to do other than not being lumped together as one group of people with the same needs and same problem, is to pay a proportionate share for the studies the legal services and the project implementation necessary to fuel their growth." **Mr. Groot** said, "I don't think it matters to the other members of the group whether Lake Helen contributes or not. The deal is, at the end of the day, you are not a good partner if you're not 'playing with us after we've done all this good planning. If you're not going to be a good partner, how can you ask us to play with you again?" **Mr. Findell** said, "If they need us, for instance, to provide an interconnect as the county has in the past and as we provide water currently, then that's going to occur regardless of whether we have this agreement or not. This circumstance is going to require that. If they are thinking about the use of reclaimed water and they don't have sufficient space within their communities to either house or distribute that reclaimed water then they will come to the next place they can. I'd like to explore this a bit further and sit down with Michael and see if I can't get him to get his people to also think of ways in this document to incorporate our concerns and our uniqueness and go from there. I think it can be done." **Mayor Snowden** said that's a good recommendation. "They want us marching in the same parade and march in unison but we don't know who is calling cadence." **Mr. Findell** said, "Ultimately it will most likely be the Water Management District who is calling cadence and I don't want to be dragged along on that march simply because I'm participating in the planning process." **Commissioner Basso** said he'd like Don to take what was discussed tonight, talk to Michael Pleus and come back to the Commission with something we can agree on. **Commissioner Burton** asked Mr. Findell if it would help to speak to any of his peers in other cities. **Mr. Findell** said that Debary was reticent to join this group, too.

Lou Benton
Lake Pearl Drive

"We just had somebody in here who gave you a lecture on growth. None of the cities in this county know what smart growth is. The more concrete and pavement you put down, the less your aquifer is going to be filling with water. They're asking for us to give up our water because we've practiced smart growth and we have water. All these other cities have experienced massive growth. Debary had a big contamination problem from their golf courses. Nobody thinks about the water. On the east side of Volusia County, how many wells have gone dry because of the massive growth there? All they care about is where they're going to draw the water from after building subdivision after subdivision. You now aren't permitted to say anything in front of the St. John's Water

Management Board about this smart growth. Look at the Everglades, your so-called smart engineers cost the taxpayers millions of dollars to straighten out what they did. Engineers can tell you anything they want but does it really work? It didn't in the Everglades. They're finally starting to do something about it after all these years. Everybody's got to work together but it's a one-way street and it's all their way because they're not controlling their massive growth.

Jane Taylor
424 Hazel St

“Don, does this sound like a repeat of the water authority from six years ago where they wanted us to give them our water and they were going to sell it back to us?” **Mr. Findell** answered, “I don't think that's the intention but I do think that's a legitimate concern if you project out far enough.” Mrs. Taylor continued, “We and one or two other small towns did not join this group and the other towns that did and put money into it, how did they benefit? They ended up just auctioning everything off very cheaply. We did our research then and they kept begging us to join that group but we held our ground. We didn't play with them then and we didn't get blackballed for that. Nobody remembers that we stood up for it.”

Mr. Findell said, “This is not my first rodeo as it relates to water supply and water resource management planning. I've been doing this since 1975. I've been an environmental services director twice, a water resource director twice for a regional planning agency in Lake County and in Brevard County. This is an area in which I have a particular body of experience and knowledge. Ms. Taylor said, “The only thing I'd be scared of is them telling us that we can only have a certain amount of water to use because before, they wanted us to limit use. So we're being conservative but they want us to lower our consumption to be able to give the water to someone else.” **Mr. Findell** continued, “When we were working on our Consumptive Use Permit, although we got a 20 year permit, it isn't actually a 20 year permit but half of that. The 20 year permit is given a full blown review after 10 years. The reason we didn't get a full 20 year permit is because when we got the Water Management District to do the modeling and it showed the small amount of water that we use and will need in the foreseeable future, we were still having a minimal impact on the aquifer. That minimal impact on the aquifer would not have existed had the other communities in Volusia County not had a major impact on the aquifer over the last 20 years. So we were already being affected by the growth that had occurred in the other communities and the water supply development that had occurred to fuel, facilitate or accommodate that growth. That's a sobering thing. It reduced the viability of our permit and it cost us a bit of extra money to go through the process before we got a permit. There are two types of modeling used, one is modeling to determine what your current and projected impact is going to have on the deep aquifer, the other type of modeling used determines what impact you are having on the surficial aquifer which is actually the first 15 feet. The impact that you have on that has a direct impact on stream flow, wetlands and water bodies. It's not a one tiered approach. If the aquifer had not been drawn down to the extent that it was over the past 20 years by the larger communities we wouldn't have entered that lower tier of the aquifer but as it drew down it was demonstrated that we were having a miniscule but reportable impact.”

Commissioner Burton said, "The manatee population depends on a water source that's related to springs and in order to maintain the manatee population the water that is fed or used in those springs. The joke was in order to affect effectively come up with a good water conservation plan, they should make a manatee cookbook. I guess it is getting so bad that they're talking about desalinization plants." Mr. Findell said they may even turn brackish water into fresh water which would be the water from the St. John's River or Lake Monroe. **Commissioner Burton** used his experience dealing with flood waters to discuss how that water might be contained for future use.

