

CITY OF APOPKA

Minutes of the City Council regular meeting held on February 2, 2022 at 1:30 p.m., in the City of Apopka Council Chambers.

PRESENT: Mayor Bryan Nelson
Commissioner Doug Bankson
Commissioner Kyle Becker
Commissioner Alexander Smith
Commissioner Diane Velazquez
City Administrator Edward Bass
City Attorney Michael Rodriguez

PRESS PRESENT: John Perry – The Apopka Chief

INVOCATION/PLEDGE: Commissioner Smith provided the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. He then provided the Fact of the Day as follows: On February 1, 1978 Harriet Tubman became the first African American woman to appear on a U.S. postage stamp. Harriet Tubman was an antislavery crusader and Civil War veteran. She was an instrumental figure in the abolition movement, an enslaved woman who escaped captivity in Maryland and made at least 19 trips back to free more enslaved people. Tubman is estimated to have helped several hundred enslaved people find freedom in Canada via the Underground Railroad and is said to have "never lost a passenger." During the Civil War, she freed 700 more people when she led Union forces on a raid on Combahee Ferry in South Carolina. Later in life, though she had little money of her own, Tubman worked to house and feed the poor and became an important figure in the fight for women's suffrage.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. City Council Meeting Revised Minutes of January 5, 2022
2. City Council Workshop Minutes of January 19, 2022

Mayor Nelson asked for a motion to approve the two (2) sets of meeting minutes as amended.

MOTION by Commissioner Bankson and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the regular as amended. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Nelson, and Commissioners Bankson, Becker, Smith & Velazquez voting aye.

PROCLAMATION

1. Chief Joe Brown – In Memoriam
Presented by: Mayor Nelson

Mayor Nelson read the proclamation to recognize and honor Former Police Chief Joe Brown, who passed away last week. His funeral services will be held this weekend.

He read the Proclamation, which highlighted some of his accomplishments over the years. **Mayor Nelson** stated that after graduating high school in 1974, Joe Brown enlisted in the United States Military; where he served in the United States Army for six years, stationed at both Fort Bragg, NC and Ismar, Turkey. After leaving the military, in January of 1981, Joe Brown enrolled in Seminole Community College in Sanford, FL and would later enroll in the Police Academy. Upon completion in February of 1982, Officer Brown started working for the City of Apopka. On June 8th, 1995 after working his way up through the ranks, Officer Brown became the Police Chief of Apopka and served as Chief until March 16, 2004. Chief Brown started the Apopka Police Department's first Tactical Team and the first full-time Narcotics Division. He received numerous awards and certificates of appreciation from many community leaders throughout his years of community service. He was known to be a firm, yet a fair leader of police officers and women. He retired from the Apopka Police Department in 2004, Chief Brown joined the Orange County Sheriff's Department and would later become the Police Chief of Eatonville, which is one of the first self-governing, all black municipalities in the United States. He was preceded in death by: his mother, sister, four children, three grandchildren, aunt, and many of his cousins, relatives and friends. He was a man dedicated to policing and serving his community. **Mayor Nelson** proclaimed that we hereby recognize and honor our Chief Joseph Brown and ask all citizens to join him in honoring his memory.

PRESENTATION

1. Apopka Emergency Services Facility

Presented by: Allyson Williams and Chief Wylam

Allyson Williams, said that on January 19, 2022, the DRC approved the construction site plan for the Apopka Emergency Services Facility structure. The subject property is located at 2750 W. Orange Avenue, just east of Fire Station No. 4. She said the site contains 1 vehicular access point off of Orange Avenue and said there are a total of 12 parking spaces provided, of which one is an accessible space. She provided an overview of the landscape plan and the architectural elevations of the crew quarters and storage unit. She then turned it over to Chief Wylam.

Chief Wylam said we're very excited about this and moving forward we're going to be able to get the Air Care facility up and running. He said we do have a representative from Air Methods here as well as the engineering group if you have any questions for any of us.

Commissioner Bankson said he wanted to make sure that the Oaks are not in the "chop zone" knowing how large they are.

2. Yard waste and bulky waste route changes.

Presented by: Josh Robinson

Josh Robinson, said with the growth in the City, it is time to do some tweaking and balancing of some of our yard waste routes. He said we have had yard waste on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday with the truck sitting on Wednesday. As the City grows, rather than buy additional equipment and increase labor, we are going to shift some of them to Wednesday. We are planning to move Arbor Ridge from Monday to Wednesday; Rock Springs Estates, San Sebastian, and Bridlewood from Tuesday to Wednesday; and then from Thursday to Wednesday: Spring Harbor; Pines of Wekiva; Winged Foot Estates and Wekiva Crest. There are a few scattered homes on Lester that would go along with that. We plan to run ads in the Apopka Chief by 2/11/22 and the Orlando Sentinel on 2/13/22, per code. We will distribute door tags the week ending February 18th and the week ending the 4th of March we will start with the new pick up day. The last time we did this, it went off smoothly, not a lot of questions or concerns. **Commissioner Becker** made a correction to Josh's verbiage; the correct name is Rock Springs Estates, not Rock Springs Ridge. **Mayor Nelson** stated that we will also get it in the weekly newsletter and on the website.

AGENDA REVIEW

Edward Bass stated that there are no changes to the Agenda.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

1. Service Pin Awards – City Employees

Mayor Nelson said we have not done service awards for a long time and said some of the employees may feel neglected. He said COVID had a big impact on bringing our employees together and said it's been too long not to recognize the employees as they meet those milestones and said this Commission meeting we will recognize the ten, fifteen, twenty, and twenty-five year employees and said the next Commission meeting, we will do all of the five-year employees. He said he wanted to recognize their contribution to our City; without great employees that hang around for a long time, we could not get the work done that we do. Thank you in advance for all that you have done and will continue to do to make our city the best that it came be. He then read the names of the employees being recognized. He said we have a wonderful staff and he could not be more proud of what they do for us here in the City of Apopka.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Randy Dunton, 544 Wellington Drive, Forest, VA 24551, said he is humbled to present to the Mayor and Commissioners and said he appreciates all they are doing. He said he wanted to take a moment to share an education initiative, work force that he is bringing to Apopka. He said you all have a handout in front of you of the Legacy Education Center. He stated that Commissioner Smith is involved with him and he is standing here because of James McKnight, who was an Apopka

resident who play in the NFL and Liberty University. He stated that he himself was the Men's Basketball Coach at Liberty from '89 to 2008 and became very concerned about individuals being trapped in hurdles and barriers, which are not getting to the workplace. Lynchburg, at the time had the highest poverty rate, in the State of Virginia. That made no sense to me, so I started to invest myself and to figure out, who to solve and improve the problem. We know in our lifetime, \$25 trillion is spent on poverty, but eight percent of it goes to those serving poverty and not those in poverty. He asked 'how do we change the game?' He stated that he started going to some of the meetings and thought 'that's not really solution, let's get to the solution.' The way to change poverty is to change income levels. So he said let us build a program. He was really enhanced through his involvement in programs. We are a post-secondary play, so for everybody that is out of high school, we are a post-secondary play and there is no age limit. We deliver the AA Degree, so you are coming to the Legacy Center from 8:30am- Noon, Monday through Thursday, to obtain your AA Degree. We make a serious play on life skills education. The plan is to start in June with one-hundred students.

