

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Commission of the City of Auburndale held February 1, 2021 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, and Police Chief Andy Ray.

Mayor Tim Pospichal declared a quorum present and the Meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Scott Hall of Higher Impact Ministries and a salute to the flag.

**Motion** by Commissioner Jack Myers, seconded by Dorothea Taylor Bogert, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting January 19, 2021. Upon vote, all ayes.

City Manager Green said the City was notified last week by the Government Finance Officers Association in a letter addressed to Mayor Tim Pospichal that they were pleased to notify us that our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for last year's audit ending September 30, 2019 qualifies for the GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. He asked that everyone join him in recognizing this achievement. He said this is the second year we have received the Certificate.

Finance Director Shirley Lowrance said to receive the Award there are many more steps the Department has to go through, such as statistics and more information for the citizens. The GFOA started the Award process in 1945 for the purpose of providing an easy-to-read document and the information in one place for the citizens. The most recent information about recipients of the Award is from 2018. There were 4,350 recipients nationwide and in Canada, and 2,117 municipalities. According to Wikipedia for 2012 there were 89,000 municipalities. She introduced Deputy Finance Director Chris Reeder, who started with us today. He worked for the City 20 years ago at the Tennis Pro Shop, he is an Auburndale graduate of 1995, and has his master's degree from Florida Southern. He worked for G. T. Nunez who was our previous auditor after graduating college, he knows our current Auditor Mike Brynjulfson well, as they worked together there. He has been working in the private market for 13 years or so and most recently employed by Sofidel, which is a toilet paper and tissue manufacturer. We are pleased to have him join our team.

Chris Reeder introduced his wife Sandra, who works for Advent Health in Celebration as an Executive Director over Transition, her parents Patty and Joe, his son Ayden, and his daughter Kailyn.

City Manager Green said at our last meeting, we had a special guest who kind of wowed all of us. She is the daughter of Fire Chief Brian Bradway - Amaya Brannon. She won the NFL Play 60 contest, which allows her and her family to go over to Tampa for the full week for the NFL experience. She will participate in the game by passing out the ball to the official at the start of the second half. Today she interviewed Tom Brady and Bruce Arians from the Buccaneers and this afternoon Patrick Mahomes and Andy Reid, the coach there. When the NFL film crew was in Auburndale last week, they filmed her in different locations and prepared a 90 second clip that will be shown during the Super Bowl, probably prior to half time. There will be everything from the Welcome to Auburndale sign to the fountain in Lake Stella to the clock tower downtown, to the downtown playground and Depot. We have all heard how much advertisement costs during the Super Bowl and the City of Auburndale because one of our residents won the contest will give us front page advertising. One of the things Amaya gets for winning the NFL Play 60 contest is to be the kid correspondent for Good Morning America. She will be on the show around 8:35 to 8:37 broadcasting live from the Super Bowl in Tampa. We are very excited for the Bradway's, for Amaya, and for the Auburndale community. He told

about the Lake Myrtle Sports Complex being used as a vaccination location. There were 12 stations set up for shots and the front parking lot was used for a staging area for the people to wait for 15 to 30 minutes after their shot. We had 949 vaccinations all through appointments and they will be back to this site for the second shot. The Health Department was pleased with the efficiency and location. The Miss Auburndale Softball opening will be February 20 and the Auburndale Youth Baseball opening will be February 27 at the new baseball facilities on Braddock Road.

Mayor Tim Pospichal said he was out there and the vaccinations were very flawless. They had a lot of great help from the Department Heads. He said he was proud of that.

Commissioner Keith Cowie commended the City crews for working in the Cemetery over the last two weeks cleaning up out there. He said he received a lot of positive comments and thank yous for that work. He said he wanted to pass it along while the Directors were here for them to share it with their teams. It was much appreciated by the citizens.

