LAKELAND CITY COMMISSION

Regular Session
December 4, 2023

The Lakeland City Commission met for the Regular Session in the City Commission Chambers. Mayor Pro Tem Sara McCarley and Commissioners Chad McLeod, Stephanie Madden, Mike Musick, and Samuel Simmons were present. Mayor Bill Mutz and Commissioner Bill Read were absent. 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

Lakeland Housing Authority Update (Ben Stevenson, President/CEO Lakeland Housing Authority)

Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association Fire Marshal of the Year Award (Cheryl Edwards, LFD Fire Marshal)

Beautification Awards (Bill Koen)

- Residential: 519 Chester Drive - Wendy and James Henderson
- Commercial: 3636 Harden Blvd - Oakbridge Publix

PROCLAMATIONS - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RELATED ITEMS - None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered routine by the City Commission and will be enacted by one motion following an opportunity for public comment. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a City Commissioner or Citizen so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered in its normal sequence. For items listed with an asterisk (*) under the Community Redevelopment Agency portion of the agenda, the City Commission shall be deemed to be acting in its capacity as the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Lakeland when approving the consent agenda.

Action: Commissioner Chad McLeod moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Stephanie Madden seconded.

Mayor Pro Tem Sara McCarley asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Mayor Pro Tem Sara McCarley called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (with any amendments)

* Canvassing Board Minutes – Nov 7-16
* Commission Minutes – Nov 15-20

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

REQUESTS TO APPEAR FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC - None

EQUALIZATION HEARINGS

Recess/convene: The City Commission recessed the Regular Session and convened as the Equalization Board.

Palmer Davis explained the City Charter requires that prior to recording a lien against private property, the City Commission convene as the Equalization Board and grant those property owners the opportunity to object to the recording of the lien or ask any questions they might have. If someone present received a notice to appear before the City Commission re a lots cleaning/clearing or demolition assessment, this is the time to address the Commission.

Lots Cleaning and Clearing

Gina Silas came forward about 304 S Bassedena Circle. She received a notice that she owes $210.44 for lot cleaning.

Palmer Davis explained the charges and suggested removing this item from the roll to allow staff to investigate.

Motion: Commissioner Mike Musick moved to remove this item from the roll and approve the remaining assessments. Commissioner Samuel Simmons seconded.

Mayor Pro Tem Sara McCarley asked for any other comments from the audience. There were none.

Action: Mayor Pro Tem Sara McCarley called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Action: The Equalization Board adjourned, and the City Commission reconvened in Regular Session.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinances (Second Reading)

Ordinance 6011; Proposed 23-044; Approving the Annexation of Lands within the Boundaries of the Lakeland Area Mass Transit District (1st Rdg 11-20-23)

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE LAKELAND AREA MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT; MAKING FINDINGS; APPROVING THE INCLUSION OF CERTAIN LANDS LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY OF LAKELAND WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE LAKELAND AREA MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Palmer Davis read the title.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Sara McCarley asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were none.

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

Resolutions

Resolution 5866; Proposed 23-072; Lots Cleaning and Clearing

A RESOLUTION RELATING TO ASSESSMENTS; DETERMINING THE NECESSITY FOR HAVING CLEANED AND CLEARED CERTAIN PROPERTIES WITHIN THE CITY OF LAKELAND; PROVIDING FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF LIENS AGAINST SUCH PROPERTY FOR EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE CLEANING AND CLEARING THEREOF; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Palmer Davis read the title and reminded the Commission that a motion to approve would need to acknowledge the amended roll for the item that was removed by the Equalization Board.

Motion: Commissioner Mike Musick moved to approve the resolution as amended. Commissioner Samuel Simmons seconded.

Mayor Pro Tem Sara McCarley asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

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

Resolution 5867; Proposed 23-073; Expressing Support for the Ingraham Avenue Trail Project

> A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAKELAND, FLORIDA EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE INGRAHAM AVENUE TRAIL PROJECT; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT FUNDING REQUESTS TO THE POLK TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, INCLUDING REQUESTS FOR SHARED USE NONMOTORIZED TRAIL FUNDING AND TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION ANNUAL PROJECT SOLICITATION CYCLE PRIORITIZATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Palmer Davis read the title.

