LAKELAND CITY COMMISSION

Regular Session
April 17, 2023

The Lakeland City Commission met in Regular Session in the City Commission Chambers. Mayor Bill Mutz and Commissioners Chad McLeod, Bill Read, Stephanie Madden, Sara McCarley, Mike Musick, and Samuel Simmons were present. City Manager Shawn Sherrouse, City Attorney Palmer Davis, Finance Director Mike Brossart, and City Clerk Kelly Koos were present.

CALL TO ORDER - 9:00 A.M.

PRESENTATIONS

Community & Economic Development - CRA Annual Report (Brian Rewis, Director and Valerie Ferrell, CR Manager)

Grapefruit League Best of the Ballparks 2023 Award

Check Presentation to Common Ground Park from Lakeland Rotary Clubs

PROCLAMATIONS

Breast Cancer Foundation of Central Florida Day
Donate Life Month
Drive Electric Earth Day Lakeland
Medical Laboratory Professionals Week
National Arbor Day
Shared Parenting Day
Deaf History Month

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RELATED ITEMS

Municipal Boards & Committees 04/14/23

Commissioner Stephanie Madden presented this report to the Commission.

Motion: Commissioner Sara McCarley moved to approve the appointments. Commissioner Samuel Simmons seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed with an asterisk (*) were considered routine by the City Commission and were enacted by one motion following an opportunity for public comment. There was no separate discussion of these items unless a City Commissioner or Citizen so requested, in which event the item was removed from the consent agenda and considered in its normal sequence.

Motion: Commissioner Mike Musick moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Sara McCarley seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (with any amendments)

* City Commission Minutes – 03/31/23 – 04/03/23
* Utility Committee Minutes – 03/31/23

Action: The Commission approved these minutes as part of the Consent Agenda.

REQUESTS TO APPEAR FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC - None

EQUALIZATION HEARINGS - None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinances (Second Reading)

Ordinance 5981; Proposed 23-015; Approving a Conditional Use to Establish a New Child Daycare Facility on property Located at 1350 E. Main Street (1st Rdg. 04-03-23)

> AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO ZONING; MAKING FINDINGS; APPROVING A CONDITIONAL USE TO ESTABLISH A NEW CHILD DAYCARE FACILITY ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1350 E. MAIN STREET; FINDING CONFORMITY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Palmer Davis read the short title.

Motion: Commissioner Chad McLeod moved to approve the ordinance. Commissioner Sara McCarley seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Upon roll call vote Commissioners Samuel Simmons, Mike Musick, Sara McCarley, Stephanie Madden, Bill Read, Chad McLeod, Mayor Bill Mutz voted aye. Ayes-seven. Nays-zero. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 5982; Proposed 23-016; Approving a Conditional Use to Recognize an Existing Used Car Dealership and Allow for the Expansion of the Vehicle Parking/Storage Area on Property Located at 1200 W. Memorial Boulevard (1st Rdg. 04-03-23)

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO ZONING; MAKING FINDINGS; APPROVING A CONDITIONAL USE TO RECOGNIZE AN EXISTING USED CAR DEALERSHIP AND ALLOW FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE VEHICLE PARKING/STORAGE AREA ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1200 W. MEMORIAL BOULEVARD; FINDING CONFORMITY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Palmer Davis read the short title.

Motion: Commissioner Mike Musick moved to approve the ordinance. Commissioner Chad McLeod seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience.

The Commission discussed the affects on Bonnet Springs Park. Staff believed there was sufficient buffering for the park and that there should not be an issue of compatibility. The park is aware of the development and have been in communication with the adjacent property owner. The buffer hides the outside world from events.

The applicant requested a change on Friday for condition #7. The condition has been modified for the Community Development Director to authorize the reestablishment of a used car establishment.

Susan Swift came forward representing the applicant. They did not object to the change in condition #7.

Action: Upon roll call vote Commissioners Chad McLeod, Bill Read, Stephanie Madden, Sara McCarley, Mike Musick, Samuel Simmons, and Mayor Bill Mutz voted aye. Ayes – seven. Nays – zero. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 5983; Proposed 23-017; Amending Ordinance 5456; Major Modification of a Conditional Use to Allow for the Expansion of an Existing Bar into Ground Floor Retail Space on Property Located at 201 E. Main Street (1st Rdg. 04-03-23)

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO ZONING; MAKING FINDINGS; AMENDING ORDINANCE 5456 TO MODIFY AN EXISTING CONDITIONAL USE TO ALLOW FOR THE EXPANSION OF AN EXISTING BAR INTO GROUND FLOOR RETAIL SPACE ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 201 E. MAIN STREET; FINDING CONFORMITY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Palmer Davis read the short title.

