

City of Auburndale Commission Minutes May 1, 2023

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Commission of the City of Auburndale held May 1, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Room of City Hall, after having been properly advertised, with the following members present: Mayor Dorothea Taylor Bogert, Commissioners: Keith Cowie, Richard Hamann, Jack Myers, and Bill Sterling. Also, present were: City Manager Jeffrey Tillman, City Attorney Frederick J. Murphy Jr., City Clerk Brandon Henry, and Police Chief Terry Storie.

Mayor Dorothea Taylor Bogert declared a quorum present, and the Meeting was opened with prayer by Michael Mariner, Spirit Life Ministries, and a salute to the flag.

Motion by Commissioner Cowie, seconded by Commissioner Hamann, to approve Minutes of the City Commission Meeting of April 17, 2023. Upon vote, all ayes.

City Manager Jeffrey Tillman announced that the National Day of Prayer Breakfast will be this Thursday at 7:30 a.m. at the Auburndale Civic Center.

Mayor Taylor Bogert recognized Greater Auburndale Chamber of Commerce President Alex Cam, who was in attendance.

She asked if there was public comment on any item not on the agenda. There was no public comment.

City Attorney Frederick J. Murphy Jr. read the Commendation for student-athlete Gavin Chastain, Auburndale High School 139-lb. State Champion Weightlifter.

Auburndale High School Principal Tye Bruno commended Mr. Chastain. He started at Auburndale High School three years ago and knew he wanted to weightlift since the very beginning. Every year since being a freshman he has been in the state tournament. It is remarkable that he has moved weight classes every year. We are super proud of him and happy that he is a Bloodhound. We cannot wait until next year because he could be wearing two rings.

1. ORDINANCE #1741 AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP – EPCAR PROPERTY

City Manager Tillman said the next four items come before the City Commission on second reading.

Community Development Director Julie Womble said as a result of annexation, the City has received a request to amend the City of Auburndale's Future Land Use on +/- 5.83 acres from Polk County Future Land Use of Linear Commercial Corridor (LCC) to City of Auburndale Future Land Use of Commercial Corridor and establish a Zoning classification of Commercial Highway (CH).

The amendments are consistent with the existing commercial development of the surrounding properties. The requested Future Land Use and Official Zoning Map Amendments are consistent with the City of Auburndale's Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations.

The Planning Commission recommended approval of the Map amendments on the EPCAR property (5-0, 04/04/2023).

City Manager Tillman said the proposed Ordinances were prepared by the Community Development Department and reviewed by the City Manager and City Attorney. The proposed Ordinances were approved on first reading April 17, 2023, and are being presented for second and final reading. Staff recommends approval of proposed Ordinance #1741 amending the Future Land Use - EPCAR Property.

City Attorney Frederick J. Murphy Jr. read Ordinance No. 1741 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 752, THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE, FLORIDA, BY AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP RECLASSIFYING 1 PARCELS OF LAND TOTALING +/- 5.83 ACRES FROM POLK COUNTY FUTURE LAND USE CLASSIFICATION LINEAR**

COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR (LCC) TO CITY OF AUBURNDALE FUTURE LAND USE CLASSIFICATION COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR (CC); AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE (GENERAL LOCATION: US Hwy 92 W. and Polk Pkwy.), by title only.

Mayor Taylor Bogert asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Hamann, seconded by Commissioner Sterling, to approve Ordinance #1741 amending the Future Land Use Map – EPCAR Property, as read on second and final reading by title only. Upon vote, all ayes.

2. ORDINANCE #1742 AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP – EPCAR PROPERTY

City Manager Tillman said staff recommends approval of proposed Ordinance #1742 amending the Official Zoning Map - EPCAR Property.

City Attorney Frederick J. Murphy Jr. read Ordinance No. 1742 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 764, THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS OF THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE, FLORIDA, BY AN AMENDMENT TO THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP BY ESTABLISHING AUBURNDALE ZONING MAP CLASSIFICATION OF COMMERCIAL HIGHWAY (CH) ON 1 PARCEL OF LAND TOTALING +/- 5.83 ACRES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE (General Location: US Hwy 92 and Polk Pkwy.),** by title only.

