

CITY OF APOPKA

Minutes of the City Council regular meeting held on January 20, 2021 at 7:00 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 Peery – The Apopka Chief

INVOCATION/PLEDGE – Commissioner Bankson provided the invocation; led in the Pledge of Allegiance and provided the Fact of the Day and said that on January 18, 1919, world leaders began a peace conference to officially negotiate the end of WWI. The conference would take six months to complete. Leaders from Allied forces including France, Great Britain and Italy met in Paris to negotiate the terms for reparations to be paid by Germany as part of the Treaty of Versailles which was signed on June 28, 1919.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Regular Council Meeting Minutes of January 06, 2021.

Mayor Nelson asked if anyone had any questions about the minutes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 06, 2021.

MOTION by Commissioner Bankson and seconded by Commissioner Smith, followed by a roll call vote to approve the minutes of January 06, 2021. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Nelson, and Commissioners Bankson, Becker, Smith & Velazquez voting aye.

AGENDA REVIEW

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Gary Childress of 3914 Caledonia Avenue, Apopka, FL 32712 said that we the citizens of the Rock Springs Ridge Community are spending a lot of money in legal fees just to keep our community in a condition that is, sub-par to what many of us originally paid into. He said the residents have been more than generous over the many years since the loss of the golf course and repeated code violations by its owner, however we will not sit quietly with repeated proposals to turn the green space into more houses. He said the beauty of our community is being threatened and stated that if housing development occurs on the former golf course, their properties will be devalued with more noise and traffic. He further stated that this is a breach of a social contract and said that they have faith that our elected officials will defend us against this economic and emotional assault and said we want no re-zoning and no land-use amendment.

Jeff Chaffee of 2444 Wyndam Bay Place, Apopka, FL 32703 said he lives in Clear Lake Subdivision and they seem to be having an issue with the rising water and the retention pond. He said he recalls that this issue was brought up when Avian Pointe was being developed and it continues to rise and has taken over the playground so much so that the kids can't play there anymore. He asked what can be done for this.

Mayor Nelson responded and said we've had flooding issues there and across that area and said Mr. Weatherford sent out a U-Tube video to help residents understand what's going on. Mayor Nelson said there are two underlying reasons, one of which was the RIBS (rapid infiltration basin) and said that there were contracts signed by the City a while ago that required us to take on a lot of reclaimed water that we have no where to store or put the water so Orange County has been putting water into a RIB (rapid infiltration basin), which is not far from your neighborhood. He said a second agreement was made a decade or so ago and is that if we were to take off of the North Shore of Lake Apopka and put a drainage well that would take the water from the North Shore and put it down in the aquifer. He stated he's not comfortable with doing that but said that we're looking into other solutions and have reached out to the SJRWMD.

Kelly Shirley, 1855 Boy Scout Road, Apopka, FL 32703 came to speak about Ordinance No. 2810 but had inadvertently filled out the wrong paperwork. He will speak once that portion of the agenda is being discussed.

David Hoffman, 3610 Tayside Court, Apopka, FL 32712, provided a narrative he wrote and entitled "10 more reasons to preserve Rock Springs Ridge". He then read the narrative.

Donnie Williams, 227 N. Central Avenue, Apopka, FL 32703, said he is currently the residing President for the Rotary Club of Apopka and said he submitted a letter for the Commissioner's and the Mayor to review. He said that after a consultation with the City and other legacy civic organizations, the Rotary Club of Apopka Foundation has agreed to pursue a development plan, in partnership with the City of

Apopka. He stated that the purpose of this partnership is to revitalize and repurpose the property at 368 N. Park Avenue, also known as the Connelly House. He further stated that the Rotary Club of Apopka Foundation has committed financial, management and labor resources to make this vision a reality. He said the property has been dormant for nearly two decades and has a potential to provide a significant value to the community. He said it is their intent to create a business and event center that will serve the area for decades to come. He stated that this project fills a niche between the facilities at Highland Manor and the Apopka Community Center/VFW. He said that this property will provide a resource for business meetings, family celebrations, etc., while respecting the history and community of Apopka. He stated that as a community partner for nearly 95 years, the Rotary understands the potential importance of this project. In preparation, he requested that the City of Apopka consider the following improvements: demo and debris removal, building engineering and design services, parking lot design and construction as well as provide access to City Water and Sewer. He said they look forward to working with the City and providing the value to the community.