Teresa Morris, 200 Melissa Trail, she said she had a request. She said as you know, there is a lot of controversy over the proposed warehouse, storage facility on Adams Road and Hwy. 559. There was a Town Hall meeting on Thursday, January 28, and the meeting was not posted on the City's Facebook. She said she thought this was something that should have been posted. The Commission meetings are posted with a link to the agendas. Announcements and events for the City are posted. She said this effects a lot of people and if there were any more meetings could it be posted to the Facebook page.

City Manager Green said the Town Hall meeting was actually sponsored by the developers, their engineers, and staff, which may have been why it was not on our Facebook. He said we do not have a problem with getting the word out. City Staff asked the developers to do the meeting and we would not have known when it was set. We suggested it could be at one of the churches in the community. We need to get the word out as much as we can. He said it was sponsored by the developer. If the item does come back to the City, it will go back before the Planning Commission and the City Commission.

Teresa Morris said she knew they had to notify residents within 300 feet of the property. She asked if they could also post a sign the same as they did for the Dollar General.

City Manager Green said whatever the Code requires, but he thought they could do that. He said in a zoning request, he thought the property was posted.

Teresa Morris said the notice regulations it says they can give additional notice as called for by the circumstance.

City Manager Green said we can do this.

## **1. ORDINANCE #1655 AMENDING OFFICIAL ZONING MAP – KEYSTONE ROAD**

City Manager Green said at the last meeting, we had a presentation from developers requesting to amend the zoning map on Keystone Road and presented some discussion on a cluster development. The petitioner has requested the petition be pulled and also no action be taken on the proposed zoning Ordinance that was approved on first reading, which came to the Commission at the recommendation of the Planning Commission. He said Ordinance No. 1655 will simply show approval on first reading and have the notation that no farther action taken by the City Commission at the request of petitioner. The petitioner has suggested

their plans are to amend the expired Planned Development Zoning and Binding Site Plan. The request will go back as a Public Hearing before the Planning Commission and City Commission at later dates, which will be advertised. No action is to be taken by the City Commission and this item basically dies with no action on second and final reading.

## **2. REQUEST FROM GENERAL PUBLIC TO APPEAR BEFORE CITY COMMISSION – JOHN BENNETT**

City Manager Green said Mr. John Bennett, 209 Noxon Street, has requested to appear before the City Commission to ask consideration of relaxing the City Code to allow chickens in residential zoning areas.

John Bennett, 209 Noxon Street, passed out papers to the City Commissioners. He thanked the Commission for hearing him tonight. He said he has been a lifelong resident to Polk County and been tied to Auburndale for the vast majority of his life. He graduated from Auburndale in 1999, served four years in the Marine Corp, and came back home. He said during his entire life, he has been driven by the desire to be as self-sufficient as possible while keeping to himself and taking care of his family. Animal husbandry and general agriculture was an important part of his life. He said with this being said, he is standing here asking for the Commission to amend the zoning code for Auburndale. As it stands now, the municipal code prohibits free roaming poultry in Chapter 5, Article 2, Section 22 in the LDR's of the zoning code. He said the LDR's are not easily accessible in his searching. He said as long as can remember Auburndale has been a community centered in agriculture – citrus groves and cattle pastures. He said as long as he can remember he has known citizens to have chickens and maybe roosters and some a little more objectionable to the citizens. He said he could understand the prohibition on roosters and them being a nuisance. He said there was a time when we as a nation were encouraged to garden, raise chickens, and be self-sufficient. These times were especially important during times of hardship, financial or national distress or depression. He said it was a point of pride to be self-sufficient. He said chickens are easy to take care of – they provide eggs or meat. He said he could go to the store and buy eggs and we do not know what exactly is in them. Whether looking at it from a financial or quality prospective, home grown eggs may be preserved and kept for two years. He said please do not take any of his requests or actions to an extreme. He said he was not a conspiracy theorist. He said he does think there are potential harder times to come, especially as we recover from Covid. He said he attempted a petition in the face of Covid and has a total of 515 signatures, with 76 of them being Auburndale and 121 in Polk County. He said he was brought up to believe you do not ask for change if you do not offer a potential solution. His suggestion was to allow no more than 12 birds per residence, have a prohibition on roosters and guinea fowl due to the noise. He said we want to be respectful of our neighbors. He said he thought we should abide by guidelines. Most hatcheries or farms suggest 8 to 12 square foot per bird, so he suggested an average 10 square foot of run space per bird and 2 to 3 square foot coop space per bird. He suggested that everyone would be expected to maintain a certain level of sanitation to prevent the odor problem. He said if they are properly kept, there is no odor problem. He asked the Commission to take this into account and go from there.