Motion: Commissioner Bill Read moved to approve the ordinance. Commissioner Mike Musick seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience.

The LDDA supported the project. Adjacent business owners supported the project.

Stuart Simm spoke in support of the project.

Julie Townsend spoke in support on behalf of the LDDA. There are other establishments with expanded conditional uses downtown. The LDDA, at their retreat last week, discussed the number of bars downtown. They would like to share that discussion and the research she is doing now. Lakeland has 5 bars in the downtown area right now. Bars are not permitted to have sidewalk cafes. She has had the public request rooftop bars.

Salomon Wassef (applicant) came forward in support of his project.

Action: Upon roll call vote Commissioners Samuel Simmons, Mike Musick, Sara McCarley, Stephanie Madden, Bill Read, Chad McLeod, Mayor Bill Mutz voted aye. Ayes-seven. Nays-zero. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 5984; Proposed 23-018; Providing for a Change in Zoning from C-1 (Pedestrian Commercial) to MF-22 (Multi-Family Residential) on Approximately 0.82 Acres Located at 401 W. Peachtree Street (1st Rdg. 04-03-23)

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO ZONING; MAKING FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN ZONING FROM C-1 (PEDESTRIAN COMMERCIAL) TO MF-22 (MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) ON APPROXIMATELY 0.82 ACRES LOCATED AT 401 W. PEACHTREE STREET; PROVIDING CONDITIONS; FINDING CONFORMITY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Palmer Davis read the short title.

Motion: Commissioner Chad McLeod moved to approve the ordinance. Commissioner Mike Musick seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience.

The Commission discussed:
- Tabling the issue vs voting the issue down.
- If the building was moveable.
- If the building was historic.
- The applicant could demolish the building today without the zoning change.

Chuck Barmby received a historic structure form that showed the building would be eligible for the National Historic Register but an application had not been made. The ordinance today was straight zoning so a binding site plan would not be required. The LDC did not require the preservation of the building. Historic Lakeland is aware of the situation. There has been no effort to designate the building as historic. There has been some discussion on relocating the home but it has not panned out. The home was built in 1926.

Tim Campbell represented the applicant and made a presentation. They would object to tabling the ordinance. The rights that the property owner has occurred when they purchased the property. The parcel has been idle for 11-12 years. The property owner had the right to demolish the home if they obtained a demolition permit. Changing that right would have ramifications. The concrete slab foundation may limit the ability to relocate the house. The developer would give the house away if the recipient could move it within 4-months.

The Commission continued to discuss:
- TIF and CRA assistance.
- MF-22 zoning, which also allowed a neighborhood convenience center.
- Carline at Lawton Childs Middle School and making tenants aware. That could be done at the lease signing.
- The need for housing and increased density downtown.
- Walkable residential.

Action: Upon roll call vote Commissioners Chad McLeod, Bill Read, Mike Musick, Samuel Simmons, and Mayor Bill Mutz voted aye. Commissioners Stephanie Madden, and Sara McCarley voted nay. Ayes – five. Nays – two. The motion carried.

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Business Assistance Funding Agreements with Tampa Bay Black Business Investment Corporation, Inc. and Hispanic Business Initiative Fund, Inc.

At the August 15, 2022, City Commission meeting, the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) made a request for City support of the small business assistance services provided by the Tampa Bay Black Business Investment Corporation (BBIC) and the

Hispanic Business Initiative Fund, Inc. (Prospera) to offer technical assistance to minority-owned small businesses. The Chamber's initial request was specifically related to American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. However, subsequent discussions led to consideration of a possible collaboration with the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), recognizing that BBIC and Prospera's services aligned with the mission and goals of the CRA and funding for the initiative could be committed from the existing Small Project Assistance project accounts in both the Downtown and Midtown CRA budgets.