Corey Clarke, 625 Mt. Stirling Avenue, Apopka, FL 32712, Rock Springs Ridge, said he's here for a couple of reasons. He said that first, he wanted to thank the Council for their help in coming up with a compromise for the sewer line that was going in at the Hammrick Development. He said that would've had a huge impact on their street and property on Mt. Stirling Avenue and also said he hoped Commissioner Becker was listening as he was a part of that. He said secondly, he wanted to reiterate what some of the neighbors were saying and said that we're very concerned with what's being proposed for the golf course. He said he appreciates your consideration for their concern.

David Schorejs, 1336 Hillway Street, Apopka, FL 32703, stated he is also the Pastor at the First Baptist Church of Apopka. He said he was here to speak about a potential opportunity. He said that eight years ago when he came to this community as Pastor, he was led to have our church embrace the downtown community where there was a lot of difficult situations with homeless and impoverished people. He said as we ministered to them, we found that there was a great opportunity to see some life change in their lives and so began to do that. He said we also saw that a good number of them had no desire to go beyond being helped so the Church moved toward trying to coordinate a group effort of all our community. He said through the government, local businesses and our churches, we began partnering and working together to help those who wanted to better themselves. He said they found that in meeting at the church, this was a bit challenging as it's hard to partner when your name on the building. He said we applied for a Next Step Foundation and became a 501-C3 Foundation now. He said they're looking for a location to get started that everyone can work together in and meet the needs of those in need. He said he understands that there may be an opportunity through the City and said they would be honored and blessed to be able to work together with the City in this effort to get a building and get started.

Mayor Nelson said we've been meeting on this for about two years and now have eighteen churches committed to being a part of this. He said this is a great resource that wants to make a difference and would

like our support and our help. He thanked Pastor Schorejs for leading the charge and for being a role model for a lot of us.

PRESENTATION

1. Police Department Recognition of Kimberly Pollard
Presented by: Chief McKinley

Chief McKinley called Kimberly Pollard, citizen, to the podium and said that the Apopka Police Department would like to present Ms. Pollard with a certificate of commendation and provided a brief overview of why. He said that on January 2, 2021, while traveling on Main Street, she observed a woman appearing to be in distress with a small child in her arms. He said she turned around to check on the woman and saw only the child and the child was now alone and on the ground near busy Main Street. She, without hesitation, intervened. He said she picked up the child and contacted the Apopka Police Department. He stated that on behalf of the City of Apopka, the Apopka Police Department, and the Citizens of Apopka, we thank you for intervening and ensuring the child was safe.

2. Appointment of Deputy Police Chief
Presented by: Chief McKinley

Chief McKinley said he'd like to ask Captain Jerome Miller to the podium and first shared a few things about Captain Miller. He said Captain Miller began his career with the Apopka Police Department on September 4, 1996. He said that over the past twenty-five years with the Apopka Police Department, Captain Miller has held many assignments within the agency and has worked his way up the chain of command where he currently holds the rank of Captain over the Support-Services Division. He holds a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy. He said it is his honor to present him with a Certificate of Promotion to the rank of Deputy Chief.

Deputy Chief Miller said this has been a long time coming. He said when he started here in September 1996, he had no idea that he would be here in Apopka this long but through the years, he was encouraged to hang in there, the City of Apopka needs you. He said he had some help initially when he started and said one of his training officers, Robert Hippler, who is now our IT Director, always encouraged him a lot and made his transition from the start that much easier and thanked him for that. He said there were also a number of co-workers that helped his journey dating back to Chief Joe Brown who hired him and brought him to Apopka. He said prior to that, he was trying to process with Orange County and they were having a hiring freeze at the time so one of the Captains made a phone call to Chief Joe Brown and the rest is history. He thanked his wife and said he appreciates all of his family's support.

CONSENT (Action Item)

1. Authorize the issuance of evaluated and sole source memos.
2. Accept the disbursement report for December 2020.

Mayor Nelson asked if anyone had any questions or needed to pull anything off the consent agenda. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the two (2) items on consent.