City Manager Green said we have had email correspondence with Mr. Bennett and he was glad to finally meet. He said they did some quick research with other Cities that are also looking at this proposal. The City of Winter Haven was at one time saying no, it was not allowed and you would have to relax your code to allow it. Some other Cities that have entertained it have suggested no, they did not want to open that door. Those that are considering it are looking to putting it in certain zoning criteria – possibly one-acre tracts or more. We have a couple of subdivisions in Auburndale that are one acre in size. Others have restrictions as to where you would allow your coop to be in the yard, almost like a setback for an accessory unit. Others are limiting the number of chickens allowed. One of the things we have tried to do in Auburndale and have historically over the years done is look at what other cities were doing. If everyone else is allowing, then maybe we should relax our code or if everyone else is prohibiting then maybe we should not relax our Code. He asked the City Attorney who has a draft of the Winter Haven ordinance that is being considered to read a portion of the draft. Their draft ordinance has not gone before their Planning Commission and may not come before their City Commission until April. He said you may want to wait and take no action until you see what some of the other Cities are doing.

City Attorney Fredrick J. Murphy, Jr. said in Winter Haven, the City Commission will be considering on first reading on February 8, the following language: chickens as an accessory use shall be permitted in all zoning districts and the following standards shall apply to all zoning districts except in agricultural zoning districts. 1) chickens are limited to hens only, no roosters allowed. One chicken per 500 square feet or parcel lot area with a maximum of 15 chickens. A chicken coop must be present on the property in order to keep chickens. Chicken coop shall adhere to the accessory structure setbacks for the zoning district which it is located in. The chicken coop shall be a maximum of 125 square feet in area. The chicken coop shall be a maximum of 6 feet in height. He said to provide context for this matter, he understands that the Planning Commission for Winter Haven had their meeting on January 5 and unanimously voted to recommended approval of the request and there were no public comments. He said the Winter Haven Commission has not talked about this yet. He said this is something happening in another jurisdiction and he could do research to see what is happening in other jurisdictions.

City Manager Green said as a text amendment, the text amendment would go before the Planning Commission for a recommendation and then come back before the City Commission. He said it could be April or May before a final decision would come before the Commission.

Commissioner Dorothea Taylor Bogert asked if we move forward with something like this, would the HOA subdivision rules be maintained. She asked if the Commission superseded the HOA rules.

Attorney Fredrick J. Murphy, Jr. said he would think not. He said he thought properly adopted rules of an HOA would govern. He said he would verify this.

City Manager Green said we have had calls to Code Enforcement that resulted in the Code Officer going out were the situation was pretty bad. Residents have called when they heard this was being considered and said they would like to appear before the Commission to object to the relaxing of the Code.

Mayor Tim Pospichal asked if this would open it up to the coops being inspected and the coops being permitted or licensed.

City Manager Green said it is all what winds up being in the Code. If the Commission puts those standards in the Code, then that becomes the law.

Commissioner Keith Cowie said currently we have some restrictions on the number of domestic pets you may have, such as dogs and cats. He asked if this would play into the number.

City Manager Green said in Seminole County, they do permit the coops as part of the building structure that has to be inspected. Some Cities limit the permits that are issued to residents with chickens. We do have other Cities that are looking at it and you may just want to see the response they get from their citizenry and then bring it back.