Commissioner Bankson asked for clarification on the level of the program.

Randy Dunton stated that they are post-secondary. He also stated that he will bring a third of the budget to Apopka. It is post-secondary, but if they do not have their GED, the program helps them obtain it, because that is how they get into the college education classes.

Commissioner Bankson stated that he is very excited about that; we have been working on the junior high and high school level to help bring that pipeline. We have about two-hundred and fifty students, two-thirds of which are minority students. That is what breaks the chains and cycles: getting them meaningful employment and meaningful careers.

Dennis New, 105 W. Magnolia Street, Apopka, FL 32703, said he was here at the last Commission meeting and said he will say it again and is sure some retaliation will come down the pipe for. He said he sees some nice red shirts here that say 'we want Station Street.' He stated that he also wants Station Street, and he believes that he was misunderstood last week. He wanted the downtown City project, when it started; where they built the hotel, in that manor. He is tired of the nontransparent method that the City has been using; not just this administration or the previous administration, but going back for years. He is tired of, if you do not bank with the right people or grease the right people, you cannot get permits to do things. If the right people do not own property, you cannot get it sold because permits are held up or the process is held up. I am tired of the non-transparency. People want to bring businesses to this town; they need a fair shake, not a shakedown of their wallet.

Rod Olsen, 3156 Rolling Hills Lane, Apopka, FL 32712 said he is here in support of Saturday Sounds. This past Saturday, with Buddy Blues was awesome, the event is always fun. He thanked the Commission and asked that they bring Buddy Blues back.

David Rucker, 4557 Frisco Circle, Orlando, FL 32808, said he is a part of the AACCC in the area and said he wanted to commend the Mayor and Commissioners on what they did at the last meeting, in regards to voting and said that was a noble thing to do. He stated that if you are looking for big companies to come to the area, especially restaurants, you have to cut our racism. He stated that their needs to be more police training, regarding racism. He once again commended the Commission on the voting.

Commissioner Bankson stated that he would like to get Mr. Rucker's direct contact information to sit and speak with him.

Commissioner Velazquez stated that Ocoee has Community Advisory Boards and she believes that is a good place for use to start, as well.

Shirley Squires, 327 Tanglewilde Street, Apopka, FL 32712 stated that her husband passed away on January 15, 2020 and she was very pleased with the help she received from the funeral home and the cemetery; everything worked out great. She asked about the roads within the cemetery. She stated that she is concerned about her car falling into the potholes that are near her husband's gravesite. She stated that it is embarrassing to take people into the cemetery; we have a nice entrance, but when we get around to where her husband is, it is bad. She stated that back in the summer, Keith told her, that we were going to get the roads repairs. She asked back then, if some of the potholes could be filled in.

Mayor Nelson stated that we are waiting on a new asphalt machine, which has been backlogged for a long time. The stated that we have been having to do small repairs with a cold patch and cold patches do not last. We have a new one that has a heater, so it melts the asphalt together, making it a much longer lasting product. It was supposed to be in this week. **Commissioner Velazquez** asked if the roads in the cemetery were considered, when we did the streets assessment and **City Administrator Edward Bass** responded no, they were not a part of it, but we are expanding the cemetery; doing some platting and adding some additional spaces. That is a project that Susan and her office is working on and trying to wrap up now. Apart of that plan is to fix the roads.

Leroy Bell, 2308 Blue Meadows Court, Apopka, FL 32703, said he is the chairman of the AACCC. He said that Commissioner Bankson asked David Rucker to give some examples; at the AACCC they think that transparency seems to allude this mayor and his administration. We can start with the chief's nephew, where he was beating and his jaw was fractured. Where the police department went into Allyson Sims house and beat her; lawsuit filed. Tommy Lee Jackson: they went into his house and beat him; lawsuit filed. Jaylon Cald, Captain Cald's daughter, where Officer Robert Campbell abused her at a football game. A witness sent a letter, direct email to Mayor Nelson and he hid it. Also, Mr. Jason Friendly, the police whopped him, he is a disabled veteran and a former police officer. We all think this is a part of racism and it all comes down, and if you were fortunate enough to attend the mayoral debate, Mayor Nelson sat there and with a heavy heart I come on behalf of some of the people on South Apopka's side. You chased those people, you

talked about them like a dog, they were not worth it, but when it came to the annexation Apopka still functions and pays it's bills out of some of the tax base that come from over there, out of the water. When they get their bill it does not say Orange County, it says the City of Apopka. You get revenue from monitoring the dump out there. I know you got overwhelmed and you wanted to cry at the end of the debate, I know for a fact that at your church, my son and I have been there with Kelly for the past two years volunteering and bringing food. However, it seemed to me that when the election came up, you found a way to give away coats, to get a photo opportunity. What you should be crying about is what you are doing to the people over in South Apopka.

Sylvester Hall, 3091 Rolling Hills Lane, Apopka, FL 32712, said he is following up with you from my last introduction of what my calling is in life: 1) to change business as normal and politics and 2) to bring love and prosperity to every poverty-stricken community in this U.S.A., starting with South Apopka. He stated that poverty is man-made, so man, overnight, can easily change it. We talk about poverty, we talk about it as if it is a charity or a handout; those are people in South Apopka. Everyone likes to come in and say what needs to be done over there, but no one wants to go over there and spend quality time, learning and seeing what is going on. He addresses the Mayor stating that they have a long history together, he loves him, but their content is different.

Mina Robinson, 53 E. Main Street, Apopka, FL 32703, said she is here today on behalf of the community and business owners in the community on the South Apopka side and the rest of the Station Street project. In the previous meeting, it was rejected, for whatever reasons, and the concern from the community is to ensure that something that is going on for this side of town, a development that can be fruitful for the community and business owners is not held up in politics. I know Commissioner Smith said that he wanted to see more minority participation, in the RFP. I know Commissioner Velazquez said that she wanted to see more businesses and have retail in that area. Those are the concerns of the community; we do not care about politics. Winning or losing, all we care about it who is representing us and if they are representing us to the best of their ability, and have our best interest at heart. I met Mr. Hitt about four to five years ago and Station Street was only a vision for him. Moving forward, it has turned into conceptual; they have the RFP out, they are finally able to put it out for someone to actually bid it so that it can become a reality. That is the concern of the community; we want Station Street to become a reality. We want it to be put back out, in an ample amount of time, not for it to be held up for four to five more years. Minority participation is needed, so that we can give back. **Commissioner Bankson** said when he had time to reflect on this, he regrets that he did not vote yes, even though it would not have gone at that time, just in the climate of everything. I prefer to have multiple people involved, but we had someone

willing to come in and some politicization got involved, but we lost an opportunity to at least tell them 'this is what we want; this is what we like to see.'