MOTION by Commissioner Velazquez, and seconded by Commissioner Smith, followed by a roll call vote to approve the two (2) items on Consent. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Nelson, and Commissioners Bankson, Becker, Smith & Velazquez voting aye.

BUSINESS (Action Item)

1. Approve the closing agreement with Duke Energy Florida, LLC. for settlement of public service tax and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement.
Presented by: Edward Bass

Edward Bass said this item is the closing agreement with Duke Energy Florida, LLC. for the settlement of the public service tax. He said we have the representatives from Duke Energy Florida here as well to answer any questions. He provided a summary of this item and said that back in 2016, the City contracted with Municode and our Attorney at the time, Cliff Shepard, to go through the Code of Ordinances and bring it up to date with State Statutes. He said we went through that process and in 2018, Ordinance No. 2698 was adopted which at that time, repealed the cap on the Public Service Tax. He said the current public service tax which is charged on the electric, gas and water service was 10% and had a cap of \$20. He said that during the review of the Code of Ordinances, it was found that the State Statute does not allow for a cap and the Code was amended to repeal the cap. He said we've been meeting with our friends at Duke, and have had many conversations in order to come up with this agreement. He said that Duke has agreed in this agreement of a settlement of about \$2.9 million for the period of January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2020, which is the period in which the cap was still in place. He said the Ordinance needed some work so we've worked with Duke on this as they're the ones that collect and remit the Public Service Tax to the City, on the electric side. He said we will bring forth the changes to the Ordinance under the Public Hearing portion. He said that one of the things that is important to remember here is that is required by Statute is to provide the Department of Revenue (DOR) 120-day notice of the change before we can make it effective so we will bring this back for a second reading and adoption at another meeting. Following that meeting, it would become effective on July 1, 2021.

He said that one of the things we looked at with the \$2.9 million settlement is that staff has gone back to the last two fiscal years of our budget. He said that there were some items in our budget that we were unable to fund. He said they're significant items that we needed but were unable to fund and provided a few examples, including a fire truck and a storage building so there's some

funding for that. He provided a list and said there's been discussion tonight from some of the community about a resource center and there's a little bit of funding for that. He said also we discussed the Connelly House and said there's some funding to do a design or a study of what can be done with the property. He said we can also pay off some of our debt so we set ourselves up for the fiscal year budget coming up. He said this list is not conclusive and it's more than the \$2.9 million but this is reflective of some of the issues and concerns that we've been faced with and what we're hearing from the community. He said this item does not approve these expenditures completely and we will come back to Council with budget amendments for those items once we get the dollars from Duke. He said he and the representatives will be available if anyone has questions.

Commissioner Velazquez said most of her questions were answered previously and asked if this item is approved, it does not include the list to which Mr. Bass spoke to the affirmative. She then asked if it would be in a workshop.

Mayor Nelson said we should be able to do it individually and take up a few items at each meeting or we can do a workshop to which Mr. Bass agreed and said we can do whatever the Council deems appropriate.

Commissioner Bankson asked when we should expect the funding to which the representative stated that it should be funded within 30 days.

Commissioner Smith said that he's grateful for Duke and said we should address the funding during a workshop verses doing them individually as that would take a long time to get through.

Commissioner Becker said he discussed this with Duke and feels pretty comfortable and understands where we've gotten to on this matter. He said that he agrees with the rest of the Council and would prefer to discuss the list during a workshop. He said on the items of the Resource Center and the Connolly Building, we need some direction as to designs, concepts, etc.

Bobby Boeh, 2317 Boy Scout Road, Apopka, FL 32703, asked who she can contact about a neighbor who has filled in a flood zone and blocked off drainage so that now there are 7-9 lots that are flooding due to this action.

Mayor Nelson provided the email address to JWeatherford@apopka.net, and asked Mr. Weatherford to provide her with his business card so that she can contact him.

Mayor Nelson asked if anyone had any questions or if anyone from the public wished to speak on this item. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the closing agreement with Duke Energy Florida, LLC. for settlement of public service tax and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement.