Mayor Taylor Bogert asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Sterling, seconded by Commissioner Cowie, to approve Ordinance #1742 amending the Official Zoning Map – EPCAR Property, as read on second and final reading by title only. Upon vote, all ayes.

3. ORDINANCE #1743 AMENDING LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TEXT – DEFINITIONS

Community Development Director Womble said in working with developers, the Land Development Regulations (LDR's) need a description for mini warehouses/self-storage. Chapter Four (4) of the Land Development Regulations provide terms and definitions to assist with simple interpretation and technical assistance for planning. Due to growth and new requests for self-storage, definitions are needed.

The definition is recommended based on research conducted from Polk County Land Development Code and the American Planning Association, A Planners Dictionary. All development criteria, specified within the Land Development Regulations or Comprehensive Plan, will still dictate permitted or prohibited uses and standards.

The definition will read as follows - Mini warehouse: A continuous building, group of buildings, with a fixed permanent location on the ground, divided into separate compartments used to meet the temporary small storage needs of businesses and residential uses. Units are accessible to the lessees through individual doors. Mini warehouses can contain covered RV's, boats, and vehicles storage. Also defined as a self-storage facility.

To clarify a question asked at the last meeting, this definition also includes climate-controlled self-storage facilities.

The Planning Commission recommended approval of the proposed Land Development Regulation Text Amendment (5-0, 04/04/2023).

City Manager Tillman said the proposed Ordinances were prepared by the Community Development Department and reviewed by the City Manager and City Attorney. The proposed Ordinance was approved on first reading April 17, 2023, and is being presented for second and final reading. Staff recommends approval of proposed Ordinance #1743 amending Land Development Regulations text – Chapter 4 Definitions – Mini Warehouses.

City Attorney Frederick J. Murphy Jr. read Ordinance No. 1743 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 764, THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS OF THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE, FLORIDA, BY AMENDING CHAPTER 04 DEFINITIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**, by title only.

Mayor Taylor Bogert asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Cowie, seconded by Commissioner Hamann, to approve Ordinance #1743 amending Land Development Regulations text – Chapter 4 Definitions – Mini Warehouses, as read on second and final reading by title only. Upon vote, all ayes.

4. ORDINANCE #1744 AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TEXT – SOLID WALLS

Community Development Director Womble said the City Commission has requested language in the Land Development Regulations to create consistent standards in development for solid walls between residential and commercial uses and subdivisions. Solid walls are currently required in some Planned Developments to separate uses and create a buffer. To encourage the same standards throughout the Land Development Regulations regarding solid walls, research was conducted and the following language is proposed.

The Land Development Regulations would incorporate the use of solid walls:

Chapter 5:

- A solid wall shall be provided to minimize the impact of nonresidential development on any abutting residential district.
- The Administrative Official may also require additional appropriate fences, solid walls or vegetative screening between mixed use development that includes residential.
- All nonresidential uses adjoining any residential district shall require a solid masonry wall, minimum 6 feet in height.
- All residential subdivisions along collector, urban collector and arterial roads shall require a solid masonry decorative wall, a minimum of 6 feet in height. A solid fence is required along perimeter sides and rear property lines of the subdivision.

To clarify a question from the last meeting, the solid masonry wall would be along the road, and around the perimeter would be just a fence.

Commissioner Myers asked this is for a planned development?

Community Development Director Womble answered Chapter 5 is for a current zoning category. So a residential zoning district. Chapter 6 goes over planned developments:

- All Residential Planned Development subdivisions, along collector, urban collector and arterial roads, shall require a solid masonry decorative wall, a minimum of 6 feet in height. A solid fence is required along perimeter sides and rear property lines of the subdivision.
- PD-H1 and PD-H2 adjacent to conventional single family residential developments shall follow the rules for solid masonry walls and solid fences.
- Take out the options of 100-foot separation of uses with no wall required and require solid wall with standard 25-foot setback.

- Fences, walls, or vegetative screening shall be provided where needed to protect residents from undesirable views, lighting, noise or other adverse off-site influences, or to protect residents of adjoining properties.