The Commission discussed this topic more comparing Lake Helen's usage of water to other communities.

The conversation was concluded by asking **Mr. Findell** to talk to Michael Pleus and articulate Lake Helen's concerns and perhaps modifying the agreement to address those concerns. If they can that's great if they can't then we'll deal with that then.

Mayor Snowden noted that in the draft stages of the water supply study, Lake Helen wasn't included. We haven't been included in the past because of cost.

Consideration of request by Chief Chester to approve the policy for use of the Scorpion video cameras

Commander Walker said a few weeks ago the Commission requested a policy be put in place before these cameras are used. The policy has been completed. "We have received the cameras and we're just waiting for the policy to be approved. Corporal Mullins is the property evidence custodian." **Commissioner Basso** asked if Commander Walker was asking them to approve the policy or approve the use of the video camera. "If you're asking us to approve the policy I want to know if it's been run by legal." The answer was 'yes', **City Attorney Groot** had reviewed it.

Commissioner Basso made a motion to accept the policy put forward by the Lake Helen Police Department regarding the Scorpion video cameras.

Commissioner Lane seconded

Corporal Bellesfield has his own camera that he paid for and he will have to follow the guidelines set forth by our policy. **City Attorney Groot** said only a department issued camera should be used. The camera is worn on the officer's person and he has control over when it's turned on and off. After his shift, he can download the 2GB memory card into the computer system. The card can record contiguously for two hours before it needs to be downloaded and recharged and it can be recharged in the patrol car.

All zones and the Mayor voted yes.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Discussion about whether 4th of July festivities this year should occur on July 3rd or July 4th

The Fourth of July falls on a Sunday this year and because a lot of people go to church on Sundays, that may interfere with some enjoying the festivities. Some people are diehard 4th traditionalists while others would just as soon have it on the day before. The company setting off the fireworks says either day is fine with them.

There was conversation among the Commissioners about the pros and cons of both days and they even considered having festivities on both days. **Mayor Snowden** asked those sitting in the chambers and everybody preferred Saturday.

Commissioner Basso made a motion for all activities to be on Saturday, July 3rd.

Commissioner Robbins seconded

All zones and the Mayor voted yes.

STAFF REPORTS:

City Attorney - *nothing to report*

Police Chief - *nothing to report*

City Administrator – *nothing to report*

Code Enforcement Officer – *nothing to report*

MAYOR'S REPORT AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS BY ZONE

Zone 1/Commissioner Robbins – “When Mrs. O’Laughlin was here you probably heard her say that she’d get an Equifest flyer to me. At the last meeting of the Scenic Road Committee, they talked about a website that’s been set up that would include activities and events that Lake Helen is going to be participating in or sponsoring. If anybody has something they want to get the word out on, give the information to me and I’ll see that they get it so it can be posted on their website. One of the purposes of the Scenic Road Committee is to bring focus to activities and to bring us into the picture so we can advertise ourselves. Mr. Becker from Main Street Deland said we can also put up posters there.”

“The Penn Suppress treatment on Hobart Street was completed yesterday. We’ll see if something good comes out of that. I don’t think it cost the city of whole lot compared to what it could have. It will be a matter of time to see if it works. Ricky mentioned something about getting a road counter to see how much traffic the road is getting.”

Zone 2/Commissioner Burton – “We had a Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday night with a good turnout and a lot of comments from the community. One thing a lady asked me to look into was to put some lighting up on Church Street and I found out from the power company that it is a city account so we would have to consider paying for it. I got back with her on that. Another gentleman talked about looking into a system that would videotape the meetings in addition to recording audio. He will get back to us about this. We had a complaint about somebody with a lot of hogs but the hogs have been relocated. Also, the cemetery committee spoke once about vandalism that had taken place at Suber Memorial. One of the issues that had come out of this meeting was that because of the jurisdictional issues (Suber Memorial is not in Lake Helen) it’s

not something that we can patrol. Maybe we could annex it into the City but that would require the Ford family, who owns property that separates Lake Helen and Suber Memorial, to agree to their property being annexed so it would create a contiguous connection between Lake Helen and the cemetery. The cemetery committee is made up of new members so we met and I explained this to them. There's also a possible DOT issue with the road leading up to the cemetery being too close to I4 so they may have to reroute the road."

Zone 3/Commissioner Basso – "Let's talk about the workshop we had on Monday. Several things became apparent to me and that is that the majority of the citizens and the businesses in this town are very much in favor of keeping the Café and the Teen Program open and alive as do I. There were some concerns about where all the financing is going to come from if we lose our grants and if the Chief decides to retire. The Chief's recommendation is that a committee studies the issue and comes up with some recommendations for the board. I'd like to put a motion on the table to have staff put that committee together and charge them with coming up with some realistic solutions that can help us keep the Café open." After some conversation it was decided to put this request on the next agenda.