MOTION by Commissioner Smith, and seconded by Commissioner Bankson, followed by a roll call vote to approve the closing agreement with Duke Energy Florida, LLC. Motion

carried unanimously with Mayor Nelson, and Commissioners Bankson, Becker, Smith & Velazquez voting aye.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/ORDINANCES/RESOLUTION (Action Item)

1. Ordinance No. 2810 – Second Reading – Comprehensive Plan – Small Scale Future Land Use Amendment
From: Office (Max. 0.3 FAR)
To: Mixed Use (Max. 1.0 FAR, 15 DU/AC)
Owner/Applicant: Carpenter Companies Florida LLC
Location: South of East Oak Street and west of N. Forest Avenue
Project: 0.13 +/- acres
Project Manager: Phil Martinez

Mayor Nelson asked if there have been any changes since the first reading to which Jim Hitt advised that there are no changes. He then asked if anyone had any questions or if anyone from the public wished to speak on this item.

Kelly Shirley, 1885 Boy Scout Road, Apopka, FL 32703, said that this doesn't really affect him personally but said it didn't make any sense for him to go from Commercial to Residential or Mixed-Use. He said it seemed a bit hodge-podge to him.

Mayor Nelson responded and said that one of the reasons is that the hospital is no longer there so it's not quite the office/commercial hub that it was. He said after the hospital was torn down, the dynamic changed out there so now it's less office/commercial.

Commissioner Smith said he drove the area and said that three (3) sides of the block are all residential and the piece of property they're talking about is a vacant parking lot and a storage facility.

Mayor Nelson said that the Ulster Group currently has that property under contract. He said the property is close to 90 acres and they're looking to redevelop the property into a very well planned out, walkable, residential, and commercial area, including possibly restaurants from Votaw Road to Oak Street.

Jim Hitt said that this project will fit in with the area and they want to make it into a mixed-use area. He said the property is only about 50' wide and 100' deep so in terms of putting in more office there, it really isn't a large enough parcel to put in a good office there and added there is residential to the South.

Commissioner Becker said he gets that there's residential there and asked if we're planning on trying to approach other property owners in that area to change the future land use on their property and zoning classification to multi-user/mixed-use.

Jim Hitt responded that the existing uses can stay as is but if they did want to come in and change their properties to mixed-use, they can however there is no need to as they already have an existing use.

Mayor Nelson asked if anyone else had any questions or wished to speak on this item. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2810.

MOTION by Commissioner Bankson, and seconded by Commissioner Smith followed by a roll call vote to adopt Ordinance No. 2810. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Nelson, and Commissioners Bankson, Becker, Smith & Velazquez voting aye.

2. Ordinance No. 2812 – Second Reading - Annexation

Owner: Apopka Centerline Development, LLC

Applicant: VHB c/o Erika Hughes

Location: North of Boy Scout Road and east of South Binion Road

Project: 9.487 +/- acres

Project Manager: Allyson Williams

Mayor Nelson asked if there have been any changes since the first reading to which Jim Hitt stated there are no changes. He then asked if anyone had any questions or if anyone from the public wished to speak on this item. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2812.

Kelly Shirley, 1885 Boy Scout Road, Apopka, FL 32703, said this property is adjacent to his easement and he would like to find out more information about what will be going on with this.

Jim Hitt said this is just the annexation phase and is the first step in the development process with the Bronson property. He said that right now, that northern portion will be residential. He said, south of Boy Scout Road will be a mixed-use product which will likely be single family and possibly some townhomes. He said the zoning would likely be PUD if it's a mixed-use product and said that this will go through the normal development process and the applicant will be required to maintain the easement and provide access to the property

Commissioner Smith asked if the easement is adjacent to the piece of property we're annexing to which Mr. Hitt stated yes, this is on the west side.

Mayor Nelson asked if anyone else had any questions or wished to speak on this item. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2812.

MOTION by Commissioner Smith, and seconded by Commissioner Velazquez, followed by a roll call vote to adopt Ordinance No. 2812. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Nelson, and Commissioners Bankson, Becker, Smith & Velazquez voting aye.