Accordingly, City and CRA leadership have met with representatives from the Chamber, BBIC and Prospera regarding terms and conditions for the use of CRA funding for technical assistance. Under the Funding Agreements, BBIC and Prospera will provide technical assistance in the form of outreach and consulting to entrepreneurs and small business owners. Although BBIC and Prospera focus on assistance to African American and Hispanic entrepreneurs and small business owners, their services will be available to all who request them. Both BBIC and Prospera will provide their services from locations in the Downtown CRA (Chamber office) and Midtown CRA (potentially at The Well and other locations). The marketing and delivery of these services will be primarily targeted toward residents and/or businesses located, or seeking to open or relocate, within those CRA districts. The Agreements require BBIC and Prospera to conduct a minimum amount of technical assistance, outreach and seminars during each reporting period in order to be eligible for payment. These efforts ultimately serve the interests of the CRA by stimulating economic development and cultivating the growth of small businesses within the Downtown and Midtown CRA districts.

The original request of BBIC and Prospera was for $800,000 over a three-year period. At its April 6th regular meeting, the CRA Advisory Board reviewed the request and gave favorable recommendation to enter into separate three-year agreements with BBIC and Prospera, with the total amount of funding not to exceed $600,000 as delineated below:

Provider	Total Funding for 3-year Agreement	Downtown CRA Portion	Midtown CRA Portion
BBIC	$375,000	$75,000	$300,000
Prospera	$225,000	$45,000	$180,000
	$600,000	$120,000	$480,000

Staff recommended that the City Commission, acting as the City's Community Redevelopment Agency, approve the Funding Agreements with BBIC and Prospera, and authorize the appropriate CRA officials to execute the Agreements.

Palmer Davis presented this item to the Commission.

Motion: Commissioner Stephanie Madden moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Samuel Simmons seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience.

CRA Manager Valerie Ferrell explained the installments would be paid upon successful completion of the required services for each reporting period. If the providers fail to meet the requirements, they will not get the full installment.

Amy Wiggins, President of the Chamber of Commerce, explained these types of services have been advocated for because there are cultural nuances to starting a business. This will diversify the tools available to entrepreneurs starting a business. This expands the opportunity. The Chamber will support BBIC in loans. Prospera did not offer loans.

The Commission discussed avoiding redundancy.

Albert Lee, President of BBIC of Tampa Bay Chapter, explained they fill the unique gap when it comes to lending. BBIC planned to have a representative working in Lakeland.

Fabian Yepez of Prospera explained they offer services, consultation, seminars, etc. They do not offer loans, but partner with financial institutions to clients to find funding. They will begin serving by appointment a few days a week. They like to have that first meeting in person to establish a relationship.

These agreements came about as a request from the Chamber of Commerce. Both organizations had a good reputation for working in the community.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Lakeland Community Redevelopment Agency Site and Infrastructure Funding Agreement with Lake Wire Apartments, LLC.

This Site and Infrastructure Funding Agreement was with Lake Wire Apartments, LLC (Lake Wire Apartments). Lake Wire Apartments is developing a project on the north side of Lake Wire known as Peachtree Flats, which will include eighty-four (84) market-rate residential units, consisting of one 4-story building, and a separate two-tier parking structure for resident parking, with centrally-located amenities. The project will provide revitalization to underutilized, vacant land on the north shore of Lake Wire and is an example of urban infill with site and infrastructure challenges.

The City Commission previously reviewed a request for Tax Increment Financing (TIF) from Lake Wire Apartments. Lake Wire Apartments initially requested a modified TIF Agreement providing for reimbursement of 75% of tax increment revenues generated by the property over a 10-year period. However, the final approved Agreement provided for a modified 5-year term at 75% reimbursement. This compromise was made with the understanding that CRA staff and the developer would mutually seek alternatives to support the project with infrastructure and site improvements as an additional incentive.

After further analyzing site development plans and attaining updated cost estimates, Lake Wire Apartments has worked with CRA staff to evaluate the scope of site and infrastructure improvements required within City roads and rights-of-way and on private property, which improvements will constitute added benefits to the public realm and encourage future development opportunities in the north Lake Wire area. The following items have been identified and will be eligible for reimbursement under the Agreement:

- Three-phase primary power extension from southwest corner of George Jenkins Boulevard and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to the subject property, providing service to additional sites
- Underground stormwater detention
- Street lighting
- Sidewalk and crosswalk upgrades
- Street-side landscaping and irrigation

Construction of the above improvements is estimated to cost $775,000 and is consistent with Downtown Redevelopment Plan goals, as well as other CRA-incentivized projects. Under the Agreement, the CRA will reimburse Lake Wire Apartments for these costs in a not-to-exceed amount of $775,000.

