

**REGULAR MEETING
LAKE HELEN CITY COMMISSION
July 1, 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, Commissioner Burton** and **Commissioner Robbins**. Also present were Sandra Ambrose (standing in for **City Attorney Lonnie Groot**), **City Administrator Don Findell** and **City Clerk Nancy Wilson**.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Burton gave the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance. **Mayor Snowden** paid tribute to Independence Day by reminding those present of the significance of July 4th and by singing "America the Beautiful".

DELETIONS OR MODIFICATIONS TO AGENDA

Commissioner Robbins requested that the Policies and Procedures for the Creative Arts Café be reviewed when all commissioners are in attendance. It was also announced that Doug Stenstrom, from Stenstrom Law Firm, passed away. The Henry Whites reunion at Melissa Park wasn't well attended but **Mayor Snowden** said that Mr. Whites gave a lot to his community, his country and his fellow man.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

none for this meeting

MINUTES:

June 17, 2010 minutes will be presented at the second meeting in July.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Bills – July 1, 2010

Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve the bills as presented
Commissioner Robbins seconded

Commissioner Burton, Commissioner Robbins and **Mayor Snowden**
all voted yes to approve.

Policies and Procedures for the Creative Arts Café Restaurant – tabled until next regular Commission meeting

PRESENTATIONS

Sean Abshire, Vice-chairman, Parks & Recreation introduced the winners of the Miss Lake Helen/Cassadaga Pageant

Little Miss Lake Helen: Rayma Gamache

Junior Miss Lake Helen: Dahlys Lorenz

Miss Lake Helen: Alexandra Clark

The pageant had more entrants than in previous years and it was a standing room only crowd. Jerrylyn Burton, who played a large part in organizing the event, will finalize the financial report and present it to the Parks and Recreation Board.

BI-MONTHLY REPORTS

City Engineer – City Administrator Findell announced that the repairs on S. Summit Avenue had been completed.

Local Planning Agency (PLDRC) – no report

Parks and Recreation Board – Sean Abshire, Co-chairman, reported that 4th of July plans are on track and volunteers are stepping up to the plate.

PUBLIC FORUM

none for this meeting

PUBLIC HEARINGS

none for this meeting

COMMISSION CONSIDERATION

none for this meeting

COMMISSION DISCUSSION

none for this meeting

STAFF REPORTS:

City Attorney - Ms. Ambrose said that Mr. Doug Stenstrom had been with the firm since 1954. She appreciated the City's condolences.

Police Chief - Chief Chester talked about the recent vandalism and break-ins. He's put up a \$200 reward for each crime and Dennis Geyer has put up \$500 for information leading to an arrest. The Police Department is diligently working to solve the case but Mr. Chester didn't want to discuss any details.

Chief Chester reported that trespassing in the cemetery is a problem mainly because of the publicity the property gets. The headstones were recently righted and the Police Department will continue to patrol the area.

A refresher class for the Computer Emergency Response Team is underway. As far as the siren in the Equestrian Center is concerned, we are waiting for services that are being donated. The siren was free and the work to get the siren operational will be free so we don't have much to say regarding a timeline for completion.

Mr. Chester continues to work with Fred Tessier and they are making notable progress. Mr. Tessier is working on more Policies and Procedures.

Mr. Chester and Marge Clauser are working to put together an Arts and Crafts Fair for November 6, 2010. It would be combined with studio open houses.

Commissioner Burton, City Administrator Findell and Mr. Chester met with the new administrator of the Ivy Hawn School. She's a great asset to the school and Lake Helen.

City Administrator – Mr. Findell said that resident Ron Martin on Orange Avenue wanted to access his property from the backside of the nature trail at the Equestrian Center on July 3rd. He is having a party and it will be difficult for his guests to access his property due to its proximity to where the fireworks will be launched. The Commission, the Police Chief and Public Works saw no problem granting this request.

Mr. Findell said the draft budget should be ready early the following week so we can schedule a workshop on July 8th, two weeks earlier than the first meeting was held last year. The Policies and Procedures not approved this week should be added to that meeting so it will be a Special Meeting instead of a Workshop.

Chief Chester requested approval for local businesses to put up sandwich board signs on the right-of-way on July 3rd so businesses can capitalize on the 4th of July festivities traffic. The Commission saw no problem granting his request.

Code Enforcement Officer – Chief Chester reported that a complaint was filed against the new church on the corner of Pleasant and Ohio for loud music. Notice has been sent to the lessees.