Commissioner Richard Hamann asked that the Keystone Subdivision plat be shown on the screen. He said thinking out loud, if all the lots on the back side of the road wanted a chicken coop and 12 chickens per house – now you have a chicken farm.

City Manager Green said depending on the setbacks for the coop, you may not have enough setback to even allow the coop. Relaxing the Code might create work for Code Enforcement as a result of 13 chickens or 14 chickens. He said there are a lot of issues and he thought we need to study that.

Commissioner Dorothea Taylor Bogert said she appreciated Mr. Bennett's cognizance of the fact that one of biggest issues with chickens is noise. She said her sister at one time had 300 chickens and it is the roosters and guineas that are really loud. She said she appreciated him bring that point.

Commissioner Jack Myers asked Mr. Murphy to go over the allowed number of chickens from the proposed Winter Haven ordinance.

City Attorney Frederick J. Murphy, Jr. said one per 500 square feet parcel with a maximum of 15 chickens.

Commissioner Richard Hamann asked about free-range chickens. He asked if we are going to open Pandora box for free range chickens down the road.

Commissioner Dorothea Taylor Bogert said she thought if we think cautiously about the parameters that free range chickens do coop, but they have to have a certain amount of space and acreage and she did not think they would be a problem. She said now if they are on the street you could impound and destroy them.

Commissioner Jack Myers said he did not remember fencing being mentioned, if you had chickens.

City Attorney Frederick J. Murphy, Jr. said it required a coop if you had chickens. He said they would not be fenced as he understood the intentions of the present proposal.

Commissioner Jack Myers asked Mr. Bennett was he asking for free range or cooped.

John Bennett said he was asking that they be cooped with a run of a minimum of 10 square foot per bird. The coop would be a separate structure of 2 to 3 foot per bird.

Commissioner Jack Myers said to a lot of people this has become a fad. It is becoming popular and he would like to wait to see what Winter Haven does and then put some thought into this. If we have a Public Hearing and open it up to the citizens, if the citizens want it, as a government we should provide it if there is no public safety issue. If it is going to be more of a stress to our Code Enforcement, we have look at that. He said he has not had anybody else request it.

Commissioner Dorothea Taylor Bogert said it has been brought up to her by a couple of people. She said she thought Seminole County has had chickens for a long time. She said Oviedo is known for their free-range chickens. She said she thought if we look at some of the Codes that have had them for a long while, just to see if it is something we might want to consider. She said she thought it was trending.

Commissioner Jack Myers said he thought the Counties have allowed them for a long time and it is just the Cities ordinances that have not.

John Bennett said the way the LDR is written, even open use agriculture prohibits chickens.

Mayor Tim Pospichal thanked Mr. Bennett for the discussion. He said he liked the idea of giving it time and see what other cities are doing. He asked City Attorney Murphy to keep them in the loop on the discussion on what other cities are doing.

City Manager Green said his office will stay in touch with Mr. Bennett.

City Fredrick J. Murphy, Jr. said from his prospective from defending the Code one way or the other, professional staffing and professional planning input from Ms. Palmer, Mr. Green, and staff will be helpful to identify these use issues.

Commissioner Jack Myers said it might be helpful for the citizens to know why it was put in the LDR's in the first place.

City Manager Green said it was consistent in the LDR's throughout all of municipalities. It is a use you would expect on Deen Still Road, but not expected in the City. He said we will bring this back.

Mayor Tim Pospichal thanked Mr. Bennett.