Commissioner Becker said we can say politics and said he will stick with his principal guideline, based off the comments that he made at the prior hearing and earlier this week. The fact is and Ms. Robinson touched on it, the lack of the retail commercial element of that. I will read the termination of the "Cone of Silence", based off the RFP. "The Cone of Silence shall terminate at the beginning of the City Council Meeting, whether regular, special, or committee of a whole at which a written recommendation is proposed to the City Council..." Which we did at our prior City Council meeting. "...however the City Council refers the recommendation back for further review..." but basically during that hearing that was no Cone of Silence, so when I brought up my issues around the highlight of minor commercial, within that submission, there was no rebuttal from either participants, staff, evaluation committee, applicant, people that submitted my request, to address my concerns to that RFP submittal. So yeah, there were probably three reasons why I motioned to reject the bid, and that is one of three. I stand by my decision. **Commissioner Bankson** stated to be clear; he respects everyone's right for their reasons for what they do, I am not here other than to take personal responsibility. As I looked at it, I see an opportunity where transparency is there. I know there is a concern that was voiced that these things can be worded in such a way to exclude, but I have no example to prove that is what happened. What I saw as, we could have brought those objections, but now we have nothing to even work with. We could have stopped it, if those things were brought forward. As I looked at the process, we have a group, regardless of campaign contributions and things like that; there was nothing that stopped other people from responding. In addition, this is a process where there is a scoring; this is the process to try to be as transparent as we can and yet not be a dinosaur in trying to bring developments. My point was, had we moved forward, we would have had every opportunity to stop it, if there were things that could have been brought up. I just wanted that clear.

Commissioner Velazquez said she felt like when they did the presentation at the last council meeting there was a lot of information that we did not have. If we had had a representative from the community and a representative from the developer here to have reinforce why they wanted to go forward with it. There is an opportunity and I do agree with you, let's put it back out and let's see what comes back. I am hoping that the other commissioners also got to tune in to the community meeting, because everyone got the link, so that they can understand what the process was. That was information that we did not have when they presented it to us. I do appreciate you coming in and showing that you are for it. The fact that you are here tells me that this is very important to you and it is something that you need to prioritize when it goes back out. **Commissioner Smith** asked Edward Bass if we have a date of when the RFP would be put back out and **Edward Bass** responded no, we have not established a date, but we will work on one probably within the next week or so.

Cate Manley, Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce President and CEO said that she has gotten a lot of feedback since she was here last to present about the economic development package, website, and video. She stated that the Chamber of Commerce is an independent organization, we are not City Employees, we do not work for the City; however, the City is actually a member of the Chamber of Commerce, as are many other people. I also would like to mention that it is a pleasure to be a partner with the City and most of the commissioners are very engaged with what we have going on. We have 474 members today that are business members; we also try to be here for our members when they are meeting with council because we are liaisons between our businesses and the city. She address that with regard to those of you who collaborate with the Chamber are sometimes aware of things through the Chamber because we are a business entity bringing in potential businesses such as the Station Street project. I want to remind everyone that that vote was not to approve the RFP, but just to get it to the next level where it would have been open to the community to know some of the projects that were in play for that developer. I spent about nine months working with a private education institution, to bring them here and it was very disappointing when that did not move forward, so you could have known about those opportunities. **Mayor Nelson** stated we got the chance to meet with the group that is our of Puerto Rico; we went out to two campuses, one in Osceola County and one in Deland. It would have been an exciting opportunity for us to have a technical school here that would give those who did not want to get a four-year degree a great opportunity and four-year degrees as well. It was a great opportunity missed, but maybe we can bring it back. **Commissioner Velazquez** stated that the Mayor gets to meet with all the different groups and sometimes when something is brought before the council that is all the information that is missing for us. She stated that the council should have the opportunity to meet with the developer to ask questions. She stated that she uses Edward Bass when she has questions. Here we are with a missed opportunity that we did not know about. When James Hitt presented the RFP there was so much information missing. **Cate Manley** stated that the RFP was not presented; it was only an opportunity to negotiate for it to be presented later. The unfortunate things is, there was politicization in the timing. Commissioner Velazquez stated that the mayor said that he met with this group, but none of the commissioners new that this group was interested and **Commissioner Becker** stated that that would be an automatic rejection of the bid. The Cone of Silence is clear. Definition, Cone of Silence means that any community regarding a particular request for proposing, request for qualification, or bid between a) a potential vendor, service provider, lobbyist or consultant, and b) the city council members, all five of us, city's profession staff, including but not limited to the City Administrator and his or her staff, which is basically everyone, and any member of the city's selection or evaluation committee. If we had conversation before, it would have been an automatic rejection anyhow. There is no politics involved; it is called what our RFP calls for. **Cate Manly** stated that she spoke to several commissioner prior to the

RFP; we worked on this for nine months. **Mayor Nelson** stated that it has nothing to do with the Station Street Center; it is just coming to Apopka. We wanted a Valencia College or whoever to come. It had nothing to do with Station Street project. **City Attorney Michael Rodriguez** stated that he wanted to clarify and make a statement regarding the cone of silence. While it does prohibited communications between a bidder and the government body, those are the two that is prohibited, that cone does not start unless the RFP is advertised. If there is not advertisement, there is no cone of silence. **Commissioner Becker** asked, so the cone of silence would have been from August 22nd through January 19th and **Michael Rodriguez** stated whatever the advertisement dates were for that specific bid. **Commissioner Smith** stated that it could not have been from August because staff said that it was only out for 54 days. **Commissioner Becker** said August 22nd is the date that it was posted, October 15th is when it was due, January 19th is when we had our session, January 12th was when the evaluation committee held their proceedings. **Commissioner Bankson** stated that it is a challenge when we deal with different laws to make sure that things are just, legal, fair, transparent, etc. We just want to get things done, but we have to do them the right way. I respect that we all should examine those things and continue to educate ourselves on that. Hopefully we can move ahead now, this can be resubmitted and we can have the conversations that we need with the time to adjust it to what fits our community and that we are not viewed, on the broader scale, as a city that is difficult to work with.