Mayor Snowden gave special thanks to the Public Works Department for working hard to prepare the City for the July 3rd events.

MAYOR'S REPORT AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS BY ZONE

Zone 1 – Commissioner Robbins – Commissioner Robbins distributed to the Commission an article about New Smyrna Beach's Comprehensive Plan which said they are having problems because their Comp Plan hasn't been completed. They have 25 projects on which they can't move forward as a result. **City Administrator Findell** responded by saying we don't

have any projects, much less 25. Commissioner Robbins argued that if our Comp Plan was finished, we could have three or four more houses on our tax rolls and cited an example. Mr. Findell pointed out that her example of someone who didn't build wasn't because of our Comp Plan, instead, it was because the owner of the property can't build until he sells the house in which he currently resides. He added that New Smyrna Beach is hiring a Consultant to complete their Comp Plan and that our Comp Plan won't get done in the short term due to limited resources.

At the regular commission meeting on 7/26/10, Commissioner Robbins requested that changes to the published minutes be made. Because of a malfunction, the minutes were not recorded by the City that night so there was no way to validate what she submitted. Further, neither Commissioner Robbins nor her husband would relinquish a copy of their recording of the meeting. Because of this, the Commission voted to allow her account of the exchange to be included in the document but it is not part of the minutes as published. Caveat lector.

Comm. Robbins – Zone report- This morning as I awoke and donned my little newspaper in the Local section was kinda a disturbing story as it had to do with a paperwork gaffe/delay in New Smyrna Beach projects. It has to do with the Comp Plan and I have spoken about 3 or 4 times about ours and I want to again go on record that this is something we've not got completed just as they don't. Now they have some 25 projects that they can't go forward with and we are kinda sitting in the same situation as this. This went on the news tonight at 5 and I want to bring it to everybody's attention. We may be in the same boat. And so, I just want to go on record that I've brought this up 3 or 4 times and I want to be off the hook as when the time comes when somebody comes and says I want to do this in Lake Helen and are told they can't do it because our comp plan is not completed. That's all I have. I have a copy for everyone and Comm. Lane and Basso.

Mr. Findell: I think the principle difference between us and New Smyrna without knowing anymore about this, as Vice Mayor mentioned New Smyrna has 25 projects coming before them where they want to amend the Comp Plan that require comp plan amendments and so obviously they find themselves in a different position. We have no projects but I think the pressure and problem is different in a relative sense.

Comm Robbins: Well, Don, I can remember probably close to 2 ½ years ago when Mr. McIntosh sat right down there and told us that one man might possibly get to build his house within 6 months but that didn't happen and I know his story is that he hasn't sold his house but the situation still occurs that if our comp plan had been finished or we could have amended it to bring in these smaller lots, we possibly could have had 2 or 3 houses more on our tax rolls than we have right now. This is my point. We're putting aside the fact that these people can't build so we can't increase our tax rolls.

Mr. Findell: Well I would certainly agree in a hypothetical sense but the reality is even 2 or 3 houses is going to cost more to prepare the comp plan

and advertise for it and take it through the review process than what we receive from taxes. Where you are going to get the most bang for your buck from a land use standpoint is where you've got a large development project that is going to result in large taxes and you've still have to make a determination as to whether or not that proposad development project will fit within the parameters of your comp plan and is so desirable as to amend the comp plan. I'm not disagreeing obviously the comp plan isn't done but we have discussed that at length and as well and as I've indicated that certainly not going to be done over the short term with the limited resources we have to do it.

Zone 2/Commissioner Burton – Commissioner Burton continued the discussion about the Henry Whites reunion adding that Mr. Whites was a respected member of our community and his spirit lives on. He added that thanks to community support, he is running unopposed in Zone 2 for this year's election. **Commissioner Burton** talked to those who were approached to run against him and they said they didn't run because he was doing a good job. His work with FEMA has come to an end so he'll be able to devote more time to Lake Helen; his experience with disaster response will help if Lake Helen is faced with an emergency.

Mayor/Mayor Snowden – Mayor Snowden announced that he was attending the West Volusia Summit the following Saturday.

*Ranger James
193 N. Lakeview Drive*

He thanked the Parks & Recreation Department for their dedicated service to our community and also said he'd volunteer his time to help with Melissa Park.

*Karen Crawford
640 W. Kicklighter*

Ms. Crawford briefly discussed the West Volusia Saddle Club budget and Equifest 2010.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm

Buddy Snowden, Mayor

Nancy Wilson, City Clerk

