

**REGULAR MEETING
LAKE HELEN CITY COMMISSION
October 2, 2008
7:00 P.M.**

A REGULAR MEETING of the City Commission of the City of Lake Helen, Florida was called to order by **Mayor Duffy** at approximately 7:00 p.m. Present were **Mayor Duffy, Vice Mayor Buddy Snowden, Commissioners Robbins, Benton, and Cooke**. Also present were **City Attorney Ken McIntosh, City Administrator Don Findell and City Clerk Nancy Wilson**.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Duffy asked **Mr. Ken McIntosh** to give the invocation and pledge of allegiance.

DELETIONS OR MODIFICATIONS TO AGENDA

Mayor Duffy explained that Chief Chester requested to add 7. D, E, and F to Commission Consideration.

Commissioner Benton motioned to add 7. D, E, and F to Commission Consideration.
Commissioner Cooke seconded the motion.

Commissioner Robbins objected to the length of time it might take to discuss Market in the Park. **Mayor Duffy** indicated that if the matter became too lengthy, she would suggest tabling it.

Mayor Duffy added the titles to Commission :

- 7. D. is proposed Market in the Park rules and temporary signage for Market in the Park.
- 7. E. is proposed Revision to Police Department hours open to the public.
- 7. F. is Recommendation to hire Kelly Snowden as assistant teen program director at an hourly rate of \$7.

Mayor Duffy called for a vote and **Commissioner Robbins** objected to the additions to the agenda but added that she would vote this one time.

All zones and the Mayor voted yes. The motion passed unanimously.

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1. MINUTES: September 11, 2008

Commissioner Benton motioned to approve the minutes for September 11, 2008.
Commissioner Robbins seconded the motion.

All zones and the Mayor voted yes. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Bills – October 2, 2008:

Mayor Duffy asked if there were any items the Commission wished to discuss.

Commissioner Robbins indicated she wished to discuss the Environmental Consulting and Technologies billing noting that \$928 of the bill should be under Storm Water and the sandbags from Ferguson should also be under Storm Water. **Commissioner Robbins** said she had a question regarding Platinum Plus concerning the operating expenses. She noted that \$3,579.94 was for supplies for the Creative Arts Cafe.

Commissioner Robbins motioned to accept the bills of \$19,345.65 for the General Fund and \$6,753.26 for the Utility Fund with the notation to move \$928 and \$360 to Storm Water.
Commissioner Benton seconded the motion.

Commissioner Robbins noted that the entry of advertising under Bob McGarity was actually for flags.

Commissioner Snowden noted the rising expenses for stray animals. **Commissioner Robbins** said she had looked at that and indicated that 2/3 of the incidences were on West Lake and Summit Avenues.

All zones and the Mayor voted yes. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

a. Presentation by a representative of the American Legion to partner with Lake Helen in a booth at the Volusia County Fair

Jim Corner approached the podium and stated that he lived in DeLand. He said he has lived in Volusia County approximately forty-seven (47 yrs.) years and has been a member of the American Legion approximately the same amount of years. He said the American Legion would like to share a booth with Lake Helen so the American Legion could promote a membership drive, pass out literature, and would also pass out any literature that the City of Lake Helen has. He noted that the \$500 fee for a booth would be waived as a Community Service Project if the city partnered with them.

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Commissioner Benton motioned to approve partnering with the American Legion for a booth at the Volusia County Fair.

Commissioner Cooke seconded the motion.

All zones and the Mayor voted yes. The motion passed unanimously.

BI-MONTHLY REPORTS:

- a. **City Engineer** – No Report.
- b. **Local Planning Agency (PLDRC)** – No Report.
- c. **Historic Preservation Board** – No Report.
- d. **Parks and Recreation Board** – No Report.
- e. **Ad Hoc Cemetery Committee** – No Report.

5. **PUBLIC FORUM:** No cards were turned in.

6. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None for this meeting.