Chapter 15 is for the Lakes District:

- More flexibility for mixed use in Village Center, based on design.
- The Administrative Official may require along collector, urban collector, arterial roads, perimeter sides and in transition areas, solid walls, fences, or vegetative screening to assist in separation of uses.
- Residential Neighborhood shall have solid walls along collector, urban collector, and arterial roads. The Administrative official may require solid fences along perimeter sides and rear property lines of the subdivisions to assist in separation of uses.

The Planning Commission recommended approval of the proposed Land Development Regulation text amendment (5-0, 04/04/2023).

City Manager Tillman said the proposed Ordinances were prepared by the Community Development Department and reviewed by the City Manager and City Attorney. The proposed Ordinance was approved on first reading April 17, 2023 and is being presented for second and final reading. Staff recommends approval of proposed Ordinance #1744 amending Land Development Regulations text – Chapter 5 Zoning, Chapter 6 Special Provisions, PUDs, Cluster, and Chapter 15 Special Overlay Districts – Solid Walls.

City Attorney Frederick J. Murphy Jr. read Ordinance No. 1744 entitled: **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 764, THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS OF THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE, FLORIDA, BY AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS OF THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE, FLORIDA, BY AMENDING VARIOUS CHAPTERS TO ESTABLISH POLICIES REGULATING SOLID WALLS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**, by title only.

Mayor Taylor Bogert asked for public comment.

Jerry Gaddis, 538 Arneson Avenue, asked if there will be appearance standards?

Community Development Director Womble answered that we already have standards of what a solid masonry wall needs to have.

Motion by Commissioner Hamann, seconded by Commissioner Sterling, to approve Ordinance #1744 amending Land Development Regulations text – Chapter 5 Zoning, Chapter 6 Special Provisions, PUDs, Cluster, and Chapter 15 Special Overlay Districts – Solid Walls, as read on second and final reading by title only.

Commissioner Myers said be aware that we are giving administrative officials the ability to make the call on what will be required in the back and sides. So when a developer says they do not agree, note we are giving authority to staff to make that call. These regulations will be for years to come, and preferences may change. Just be aware of that.

Upon vote, all ayes.

5. DISCUSSION ON LAKE ARIANA PARK

City Manager Tillman said at the April 3, 2023 City Commission Meeting, the City Commission directed staff to look into addressing undesirable activity at Lake Ariana Park and on Lake Ariana. We have had a lot of activity at Lake Ariana Park. We have heard complaints from the residents regarding unsafe boating activity, as well as trash and loud music. Staff over the last two weekends have been doing enforcement activity with the Police

Department and Parks and Recreation staff, as well as working with the Sheriff's Office and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to help enforce water rules on the lake. It has been a joint activity and he appreciates Police Chief Terry Storie and Parks and Recreation Director Cody McGhee and their departments for their enforcement. From the City Manager's Office, it has been received favorably as far as comments being received into the office. We have been copied to several emails from residents that live along Lake Ariana that expressed appreciation for the enforcement.

Police Chief Storie said it has been a busy couple weekends for the Police Department. We have had a large presence at the boat ramp. He presented photos of their activities. We utilized the Sheriff's Office boat and the Polaris that was purchased a year ago. That vehicle has been a dream. He thanked the Commission for the purchase, we used it to get back and forth out in the park at a quick pace. We have been soliciting the help of the Sheriff's Office with their boat. They are not always able to be there, so we also solicit the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. We rotated officers on that boat for training and experience. We have gotten a tremendous amount of positive feedback about the enforcement. The first weekend was the weekend of the 22nd. We had 10 separate issues, we trespassed two people. Swimming is a big deal, people do not understand why we will not allow them to swim. We are educating that it is a water quality issue, they are more receptive to that. On the lake, we had 12 boat stops – equivalent to traffic stops on the water. It was for careless speed and boating. Once the Sheriff's Office boat was in the water and we were patrolling, that dropped off significantly. On the second weekend, no jet ski renters were observed. In fact, just a few hours ago, he said he tracked down one of the people out there renting jet skis and handed him a letter to stop, not until you get into compliance. People this weekend stayed in smaller groups. They are learning to conceal their alcohol. Officers confront people coming back from Fantasy Liquors to ensure they did not bring alcohol back into the park. There was one disturbance this last weekend with a male who decided to leave before we took him off the property. In anticipation for what might be in the future for the Police Department on Lake Ariana, last week we sent our traffic unit to a forty-hour National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Comprehensive Boating Accident Investigation and Analysis Level 1 Course. We anticipate sending them to a Level 2 course in the future. Just this week, they started another forty-hour course in Vessel and Trailer Operations, so they will be trained in boating operations. We have had good feedback. The officers have been saying everybody loves us being out there. It has been a lot of community involvement. We are ready to go to the next step.