### **3. DONATION OF PROPERTY TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – T E WILLIAMS ROAD**

City Manager Green said In September 2018, the City acquired two parcels of property located at 0 T E Williams Road and 319 T E Williams Road through Code Enforcement within the city and county. The 0 T E Williams property was located in the county at the time of acquisition and annexed into the City in December 2018. The property received a Future Land Use classification of Low-Density Residential and Zoning classification of Single Family Residential-3 or RS-3 in February 2019, identical to the 319 T E Williams property. A title search determined several potential interests in the properties that did not permit the City to donate the properties to Habitat for Humanity with clear title. In November 2020, a Summary Final Judgement Quieting Title was granted to the City allowing the properties to be donated. Due to condition of the buildings that existed on the properties, the City has demolished all structures and cleared the lots to allow for future development. The properties have also been subdivided to allow Habitat to build two single-family houses on the vacant lots. Warranty Deeds donating the properties to Habitat for Humanity of East Polk County, Inc. were prepared by the City Attorney and reviewed by the City Manager's Office. He thanked the Police Chief and Assistant City Manager for working on this property. We got the lots via code enforcement and we foreclosed on the property. We now have the title and are ready to deed the property to Habitat of Polk County. Staff recommended approval of the property donation to Habitat for Humanity of East Polk County.

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

**Motion** by Commissioner Keith Cowie, seconded by Commissioner Dorothea Taylor Bogert, to approve the property donation to Habitat for Humanity of East Polk County. Upon vote, all ayes.

### **4. APPOINTMENT TO FIREFIGHTER'S PENSION BOARD**

City Manager Green said the Firefighter Pension Board recommendations is to appoint Jonathan Waters as the 5<sup>th</sup> Member to the Board. The vote was taken on January 26, 2021, with a 4-0 vote. He is the owner of Epic Towing on Lake Avenue and a resident of the City. Staff had no objections to the request.

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

**Motion** by Commissioner Dorothea Taylor Bogert, seconded by Commissioner Keith Cowie, to appoint Jonathan Waters as the 5<sup>th</sup> Member for the Firefighter Pension Board. Upon vote all ayes.

### **5. RESOLUTION #2021-01 RECOMMENDING SAFETY MEASURES TO SLOW COVID-19 TRANSMISSION**

City Manager Green said in January, the positivity rate for COVID-19 averaged 15.76% in Polk County during a two-week period. This represents a positivity rate more than three times the rate of July 2020. There are now an average of approximately 500 positive cases a day compared to 90 per day two months ago. Although vaccinations are now being administered to limited segments of the population, a significant reduction in transmission is not expected to materialize until at least early this summer. The proposed Resolution is similar to the one adopted by the City of Lakeland on January 19, 2021 and being considered by other municipalities within Polk. The proposed Resolution is not a mandate, nor imposes civil or criminal sanctions upon either individuals or businesses failing to comply with the request. The proposed Resolution simply recommends and urges in the strongest possible terms that all citizens, businesses, and organizations

of the City of Auburndale observe and follow safety measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 within the City of Auburndale and surrounding communities. He said it is very similar to action the City Commission took several months back in 2020. However, at that time we did not adopt a formal resolution encouraging that and make a position on behalf of the City. Staff recommended approval of Resolution #2021-01 recommending safety measures to slow the transmission of COVID19 within the City of Auburndale and surrounding communities.

City Attorney Frederick J. Murphy Jr. read Resolution No. 2021-01 entitled **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE, FLORIDA RELATED TO PUBLIC HEALTH; MAKING FINDINGS; RECOGNIZING THE CURRENT RAPID SPREAD OF COVID-19 WITHIN THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY; RECOMMENDING THE ADOPTION OF SAFETY MEASURES TO SLOW THE TRANSMISSION OF COVID-19 WITHIN THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**, by title only.

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

**Motion** by Commissioner Richard Hamann, seconded by Commissioner Keith Cowie, to approve Resolution No. 2021-01, as read by title only.

Commissioner Dorothea Taylor Bogert said she wanted to clarify that there was no mandate and we were not trying to impose on what businesses are doing within the confines of their establishment.

City Attorney Frederick J. Murphy, Jr. said we were encouraging it. There is no requirement.

Upon vote all ayes.