7. COMMISSION CONSIDERATION:

A) Consideration of request by the Boy Scouts to post signs in Lake Helen for their yearly Halloween Haunted House tours.

Joe Brennan approached the podium and said that Troop 590 was having a haunted house on October 24, 25, 29, 30, and 31. He asked for permission to post eight (8) signs and to have the fees waived by the City Commission.

Commissioner Benton motioned to approve the signage.

Commissioner Cooke seconded the motion.

All zones and the Mayor voted yes. The motion passed unanimously.

B) Consideration of request by Don Waldrop for the City of Lake Helen to contribute funds to pay for a Christmas holiday concert.

Lynn Waldrop, 210 Rose Avenue approached the podium and noted that her husband, Don Waldrop, has put on four (4) concerts in the city free of charge to the attendees. She said they were unable to find private donations to cover their expenses this year, except for \$100. She said that was the reason they were asking the city to donate \$750 for the concert. **Chief Chester** added that the Teen Program would be providing refreshments at the event.

Commissioner Cooke noted the reduction in their cost.

Commissioner Robbins motioned to expend \$750 for the concert.

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Commissioner Cooke seconded the motion.

Commissioner Benton noted that the expense would put the city further into the deficit and that at this time the city wasn't even sure they would be able to hold its annual Christmas party or the Christmas Ball because of the lack of funds. He indicated that he wouldn't have a problem with it if the city didn't have to use the Reserve Fund.

Commissioner Cooke said that there was money in the Parks and Recreation Budget.

Commissioner Benton noted that the money for Parks and Recreation was allocated for certain yearly events that didn't include a Christmas concert.

Commissioner Cooke asked **City Administrator Don Findell** about the budget being able to absorb the cost of the concert. **Mr. Findell** responded that the monies in the budget were to be used at the desecration of the City Commission. **Commissioner Cooke** said he missed the concert last year but heard how great the concert was so he didn't want to miss it this year.

Commissioner Robbins noted that it was "standing-room only" at last year's concert. She added that the city does everything for the children and she felt it would be nice to have something for the adults.

Chief Chester noted that having events like Market in the Park was so the city would have the funds to have events for the citizens. He said that in the future he would be coming before the Commission to ask for permission to hold the annual Christmas Ball. He added that hopefully, Market in the Park would off-set some of the costs.

City Administrator Don Findell indicated that the concert should become a city event rather than a private event so that the expense could be covered within the activities the city engages in.

Commissioner Snowden added he shared his enthusiasm with **Commissioners Robbins** and **Cooke** but noted that only approximately one-hundred and fifty (150) people would be able to attend the concert because of the limited space at the city facilities. He said that he also agreed with **Commissioner Benton** that the budget is tight. **Commissioner Snowden** said that he would support the matter for the amount of \$500.00 but not \$750.00.

Mayor Duffy said that because the city wasn't even able to give it's employees raises and because of all the other expenses the city had to deal with, she couldn't support it. She noted that if the concert was being held in conjunction with the Home Tour where more people would attend, she would be supportive. However, she would be inclined to compromise and agree with the \$500.00 that **Commissioner Snowden** suggested.

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Commissioner Cooke said that he would rescind his second to the motion because he agreed with **Commissioner Snowden** and the amount of \$500.00 instead of \$750.00.

Both **Commissioners Cooke** and **Robbins** offered to donate \$50.00 personally.

Commissioner Robbins rescinded her motion.

Commissioner Robbins motioned to expend \$500 for the concert.

Commissioner Cooke seconded the motion.

All zones and the Mayor voted yes. The motion passed unanimously.

C) Consideration of Resolution No. 2008-16 establishing a Charter Review Committee.

Mayor Duffy read the following: **“RESOLUTION NO. 2008-16: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAKE HELEN, FLORIDA ESTABLISHING A CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE, ASSIGNING ITS DUTIES AND DURATION, PROVIDING AUTHORITY FOR EXPENDITURES; PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS; PROVIDING FOR A METHOD OF PROVIDING LEGAL AND STAFF ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMITTEE AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND A DATE FOR TERMINATION OF ACTIVITIES.”**

Commissioner Snowden asked **City Attorney Ken McIntosh** if the City Commission would have input as to the members of the Charter Review Committee.

