

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Commission of the City of Auburndale held February 17, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Room of City Hall, after having been properly advertised, with the following members present: Mayor Tim Pospichal, Commissioners: Dorothea Taylor Bogert, Keith Cowie, Richard Hamann, and Jack Myers. Also present were: City Manager Robert Green, Finance Director/City Clerk Shirley Lowrance, City Attorney V. Patton Kee, and Police Chief Andy Ray.

Mayor Tim Pospichal declared a quorum present and the Meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Peg Roy, First Presbyterian Church and a salute to the flag.

**Motion** by Commissioner Dorothea Taylor Bogert, seconded by Commissioner Keith Cowie, to approve the Minutes of February 3, 2020, Regular Meeting. Upon vote, all ayes.

Parks and Recreation Director Cody McGhee said this weekend on February 22, there will be Opening Ceremonies for Youth Baseball at 8:30 a.m. and Miss Auburndale Softball at 9:00 a.m. The City will provide transportation for the Commission to the Miss Auburndale Softball ceremony, as they will be waiting for us. The Youth Baseball will have a salute to the Spivey Complex, as this will be their last year there. The new facility should be ready by fall ball.

City Manager Green went over the Agenda Items for the March 2, 2020 meeting.

- Second reading of Ordinance No. 1633
- Public Hearing and first amendment with the Joint Planning Agreement with Polk County. The first amendment extends the agreement for another one year agreement
- Two Interlocal Agreements with Polk County.
  - Agreement with Tourism and Sports Marketing for funding for the soccer stadium at Lake Myrtle. It was in the original design and part of the Lake Myrtle project in 2006. Through negotiations, the stadium was removed from the original construction. Now as a result of utilization and other things we want to attract, we want to have the stadium. The Tourist Development Tax would pay for design and permitting to bring the engineering and plans up to current code. At a later date, we will provide an Interlocal for the Tourism Development Tax dollars to provide funding for the stadium.
  - Promotion Agreement with Polk County through the Tourist Development Tax – a one-time- sponsorship at the Softball Complex for \$18,000. The funds will help us make some of the improvements proposed at the Girls Softball Complex – new batting cages, shades over the bleachers on two of the five fields, and landscaping. Also like at Lake Myrtle, all the Softball fields were laser shot to redo the clay to improve the play at the facility.
- Presentation to discuss the proposed Agreement between the County and City, where the City would take a portion of State Road 559. As reported, the State and the County have agreed on the swap with the State taking Berkley and the County taking what was State Road 559. We are waiting on those documents to be recorded. Before we go into the Agreement at the second meeting in March, we want to use the first meeting in March to discuss some of the things that will happen during the transfer between the County and the City of that portion that comes through the City.

Mayor Tim Pospichal asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

City Manager Green said we are very pleased to have Lakeland Police Lieutenant Tye Thompson and Lakeland Police Chief Rubin Garcia present.

Mayor Pro Tem Dorothea Taylor Bogert read the commendation for Lakeland Police Lieutenant Tye Thompson.

Tye Thompson introduced his wife, Denise Thompson.

## 1. ORDINANCE #1633 AMENDING FIREFIGHTERS PENSION PLAN – CANCER PRESUMPTION

City Manager Green said Florida Statutes were amended in 2019 to provide that upon a diagnosis of one of twenty-one cancers, a firefighter is entitled to certain benefits as an alternative to pursuing workers' compensation benefits. The law, which was effective July 2019, also gives broad rulemaking authority to the State to adopt best practices as it relates to personal protective equipment, decontamination, fire suppression apparatus, and fire stations. A firefighter that meets certain conditions will receive a \$25,000 lump sum payment; cancer treatment; reimbursement for out-of-pocket deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance; disability retirement; and a death benefit to the firefighter's beneficiary. To receive the benefits, the firefighter must be employed by the City for at least 5 continuous years, has not used tobacco products for at least the preceding 5 years, and not been employed in any other position in the preceding 5 years which is proven to create a higher risk of any cancer. If the firefighter elects to continue coverage in the City's group health insurance plan after terminating employment, the benefits of the health insurance plan must be made available for 10 years following separation. If the firefighter participates in the City's Firefighters' Pension Plan, the Plan must consider the firefighter totally and permanently disabled in the line of duty. The proposed Ordinance amends the City's Firefighters' Pension Plan to provide for the total and permanent disability due to the diagnosis of cancer or circumstances that arise out of the treatment of cancer. The cost for this benefit and amendment to the Firefighter Pension Plan is estimated by the Actuary (Foster & Foster) at .1 percent of the Fire Department Payroll. The proposed Ordinance was prepared by the City's Fire Pension Attorney, Christiansen and Dehner, and approved by the Firefighters' Pension Board on January 28, 2020. He said this was a statutory requirement and the Ordinance only amends the Pension Plan to provide for the disability, per State Statutes. Staff recommended approval of the Ordinance.