At their March 2nd regular meeting, the CRA Advisory Board reviewed this request and gave favorable recommendation to award financial assistance to Lake Wire Apartments, LLC in an amount not to exceed $775,000 as reimbursement for actual costs incurred (exclusive of any fees for overhead or other similar expenses) in carrying out site and infrastructure improvements to aid in the construction of Peachtree Flats.

Staff recommended that the City Commission, acting as the Lakeland Community Redevelopment Agency, accept the CRA Advisory Board's recommendation and approve and authorize the appropriate CRA officials to execute the Site and Infrastructure Funding Agreement with Lake Wire Apartments, LLC.

Palmer Davis presented this item.

Motion: Commissioner Samuel Simmons moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Mike Musick seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments from the audience.

CRA Manager Valerie Ferrell presented an aerial of the project.

The Commission discussed:

- Kudos for the developer who was stepping up with amenities and infrastructure improvements.
- The connectiveness to downtown was a positive.
- This is the second development on Lake Wire.
- These improvements will benefit the development to the west.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Task Authorization with Straughn Trout Architects for Professional Architectural, Engineering and Design Services for East Rose Street Right-of-Way Improvements

This Task Authorization with Straughn Trout Architects was for professional architectural, engineering and design services for improvements within the East Rose Street right-of-way from the east side of the intersection of E. Rose Street and S. Lake Avenue to the west side of the intersection of E. Rose Street and N. Ingraham Avenue.

Significant redevelopment interest is building in the East Main District. In 2022, the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) initiated an update to the E. Main District Strategic Plan in order to take advantage of this growing momentum and plan for the anticipated growth. The Strategic Plan identified land development strategies, including urban design standards for the entire area, the development of District brand identity, and right-of-way improvements along Rose Street, a significant gateway connecting Downtown to this new District.

Under the Task Authorization, Straughn Trout will serve as the lead consultant to design the right-of-way components of the Plan, including sidewalk improvements, lighting, signage, site furnishings and proposed fencing upgrades on City owned property. Straughn Trout's scope of work will include comprehensive professional architectural design and engineering services for hardscape and landscape improvements, preparation of construction documents, assistance with bidding and contractor selection, and construction administration services during the construction phase. The not-to-exceed fee for Straughn Trout's services under the Task Authorization is $163,600. The CRA Advisory Board considered the proposed Task Authorization at their April 6th regular meeting and recommends approval.

Staff recommended that the City Commission, acting as the City's Community Redevelopment Agency, approve the Task Authorization with Straughn Trout in the not-to-exceed amount of $163,600 and authorize the appropriate CRA officials to execute the Task Authorization. Funding is provided in the FY23 Midtown East Main District budget.

Palmer Davis presented this item.

Motion: Commissioner Chad McLeod moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Sara McCarley seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments from the audience.

The Commission discussed:
- East Main and Rose St will start a new district separate from downtown.

- Improvements will be made within the existing Right-of-Way.
- They were looking at improving the sidewalks they have and evaluating the utilities in the area.
- They anticipated expanding east of Ingraham.
- Staff was evaluating options for existing City facilities. If we cannot relocate, we may be able to blend them in better. The Veteran Fellow will provide a report of City options.
- Staff has had serious inquiries from property owners on this block for activation and revitalization of their sites.
- The design process and permitting will take about a year. Once they have design plans, they will have to go out to bid for construction.
- The existing razor wire is there because of an LPD impound lot, which requires that security as part of the accreditation standards.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

CITY MANAGER

Recommendation re: FY 23 Mid-Year Table of Organization Modifications and Appropriations

Throughout the Fiscal Year, requests arise from Departments to make modifications to their Tables of Organization. These modifications involve adding, deleting, pay adjustments, or reclassifying positions to meet Departmental operational needs or improve service delivery. This process involves a formal request, that must include sufficient justification based on business needs, to a Review Committee consisting of members from the City Manager's Office, Office of Innovation and Strategy, Human Resources, and Finance. Requests are thoroughly vetted through the Human Resources Department to verify that each request is aligned with our classification and compensation structure and workforce management practices. Once reviewed, the Committee provides recommendations to the City Manager for consideration and approval.

Most of the changes had either no cost or were offset by the Departments through other organizational changes/reductions. The amounts below display how the budget for each Fund is increasing or decreasing based upon the approved requests. When viewed as a whole, the total budget-wide savings related to these changes is $4,175.

Staff requested that the City Commission authorize an appropriation or de-appropriation from the Unappropriated Surplus in the listed Funds related to the mid-year organizational changes.