Mr. McIntosh answered in the affirmative and added, “Section number nine (8) indicates that the City Attorney and the City Administrator are directed to assist the Charter Review Committee in its' organization and all functions thereafter. They'll be available to accomplish those endeavors.”

Mayor Duffy asked for a motion.

Commissioner Cooke motioned to approve Resolution No. 2008-16 establishing a Charter Review Committee.

Mr. Findell explained, “The Resolution doesn't require you to do anything else tonight. It's just a Resolution that confirms the consensus direction that you gave at the previous meeting to prepare a Resolution to establish a new Charter Review Committee. That's what this Resolution does. As Mr. McIntosh indicated, it provides the frame work in which that Charter Review Committee will work. It provides for staff assistance; it provides for legal assistance; it provides for the Charter Review Committee to seek testimony and information from other individuals and organizations as they deem appropriate. It would allow them to reach an informed conclusion as to what they think is the best governance for the City of Lake Helen for you to consider at a later date. It further establishes that they will perform their work within

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a one hundred and eighty (180) days period after the committee is constituted. You can take the time that you need to take to determine who you wish to appoint to that committee. You would appoint both a member and an alternate. The alternate would not be a voting member, accept in the absence of committee member. The alternate would attend meetings and participate in the discussion. The reason they would do that would be so that they would be able to perform their duties in an informed manner when the member was not there.”

Commissioner Snowden said he would second the motion for discussion purposes.

Commissioner Snowden said, “We're all aware that is or has been, within the city, a group of individuals evaluating the charter – had, in fact, attempted to enter items on the ballot to be voted on this year. Those did not make the timetable to get on this year's ballot. I don't know the position those individuals have taken as of this date. (However) I do think it's important that the city take a position and take a posture on the review of our City Charter so as to be prepared and at the same time allow input from those people that have like interests and concerns in the community. To that extent I would support the approval of this Resolution, though I am steady-fast in my belief that we have a solid Charter. Nothing is bulletproof and it certainly could be tweaked here and there. (However) I certainly think it is a good instrument that has guided the city for a period of time.” **Commissioner Snowden** indicated that someone should be there to prepare the direction for the city.

Commissioner Cooke indicated that he agreed with **Commissioner Snowden** but felt that some of the wording could be improved upon. He said that was the only reason he made the motion.

Commissioner Benton said that his problem with it was that he felt the new Charter Review Committee would attempt to re-write the charter using a City Manager form of government like the previous Charter Review Committee did. He reminded everyone that a City Manager form of government was voted against eight years ago. He indicated that several years ago, a Charter Review Committee was formed and staff was not involved though the City Attorney was. He said that he disapproved of staff being involved and consider that to be a 'stacked deck.'

City Administrator Don Findell said he believed he could address some of **Commissioner Benton's** concerns. “I had this conversation with Wayne (Bishop) myself the other day and although he's clear in his opinion – when I had the conversation with Wayne, he indicated that the purpose of the Charter Review Committee in the context in which he had been proposed, is to have an open discussion and open forum to look at the advantages and disadvantages of each of the forms of governance that are available to the city. Wayne (Bishop) agreed that if we were going to do that we certainly needed to be able to look at the advantages and disadvantages and we needed to prepare for the City Commission a document that was based on information rather than on personal opinion. I had my personal opinion as well and my personal opinion is based on my thirty (30) years plus in government. I think that most people that know me, know that I feel that my job is one of providing information to the entities

and groups that I work with and although I may have a particular leaning or I might have a particular bias, my first and foremost responsibility is to provide information upon which they can make an informed decision. So as far as staff being involved – **Lou (Commissioner Benton)** may see that as an issue or a detriment, I see that not as a detriment obviously because staff involvement, just as legal involvement, brings something to the table that doesn't otherwise exist.”