3. Ordinance No. 2813 - First Reading - Amending Chapter 2, Article IV, Division 2, Section 2-98, Code of Ordinances, providing authority to establish public records request fees by resolution.
Presented by: Michael Rodriguez

Michael Rodriguez, City Attorney, said back in December, the Council passed by Resolution No. 2020-37 the new fees for public records, copies, fees as well as the time that is undertaken by staff to conduct the public records request. What this Ordinance does is go back into the Code which years ago, codified amounts for copies and for services. In order to streamline the process and make things more efficient, any updates will be done by resolution. They will still be a public hearing and they are publicly noticed but no longer require that we go through the codification process for fees, which can change from time to time. This amends the ordinance and authorizes the council to adopt fees by resolution.

Commissioner Becker said that to clarify, the resolution language provides that we have the ability to update the fees and that the actual fees and fee schedules will be publicly noticed to which Michael confirmed.

Commissioner Velazquez asked that when someone comes in to request a public notice, do we send them a fee schedule to which Michael responded that they can request the resolution but the requestor is notified that there may be reasonable fees. She then asked if we could put the fees up on the website.

Mayor Nelson asked if anyone had any questions or if anyone from the public wished to speak on this item. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2813 at first reading and hold over for second reading and adoption.

MOTION by Commissioner Bankson, and seconded by Commissioner Smith, followed by a roll call vote to approve Ordinance No. 2813 at first reading and hold over for a second reading and adoption. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Nelson, and Commissioners Bankson, Becker, Smith & Velazquez voting aye.

4. Ordinance No. 2814 - First Reading - Amending Chapter 66, Code of Ordinances, City of Apopka, entitled "Public Service Tax."
Presented by: Edward Bass

Edward Bass said that earlier under the business item we talked about the agreement with have with Duke for the public service tax that is coming from Duke. He said that this is the first reading of Ordinance No. 2814 and said the public service tax that we currently have has a cap of \$20. He said it is calculated at 10% on electric, gas, and water. He said that currently, we're collecting with a \$20 cap on those services. He stated that the ordinance we discussed earlier that was adopted in 2018, repealed that cap. He said Ordinance No. 2814 clarifies that and provides the change for how the public service tax will be calculated. He provided a summary of what this ordinance does and said that the ordinance will amend for electric service only. He said what it does is it taxes at 10% up to 5,000 kwh and then any kwh above 5,000 will be calculated at 4%.

He stated that the gas and water will be 10% flat, across the board for metered services. We worked with Duke to come up with a way to help provide some relief to our large industrial/commercial customers. He said that 4% seemed to provide some relief to those customers and also provided s

some incentive to them. He said that the residential customers will not see much change at all, and reiterated that it will mainly be the larger commercial and industrial businesses that will feel the impact from removing the cap. This amendment also creates an exemption on the gas side for agricultural purposes as provided by the Statute. He stated that removing the cap generates a little over \$1 million-dollars in revenue for FY2022. He said that as stated previously, we must provide DOR a 120-day notice, before we can put it into effect. He said this is the first reading, so if we adopt the ordinance at the second reading, it won't take effect until July 1, 2021. He said this is going to be additional revenue coming in for budget purposes and this can be an opportunity to look at other revenue sources, including the property tax rate to see if we can provide a little bit of relief to offset this increase. He also said that Duke Energy will be doing mail outs to our customers and will have customer service lines set up for any questions that may arise.

Commissioner Velazquez stated that she has spent a lot of time with Duke and she was satisfied with all of her questions and she appreciates that they are taking on the role of seeing the large commercial customers that we have in Apopka.

Commissioner Bankson asked for the average residential usage.

Todd Kihlmire, representative for Duke Energy, stated that the average residential bill, in the City of Apopka is approximately 1,240 kwh a month, which will translate into today's rates of \$185.02. In the tax that we are discussing for a bill of that size will be approximately \$14.02.

Commissioner Bankson stated that he believes that there was over 19,000 that was under 5,000 kwh usage and 52 were the only ones over that, on the residential side to which Edward confirmed.

Commissioner Smith stated that his only concern was with the agricultural industries, so his questions have been answered and he is satisfied.

Commissioner Becker stated that he is good with the ordinance language. He said he wants to make sure that all is understood and we have people on the staff level to reconcile.

Mayor Nelson asked a motion to approve ordinance number 2814 at first reading and hold over for second reading and adoption.