Motion: Commissioner Stephanie Madden moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Chad McLeod seconded.

Mayor Pro Tem Sara McCarley asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

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

Resolution 5868; Proposed 23-074; Authorizing Application with the State Revolving Fund Loan Program for the Planning and Design of a Lead Service Line Replacement Program

> A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAKELAND, FLORIDA RELATING TO THE STATE REVOLVING FUND LOAN PROGRAM; MAKING FINDINGS; AUTHORIZING A LOAN APPLICATION TO FINANCE THE PLANNING AND DESIGN OF A LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING A LOAN AGREEMENT; ESTABLISHING PLEDGED REVENUES; DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES; PROVIDING FOR ASSURANCES OF COMPLIANCE WITH LOAN PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Palmer Davis read the title

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

Mayor Pro Tem Sara McCarley asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

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

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY - None

CITY MANAGER

Recommendation re: Award Replacement of 16 Shuffleboard Courts at Thomas Shaw Outdoor Recreation Center in Lake Parker Park

The Lakeland Shuffleboard Club has been in existence since the 1930's. The original Shuffleboard Complex was located on Lake Mirror where the current Barnett Park is today. In 2002 the complex was relocated to Lake Parker Park to make room for Lake Mirror Park expansion.

The Thomas Shaw Outdoor Recreation Center, in Lake Parker Park, is comprised of 32 shuffleboard courts (16 covered and 16 with end pavilion covers only), one lawn bowling turf with 8 rinks, offices, restroom and a screened pavilion area. The shuffleboard club members provide court maintenance of lines, marks, seal and bead the courts as needed. The members also provide janitorial services and routine maintenance for the shuffleboard offices, restrooms, and shuffleboard facility. The members organize bi-weekly club play, outreach programs to teach shuffleboard and host all tournaments. The Lakeland Shuffleboard Club is a member of the Central District of Florida Shuffleboard Association. They participate in 29 district and state amateur tournaments from Oct-March annually. The club hosts four district, three state, and the National Singles tournament each year. Sixteen of the courts that are not under cover have deteriorated and need to be replaced due to exposure to the elements. The courts, gutters and drains will be replaced.

The Purchasing Division reviewed the National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance Contract 08-42 and found The Nidy Sports Construction Co., Longwood Florida, was competitively bid with choice pricing of $239,800 and has approved procurement of these services as a "piggyback". Funding for the replacement of the 16 shuffleboard courts is currently budgeted in FY 2024 Public Improvement Fund. The project will begin construction within 90 days of contract execution and will take approximately four months to complete.

Staff recommended that the City Commission authorize the appropriate City staff to execute a Purchase Order for a not to exceed price of $239,800 to The Nidy Sports Construction Company.

Shawn Sherrouse presented this item to the Commission.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Sara McCarley asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Mayor Pro Tem Sara McCarley called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Verbal Report: Shawn Sherrouse received a phone call from Commissioner Bill Read last night. He watched the discussion Friday related to the class action suit. He supported the City remaining a party to the class action suit.

CITY ATTORNEY

Ordinances (First Reading)

Proposed 23-045; Annual Update to the Capital Improvements Element (CIE) of the Lakeland Comprehensive Plan: Our Community 2030, Including Updates to the Five-Year Schedule of Capital Improvements

> AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING; MAKING FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR AN UPDATE TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ELEMENT OF THE LAKELAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: OUR COMMUNITY 2030; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The foregoing is the title of an ordinance read for the first time by short title only. The Commission will hold the second reading and public hearing on December 18, 2023.

Proposed 23-046; Approving a Conditional Use to Allow for the Development of a Solar Power Generation Facility on Approximately 2,044 Acres Generally Located South of University Boulevard, East of N. State Road 33, and East of N. Combee Road

> AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO ZONING; MAKING FINDINGS; APPROVING A CONDITIONAL USE TO ALLOW FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SOLAR POWER GENERATION FACILITY ON APPROXIMATELY 2,044 ACRES GENERALLY LOCATED SOUTH OF UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD, EAST OF N. STATE ROAD 33, AND EAST OF N. COMBEE ROAD; FINDING CONFORMITY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The foregoing is the title of an ordinance read for the first time by short title only. The Commission will hold the second reading and public hearing on December 18, 2023.