Commissioner Benton indicated that the average citizen believes that a City Administrator and City Manager is the same thing but he said that wasn't true. “A City Manager is a one-man power.”

Commissioner Snowden said that the Charter Review Committee was just a committee that provides recommendations to the City Commission. The City Commission can review and debate its' findings or proposals.

Commissioner Benton recalled when he sat on a Charter Review Committee back in 1999 and all of their proposals were directed at having a City Manager. He felt the other forms of government would not even be discussed.

City Attorney Ken McIntosh directed the Commission to see Section 9 of the Resolution. “I have tried to eliminate that which is generally categorized as 'stacked deck' influence from those that serve as City Attorney and City Administrator. It indicates on line three (3) however, the City Commission may also authorize the services of such other attorneys, consultants, and advisors as it deems appropriate. You can totally and completely eliminate your City Attorney and/or City Administrator from any directive capacity with reference with this Charter Review Committee and the only thing they can do is be called upon at a Public Meeting for input as any other citizen. That's why the 'stacked deck' language has been introduced in Section 9.”

Commissioner Robbins said she had a question about Section 5. It reads, “The City Commission may from time-to-time authorize expenditures for the Charter Review Committee in the performance of its duties as provided in this Resolution.”

Commissioner Robbins asked if anyone could tell her what the cost would be.

Mr. McIntosh responded, “First thing is that you're going to have to have a clerk that is going to be present at all the meetings in order to take the minutes. You're going to have to have the Minutes available for perusal or in the alternative, they must be reduced to writing. The rest of the expenses depend upon the needs that the Charter Review Committee advances with reference to the tasks that it undertakes. As far as estimated expenditures is concerned, that depends upon the depth of the review that is conducted.”

“This particular Resolution requires two Public Hearings and it requires as many other meetings as the Charter Review Committee deems necessary.”

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“You may be assured that there is not always representation from the standpoint of attorney services, consultants, advisors, or others at each of those meetings. It depends upon the mandates and desires of the Charter Review Committee in order to analyze a potential budget. I would not hesitate to indicate to you that it appears to me that the budgetary mandates of the Charter Review Committee of the City of Lake Helen would be somewhere in the amount of \$1,500 to \$3,000.”

Commissioner Snowden reiterated his feelings that the city needs to take a position. “Either we are solemnly behind the Charter that we have or we have concerns that the Charter does need to be reviewed in light of the issues that have been brought up by the community and the previous Charter Review Committee. I think our vote should probably reflect that. I don't have a comfort level of believing that the citizens that were opposed to some of the language in the Charter would be happy with it today. So there may be a future endeavor to have someone besides the City Commission attempt to influence or change the Charter. If we're going to do that or face that threat, I certainly would hope that the city would appoint a committee to do that.

Commissioner Benton asked **Mr. McIntosh** if someone from the public wanted to put something on the ballot, would it change the Charter?

City Attorney Ken McIntosh responded, “If someone wanted to initiate what we classify as a petition for an initiative in accordance with the dictate of state statutory mandate, they can if you please sir, indicate to the City Commission of the City of Lake Helen what their desire is from the standpoint of an initiative. An initiative generally takes on the characteristics of a declaration from citizens based upon an executed petition revealing the matters that they want the City Commission to center and undertake with regard to a Charter Review. How many items can be reviewed? That depends upon the valid statement and the clear unequivocal summary that is presented with each valid statement. Sometimes there's one (1), sometimes there's two (2), and I can remember one of the local municipalities that had thirty-nine (39) in a petition intervention. That is the method that is available for individuals, if they desire, to try to make amendments to a Charter – to do so by initiative.”

Commissioner Benton asked if the initiative had to have sixty percent (60%) of the vote.

Mr. McIntosh said that he wasn't positive but he thought it was sixty percent (60%) of the qualified registered voters “of the specific political or municipal subdivision of the State of Florida.”

Mayor Duffy called for the vote.

All zones and the Mayor voted yes. The motion passed unanimously.