City Manager Tillman thanked Police Chief Storie. He appreciates their efforts. The enforcement does not come without a cost. If we were to continue the enforcement for the summer, we would pull from existing resources. We would have patrol units come in over the next six months, they would come off the traffic unit into the park for Saturdays and Sundays. There is a cost for those officers. There is also a cost to have Parks and Recreation staff there. From a staffing standpoint, the cost would be pulling from other resources. The cost is about \$37,000. From an operational standpoint, having the Polaris and other anticipated equipment needs, we are looking at about a \$10,000 increase above the standard operating costs we have today, for a total annual operating cost of about \$47,000 to operate continuously. From a capital standpoint, we have reached out to the Sheriff's Office regarding acquiring one of their boats at no or a reduced cost. It is likely something that would not have to come back to the Commission, but we would need to get the boat transitioned, so there would be decaling and refurbishment expenses. There could be a capital expense as well to have no wake zones. We tried to enforce no swimming at the park. Visibility is the issue, you are supposed to see four feet deep. That visibility has been intermittent, and it is the Health Department that requires that four-foot visibility. That is why we do not allow swimming. He believes it is a State law that allows us to enforce no wake policies. From an operating standpoint, you are looking at upfront costs and an annual operating cost to continue enforcement, pulling them away from other responsibilities. Staff recommends continuing enforcement. Even after yesterday, despite intermittent weather, it was as busy as he has ever seen, even when the beach was operational. It was packed. He would recommend we continue that enforcement to keep it a family-friendly environment. He said Chief Storie went

over some of the issues that we have had out there. Continued enforcement will only encourage proper behavior. The residents will be very appreciative of the continued enforcement efforts. With the costs associated with this, there may be a potential, if the activities continue, of exploring how we offset the expenses. Years ago, we charged fees to get into the Beach. We charged City residents one rate, and nonresidents another rate. We would look to return to a similar model. We researched the City of Destin, they currently do not charge residents a fee and issue them a sticker at no cost – they pay it through their ad valorem taxes. On the nonresident side, they charge each unit a \$10 fee. A car of people is one unit. A truck with a boat is two units. A truck and two jet skis are three units. A \$10 fee per unit would be staff's recommendation if we need to get into charging at the park. There would be a capital expense to charge at the park. He is not recommending charging right out of the gate; we should monitor it and see how the enforcement works. He would like to monitor it and bring back suggested rate changes if the Commission is agreeable to that model. But there would be an upfront capital cost for getting a ticket booth. We have reached out to Polk County Tourism and Sports Marketing, as they have a trailer they operate at events. We do not want to get into permanent costs knowing that we have park redevelopment in the next couple of years. We may be able to address these issues through the redevelopment. In addressing the way the park works, how do we charge people to come in. He summarized the proposed ticket booth location and entrance. He would not recommend putting the road back in – there used to be a road that connected from the entrance into the parking lot. Due to the redevelopment, it is not worth putting the road in. There is the ability to start charging and through redevelopment, we would look for permanent traffic maneuvering options during the design. We would also need an additional staff member to sit in the ticket booth during weekends, which adds additional cost; and the upfront cost of the booth itself, around \$15,000 for a semi-permanent structure. Staff recommends continuing enforcement at Lake Ariana Park and purchasing needed capital equipment, such as the boat at a low cost from the Sheriff's Office, and shift resources to staff the park.