- General Fund – $777
    - Community & Economic Development - $35,275
    - Finance - ($35,275)
    - Fire - $18,904

  - Parks – ($2,997)
  - Recreation – ($15,130)

- Purchasing & Stores Fund – $2,731
- Solid Waste Management Fund - ($3,750)
- Lakeland Electric Fund – ($3,933)

It is also requested that the City Commission authorize an appropriation in estimated revenues and expenses of $395,000 in the Fleet Management Fund to be funded by a transfer from the unappropriated surplus of the Solid Waste Fund for the purchase of a new Commercial Front-End Loader to meet additional service needs due to continued commercial operations growth within the City.

Shawn Sherrouse presented this item to the Commission.

Motion: Commissioner Chad McLeod moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Sara McCarley seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments from the audience.

The Commission discussed the price of fuel.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Recommendation re: United Diagnostic Services for Police Officer Annual Physicals

Police Officer Annual Physicals were negotiated into the most recent Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge 185, collective bargaining agreement and ratified. Under this agreement, a physical exam vendor will be provided. United Diagnostic Services was selected and shall provide the exams. The Police Department has 225 sworn Officers at a cost of $67,500 annually. Police Officer Physicals are a new element of the FOP bargaining agreement.

Police Officer Physicals are an important element in an annual occupational evaluation to assist Risk Management and the Police Department with early detection and the prevention of occupational diseases. United Diagnostic Services conducts Early Detection Diagnostic testing, which has proven successful in identifying actionable pathologies to improve overall health as well as early detection for cancer and cardiovascular issues. It is exclusively designed to meet the unique needs of public safety departments.

It is recommended that the City Commission authorize the appropriate City officials to enter into this three-year agreement with United Diagnostic Services in the amount of $67,500 annually.

Shawn Sherrouse presented this item to the Commission.

Motion: Commissioner Bill Read moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Mike Musick seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments from the audience.

The Commission discussed employee response. It was too new to measure police response, however fire fighters have a similar benefit and their response has been strong.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

CITY ATTORNEY

Ordinances (First Reading) – None

Resolutions

Resolution 5814; Proposed 23-019; Authorizing Approval of a Local Agency Program Supplemental Agreement between FDOT and City of Lakeland for Josephine Street Sidewalk Improvements from Central Avenue to Westgate Central Trail

> A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAKELAND, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OFA LOCAL AGENCY PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; AMENDING THE SCHEDULE OF FUNDING FOR JOSEPHINE STREET SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS FROM CENTRAL AVENUE TO WESTGATE CENTRAL TRAIL; MAKING FINDINGS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Palmer Davis read the short title.

Motion: Commissioner Stephanie Madden moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Bill Read seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Upon roll call vote Commissioners Samuel Simmons, Mike Musick, Sara McCarley, Stephanie Madden, Bill Read, Chad McLeod, and Mayor Bill Mutz voted aye. Ayes-seven. Nays-zero. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 5815; Proposed 23-020; Authorizing Approval of Amendment 1 to Guaranty Agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the Polk Regional Water Cooperative Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Planning Loan Agreement

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAKELAND, FLORIDA RELATING TO THE POLK REGIONAL WATER COOPERATIVE; MAKING FINDINGS; APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AMENDMENT 1 TO THE GUARANTY AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR THE POLK REGIONAL WATER COOPERATIVE DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PLANNING LOAN AGREEMENT; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Palmer Davis read the short title.

Motion: Commissioner Sara McCarley moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Chad McLeod seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments from the audience.

The Commission discussed adjusting the loan amount and SWFWMD funding by 50%. The City's share of the project was $3.7 million.

Action: Upon roll call vote Commissioners Chad McLeod, Bill Read, Stephanie Madden, Sara McCarley, Mike Musick, Samuel Simmons, and Mayor Bill Mutz voted aye. Ayes – seven. Nays – zero. The motion carried unanimously.

Miscellaneous Reports

Approval of Shortlist and Continuing Contract for Professional Software Engineering Services with Short- Listed Firms

The City's Water Utilities Department operates water and wastewater treatment plants as well as several water booster pump stations and wastewater lift stations throughout the City. Water Utilities needs consulting and integration services to develop software for its programmable controllers and distributed control systems and proposes to obtain these services through continuing service agreements with local software engineering firms.