7. D. Proposed Market in the Park/Temporary Signage for Market in the Park.

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Chief Chester approached the podium noting that the City Commission had been provided with the memorandum on the above issues. He said that he would like to add to the rules that no fireworks or firearms could be sold.

Mayor Duffy asked **Mr. Findell** if he had researched the signage allowable. **Mr. Findell** indicated that the City Code under Sign Regulations includes an exemption for signs for governmental units or agencies on public property or public right-of-way. He indicated that he spoke with the City Attorney and both men agreed that temporary signs served the public welfare because the activity is to generate funds for the city and that Market in the Park serves the citizens of Lake Helen. Therefore, the signs would be consistent with the ordinance.

Commissioner Benton asked how long the signs would up displayed.

Mr. Findell indicated that **Chief Chester** had suggested he would put the signs up for one month, which is allowable by the Code but another month extension is available.

Commissioner Benton said he was agreeable with the one month time limit but he wanted **Chief Chester** to come back before the City Commission for an extension.

Commissioner Benton motioned to allow the signs for a one month period, after which **Chief Chester** would come back to the City Commission for an extension if necessary.

Mr. Findell explained that **Chief Chester** did not have to do that under the Code. The signs are exempted. **Commissioner Benton** disagreed.

Chief Chester said that if he felt he needed an extension, he would be back before the Commission.

Commissioner Robbins asked if the \$400 he was granted would also be used for the preparations of the signs. **Chief Chester** answered in the affirmative and added that the money would also be used for flyers, and advertising.

Commissioner Benton noted that the \$400 would be recouped from the Market in the Park revenue that is generated.

Commissioner Snowden seconded the motion.

Mayor Duffy indicated that **Chief Chester** had said that the revenue generated from Market in the Park would go toward the 4th of July celebration. **Chief Chester** said that it was his desire but that it would be up to the City Commission. He said that it would be fine with him for the money to go into the Parks and Recreation Budget.

A general discussion took place between **Mayor Duffy**, and **Commissioners Robbins** and **Benton** in regards to where to use the revenue from Market in the Park.

Commissioner Robbins asked **Mr. McIntosh** if he was agreeable to the Rules for Market in the Park. **Mr. McIntosh** answered in the affirmative.

All zones and the Mayor voted yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Benton objected to the rule “No promotional materials may be passed out in the park during Market in the Park” noting that it was election time. **Chief Chester** explained why he had that in the rules and that he hadn't considered political candidates.

7. E. Proposed revision of the Police Station office hours opened to the public.

Commissioner Benton motioned to approve of the change in hours.
Commissioner Cooke seconded the motion.

All zones and the Mayor voted yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Benton informed the public that the new office hours would be from 8:00 a.m. To 4:30 p.m.

7. F. Recommendation to hire Kelly Snowden as Assistant Teen Program Director at the hourly rate of \$7.00 an hour.

Chief Chester explained that she would be filling a position that had been vacated and noted that she would be paid for through the grant.

Commissioner Benton motion to approve the hiring of Kelly Snowden as Assistant Teen Program Director at the hourly rate of \$7.00 an hour.
Commissioner Cooke seconded the motion.

All zones and the Mayor voted yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Snowden noted his appreciation for Chief Chester to develop a set of rules for Market in the Park.

City Attorney Ken McIntosh said, “The vendors rules in reference to having a specific table is an excellent rule. As you view activities in Central Florida where vendors are afforded the opportunity to move around, sell and pass out promotional materials – I hate to indicate to you but they end up in fist fights and it becomes a tremendous problem to any kind of park marketing. And I was very pleased to see that the chief introduce that section, spaces, and charges.”

8. COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

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A) Discussion to appoint three individuals to serve on the City of Lake Helen Canvassing Board to canvass the ballots at the General Election.

Mayor Duffy asked if that was required this year.