David Rankin, 21 E. Third Street, Apopka, FL 32703 said that he is here to set the record straight with regard to the City's banking relationship, with his employer One Florida Bank; where he serves as Executive Vice President. I am sure that many of you are aware of the accusation that have been made toward Mayor Nelson, certain city commissioners, employees, private individuals and businesses by a handful of people. Social media, particularly Facebook, seems to be the preferred tool to disseminate misinformation, half-truths, and outright lies. Recently a certain Facebook administrator put up a post that caused in to question the City's money market account with One Florida Bank. Although the city has a deposit relationship with three commercial banks, as well as the State Board of Administration, the administrator of this page saw fit to only mention One Florida Bank, because he has an ax to grind with Mayor Nelson, who has been a friend of mine for over thirty-five years. He claims that Mayor Nelson is a stockholder in One Florida Bank and insinuates that he steered \$31 million dollars of city money into the One Florida Bank money market account. On the surface, the accusation looks ugly, but the fact of the matter is, the accusation is 100% false. Neither Mayor Nelson nor any member of his family, are or have been stockholders in One Florida Bank. With regard to the \$31 million dollars, several months ago the City reached out to several local banks to see what kind of interest rate they could earn, but then all of them were less than what One Florida Bank was willing to pay. Granted the rate has steadily dropped since the account was opened in June of 2019; it currently earns a rate of .25%. However, this function of the economic and social factors, including the effects of COVID-19. If the administrator of this Facebook page was

honest, informed, and really cared about disclosing all the pertinent facts, they would know that while a quarter of a point is not historically an attractive rate, it is what the market and the economy dictate. Another accusation that that person makes is if the City is putting all of it's eggs into one basket. This is patently false, as the City has approximately \$61 million dollar on deposit with two other banks, as well as the State Board of Administration. One bank is paying .20% on the general investment account that holds over \$55 million dollars. While another bank is paying 2.7% on a \$5.5 million dollar CD that is scheduled to mature this spring. When the CD matures, I am confident that rate will be adjusted downward to reflect market rates. With regard to the account with the State Board of Administration, the City only keeps about \$24,000 since the rate is only .13%. As you can see, comparatively speaking, the City is getting a good deal with One Florida Bank. Another example of this person's uninformed accusation is to claim that the City's deposits are not adequately insured with FDIC insurance; whereas FDIC insurance is capped at \$250,000 per account holder, I submit that there are not enough chartered financial institutions in Central Florida to put the City's deposits under the FDIC umbrella. To lessen the risk to Apopka and other municipalities, state statutes mandates that the Florida Department of Financial Services must designate those institutions that are designed to accept public deposits, as Qualified Public Depository (QPD). Becoming and maintaining a QPD status requires that financial institutions achieve a certain level of financial safety and soundness, to protect the liquidity of its municipal customers, such as the City. With regard to the City of Apopka, their One Florida bank account is covered by the \$250,000 in FDIC insurance and is further collateralized with cash and securities, again per state statute chapter 280. There is nothing wrong with scrutinizing the City's deposit accounts; in fact, it is the responsible thing to do, for responsible citizens to do. However, to singly question a \$31 million dollar deposit account at One Florida Bank, simultaneously ignoring \$61 million dollars in additional City funds, on deposit at other financial institutions confirms that ignorance, self-serving politics and personal vendetta is the basis for these unfounded accusations. Finally, social media, in the hands of the uninformed is tragic. Social media, in the hands of the uninformed, who are holding an unfounded grudge, is dangerous. It casts seeds of suspicion and doubt, makes enemies out of those who were once friends, and tears at the very fabric that holds a community together. Whether you realize it or not, Apopka is truly a special place to live and work, but I am convinced there are outside forces, including this particular Facebook administrator who are working diligently to tear it apart. **Commissioner Becker** stated that he wants to be clear, he runs three Facebook pages: Kyle Becker, the commissioner page for this seat, and my Becker of Mayor page, and anyone that operates a Facebook page, other than those three things, they are their own people, I cannot control them that is their own thing. However, to your point, I will go on record, I voted to put our funds into the institution that you work at. Like I said on Monday night, it comes down to pricing and whether or not that bank has the liquidity and the cash on hand/capital on hand, to make sure that our deposits are safe. In fact, I had an email with Mr. Bass, as a result of the comments at Monday night's event. It was to ask 'how are we ensured

at the bank?’ Is it through FDIC insurance, is it through capital adequacy, do you structure it where you federate our funds across other institutions so we do get under that two-hundred and fifty umbrella to other institutions. That is the question that I had; but I voted in favor of that piece of business, a year or two years ago, when we moved that to One Florida. I would hope that we continue to look at bank pricing as it fluctuates because you may not be able to offer at One Florida, the same pricing last year that you can next year. It is a constant review, but I do not think we differed in our comments, on Monday, the importance necessarily on the surface of where that money is. We just have to make sure that we have the best price and that it is secure. **David Rankin** said it would be nice if you would include that on your Facebook page because as recently as Monday, once of the detractors, on these particular Facebook page were sitting out on corner of Park and 441 holding up your sign. I am sure you are aware of that; you have an responsibility to make sure that that guy has the facts. Commissioner Becker stated I am saying right here and I said it Monday, this is a public forum in which for me to do that, and I will happily have that conversation. I represent me, how people operate, I cannot control. They are adults themselves. Reiterated that anytime someone puts out an image that he is not comfortable with he absolutely has a conversation with them; however, to this specific piece of business, he has not taken issue with.

Tony Benge, 609 E. Pine Street, Orlando, FL 328071 said that he was the one bidder in the RFP process. Our team spent \$35,000 in countless hundreds of hours working with our architects, engineers, planners, etc. The same ones that are involved with Floridian town center. For our trouble, I was personally insulted, had accusations leveled at me by Mr. Becker, that because I opted to support the political candidate of my choice, that was the basis of the denial of the RFP. I am glad that Mr. Becker said today that he stands by what he said; at exactly four hours and forty-seven seconds into the video, he says ‘I will state there has been a max contribution to the Mayor’s re-election bid from the interest that are tied to the LLC who are the single bid, put in for this process, and that alone should be enough for this to go back to market. I put forth a motion that we reject this put and put the RFP back into the market.’ He stated congratulations; you just committed a federal offense. You discriminated against me, based on my political choice and used that as the sole basis to disqualify the RFP and as discussing as that is; the fact that the City now will not get a \$10 million dollar investment, we reallocated that money to Titusville. So, we are building three-hundred and fifty apartments next to Space-X and Project Cracking that will be far more lucrative to our company. Apopka will suffer. Perhaps Mr. Becker and his family would like to guarantee the \$10 million dollar loan and go do the project himself. If you read the RFP, the City wants to sell a roughly three acres parcel, but they want half of it back improved for \$900,000 and you wonder why it did not get a lot of bids. A contaminated site adjacent to the rail tracks, unbelievable restrictions on what can be done, but we were willing to do it to help Apopka and for that effort, you insulted me. You inferred that somehow I was corrupt. I am spending over \$750 million in your community, bettering it. You