## **6. DISCUSS CITY MANAGER POSITION – MAYOR TIM POSPICHAL**

Mayor Tim Pospichal said the City Commission will consider the promotion of Assistant City Manager Jeff Tillman upon the pending retirement of the City Manager. The City Commission on January 19, 2021 gave consensus to considering the Assistant City Manager Jeff Tillman for promotion following the retirement of the City Manager. Mr. Tillman was requested to present a proposed employment agreement for consideration and to be prepared for a public interview by the City Commission at the first meeting in February. He said he has taken the liberty to acquire some questions and you may use the questions or not, but this will give us a starting point. Each Commissioner will ask Mr. Tillman a couple of questions. After the questions, we ask Mr. Tillman to leave the chambers for our discussion. When we have reached the end of our discussion, we will ask Mr. Tillman to come back in and tell him what we have decided.

City Manager Green said for the ease of your decision and discussion, he would like to be excused if it was the pleasure of the Commission. He said this would give the Commission the opportunity to take part in the discussion with the Assistant and having no pressures on the Commission or the applicant. He left the chambers.

Mayor Tim Pospichal thanked Mr. Tillman for sending his employment agreement.

Commissioner Dorothea Taylor Bogert thanked him for seeking this. She asked him what he believed was his greatest strength and greatest weakness.

Assistant City Manager Jeff Tillman said thank you all for the opportunity to interview for City Manager. He said Auburndale was a special place and he looks forward to potentially being the next City Manager for such a wonderful place. He said he looks forward to the opportunity to keep it a great place to live, work,

and play. As far as strengths, he started working for the City of Auburndale when he was 16 years old and he knows the Auburndale community well. He said he had the opportunity to grow and work for the City of Lake Alfred as their Parks and Recreation Manager. He worked there for a number of years under two different City Managers. He went on from there to work for the City of Kissimmee in their management team. It is a much larger community of about 70,000 people, when he was there. He said he got to see how they operated there. He went on to become the Assistant City Manager in Panama City and moved up there with his family. He got an opportunity to see how they ran their community there. Each community is completely different in the makeup of the community. In Panama City they had a City marina and a dockwa which is pretty much a RV Park on the water and rented out spaces to the tenants. He said he thinks he takes that as a strength as he brings a lot of different experiences to the table for the City of Auburndale. He said he hoped as he moves forward, as those decisions and challenges get presented before us, I am able through my experience to make those good decisions and move forward. He said as far as a weakness, he has not been a Manager. But going back to his strengths, he thinks he will be able to make good decisions because he has worked for so many good managers and seen many many challenges that have been presented before them.

Commissioner Dorothea Taylor Bogert asked what his experience was working with local business and community groups.

Assistant City Manager Jeff Tillman said he thought the experiences in the CRA's. Even working in Panama City, the CRA's had a big component and a tie into the businesses, in helping to support and grow those businesses. In looking at the redevelopment grants in our City, we have completed five CRA grants and have another one six that are somewhere in the development process. Just the outreach there and working with those businesses, he thought there was great experience there, in working with them to help them accomplish their goals of creating a business here in the City of Auburndale.

Commissioner Keith Cowie thanked Mr. Tillman for going through the interview process tonight. He said his question is about what he calls threats and opportunities. He asked what he thought were some of the larger challenges that the City faces and his thoughts on how to address those.

Assistant City Manager Jeff Tillman said as we grow to the north there are natural challenges moving forward. He said you cannot grow north, if you do not have water. The PRWC is bringing all the municipalities together to try to solve water. On the other side of that, when you turn the faucet on you want your water to come out but when it goes down the drain it has to go somewhere. It goes to our waste water treatment plant and we have to have spray field capacity to get rid of the effluent water. He said he knew this was a challenge as more subdivisions get developed in Auburndale - where are we going to locate those spray fields. It is providing all the different services as we grow and those subdivisions start to come into the City, we have to provide the top-notch Police and Fire services that all of our residents expect and that they get today. We have to continue that top notch level of service and then all the different wants of the community, whether it is trails or green spaces. As we grow to those areas, we have to identify what we want as a community. He said you hear those things as we talk about the Lakes District.