Commissioner Benton suggested that since there was some confusion, he and **Commissioner Cooke** would choose the three individuals to serve on the City of Lake Helen Canvassing Board to canvass the ballots at the General Election. If they aren't needed that would be fine and if they are needed, the individuals have been selected. **Mayor Duffy** concurred. **City Clerk Nancy Wilson** said she thought the city did need canvassers. **Commissioner Cooke** suggested that the canvassers should be from City Hall and City Commission who know how the process is handled. **Commissioner Robbins** and **Snowden** and **City Clerk Nancy Wilson** volunteered to carry out the duties of canvassers.

Mr. McIntosh instructed **Mayor Duffy** that action should be taken on the issue, "In accordance with the declaration of notice – taking action on any matters relating to city government at the aforesaid meeting." He continued, "I think you're fully authorized to do that."

Mayor Duffy asked for a motion.

Commissioner Cooke motioned to appoint **Commissioner Robbins** and **Snowden** and **City Clerk Nancy Wilson** to serve on the City of Lake Helen Canvassing Board to canvass the ballots at the General Election.

Commissioner Benton seconded the motion.

All zones and the Mayor voted yes. The motion passed unanimously.

9. STAFF REPORTS:

a. City Attorney – No Report.

b. Police Chief – No Report.

c. City Administrator. **Mr. Findell** noted that Animal Control issues had been discussed at the previous staff meeting and that one of the things that had been decided was to set up a temporary housing facility within the old Commission Chambers. The purpose of the temporary housing facility would be to allow a little bit longer period of time to house the animals so that more animals could be transported at one time. It would also give the City time to keep the animal a little bit longer, which would benefit the citizens by allowing them a little time to retrieve their pet without having to travel outside the city to retrieve it. **Mr. Findell** noted that the issue is just in the discussion stages.

Commissioner Benton indicated that the old Commission Chambers was not adequate

because it didn't have floor drains. **Commissioner Cooke** suggested the Lemon Avenue well sight as an area the animals could be retained. **Mr. Findell** noted that the issue was just in the discussion stage but that the Lemon Avenue sight would not be appropriate because of the expense to build something off sight. **Commissioner Benton** indicated there was a health issue to consider, too. **Mr. Findell** concurred.

Mr. Findell further indicated that he had read some literature containing "Red Flag Rules Legislation" and that apparently that legislation will require Lake Helen to develop a program to minimize the opportunity for identity theft associated with the operation of the Water Utility. He added that it was complicated and he has just started working his way through it. **Mr. Findell** said, "It appears municipalities are subject to those regulations as well as other private entities like banks and other lending institutions." Mayor Duffy noted that these federal regulations are not funded.

d. Code Enforcement Officer – No Report.

10. MAYOR'S REPORT AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS BY ZONE

Zone 1 Commissioner Robbins said she was pleasantly surprised to notice, after she returned from vacation, that road-base had been applied to her street without her requesting it. Connecticut, Baker, and Jackson streets also need road-based material. She noted that Connecticut had some really bad potholes. **Commissioner Robbins** then asked if there was an update on the Communication Tower. **City Administrator Findell** responded that he had spoken with representatives of the tower company last week and that they are discussing various alternatives that might be available to make the tower viable for the tower company. He indicated that the tower company will be selling space on the tower since they are not a provider themselves. They are also discussing maximizing revenue to the city.

Commissioner Robbins stressed that she did not want to see Lake Helen lose this revenue.

Mr. Findell responded, "That is a possibility but the city has never taken the position in the past that they felt that a tower was a desirable thing to have in the city so this is a kind of new ground rule. We're going beyond what we consider to be something that is beneficial to the city from an aesthetic standpoint and an image standpoint. We are looking to accommodate a tower that is, for lack of a better term, somewhat tasteful because we'd be looking at a camouflaged tower, which in this case might likely be a flagpole-type of tower located at the ball field. That's kind of the trade-off – we're selling part of our image in order to make money but we want to ensure that if we do that, the money that we make is reasonable and represents a reasonable return for the selling of that image." He added that he wanted to stress that point. He continued, "One of the things that makes an area marketable is its location. At this point what makes us marketable is the fact that there is kind of a gap in the communication network between here and Deltona."