Proposed 23-047; Approving a Conditional Use to Allow for the Construction of an Accessory Dwelling Unit on Property Located at 706 Gilmore Avenue

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO ZONING; MAKING FINDINGS; APPROVING A CONDITIONAL USE TO ALLOW FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 706 GILMORE AVENUE; FINDING CONFORMITY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The foregoing is the title of an ordinance read for the first time by short title only. The Commission will hold the second reading and public hearing on December 18, 2023.

Proposed 23-048; Approving a Conditional Use to Allow Off-Street Parking as a Principal Use on Property Located at 719 E. Orange Street

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO ZONING; MAKING FINDINGS; APPROVING A CONDITIONAL USE TO ALLOW OFF-STREET PARKING AS A PRINCIPAL USE ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 719 E. ORANGE STREET; FINDING CONFORMITY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The foregoing is the title of an ordinance read for the first time by short title only. The Commission will hold the second reading and public hearing on December 18, 2023.

Proposed 23-049; Amending Ordinance 4324; Major Modification of a Conditional Use for the Providence Church of God Located at 1990 Otis Avenue, in Order to Relocate Driveway Access for the Church from Providence Road to Otis Avenue

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO ZONING; MAKING FINDINGS; AMENDING ORDINANCE 4324 TO MODIFY AN EXISTING CONDITIONAL USE FOR THE PROVIDENCE CHURCH OF GOD, LOCATED AT 1990 OTIS AVENUE, IN ORDER TO RELOCATE DRIVEWAY ACCESS FOR THE CHURCH FROM PROVIDENCE ROAD TO OTIS AVENUE; FINDING CONFORMITY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The foregoing is the title of an ordinance read for the first time by short title only. The Commission will hold the second reading and public hearing on December 18, 2023.

Proposed 23-050; Change in Zoning from I-1 (Light Industrial-Limited Commercial) to PUD (Planned Unit Development) to Allow for the Development of a Zero-Lot-Line Subdivision for I-1 Warehouse, Office and Flex Space Uses on Property Located at 1530 and 1543 Kendrick Lane

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO ZONING; MAKING FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN ZONING FROM I-1 (LIGHT INDUSTRIAL-LIMITED COMMERCIAL) TO PUD (PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT) ZONING TO ALLOW FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A ZERO-LOT-LINE SUBDIVISION FOR

I-1 WAREHOUSE, OFFICE AND FLEX SPACE USES ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1530 AND 1543 KENDRICK LANE; PROVIDING CONDITIONS; FINDING CONFORMITY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The foregoing is the title of an ordinance read for the first time by short title only. The Commission will hold the second reading and public hearing on December 18, 2023.

Proposed 23-051; Amending Ordinance 5875; Major Modification of PUD (Planned Unit Development) Zoning to Allow Motor Vehicle Fuel Sales, Minor, within Tract A of the Cypress Point at Lake Parker Subdivision Located at 2012 U.S. Highway 92 East

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO ZONING; MAKING FINDINGS; AMENDING ORDINANCE 5875 TO PROVIDE FOR A MAJOR MODIFICATION OF PUD (PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT) ZONING TO ALLOW MOTOR VEHICLE FUEL SALES, MINOR, WITHIN TRACT A OF THE CYPRESS POINT AT LAKE PARKER SUBDIVISION ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2012 U.S. HIGHWAY 92 EAST; PROVIDING CONDITIONS; FINDING CONFORMITY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The foregoing is the title of an ordinance read for the first time by short title only. The Commission will hold the second reading and public hearing on December 18, 2023.

Proposed 23-052; Amending Ordinance 3575, as Amended; Major Modification of PUD (Planned Unit Development) Zoning to Increase the Maximum Number of Dwelling Units from 125 to 146 for the Development of a New Five-Story Multi-Family Building (Senior Independent Living) on Property Located at 810 E. Bella Vista Street

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO ZONING; MAKING FINDINGS; AMENDING ORDINANCE 3575, AS AMENDED, TO PROVIDE FOR A MAJOR MODIFICATION OF PUD (PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT) ZONING TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 810 E. BELLA VISTA STREET FROM 125 TO 146 UNITS IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW FIVE-STORY MULTI-FAMILY BUILDING FOR SENIOR INDEPENDENT LIVING USES; PROVIDING CONDITIONS; FINDING CONFORMITY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The foregoing is the title of an ordinance read for the first time by short title only. The Commission will hold the second reading and public hearing on December 18, 2023.