On November 28, 2022, pursuant to the Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA), the City of Lakeland Purchasing Division advertised for consulting firms to provide software engineering services on a continuing basis. Two proposals were received and, on February 22, 2023, were evaluated by a Selection Committee of five Water Utilities employees. Both firms have been short-listed as follows:

Firm	Location	Ranking
General Control Systems	Lakeland, FL	1
Revere Control Systems	Lakeland, FL	2

Staff recommended that the City Commission approve the above short list and authorize the appropriate City officials to execute continuing contracts with both shortlisted firms.

Action: The Commission approved this item as part of the Consent Agenda.

FINANCE DIRECTOR

UTILITY

Ordinances – None

Resolutions – None

Miscellaneous

Memo re: Amendment No. 8 to Billing and Payment Agreement with Kubra Data Transfer Ltd.

This proposed Amendment No. 8 was to the Enterprise Services Agreement with Kubra Data Transfer Ltd. (Kubra) to provide for a one (1) year extension to the existing Agreement set to expire on April 30, 2023. In May 2014, the City Commission approved the Billing and Payment Agreement with Kubra which provides an integrated and cohesive solution for bill presentation, bill distribution and electronic billing/payment services for Lakeland Electric. Specifically, Kubra's services include printing all Lakeland utility bills, bill mailing, management of Lakeland Electric's web site, including its electronic billing options, as well as processing all electronic payment options.

Amendment No. 8 will be effective upon approval by the City Commission and continue for a period of one (1) year. Except as otherwise set forth in Amendment No. 8, there will not be any changes to the existing terms or pricing. The total cost of services for the one (1) year term, which includes postage, is estimated to be $721,200 and is included in Lakeland Electric's FY23 budget.

Staff recommended that the City Commission approve Amendment No. 8 for a one (1) year extension of the Enterprise Services Agreement with Kubra and authorize the appropriate City officials to execute all corresponding documents.

Ramona Sirianni presented this item.

Motion: Commissioner Mike Musick moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Stephanie Madden seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

AUDIENCE

David Galbraith wanted Lakeland declared as a sanctuary city for the unborn.

Palmer Davis explained there were legal issues to making a sanctuary city. Palmer Davis did not think the commission had legal authority to create a sanctuary city at this time. It is a state issue, not a city issue.

MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COMMISSION

Commissioner Chad McLeod announced May 20th was the Fallen Heroes Memorial Run at Cleveland Heights YMCA.

Commissioner Stephanie Madden: Last week Polk Vision hosted a broadband summit. She attended along with Terry Brigman (Retired Director of DoIT), Oscar Torres, Director of DoIT, and Richard Hesse, Telecommunications Manager. It was exciting to see everyone in person. The broadband effort has pivoted in the last year or so to try and secure federal funds. The countywide group is working together to make Polk County eligible for Federal funding once grants are available. The first grant application was given to H.B. Holmes. He and Pastor Lake were the first to come to the City Commission about broadband and the digital divide. H.B. Holmes joined Polk Vision in their efforts. He was awarded the first grant. She anticipated additional grants in Polk County.

Commissioner Sara McCarley:

- Visited Little Rock recently and there are rural areas with no internet. Polk County is fortunate.
- She attended the Polk County Citrus Connection & Transit Retreat at the end of March. Three Lakeland Commissioners serve on the Citrus Connection Board in addition to Commissioners Santiago and Lindsey of Polk County. That board is always working to provide better service and are very transparent for the budget. Kudos to that group.
- The Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) bi-monthly meeting was last Thursday with seventeen municipalities throughout the County. They make recommendations to FDOT for transportation projects. Since the 2020 census, there will be some reshaping of the TPO. The size of the board could be changing. This is important to citizens because revenue to maintain and build new roads is shrinking. Citizens can watch the TPO meetings on live stream. It helps folks understand the puzzle pieces. The municipalities need to work

together to get Polk County shovel ready for additional Federal funds when they become available.

Commissioner Mike Musick spoke about Deaf History Month. His friend Bruce was in attendance. He was moved to see all the children present today for the proclamation. He welcomed all the students.

Commissioner Samuel Simmons explained Webster Park has been inundated these past few weekends with events, cars, and parties. Last night there was an excess of 500 cars. He was meeting with local neighborhood leaders. It is disrupting the peace and quiet of the neighborhoods. When they disperse, they drive right through the neighborhoods with loud disruptive music.

Mayor Bill Mutz announced Flight of Honor is April 25, 2023. They will take veterans to DC. This flight will be primarily Vietnam veterans.

CALL FOR ADJOURNMENT - 12:18 p.m.

H. William Mutz, Mayor

Kelly Koos, City Clerk