MOTION by Commissioner Smith, and seconded by Commissioner Velazquez, followed by a roll call vote. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Nelson, and Commissioners Bankson, Becker, Smith, & Velazquez voting aye.

5. Ordinance No. 2815 - First Reading - Amending Chapter 78, Code of Ordinances, City of Apopka, by establishing rate schedules for water use charges and deposits, wastewater use charges and deposits, distributed wastewater treatment system use charges and deposits, and reclaimed water rates.

Presented by: Michael Rodriguez

Michael Rodriguez, City Attorney, said that this is another housekeeping type ordinance. He said that mainly, the fees that were established for utilities for water, waste-water are numerated and listed. He said all of the fees remain the same and any changes made for future fees will be done through Council and by resolutions. He said the resolution will include fee schedules and said we can put these up on the website as well.

Mayor Nelson asked if anyone had any questions or if anyone from the public wished to speak on this item. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2815 at first reading and hold over for second reading and adoption.

MOTION by Commissioner Bankson, and seconded by Commissioner Velazquez, followed by a roll call vote to approve Ordinance No. 2815 at first reading and hold over for a second reading and adoption. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Nelson, and Commissioners Bankson, Becker, Smith & Velazquez voting aye.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Commissioner Velazquez wish a congratulations to Eric Berrios and Matthew Garonne for their achievements as firefighter of the year. She also stated that she attended the Saturday Sounds concert and she hopes that more residents try to make it out.

Commissioner Bankson sent a congratulations to Deputy Chief Miller. He stated that the trees did get trimmed. He said he spoke with Amber Pain and that all of the Commissioners had responded to her and her concerns about another gunshot issue. She is looking at starting a community policing group which is moving forward. He said John Cloren has some long-term drainage issues on Ulster; and said he has some information that he'll give to Edward on this. He went on to state that Leadership Apopka has extended their enrollment dates.

Commissioner Smith said congratulations to Deputy Chief Miller for his promotion and thanked the Mayor and Chief McKinley and to Mr. Bass and said he has worked very hard for this position. He went on to thank the Fire and Police Departments for their participation in the MLK Parade on Monday and there was an outstanding presence from both departments. He also thanked the Mayor and City Council members for their participation in the parade.

Commissioner Becker congratulated Deputy Chief Miller on this well-deserved promotion and said he looks forward to congratulating him in person. He thanked everyone for accommodating him to attend via Zoom and said he has a bit of cabin fever and said everyone stay safe out there. He said he's excited as what this tells him is that the Police Department is in good shape and we're about to talk about a Finance Director so that tells him that the Finance Department is in good shape so naturally speaking, the next on the radar is our HR Director position. He said he's hoping to have equal amount of congratulatory remarks at the next meeting to say that that job has been posted and we're looking to fill that as well so he looks forward to that meeting

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

1. Appointment of Gladymir Ortega as the Finance Director

Edward Bass stated that he is asking for the Council's approval for the appointment of Gladymir Ortega, as the new Finance Director. He said that each of you have met with her and reviewed her credentials and resume and he's excited and said the interview was done via Zoom and was happy to meet her. He said she has a lot of experience with the Osceola County Clerk's office and said that she ratified tonight, she will be starting tomorrow morning at 8:00am.

Gladymir Ortega stated that she is a resident of Clermont and she has been doing accounting for over twenty-five years. She has worked for various industries including timeshare industries, non-profit schools, and most recently she worked 5.5 years for the Clerk of the Court in Osceola County. She said last year, she was nominated for Clerk Comptroller and was training for that position however, the election happened and a change of management made her lose her job. She said she is very excited for the opportunity to work for the City of Apopka.

Mayor Nelson asked if anyone had any questions for Ms. Ortega.

Commissioner Velazquez stated that we all had the pleasure of meeting her one on one and she was very impressed and said she looks forward to working with her.

Commissioner Bankson echoed those sentiments and said he enjoyed meeting her. He said he liked the fact that she is well rounded and will bring in different aspects to the position and welcomed her aboard.

Commissioner Smith welcomed her and said he had the opportunity to meet her and said she has a very outgoing personality and he loves that as he's a people person. He said she's sharp and quick and welcomed her aboard.