Miscellaneous Reports – None

FINANCE DIRECTOR - None

UTILITY

Ordinances - None

Resolutions

Resolution 5869; Proposed 23-075; Establishing Fuel Charge Effective January 1, 2024

> A RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE ELECTRIC UTILITY; MAKING FINDINGS; ESTABLISHING THE FUEL CHARGE FOR ALL CUSTOMER CLASSES FOR METERS READ ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2024; AMENDING TIME OF DAY FUEL CHARGE FOR APPLICABLE RATE CLASSES; REPEALING RESOLUTION 5843; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Palmer Davis read the title.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Sara McCarley asked for comments from the Commission.

The Commission pointed out that this was a fuel charge reduction. Kudos to the team for the decrease.

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

Miscellaneous

Task Authorization with Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. for Groundwater Monitoring Support at McIntosh Power Plant

This proposed Task Authorization with Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. (Geosyntec) was to provide groundwater monitoring support in accordance with the Coal Combustion Residual (CCR) Rule for the byproduct storage area at McIntosh Power Plant. Pursuant to this Task Authorization, Geosyntec will:

- Provide sample collection from groundwater monitoring wells
- Provide semi-annual detection and assessment monitoring support that includes data validation of raw analytical data
- Prepare annual groundwater monitoring and a corrective action report for the byproduct storage area

- Provide groundwater elevation contour figures
- Provide general CCR support including regular meetings with Lakeland staff

Upon approval by the City Commission, Geosyntec will commence work. All services pursuant to this Task Authorization will be performed in accordance with the terms and conditions contained in the City's Continuing Contract for Environmental Consulting Services with Geosyntec dated October 1, 2019, and Geosyntec's proposal dated October 31, 2023. All reimbursable expenses shall be paid in accordance with the City's Consultant Expense Reimbursement Policy. The total not-to-exceed cost of the work is estimated at $155,700 and is included in Lakeland Electric's FY2024 budget.

Staff recommended that the City Commission approve this Task Authorization with Geosyntec to provide groundwater monitoring support in accordance with the CCR Rule for the byproduct storage area at the McIntosh Power Plant and authorize the appropriate City Officials to execute all documents on behalf of the City.

Ramona Sirianni presented this item to the Commission.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Sara McCarley asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Mayor Pro Tem Sara McCarley called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Renewal of Agreement with Florida Gas Transmission Company, LLC for Pipeline Capacity to Transport Natural Gas

This was a renewal of a Firm Capacity Agreement with Florida Gas Transmission Company, LLC (FGT) for the daily purchase of 7,500 MMBtus of FGT capacity to transport natural gas during the months of March and April only. The City, through Lakeland Electric, has owned this seasonal pipeline capacity since March 1, 1998 and has previously exercised its right to renew the Agreement for a ten (10) year period in April 2015. As such, the existing contract with FGT is set to expire on April 1, 2025.

To retain the existing capacity for the City, which is not subject to an open bid from other utilities and known as a "Right of First Refusal", the pipeline tariff requires the City to provide written notice to FGT of the City's intent to renew the Agreement for a ten (10) year period in accordance with the same terms and rates no less than twelve (12) months prior to the expiration of the existing term.

The annual cost of the FGT capacity for the daily 7,500 MMBtus of natural gas is $261,186.75 for a total cost of $2,611,867.50 over the ten (10) year contract term which will be effective April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2035, subject to City Commission approval. During the term of the Agreement, the City can permanently or temporarily release the contracted capacity to another shipper to mitigate its costs if Lakeland Electric's utility capacity needs change. The cost of the capacity on the FGT pipeline is funded through Lakeland Electric's fuel budget.

Staff recommended that the City Commission approve the renewal of the Agreement with FGT for 7,500 MMBtus of FGT capacity and authorize Lakeland Electric's Fuels Manager or Assistant General Manager of Production to execute the Agreement with FGT for the pipeline capacity and authorize the appropriate City officials to execute all documents related to the Agreement.