City Attorney Kee read Ordinance No. 1633, entitled: **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE FURTHER AMENDING THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE MUNICIPAL FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION TRUST FUND, ADOPTED PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 1347, AS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED; AMENDING SECTION 8, DISABILITY, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**, by title only.

Mayor Tim Pospichal asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

**Motion** by Commissioner Keith Cowie, seconded by Commissioner Richard Hamann, to approve Ordinance No. 1633, as read on first reading, by title only.

## 2. PRESENTATION ON VARIOUS PLANNING INITIATIVES – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

City Manager Green said we wanted the Community Development Department to update the Commission on various planning initiatives.

Community Development Director Amy Palmer said we have two planning initiatives that we are undertaking.

**Innovation District:** She displayed a map of the proposed Innovation District area. Last year, the Central Florida Development Council (CFDC) as well as the three Jurisdictions of Lakeland, Auburndale, and Polk County realized we have an opportunity in this area where SunTrax and Florida Poly are located and Advent Health has purchased 100 acres. There is a lot of vacant land there and a very good opportunity to do some planning activities and eventually some marketing activities as part of the economic development strategies of the CFDC to create the Innovation District with the live, work, play environment surrounding those three anchor tenants. In late October, the CFDC had a preview meeting at Florida Poly and the architects Straughn Trout and the Lunz Group did a preview of the Innovation District vision. They created visuals for the area and there was a lot of excitement in the area from different industries around the County, as well as the property owners. Excitement to be able to begin a marketing plan for the area and to actually have anchor tenants there. After the preview event, the CFDC hired Dr. Jim Farrell, out of Florida Southern to do an

Economic Impact Analysis, which is expected by the end of February. He has been working with Lakeland, Polk County, and Auburndale planners. He is taking a look at the maximum potential for build out of the area; what are the industries that FL Poly are promoting that the students are studying, what will come out of SunTrax, and the Advent Health. She said a recent addition to the member to team is the Central Florida Regional Planning Council. They realized there was an opportunity there to help us. We have three jurisdictions working across borders. She said she thought it would be good to have the Regional Planning Council to help shepherd this process, as we start looking at development trends and standards in the area. They will also be looking at Land Uses and Zoning and infrastructure in the area to ensure we have appropriate infrastructure to accommodate the growth. She said she hoped the Regional Planning Council would be organizing some community workshops in the spring or early summer. She said she would keep the Commission updated on any dates.

**The Lakes District:** She displayed the map of the Lakes District and said the boundaries are the lakes on the east side of Auburndale. There are large pieces of property owned by a few property owners. Last year we did a whole series of visioning activities with the property owners and community. Late last year, the City Commission endorsed the vision displayed for mixed-use village centers, for moderate density, more parks and recreation, more open space, to preserve wetlands and lakes, and to provide additional recreational activities in the form of trails. The step after the vision was implementation and we hired Kimley Horn to help with this step. They are analyzing our Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations to see how we can take this vision and implement it. We have chosen one pathway – the creation of one or two Future Land Use Districts in our Comprehensive Plan and develop a Zoning District that would help the Future Land Use category. She said this was sort of what we talked about when we did the endorsement of the Lakes District. She said it was a process and we will be involving the community in the process. She said there would be a community workshop on March 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Civic Center.

City Manager Green said there may be a conflict with the Ridge League of Cities dinner in Bartow and we may want to revise the date. He thanked Community Development Director Amy Palmer for the update. There are a lot of moving targets with both of these and we are pleased with where both of these projects are. Stand in adjournment for 5 minutes for CRA.

Meeting adjourned at 7: 25 p.m. for the Community Redevelopment Agency meeting to follow.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Minutes are true and correct.

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Shirley A. Lowrance, Finance Director City Clerk

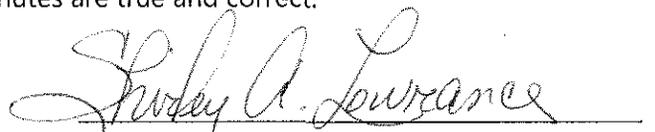
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