Commissioner Keith Cowie said his other question revolves around diversity. He said it was certainly important that our work force represents our community, including the leadership within the City. He asked what ideas you have to champion that idea of diversity.

Assistant City Manager Jeff Tillman said he agreed that the workforce should represent the community that they serve. He said it was so important to be able to relate to one another. We have recently been trying to recruit diversity into our workforce through hiring practices in extra help positions. He said you cannot sit back and wait for applications to come into the City of Auburndale. He said he thought you have to go out and recruit and show men and women of different backgrounds that there is an opportunity in the City of Auburndale and this is a great place to work and establish a career. We have done this in a few departments by hiring them on as extra help. Some have started in one Department and decided maybe they want to be

a police officer. We are working with others in the Fire Department. He said he thought you have to reach out and show them there is an opportunity in the City of Auburndale and then help them get the education to get the Fire Standards or go to the Police Academy or whatever it is, you have to encourage that. He said he thought he was committed to that moving forward in making sure our workforce represents our community.

Mayor Tim Pospichal said public infrastructure is usually out of sight out of mind until it fails. He asked what process or approach he will use to ensure that infrastructure is continually maintained.

Assistant City Manager Jeff Tillman said you definitely have to identify where you are having issues. Currently as we look to resurface Main Street from the triangle up around Old Polk City Road down to Hwy 92, we have some infrastructure as far as stormwater and sewer lines we are trying to line them before we resurface. He said there are other areas of that pipe, the same pipe that runs from the Lakeshore lift station to the Allred Wastewater Treatment Plant, that are corroded from the gases that are naturally in the pipe. We have to get a plan in place. Once we line the one section, we may want to move all the way out to the Allred Treatment Plant, so we do not have bigger issues down the road and get it done all at one time. He said he thought it was a matter of identifying those types of needs and getting a plan in place and get it taken care of.

Mayor Tim Pospichal asked when he came to Auburndale as Assistant City Manager.

Assistant City Manager Jeff Tillman said in October 2016.

Mayor Tim Pospichal asked him to describe the most innovate project or accomplishment that he could take direct credit for implementing.

Assistant City Manager Jeff Tillman said he did not think he could take direct credit for anything. He said we have a great team here and it really does take the whole workforce. He said he will say the PK Project was the big CRA project. As the Assistant, he was over the CRA. He said we had Parks and Recreation, Police, Fire and Utilities putting in the meters. He said it was kind of all hands-on deck, full City workforce accomplishment. The PK Project was most certainly one of the most innovative projects done in the City recently. We took a four-lane road and turned it into a two-lane road with rain gardens. We introduced the speed indicators there that you see now around Lake Ariana and we are continuing on to the north side. They have been so successful on PK, as the average speed limit is 28 miles per hour and the speed limit is 35. He said there were a lot of good aspects that came out of the PK Project. He said he has had different people from around the State call to ask how and why PK was done and what were some of the challenges. He said you have to be able to be committed to the maintenance after a PK Project. He said he thought we have been here, as we have a great staff from the CRA workers, weekend help from Parks and Recreation, and the Street Department. We are committed to keeping it looking the way it does whenever anyone drives by.

Commissioner Richard Hamann thanked Mr. Tillman for this evening. He asked if you were to receive the position of City Manager how much would you depend on your Department Directors.

Assistant City Manager Jeff Tillman said you absolutely cannot do it alone. Mr. Green did not do it alone and he most certainly would not be able to do it either. We have some great Department Heads here in the City of Auburndale. They do a fantastic job every day and they have a bunch of great people who are committed to the City of Auburndale every day. He said it takes working with all of them and it takes all of us to get the job done. He said he most certainly looks forward to the opportunity.