Commissioner Robbins stressed that she felt the city needed to generate more revenue during these hard times and noted that the city has a monopoly on it.

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Mr. Findell concurred and added that is what makes city property valuable to the tower companies. It's because of its location and added that the zoning already exists for it. "I understand the concern and I certainly understand the possibility of not having a tower in the final analysis but at the same time if we do have one we want to make sure that we look at it for the long term and not the short term and that we maximize our revenue for the long term."

Zone 2 Commissioner Cooke said that Florida Power is likely to furnish the pole for the siren sitting down at the maintenance shop. They have asked their legal department to look into the installation of it. He also indicated that he, Mr. Findell, the county and DOT is to meet so that they can finalize the landscaping for the I-4 entrance.

Zone 3 Commissioner Snowden said that he had the opportunity to meet a new resident of Lake Helen named Don Guest and he just wanted to introduce him.

Zone 3 Commissioner Benton asked **Mr. Findell** how the Water Department was doing on the installation of the new touch meters. He also noted that many of the touch meters that have been installed have the wrong covers and wanted to know if the problem had been solved. **Mr. Findell** indicated that he didn't know and didn't realize there was an issue with the new touch meters. **Mayor Duffy** said that she knew new covers had been ordered a couple of weeks ago. **Mr. Findell** indicated that in answer to **Commissioner Benton's** first question – meters were being replaced as time permits, "which is to say is that it is going very slowly. In my opinion, if the city wishes to complete that project in a timely fashion, they're going to have to allocate the resources in order to accomplish it. That means that they're going to either have to hire additional staff to do it or they're going to have to hire additional contractors to do it." **Commissioner Benton** disagreed and insisted that one or two employees are assigned to that project. **Mr. Findell** said, "That person doesn't work 100% in (the) Water (Department). That person does everything everybody else does in Public Works." **Commissioner Benton** said, "His first priority should be the Water (Department)." **Mr. Findell** said that he didn't disagree and that if the City Commission wished to have him direct Public Works to replace water meters their principle priority and not have that employee address other city issues, he would do so. However, he indicated that there will be complaints when other things don't get done. **Commissioner Benton** indicated that winter was coming so the mowing of grass will conclude soon. **Mr. Findell** said that he had already directed Public Works to begin addressing the issues in City Hall. **Commissioner Benton** reiterated his concerns regarding the wrong covers on the water meters which means the meter-reader has to read them the old fashion way. **Commissioner Cooke** suggested that there shouldn't be a rush to install the meters until the correct covers have been obtained. **Commissioner Benton** reiterated his previous statements, then asked **Mr. Findell** if the employee that was going to school to get his water C license, got his books. **Mr. Findell** answered in the affirmative and added that the employee had to go through two (2) on line courses before he could study to take the test for his license. He added that he thought it would take approximately six (6) months before the employee would be able to get his license.

Commissioner Benton then informed the Commission of the progress being made in the museum room noting that the room should be completed in a very short amount of time.

Commissioner Cooke thanked **Commissioner Benton** for all the time he has put into the project to get it done in a timely manner. **Mayor Duffy** noted that the project had been organized well.

Commissioner Benton then said that he was happy to see the Police Department writing some (speeding) tickets on Lake Pearl Drive and extended his appreciation. He added that his neighbors have all called him telling him they were very appreciative about it.

Mayor Duffy announced that Neighbors-Helping-Neighbors would be held on October 18th so those who need some help or those who are willing to help may sign up at City Hall.

She also said the city is down to three men so an advertisement will be in the newspaper. It was suggested that an ad should be placed in the Penny Saver, too.

Mayor Duffy reminded everyone that Candidates Night was next Thursday.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Lake Helen, Florida was adjourned by **Mayor Duffy** at 8:47 pm.

Joan L. Duffy, Mayor

Pat Chadwick, Recording Secretary