were at the debate the other night and had a temper tantrum about restaurants; I bought Apopka the first James Beard Award Winning Restaurant, it will have. Was there a thank you, no, you insult me and insinuate that I was corrupt. I do not know whom I am more disappointed with, the fact that you all voted to terminate, not even knowing that was it in, now you are all sitting her trying to reset the record. Shame on you all. That was a very tiresome, expensive RFP to prepare for. We did are part, but was it even considered, no. You have not even looked at it. Instead, because I made a donation, a lawful donation, that was the basis for being terminated. You know something is wrong when I go into the office the next day and I have to go through every message, of every attorney I have every worked with, begging me to hire them to sue the City now, under a civil rights violation. I do not want to do that, why do I want to hurt the people of Apopka, because somebody decided to politicize and RFP for their own campaign. However, I am going to hold back whether or not I am going to go after something with this, because my lawyers feel I have a good case for it. I am just more disappointed that after everything we have done, the last two years I have donated \$16,000 to shop with a cop, \$10,000 to the Chamber, we wrote a \$50,000 check to the City of Apopka, when we started that to bring on new help for you guys. Is that mentioned, no, just the fact that I supported one candidate, who you do not like. You decided to use this moment and all the work leading up to the RFP to make your political grand stand. Every time you drive by a vacant site, thank Kyle Becker. He did not want growth in the City; for mister economic development, you just conducted a master class in what not to do. I am beyond disgusted, disappointed, but I am really just stunted.

CONSENT (Action Item)

1. Approve and authorize the Police Chief and Mayor to sign the revised West Orange Narcotics Task Force Agreement.
2. Authorize the execution of piggyback contracts for fiscal year 2022.
3. Authorize the issuance of evaluated and sole source memos.

Mayor Nelson asked if anyone needed to pull any of the items or had any questions. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the three (3) items on consent agenda as read.

MOTION by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Bankson, to approve the three (3) items on consent, as read. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Nelson, and Commissioners Bankson, Becker, Smith & Velazquez voting aye.

BUSINESS (Action Item)

1. Authorize staff to complete an appraisal for the Gator Grower Nursery property.
Presented by: Jim Hitt

Bobby Howell, Planning Manager, on behalf of Jim Hitt, said this is a request to do pursue a level two & level three Environmental Assessment for the Gator Growers property, which is North of Camp Wewa and will be used to acquire and expand Camp Wewa.

Commissioner Bankson asked if there are any standing pines in the area and **Bobby Howell** responded not to his knowledge.

Commissioner Becker asked what the cost of the Phase 1 & Phase II studies will be if they are not funded by grants and **Mayor Nelson** stated that it is free. We have a state grant and Sumnor Family has already filed, we got the application to them.

Commissioner Becker asked how we are funding this. **Mayor Nelson** asked how much did get from Toris last Friday and **City Administration Edward Bass** stated that last Friday we got about \$670,000 on the parcel that was sold for them to continue their development, so keep that in mind. You also have some pieces that was sold before that, but we can bring you the exact amount of those dollars. Commissioner Becker stated so all in it will be \$3,500 to get the appraisal and Edward Bass stated corrected. The Brownfield grant will be paying phase two and the phase three, if needed.

MOTION by Commissioner Velazquez, and seconded by Commissioner Becker to table Resolution No 2022-01 to a date TBD. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Nelson, and Commissioners Bankson, Becker & Velazquez voting aye.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/ORDINANCES/RESOLUTION (Action Item)

1. Ordinance No. 2895 – First Reading - Small Scale Future Land Use Amendment –
730 Monroe Avenue
From: Commercial
To: Mixed Use
Owner: Three R Corporation
Applicant: A and R Real Estate Development
Location: North of East Semoran Boulevard and west of Sheeler Avenue
Project: 5.67 +/- acres
Project Manager: Phil Martinez

Phil Martinez stated that the applicant is proposing a small-scale future land use amendment from commercial to mixed use, for approximately 5.67 acres. The subject property is located north of East Semoran Blvd and west of Sheeler Ave. The property is zoned MUD or Mixed Use Downtown District. The proposed Mixed Use Future Land Use is compatible with the existing Mixed Use Downtown District. The

Development Review Committee and the Planning Commission recommend accepting the first reading of Ordinance 2895 and holding it over for second reading and adoption on February 16, 2022.

Commissioner Bankson asked for clarification on the statement on page 126 that states maximum one dwelling unit per fifteen acres. **Phil Martinez** stated that it is fifteen per one. **Commissioner Bankson** stated that he objected to this before because of Monroe; because of the neighborhoods there and that is still a concern. He would like to see this type of development come into the city, but it would take a lot more infrastructure for that neighborhood to be able to handle that. He is concerned about the level of traffic. **Commissioner Velazquez** asked if a traffic study is required there and **Phil Martinez** stated that should the applicant submit a development plan for the property, a traffic study would be required. **Mayor Nelson** asked about the mixed use and what all they can do. **Phil Martinez** stated that they could also do a maximum of 1.0 floor area ratio for non-residential uses. **Commissioner Bankson** asked if there is a way to accomplish this without leaving an open end up not being able to say no to. **Michael Rodriguez** stated that, if approved, on second reading, a mixed-use future land use would be assigned to it. It already has a zoning of mixed use downtown on it, which mixed use downtown basically encompasses a lot of things in the code. It is looked at as a way to encourage redevelopment in the downtown, so right now, with the future land use of commercial; all someone could do is commercial building on it with a very low floor area ratio. With the adoption of the mixed-use, it opens up a lot of area development of the property. Just because they have indicated that it might be residential, does not mean it will be residential in the future. **Commissioner Bankson** asked what is the protection for citizens in that area, so that it can still be used in that manner but stay within proper bounds, but still afford flexibility for the developer. **Michael** said that would be limited to the wording of the code. **Commissioner Bankson** stated that we need to change the code that will reflect something to allow this type of use, without leaving an open end for it to be used different from what they present to use initially. **Mayor Nelson** asked when this was put in place and **Bobby Howell** stated that mixed-use downtown was adopted in 2019 with the land development code. **Commissioner Becker** asked, assuming we did nothing, if that had commercial future land use, it would be just incompatible with the zoning classification. If it had a commercial, land, use and they tried to do a mixed-use concept and **Michael** said they could not because a future land use trumps zoning. **Commissioner Bankson** stated so we cannot give exception, without having to do it across the board and the response was no. **Mayor Nelson** asked what if it came back with apartments, would we look at a study of the road capacity. **Commissioner Becker** asked that being that it is on a major roadway system what is the percent required for commercial versus residential on that piece of property and **Phil** and **Michael** both stated that they would have to look into it.