Ramona Sirianni presented this item to the Commission.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Sara McCarley asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments from the audience.

LE has released capacity to mitigate costs.

Action: Mayor Pro Tem Sara McCarley called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

AUDIENCE - None

MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COMMISSION

Commissioner Mike Musick:
Vote tomorrow. Local government affects your life every day.

Commissioner Chad McLeod:
Many Christmas events are coming up. He encouraged the public to get out and participate. Staff is working a lot of extra hours and he appreciated staff and their work.

Shawn Sherrouse: There is a great deal of work being done by staff. He encouraged the public to go to the City's website to see upcoming events. The parade route has changed this year.

Commissioner Stephanie Madden spoke about an industrial development near Florida Polytechnic University. It was denied at Auburndale's Planning & Zoning meeting. The developer made modifications and made the buildings smaller. It is a beautiful industrial PUD. It is a regional activity center. This PUD did not support access through Mt. Olive Rd. That will limit access to the triangle piece of Williams Property. There is no mention of industrial use in a regional activity center. Florida Poly needs a regional activity center, not an industrial development. The land closest to the university needs to remain

Live, Work & Play. That area needed to remain an Innovation District for Live, Work & Play. It is a wasted opportunity to put in industrial. Lakeland has an interlocal agreement for this area. Should Lakeland have been notified? Florida Poly did not attend the meeting because they did not think they had a choice. The City of Lakeland will pay for maintenance on the road the developer will use for access to the facility. Lakeland's comments were presented at the meeting. This proposed plan in no way supports the objective of the Central Florida Innovation District. Staff's objections should be noticed. Florida Poly's objections should be considered. Pace Road is crucial for the Innovation District. She knows it is a long shot and privately owned land, but leaders do not give up. Putting industrial at that site walls off the Innovation District and keeps it from developing.

Commissioner Stephanie Madden asked Palmer Davis about the interlocal agreement and notice requirements. Palmer Davis explained the City had a joint planning agreement that calls for staff notification to allow staff input. That did take place.

Shawn Sherrouse explained he has had multiple conversations with the Auburndale City Manager. He planned to update the commission at the 1 on 1s. The next Auburndale hearing is December 18, 2023.

Commissioner Sara McCarley stated this is exactly the kind of over development that has been happening in Polk County over the last 20 years.

Commissioner Samuel Simmons asked if there was anything the City of Lakeland can do about the situation?

Commissioner Stephanie Madden asked does it make a difference to you when the citizens voice their opinions and concerns? Lakeland does not just go by the Land Development Code (LDC), we also go by citizen concerns. Our voice does matter. If we do not talk about it, it will fill with industrial uses. We must have a louder and collective voice. We cannot drop the ball here. We annexed land to give Florida Poly a Lakeland address. We did it specifically for an innovation/research park. This interchange and area are special.

Commissioner Chad McLeod stated we have time between now and Auburndale's final decision. We can develop a collective opinion. We can advocate but it is Auburndale's decision. He would like to hear from Florida Poly.

Commissioner Stephanie Madden wanted to be able to look back and know that we made our voice heard.

Commissioner Mike Musick: It is difficult because we do not control the pieces. We also must get a unified voice because not everyone is interested in an Innovation District. Those who are not interested in the innovation district make it tough.

Commissioner Stephanie Madden: These developers were from outside the community. The City of Auburndale wanted an innovation district. They may feel they have no choice.

Commissioner Sara McCarley asked that in the 1on1s, the commission hear an update on the situation and possibly a collective letter sent to the Auburndale City Commission. We need to keep in mind that commissions do not have to change land use for a possible future owner. She appreciated Commissioner Stephanie Madden bringing everyone into the fold on the issue. For the public at large, therefore local elections are important. These matters impact your everyday life.

Remember the Christmas Parade this Thursday

CALL FOR ADJOURNMENT - 10:24 a.m.

Sara Roberts McCarley, Mayor Pro Tem

CITY OF LAKELAND, FLORIDA
INCORPORATED
JAN. 1, 1885

Kelly Koos, City Clerk