Zone 4/Commissioner Lane – "I attended the Town Hall Meeting and I want to address a couple of things that Commissioners Burton and Basso addressed. At Tuesday night's meeting, I did hear a couple of people comment on the opposite side of the prevailing sense that we got at Monday night's meeting regarding the café. There were some people who were willing to speak up in that smaller forum. Nobody was saying shut it down, but they were more willing to express their concerns about the Café and they were legitimately concerned about the fact that the Café isn't making money. The tenor of Monday night's meeting suppressed any comment on that side of the issue. There was such passion on Monday night in favor of the Café that nobody was going to say anything to the contrary or anything that might in any way demean the Café. So I don't know that we got a complete picture of the community with Monday night's meeting. I think it was very important to have that meeting. I think it was important to allow the people to speak. People needed to feel that they were heard. It was very good and important but I don't think that we have completed our job. We need to still work towards finding some solutions that will make the Café viable over time. I did contact a gentleman at the business school at Stetson and he polled his colleagues at Stetson and came up with the best professor for me to work with. I'll try to come back with some additional options once I talk to him."

"I want to thank Commissioner Burton for stepping into the breach on that town hall meeting. There was some confusion as to how that was going to take place and who was going to lead it and things like that. I appreciate your stepping up and facilitating that effort for the community. I hope to see that forum continue. I like the idea of town hall meetings that are less formal than this because people are intimidated by this structure and they need to be heard as well.

Commissioner Burton said, "Just a note on that. Mr. Groot said that in the future, fellow Commissioners should know the schedule of such meetings." **Mayor Snowden** said, "This is what I wanted to clarify with the City Attorney and anybody else who's involved for the benefit of all the Commission. Early after I was sworn in as Mayor, I

made a proclamation that I wanted to have town hall meetings. That was one thing that I sensed a need for. I saw different issues within the community and different concerns from different individuals and groups that had some things that they wanted to know more about or they didn't understand or they wanted to be more involved in and so on. I had planned to encourage the Commission to get the community involved in town hall meetings. Unbeknownst to me, a meeting was organized and loosely termed as a town hall meeting. One of our Commissioners attended. I in no way want to inhibit any Commissioner from having conversations or meetings with constituents or anything else. I have the sense and the feeling if we as representatives are going to go into the community at least the other Commissioners should be aware of that. If it is for public participation then it should be publicly noticed. If Ms. Robbins wanted to have a meeting for sidewalk improvement in zone one and she wanted to isolate everyone else but those people who had sidewalks in front of their houses in zone one she could have her own meeting but anything that affects the community as a whole, the Commission needs to be made aware of it whether they attend or not. I also believe that if we're going to have a town hall meeting which is termed a town hall meeting, it gives the sense that it encompasses the governing body and encompasses the community. I'd heard also that Ms. Robbins said she was going to have a meeting in March. I don't oppose that and I don't have a problem with it but I would like the rest of the Commission to be informed of it. I'm going to have a town hall meeting as well."

Mayor Snowden continued his discussion on town hall meetings. **Commissioner Basso** explained his position when he had his town hall meeting. Town Hall meetings and the Sunshine Law was also discussed. He added, "I'm here to serve the people and if they want me to talk to them I'm here. I think where it went sideways is that a little meeting with some people got the moniker of being a town hall meeting where in reality it wasn't, it was just me meeting with some constituents." **Mr. Groot** said, "The Mayor would like a Commission town hall meeting in a different forum with more at ease the deliberation. The problem is the wording so what can be done, like in other jurisdictions, is to have a policy that what you call a town hall meeting is a collective town hall meeting. Zone commissioners can have zone commissioner meetings. In zone commissioner meetings, I discourage other commissioners from being there. I still recommend that the Clerk post a notice saying that other commissioners may be present just to cover you but it's better that you not be there. It doesn't matter where the zone meeting is held."

There was more discussion about the distinction between zone meetings and town hall meetings.

Commissioner Lane said, "Having meetings where not very many people show up has been disparaged. In actuality, it may be a good indication. When you have lots of people show up it's not because they care, it's because they are upset. Generally speaking, if not very many people show up, it's more of an indication of support and trust. I don't see it as a personal affront or a lack of interest in what the City is doing. We just need some consistency in verbiage."

Mayor Snowden said the biggest issue he had was that flyers were distributed in the community and there were e-mails declaring that Commissioner Lane would be the next person to have a meeting. Commissioner Lane added, "Once the day arrived, Commissioner Burton stepped up and I think a lot of feelings were hurt that the meeting didn't go as originally planned. They were frustrated with me and I was honoring the

fact that Commissioner Burton had stepped in. Anyway, it was a bit of a mess and there were some hurt feelings and some confusion.”

Mayor/Mayor Snowden said we had a successful health fair and interestingly we had more Commissioners from other communities attend than we had from our own community. We had a good turnout and a lot of good vendors. He read a letter from one of the participants who praised the health fair. “I did take the opportunity during the health fair to let some of the people tour the Nautilus Sports Medical Building and from that we may gain a tenant in the medical complex. It was a good event and I hope we continue it annually.”

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45pm

Buddy Snowden, Mayor

Nancy Wilson, City Clerk