Kim Fisher, 1614 White Dove Drive, thanked staff and stated that they have been great to work with. For this parcel, they are next door to dilapidated shopping center. We do have some residential behind us, we did have a community meeting and we

did not have any opposition. We are planning on a three-story building. There will be a clubhouse, an amenity center, and a dog park. We are not fully developing this site; there will be a substantial amount of open space/green space. **Commissioner Velazquez** asked if the community meeting involved the residents right in front or did it include the residents from Christiana. **Kim Fisher** stated that they sent mailers, three-hundred and fifty feet, and we had two people responding, she believes it is more of a rental community. **Commissioner Velazquez** stated that the residence that have contacted us do not live directly in front of the proposed site, it was mainly the residence on Christiana that had concerns regarding the impact of the traffic. **Kim Fisher** stated that they do have to do a traffic study and they will have access from 436. She stated that it is be a very small complex, approximately eighty-six units. After being asked, she also stated that no commercial is planned, at this time and there is no allocation for future site commercial, due to the way the code is written. **Commissioner Bankson** stated that he loves the mixed-use concept but it has to be compatible for the area. People who live in the area also have contacted him. He stated that in order for that to work there has to be a big infrastructure investment for that to not truly become an issue there. There is already issues on that road, so it would just further come against it. **Pam Richmond** stated that she received an email from DOT regarding our efforts to work with them and get the speed limit lowered to 35mph; so we will be lowering the speed limit to 35mph. I think that we will ask them to provide some way; we are trying to develop a walkable community there, we are not going to add more capacity to 436. She stated that she understands the concern, but when they did City Center, it was their desire to create a walkable area. **Commissioner Bankson** asked for clarification for the traffic impact on 436 and **Pam Richmond** stated that there will be impact on both 436 and Monroe, but you will see most of the traffic entering and exiting the site on to 436. If we are talking about only ninety units, we are talking about less than four hundred daily or peak hour trips. **Mayor Nelson** asked if there is room at 436 and Sheeler to put another turn lane and **Pam** responded stated that, we usually have right-of-way if we need to do a turn lane. She does not believe that is our signal, but Orange County has been very accommodating lately, so she does not believe they will fight us on an improvement. 436 is a DOT road, Sheeler is an Orange County road, and that is their signal that they maintain.

Commissioner Smith asked where the entrance on 436 would be and **Pam** stated that that is not a given that there will be an entrance on 436. There is some typography issues and driveway spacing issues there. They have not come in with that yet; we have not seen the plan to see if it fits the spacing. There is, what looks like an existing curb cut there, right now, but I do not know if that is a viable connection. I believe that has been there since before 436 and 441 merged. There would certainly have to be a turn lane, but then you will come into conflict with the Dairy Queen. We just spent about \$3 million fixing that and you can assured that I will not recommend approval of anything that I think will undue the fix that we have done. I know that we can find safe and adequate access for this project.

Commissioner Smith asked if Pam is suggesting that the traffic will go through the shopping center, over the Sheeler and **Pam** stated that she thinks it is something we

need to look at and see if we can make it work. What would be better is if they can go through the Winn-Dixie but I think there is such a major drop off and there is going to be a bunch of retaining walls; that is not going to be an option, so that is why we have to investigate other alternatives. It is possible that we will have to make improvements to Monroe, so that becomes a safe and viable option for some of their drivers. **Commissioner Smith** if that was a possibility, to make improvements to Monroe and Pam stated I think it would be a requirement, depending on their impacts. **Mayor Nelson** asked if there is a way to reach out to Winn-Dixie and see if there is an opportunity to have access and **Pam** stated that when she looked at their concept, it is not physically doable. **Commissioner Bankson** stated that that is what could move the needle for him, but without those assurances of ‘if this begins to happen,’ we will have the community saying ‘why didn’t you protect us?’

Commissioner Becker asked if they can get the concept plan for this location, so they can visually see it. He stated I think we have all gotten the residential feedback of Christiana and the traffic. It might be helpful to see that concept plan. **Kim Fisher** stated that they would get that sent over to Bobby and Phil by tomorrow morning.

Wayne Lavesque, 823 East Orange Street Apopka, FL, stated that he is two blocks away from this project and yes, I am very concerned about the traffic. It will be more traffic on Monroe and Christiana; that road is already a speed zone, as is. It is a high traffic area, as it is now. I am opposed to having an apartment complex there, with more residence. I like what I am hearing about working on Monroe, I think it needs to be looked at and re-done. Monroe shifts up, as you come up to Christiana; if you are at the stop sign at Christiana, trying to make a left or right on Monroe, there is a hill on the right and cars come flying over that. **Mayor Nelson** asked if this area qualifies for a speed bump and **Pam** stated that she would have to check the traffic volumes, but it may.

Commissioner Smith asked when Winn Dixie does come, will their driveway line up with Christiana or no and **Pam stated** that she does not think it does, but she will look at the plans.

MOTION by Commissioner Bankson, and seconded by Commissioner Velazquez to approve Ordinance No. 2895 for a first reading and hold it over for a second reading and adoption. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Nelson, and Commissioners Bankson, Becker & Velazquez voting aye.

2. Ordinance No. 2896 – First Reading - Small Scale Future Land Use Amendment –
205 E. Keene Road
From: County Rural
To: Industrial
Owner: AED Dewar Nursery 2019 Trust
Applicant: Tara Tedrow
Location: North of East Keene Road and west of Clarcona Road
Project: 12.74 +/- acres
Project Manager: Phil Martinez

Phil Martinez stated that the applicant is requesting a small-scale future land use amendment from County Rural to Industrial for approximately 12.74 acres. The subject is located north of East Keen Road and west of Clarcona Road. The property is zoned T Transitional Districts and the applicant has applied for the IL Light Industrial Zoning District, which is on the next item. The proposed industrial future land use is compatible with the proposed light industrial zoning district. In addition, properties with an industrial future land use designation are within the vicinity. The Development Review Committee and Planning Committee recommend approval of the small-scale future land use amendment to industrial and the recommended motion is to accept the first reading of Ordinance No. 2896 and hold it over for second reading and adoption on February 16, 2022.

MOTION by Commissioner Velazquez, and seconded by Commissioner Becker to approve Ordinance No. 2896 for a first reading and hold it over for a second reading and adoption. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Nelson, and Commissioners Bankson, Becker & Velazquez voting aye.