Commissioner Becker said in many respects, obviously the Finance Director position is probably the second most important job in the City, behind the HR Director. He said our financial capital is really in great respect the most important job we do in the City regarding the financial spirit of our taxpayer dollars. He stated that he had the chance to speak to Gladymir this afternoon. He said that we typically have high remarks when we prepare our annual financial statements and said it sounds like she has good experience doing that with the places she's been, most specifically the Clerk of the Court, being a Government organization, similar to ours. He said he also has some background with working at the Clerk of the Courts office so he was able to contact his colleague at the Clerk of the Court who had high things to say about her. He said he looks forward to working with her and wished her success.

Mayor Nelson asked for a motion to approve Gladymir Ortega as the new Finance Director.

MOTION by Commissioner Bankson, and seconded by Commissioner Valazquez, followed by a roll call vote to approve Gladymir Ortega as the new Finance Director. Motion carried

unanimously with Mayor Nelson, and Commissioners Bankson, Becker, & Velazquez voting aye.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Rodriguez said that it's that time of the year where the legislature gets together. He said he's provided a summary for your packets which highlights the bills that will have an impact on the City. He said he will be tracking them and reviewing them and said he will prepare a legislative report that have been approved that have an effect on the City.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Nelson provided a brief Legislative update on the three items we all agreed to as to our priorities as follows:

Harmon Road extension - Representative Truenow has agreed to sponsor in the House and Senator Baxley has agreed to sponsor in the Senate.

Fire Station 6 - Representative Brown has agreed to sponsor in the House and he is waiting to hear back from Senator Brasie on the senate sponsor.

Wekiva Springs Recharge Flood Protection – We are waiting to hear back from Representative Plakin and Senator Broder has agreed to sponsor in the Senate.

He then gave a shout out to the Building Department, and said they were behind, due to Covid, and they came in over the weekend to catch up and billed over \$700,000 in impact fees. He congratulated them on making this happen.

He reported that the team at Recreation came up with a couple of classes and said the participants will either need a vaccination or a mask is required. The new schedule will be implemented as of February 1st. All classes will be held at the VFW due to its larger size and more space to spread out.

He also reported that the Apopka EDC Website is underway and we are projecting a February 17th presentation.

He provided a brief Covid-19 update and said we have 20 paramedics ready to give out the vaccines. He said that he and Edward went out to the convention center to see the vaccination process and stated that they are very impressive. They had seventeen different positions and they were doing a couple thousand a day. He said we are pushing very hard on DOH and Orange County to let us administer them at the VFW. He stated that we can put in two stations with four paramedics and two office staff, and could do up to two-hundred and fifty vaccinations a day and are just waiting on DOH to give us the green light.

He went on to state that several months ago, we contracted with a water company to look at some water loss issues. Water loss was approaching 18% and said that in 2.5 weeks they have found \$12,000 per month in revenue. He said they reported accounts that were not on the system, and that we were charging water to but not sewer.

He said lastly, he received a call from Dan Wilcox who runs the YMCA stating that their revenue has been cut by two thirds since the pandemic and will need to sell Camp Wewa. He stated that they have a buyer ready to purchase. He asked Mr. Wilcox to allow him to bring it to the City Council's attention before it is sold. He stated that the City has talked about putting recreational facilities on Harmon Road for the southwest part of the City, so he suggested perhaps a land swap that the City has on Harmon for the land on Camp Wewa. They are ready to sell it and turn it into homes. He is asking for the council's opinion and feedback.

Commissioner Velazquez stated that this is a big investment for the City Apopka, but she understands the sentimental value of it. She does not like the idea of the buying turning it into residential homes, but she would like to have more information. She would like more time to review the material given on the property.

Commissioner Bankson stated that if it is a feasible and worthwhile match, he is for pursuing it.

Commissioner Smith stated that he would like to pursue it and see what needs to be done to get an appraisal done on both properties.

Commissioner Becker asked if the intent would be to operate it as a camp, as it is now, or would it be different.

Mayor Nelson responded and said that Brian Forman is not a fan of overnight camping, due to the liability that comes with it. He said the numbers we have are based on how they have always run it however we can discuss further

The consensus of the council was to get more information and move forward.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Bryan Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Susan M. Bone, City Clerk