Commissioner Myers said let us think about trying to do this without the permanent structure, of just having staff there. Just go around to everybody and let them know we will be charging. Then you can go the next weekend and go around to every vehicle and charge a fee and put a pass on their window. That way you are approaching them already, in almost an enforcement way, so they know we are there and they can ask about rules. Just a suggestion that we may want to consider, because it is a short time before the park redevelopment.

Commission Cowie asked we are not contemplating charging right now?

City Manager Tillman answered no, he would bring that back for formal approval from the Commission at a later date.

Commissioner Myers said when he worked at the park in the 70s and early 80s, we charged higher rates for nonresidents. He likes the Destin model. We get people coming into the park from outside the county. He lives on the lake and in talking with neighbors he saw more people using the lake that live on the lake that have not used it at all because it was taken over by all the jet skis and other activities.

Mayor Taylor Bogert asked if we need consensus on how to move forward with the Phase I plan.

City Attorney Murphy said City Manager Tillman is looking for consensus.

Mayor Taylor Bogert asked if we have consensus to continue the enforcement and to bring back Phase II for a formal presentation and approval.

City Manager Tillman said it is a phased approach. We do not want to incur too many costs up front. We will see what the enforcement activity does. Having the capability to have Police on the water and control when we have officers out there is very much needed. The Sheriff's Office and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission are great partners, and they are out there as much as they can be. But even this past weekend, they are committed elsewhere, so we cannot completely rely on them. This allows staff to continue working with the

Sheriff's Office to get a boat from them and to allow us to be on the water. On having a boat, there are also other reasons to have one.

Mayor Taylor Bogert asked this also includes holidays?

City Manager Tillman said the staffing proposal is operating from early March through Labor Day. Any holidays or times we feel like we need staff out there, we have the ability.

Commissioner Hamann asked what the \$47,000 a year covers?

City Manager Tillman said it is for the six-month period, having staff there on the weekends and holidays.

Commissioner Hamann asked if that includes trying to get the Sheriff's Office boat?

City Manager Tillman answered no, that number is just the staffing. The Sheriff's Office boat would be an additional one-time cost.

Commissioner Myers said that is why he is leaning towards charging. He does not think the citizens of Auburndale ought to bear the brunt of the cost of having extra staff and enforcement there.

Mayor Taylor Bogert asked if it is really an extra cost, or just a transfer?

City Manager Tillman said it is a cost, in that you are taking away from other resources.

There was consensus from the Commission to move forward.

City Manager Tillman said seeing there is consensus, he will move forward with working with the Police Chief and Parks and Recreation Director to continue the enforcement efforts.

The Commission expressed gratitude.

City Manager Tillman said he will keep in communication as they monitor it over the weekends. It is a popular destination, and we want to keep it a family friendly environment. If we feel we need to continue large enforcement efforts, we would look to bring back some kind of charging component.

6. PRESENTATION OF PAYROLL – FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND FISCAL YEAR 2025 ANNUAL BUDGETS

City Manager Tillman said City Staff has started the process of preparing the Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 Biennial Budgets. Each month leading up to and in advance of this year's Proposed Budget Presentation on August 7, 2023, the Commission and Staff will publicly address various sections of the Budget as follows:

- Payroll – May 1, 2023
- Capital Outlay – May 15, 2023
- Expenditures – June 19, 2023
- Revenue – July 17, 2023
- Budget Presentation – August 7, 2023
- Commission Day Activities – August 14, 2023
- Budget Public Hearings – September 7 & 19, 2023

The Payroll Section of the Budget provides the necessary funding for the staffing levels to adequately deliver an accepted level of service to our citizens. In addition to salaries, the Payroll Section provides incentive funding for certifications and education, longevity pay, and automatic adjustments for employees completing the one-year probationary period or completing four, six, and eight years of service. He explained the City's recruitment and retention incentives. We have started to see a decrease in employees with over five years of longevity, due to the retirements of our longest tenured employees and global economic conditions. In the Fiscal Year 23/24

budget, 48% of employees will receive longevity pay. In the Fiscal Year 24/25 budget, 52% of employees will receive longevity pay. In the Fiscal Year 23/24 budget, 72 employees will receive a 2% probation increase. In the Fiscal Year 24/25 budget, 38 employees will receive a 2% probation increase. The proposed budgets provide a 3% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all City employees in Fiscal Year 2024 and no cost-of-living adjustment in Fiscal Year 2025. This has kept us competitive in the market. We do not normally propose a cost-of-living adjustment in the second-year budget due to evolving economic conditions.

The proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Payroll Budget operates with a staffing level of 207 full- and part-time employees, an increase of nine (9) full-time employees. He explained the proposed positions that include:

- 2 – Fire Department: Firefighters
- 2 – Police Department: Police Officers
- 1 – Police Department: Support Services Clerk
- 1 – Public Works: Service Worker III (Sanitation Claw – Truck Driver)
- 1 – Parks & Recreation: Service Worker II (Event Lake – Lake Myrtle)
- 1 – Public Utilities: Service Worker III (Lift Station Technician)
- 1 – Public Utilities: Service Worker II (Regional)

The proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Payroll Budget reflects reclassifying a Part-Time Utility Billing Clerk and part-time Code Enforcement Officer to full-time and restructuring the Fire Department to include a Shift Commander position in the chain-of-command for each shift. He presented graphics depicting the current and proposed organizational charts for the Fire Department.

The 2023 Salary Study prepared by Creative Insights of Lutz and University of South Florida Professor John Daly identified several issues important to staying competitive with the local job market particular to certain positions within the City. He said Dr. Daly was very complimentary of the City of Auburndale and our approach. City Manager Tillman explained the methodology of the Salary Survey. Based on the Salary Study the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Payroll Budget also reflects a pay adjustment for four (4) employees based on the Salary Study including the Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation, Librarian, Fire Marshal, and Recreation Supervisor at the Community Center as well as grade adjustments to the Code Enforcement Officer, Accreditation Manager, and Administrative Assistant positions.

The conceptual Fiscal Year 2025 Payroll Budget proposes an increase of seven (7) full-time employees. He explained the proposed positions that include:

- 2 – Fire Department: Firefighters
- 1 – Police Department: Sergeant (Detective)
- 2 – Police Department: Police Officers
- 2 – Public Utilities: Service Worker II (Water Distribution & Lift Stations)

He presented a graph depicting the total number of City employees between 2014 and 2025. He presented a graph depicting the total number of employees per department for Fiscal Year 23/24.

Staff recommends tentatively approving the proposed Payroll, as presented by City Staff. Formal adoption of the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and conceptual approval of the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget will come after the scheduled Public Hearings in September.

Commissioner Myers asked if we maintain the lift station ourselves or do we subcontract it out?

City Manager Tillman answered there are lift stations that are maintained by individual neighborhoods.

Commissioner Myers said he is talking about the backup generators to the lift stations.

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Public Utilities Director John Dickson said we use an outside company. The preventative maintenance for generators will be in May. It may be time to look at doing it in-house.

Commissioner Myers said we have quite a few generators.

City Manager Tillman said we are in the number of 20 lift stations that are continuously maintained. They vary in size.

Commissioner Myers asked what kind of percentage increase are we looking at for payroll compared to the previous year?

Finance Director Christopher Reeder answered 4.4%.

Mayor Taylor Bogert asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Myers, seconded by Commissioner Hamann, to tentatively approve the proposed Payroll, as presented by City Staff. Upon vote, all ayes.

Mayor Taylor Bogert said she is remiss to ask for public comment on Agenda Item #5 regarding Lake Ariana Park. She asked for public comment for Agenda Item #5.

Jerry Gaddis, 538 Arneson Avenue, said if Agenda Item #5 were a motion, he would rise to speak in opposition. He does not understand the issues going on in the park, and he understands being uninformed is a dangerous position. We all grew up here, and we all spent time at the park and worked there. It seems to him that the City is trying really hard to make sure that the people of Auburndale do not use that land the way they used it for the last hundred years. He does not understand why. And now we are going to spend more resources to shut it down and kick people out and make it harder to use, instead of spending time and resources to make it better. He does not understand it. Maybe now is not the time or place for this discussion.