3. Ordinance No. 2897 – First Reading - Change of Zoning – 205 East Keene Road
From: T (Transitional district)
To: I-L (Light-Industrial district)
Owner: AED Dewar Nursery 2019 Trust
Applicant: Tara Tedrow
Location: North of East Keene Road and west of Clarcona Road
Project: 12.74 +/- acres
Project Manager: Phil Martinez

Phil Martinez stated that the applicant is requesting a rezoning from T Transitional District to IL Light Industrial District, for approximately 12.74 acres. The subject property is located at the same location as the previous agenda item. The proposed light industrial zoning is compatible with the previously proposed industrial future land use. The Development Review Committee and the Planning Committee recommend approval of the proposed rezoning to light industrial and the recommended motion for this afternoon is to accept the first reading of Ordinance No. 2897 and hold it over the a second reading and adoption on February 16, 2022.

MOTION by Commissioner Bankson, and seconded by Commissioner Velazquez to approve Ordinance No. 2897 for a first reading and hold it over for a second reading and adoption. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Nelson, and Commissioners Bankson, Becker & Velazquez voting aye.

4. Ordinance No. 2898 – First Reading – Change of Zoning and Master Plan – Laurel Oaks
From: T (Transitional) District
To: KPI - MU (Kelly Park Interchange - Mixed Use)

Owner(s): Diane Reid-Goolsby, Debra Reid Wilbarger, Diane Donohoe and Dwana McClure

Applicant: Kimley-Horn and Associates c/o Brian Ashby, P.E.

Location: East of SR 429, West of Plymouth Sorrento Road and south of Kelly Park Road

Project: 41.2 +/- acres; 126 single family units; 3.07 dwelling units per acre

Project Manager: Jean Sanchez

Jean Sanchez stated that this ordinance is to rezone the Laurel Oaks properties from (T) Transitional to KPI-MU (Kelly Park Interchange –Mixed Use) the overlay and its accompanying master plan. The properties fall within the Kelly Park Interchange form base code area; it is approximately 41 acres situated east of State Road 429 and west of Plymouth Sorrento Road, South of Kelly Park Road, and North Joey McGuckin Road. The property currently has a future land use designation of mixed-use permitting up five dwelling units per acre in the KPI area and the currently have a zoning district of (T) Transitional. The company master plan proposing development of one-hundred and twenty-six-lot subdivision consisting of single-family detached residences and proposing a density of 3.07 units per acre. The residential units will have a minimum lot width of 55ft; there are no minimum or maximum lot size in living area standards in the KPI form based code. The proposed access points consist of access along Plymouth Sorrento Road and additional access points to the north and south. They are intended to link to future developments to the plan that will eventually connect to Kelly Park Road. The applicant has worked with staff to design the site and anticipation of projected traffic within the KPI area by adding traffic circles at those points identified to be of concern. The applicant also proposes an eight-foot wide multi-purpose trail from the southern end of the subdivision to the northern term to promote connectivity between developments, to encourage pedestrian traffic away from the Plymouth Sorrento Road and lead to the eternal passive path. Storm water ponds are amenities with the five-foot wide pads and seating areas, and the applicant will provide a pool and cabana. The open space required is twenty percent; well the applicant is proposing approximately twenty-two percent. The DRC recommends the rezoning of the master plan and on January 11, 2022, the Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the proposed change of zoning and the master plan. The recommended motion is to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2898 and hold it over the second reading and adoption on February 16, 2022.

Commissioner Becker asked is the ultimate end game, that street that goes north bound, for the northbound connectivity, when the property north of that gets sold and eventually developed, will that road go all the way through to where the stub out is at Publix and **Jean Sanchez** stated correct, exactly. There is one more parcel that is adjacent that we are expecting will be developed, sometime soon. **Commissioner Becker** then asked what is the long-term plan for Joey McGuckin Road and **Pam Richmond** stated that she is hoping it is a short-term plan. This developer is designing Joey McGuckin from Plymouth Sorrento over to the toll road. Joey McGuckin is the opening under the toll road and the Michelle Holdings parcel,

which is the 200+ acre that is going to auction next week or so. We have told the auctioneer and anyone else that asks us about it, that they will be required to build the rest of the road through their property. It will connect and Golden Gem and connect to Saddler on the west side of Golden Gem. The two developers on the north and south side of Saddler are donating right-of-way, so eventually we will get out to 441, when the Michelle holdings piece comes in, we are 40% there.

Mayor Nelson stated, speaking to Bobby Howell, that if we have some clarity of the auction it would not be bad to bring it to city council. **Bobby Howell** stated that they received a brochure about the auction and he will forward it to the commissioners. The date of the auction is March 22, 2022.

MOTION by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Becker to approve Ordinance No. 2898 for a first reading and hold it over for a second reading and adoption. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Nelson, and Commissioners Bankson, Becker & Velazquez voting aye.

5. Ordinance No. 2899 - First Reading - Annexation - 5221 Plymouth Sorrento Road
Owner: G and B Sorrento LLC
Applicant: Denny Shiver
Location: 5221 Plymouth Sorrento Road
Project: 5 +/- acres
Project Manager: Phil Martinez

Phil Martinez stated that the applicant is proposing to annex approximately five acres located north of West Kelly Park Road and East of Plymouth Sorrento Road. The subject property consist of a single-family home. This proposed annexation is in accordance with the Florida Statutes and the Joint Planning Agreement with the City of Apopka and Orange County. The Development Review Committee and the Planning Committee recommend approval of the proposed rezoning to light industrial and the recommended motion for this afternoon is to accept the first reading of Ordinance No. 2899 and hold it over the a second reading and adoption on February 16, 2022.

Mayor Nelson stated that he does not understand the motive to annexing into the City and **Phil Martinez** stated that this property is subject to the Kelly Park form base code area, so should this property annex into the city they would have to do the small-scale future land use amendment and a rezoning master plan.

MOTION by Commissioner Bankson, and seconded by Commissioner Velazquez to approve Ordinance No. 2899 for a first reading and hold it over for a second reading and adoption. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Nelson, and Commissioners Bankson, Becker & Velazquez voting aye.

6. Resolution No. 2022-03 - Accepting and approving the designated portion of the Orange County Local Mitigation Strategy.
Presented by: Chief Wylam

Fire Chief Sean Wylam stated that on January 11th of this year the Orange County Board of Commissioner adopted the latest Local Mitigation Strategy; which is done every five years. This sends down to each municipality within Orange County and it is a major part that allows us to apply for those post disaster funds, through the Hazzard and Mitigation Grant Program through FEMA. The purpose of this is to help communities implement a hazard and mitigation measures, following a presidential major disaster declaration in the areas of the state, requested by the governor. This is to basically place our projects on to the Orange County Task List.

MOTION by Commissioner Smith, and seconded by Commissioner Velazquez to approve Resolution No. 2022-03 for a first reading and hold it over for a second reading and adoption. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Nelson, and Commissioners Bankson, Becker & Velazquez voting aye.