Commissioner Richard Hamann asked his feelings in replacing someone that has been a commodity for over

30 years here in the City of Auburndale.

Assistant City Manager Jeff Tillman said he has heard that question a lot and “those are big shoes to fill and I would not want to follow Bobby”. He said he does want to follow Bobby because Auburndale is a great place to live, work, and play. He said he comes into a great staff. We have great challenges ahead of us to help Auburndale grow moving forward and he was excited about that. He said he is going to take his experiences from all the different communities, as we make those decisions and move forward. He said it is going to be Jeff Tillman’s decision at the end of day along with everyone else’s help and the Commission’s input. He said he had to be his own person and he understood that too.

Commissioner Jack Myers said we use to have a lot to do with the media, as they covered the City. We do not have Public Relations person in the City of Auburndale nor do I think we need one, as Mr. Green has handled that. He asked if he had the experience or expertise or felt comfortable in handling the media in a crisis.

Assistant City Manager Jeff Tillman said he has had experience with the media. He said Panama City is unique as it is isolated in the panhandle – Pensacola is two hours to the west and Tallahassee is two hours to the east. They have two television stations and a local newspaper there and when there were not stories going on, they would come see us in the City Manager’s Office and ask if we had a story. He said he got comfortable with that and was on the news about once a week with a CRA project. He said he feels he has a comfort level there. In working with the Communication Information Manager Seth Teston as media requests come in, we work with the newspapers. He said he feels comfortable.

Commissioner Jack Myers asked if he remembered the first thing he ever stole.

Assistant City Manager Jeff Tillman replied, “my mother’s heart”.

Commissioner Jack Myers said he has asked that question to a lot of people he has interviewed, and he has not got that answer.

Motion by Commissioner Richard Haman, seconded by Commissioner Jack Myers, to offer the position to Mr. Tillman and if he accepts to have the Mayor sign the Agreement.

Mayor Tim Pospichal said he was going to ask Mr. Tillman to leave and then we would discuss. He asked the City Attorney if we needed two motions – one for the employment agreement and one for the promotion to City Manager.

City Attorney Frederick J. Murphy, Jr. said he thought it could be done in one motion. He understands the motion by Commissioner Hamann to be hire Mr. Tillman as the City Manager effective April 3, 2021 and at the same time approve the employment agreement that was presented to the Commission for approval.

Mayor Tim Pospichal asked for discussion.

Commissioner Jack Myers said he did not want to make light of this, but he has talked to a lot of folks in the City and privately to Jeff. He said he feels really good about this.

Commissioner Richard Haman said he concurs with Commissioner Jack Myers. He said he feels really confident that Mr. Tillman can handle the position and keep our City moving forward.

Commissioner Dorothea Taylor Bogert said she concurs and appreciates Commissioner Keith Cowie’s question about diversity. She said it was important for our City and she appreciated the answer Mr. Tillman

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had on that to move forward with that.

Commissioner Keith Cowie said he concurs with everyone. He said he has had the opportunity to work with Mr. Tillman for several years in different capacities on the CRA Board, as most of you have as well. He said he also had the opportunity to speak with him one and one recently and he did not think we could make a better choice in hiring Mr. Tillman as our next City Manager.

Commissioner Dorothea Taylor Bogert said it was a flawless transition.

Mayor Tim Pospichal said ditto.

Upon vote, All ayes.

The Commissioners congratulated Jeff Tillman.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

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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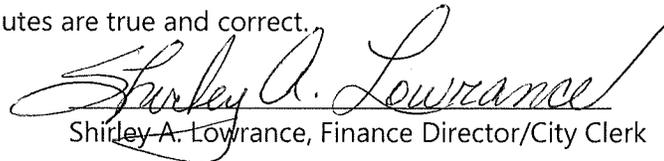
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Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

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Shirley A. Lowrance, Finance Director/City Clerk