Commissioner Myers said he can give a lot of the people's views around the lake, himself being one of them. People are coming from Osceola and Orange Counties and taking over the lake with jet skis. They are leaving trash behind. The citizens of Auburndale are taking the brunt of the expense. It has gotten so bad that we feel we can not even use our own lake, because the jet skis are going behind us to go over wakes. It is out of control and we needed to do enforcement before someone got killed or injured. That is his opinion and thinks that is the opinion of people on the lake.

Mayor Taylor Bogert said there have been a lot of noise complaints and alcohol use. Swimming has not been permitted for many years. She worked there her entire youth, so she understands why people are angry. But it was not really the City of Auburndale. But that is why it was brought to our attention, because we have had numerous complaints about the individuals down there. Most of them are not City of Auburndale residents, or even nearby. Most are from out-of-county.

Mr. Gaddis asked do we know that, or do we believe that?

Commissioner Hamann answered we know that.

Mayor Taylor Bogert said we have not done a study.

Commissioner Myers said they are renting jet skis and advertising it in Kissimmee and Poinciana.

Commissioner Hamann said back in the day, the reason we cut off swimming is because of the Health Department shutting us down. We did not even make enough money to pay for a lifeguard.

Mr. Gaddis asked what are we doing to improve the water quality in the lake?

City Manager Tillman said we have different stormwater projects. The PK Avenue project comes to mind, that was predominately for Lake Lena, but it addressed some of Lake Ariana. Stormwater projects are very expensive. PK Avenue was about \$4.7 million. With the way Lake Ariana developed, there were different stormwater standards than there are today – so a lot of stormwater drains directly into Lake Ariana. The way the Health Department addresses it – in order to have a public bathing area i.e. swimming area, you have to see four feet deep and regularly test water quality. We will continue to try to do stormwater improvement projects, but they are very expensive. They are multi-million dollar projects to address a lake as big as Lake Ariana, so it is a very long term solution.

Commissioner Myers said he has had conversations about taking all the runoff around Lake Ariana and diverting it to the wetlands where the school has the environmental station.

Commissioner Hamann said you need to get people to stop fertilizing their yards which run off into the lake.

Commissioner Myers said we can do that too. Other cities have ordinances regarding fertilizer.

Mr. Gaddis said he would be happy to continue the conversation offline. But what he is hearing is that the Commission does not want other people to use their lake, even though it is not safe enough for themselves to use.

Mayor Taylor Bogert said no, he is misinterpreting that. She would be happy to sit and talk with him one-on-one with him. The lakes are public, and anyone can use it. What we do not want is a misuse. Swimming is a misuse, alcohol is a misuse, loud noise is a misuse. It has improved with the enforcement. It is not that we do not want people to use it, we do not want people to misuse it.

Mr. Gaddis said the second half of his comment is that the Commission does not want people to use a lake that is not safe enough for the people that live on it to use.

Commissioner Myers said he got joy seeing activity come back to the lake in the beginning. It was vibrant when he was a child growing up. But when it gets vibrant to the point of a public health and public safety issue, we need to address it. And that is what the constituents are calling on him to do. He is hearing it loud and clear that it is out of control and needs to be addressed.

Mr. Gaddis said he appreciates it and is happy to continue the conversation. It just feels like we are trying very hard to make sure that the lake is not used the way it has always been used. If the issue is the quality of the lake, he has not heard the solution.

Maulissa Braverman, 1918 Lake Ariana Boulevard, said she appreciates all the efforts that staff has done to police the lake. We live on the lake and it does not matter what time of night or day, the jet skis are out there. Even going out there and conversing with the people from Osceola – they come here because there is no charge and policing. They do whatever they want to. It really destroys the docks and investments homeowners made to making their lakefront area nice. She is not saying we need to put up a structure and start ticketing, but she definitely thinks having a police presence there consistently will be an ongoing remedy. She asked what is the short-term schedule of policing activity, or what can citizens do to help patrol the lake?

City Manager Tillman said there is a non-emergency line citizens can call.

Chief Storie provided the numbers.

Ms. Braverman said would this be for peak times? It is consistent.

Chief Storie said call us. You should see us out there.

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City Manager Tillman said if there are maintenance items, call our Parks and Recreation staff Monday through Friday to address the facility.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:21:43 p.m.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandon Henry", is written over a horizontal line.

Brandon Henry, City Clerk