7. Resolution No. 2022-04 - FY21/22 Budget Amendment
Presented by: Gladymir Ortega

Finance Director Gladymir Ortega stated that this resolution relates to amending a reimbursement that we received in 2019 for approximately \$24,000. On January 10th 2022, we received a letter requesting a payment of some of those funds, the obligated portion related the alternative project Business Incubator, from FEMA. They are asking for \$10,132 to be reimbursed.

Fire Chief Sean Wylam stated that back in 2017 Hurricane Irma came through. We had about fourteen different projects that we dealt with throughout the city; one of the buildings that was in existence at the time was the UCF Incubator and there were damages sustaining to that building, in the amount of \$109,000. The building was no longer in existence. For some of these grants we are allowed to apply, in those situations where the building no longer exists for alternate mitigation projects and this qualified for it. FEMA does an assessment of what they think we would have received for the building and that amount was approximately \$84,000 that they think we would have received through insurance. That drops that \$109,000 down to the \$25,000. With that amount, we were allowed to apply for an alternate project and we decided to put in place some lift station generators; which were approved. It was obligated back in 2019 and they have just gotten back with us, that one of the sites, they are no longer approving. When we were first approved, I earmarked it with finance and told them do not spend it yet, because this is not guaranteed, due to the long closeout process that FEMA goes through.

MOTION by Commissioner Velazquez, and seconded by Commissioner Bankson to approve Resolution No. 2022-04 or a first reading and hold it over for a second reading and adoption. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Nelson, and Commissioners Bankson, Becker & Velazquez voting aye.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Commissioner Velazquez stated that she is always promoting Saturday sounds. She also stated that she read an article this morning, regarding the Maitland Hotel and that you responded to it. I commend you for the migrant workers and it did not get more divisive than that.

Commissioner Bankson stated that he wants to send Edward Bass a couple emails that he can pass to the other commissioners, since cannot do it on his own. He stated basically, again, dealing with the reserve policy guideline, and this is directly from the GFOA. I just want there to be a clear understanding, because the figures are thrown out consistently about the 16.7 percent, that is the minimum and according to their guidelines, we should add to that. Other successful cities have had that.

Mayor Nelson stated that we have cash reserves. Cash is cash, but when you sell or buy a piece of property, it is reducing reserve. You can have reserve that is a non-liquid asset, for instance, we just sold some property at the town center, well it goes into our reserves, but to me that is 'funny money' because we have not saved that money and Sandpiper will be another when we sell that. We have sold the airport property. What I have asked Gladymir and Edward to help me with is to have a cash balance and then you can have adjustments. We are looking to hopefully buy some property for public works to do some additional retention, if we buy that property it is a utility reserve but still you have your cash serve.

Commissioner Bankson also talked about our bond rating and stated that we have an excellent bond rating.

Commissioner Smith stated that he and Commissioner Bankson are on the same page when it comes to reserves, he has mentioned several times that he believes it should be at twenty-five percent. Secondly, in reference to the presentation on the Legacy Education Center, James McKnight came to me and said that he had some ideas as to how we can help to improve our community through educational process. He had been a part of the Legacy Education Center in Virginia, so he and I had conversation and exchange ideas and came together with the same conclusion that this will be an ideal project. We then formed a committee of residence and talked about the pros and cons of having this type of program here in Apopka and there was a lot of excitement that generated from that. As results of that, we invited Mr. Donaldson to come from Virginia and meet with us, so we did that last night. At our meeting, it was so much enthusiasm and positive reinforcement that this was the right direction to go in, so we agreed that we would bring this Legacy Education Center to Apopka and be that pilot, in the state of Florida. It is an outstanding program; post-secondary and offering the GED. It was all a win-win project.

Mayor Nelson stated that he sits on the Career Source with the State Board and he would love to sit down with the committee and see if there is an opportunity there to get some additional funding.

Commissioner Smith stated that their next meeting is February 15th, he will exclude himself and have the committee extend and invite to Mayor Nelson to attend. He went on to state that this is Black History Month, so we want to make sure that we shine and highlight all of the great attributes and contributions of our African American Community. We also want to always remember Commissioner Alonzo Williams that was the first elected African American to this city council. Lastly, he will be going to Tallahassee next week on behalf of Florida League of Cities as advocacy for our city.

Commissioner Becker stated that he shares Commissioner Smith ideas of enjoying our residents, as we celebrate Black History Month. Also, to our Chinese residents that celebrated a Happy New Year, on yesterday, as well.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

1. Financial Update

Edward Bass stated that we are going in the right direction; for January, the money received was just over a million dollars or 43% more than it was last year, this same month. We are about \$179,000 above the budget. Keep in mind this is just a four month period and it averages as we move through, but this is good positive news that we are at least meeting or exceeding the states numbers.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

1. Update on City Center Real Estate Closings

Michael Rodriguez stated that on Friday we did close another parcel of the City Center assemblage of parcels. I believe we have one left, in order to complete the closing for. The parcel that was closed constitutes the middle parcel of the City Center complex. He stated that his son signed his National Letter of Intent to play baseball at Keystone College in Factoryville, PA. They had his ceremony this morning.

MAYOR'S REPORT

1. Mayor's trip to Tallahassee

Mayor Nelson stated that HP1431 is a bill; we collaborated with the City of Orlando and the City of Edgewood, so all three of us have a bill identical in what they do. For restaurants, if you are under 150 seats, if you want to have alcohol, as in liquor, you must buy a license and they go for north of \$100,000. In speaking with a restaurant owner that is looking to coming into the Town Center, stated that you could lease a license for \$1,800 to \$2,000 a month. We found out that Orlando is doing this bill, so we wanted to piggyback on it. It drops the requirements of 2,500 square feet and seating of 150 people. Anything above that, you do not have to get this \$100,000+ license. So what we have done, the bill we are filing HP1431 will reduce that down to 1,800 square feet and 80 people, as long as 51% of sales are food. Tomorrow the Regulatory Reform Sub Committee will be meeting and that bill will be on the agenda; it passed at the Local Delegation Meeting unanimous and it passed out of the first committee unanimous. It is only for the CRA.

2. Apopka Police Department and Orange County Sheriff's Office Partnership

Mayor Nelson stated Chief McKinley and I have had a couple meetings with Orange County; we are looking at some additional surveillance cameras. Duke Energy has also stepped in to help.

Next, Mayor Nelson stated that in regards to COVID numbers, last week we were down to about 4% positivity rate and about four weeks ago, we were at about 40% positive rate. We are now back to about 14%. We will determine relatively soon when we want to reopen City Hall.

Lastly, tomorrow we have the groundbreaking at the Town Center for Starbucks and the Food Hall. It will be at 11:00am in front of the Hilton Garden Inn.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Bryan Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Susan M. Bone, City Clerk