CITY OF APOPKA

Minutes of the regular City Council meeting held on September 11, 2019, 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 Alice Nolan
City Attorney Joseph Byrd
City Administrator Edward Bass

PRESS PRESENT: John Perry, The Apopka Chief
Reggie Connell – The Apopka Voice

INVOCATION – Pastor Jeanne Bowser from Word of Life Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE – Mayor Nelson introduced John Rassel student from Wekiva High School who led in the Pledge of Allegiance and provided the history fact. He said this week in history in the year 1962, former president John F. Kennedy gave a speech at Rice University telling Americans that "We choose to go to the moon!" After a string of accomplishments by the Soviet Union during the early stages of the Space Race, the former president saw the need to further persuade Americans to support the Apollo program and the national effort to reach the Moon. His speech to a crowd of 40,000 people helped to reinvigorate the American people's will to pursue space exploration and boost national morale. Kennedy's vision of putting American's on the Moon would be fulfilled seven years later and his speech is still widely remembered to this day, nearly 57 years later. People now look back at JFK's speech in hopes of renewing American interest in space exploration and continuing to push further and further into the depths of the cosmos.

AGENDA REVIEW – Edward Bass, City Administrator said there were no changes.

Mayor Nelson shared a video Channel 9 aired featuring the Apopka Fire Department putting together medical supplies donated to the Bahamas in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian. Larry Dobson flew the supplies to the Bahamas in his private plane.

PROCLAMATIONS:

1. Mayor Nelson read a proclamation on Childhood Cancer Awareness for Apopka Families proclaiming the month of September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. He presented the proclamation to Clayton and Elena Rawls and Aiden.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Greg Averill, 3019 Plymouth Oaks Road, said he recently retired and lives close to the NW Recreation Complex. He stated he was at a lost to understand why there was no facility for the elderly or people on disability. He said he would like to know what programs the city has.

Mayor Nelson said the City has a very successful program at the Fran Carlton Center where every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. there is a chair exercise program for the elderly to help with mobility. Upon completion of Alonzo Williams Community Center this will program will be added there. Brian Foreman, Parks and Recreation Director said that programs for seniors in general are ran out of the Fran Carlton Center to include lunches, trips, and exercise programs. He provided Mr. Averill his contact information and said he would be glad to meet with him.

John Ricketson, Publisher of The Apopka Chief and Plantar, said they have an article in the paper regarding the significance of the 9-11 Memorial in front of City Hall.

CONSENT (Action Item)

1. Acceptance of the United States Tennis Association (USTA) Grant Award.
2. Authorize the Police Department to apply for funding in accordance with the 2019 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program.
3. Approve Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement – The Oaks at Kelly Park
4. Approve a contract extension for FYE 2019 audit services with Moore Stephens Lovelace, P.A.
5. Authorize a piggyback contract with ENCO Utility Services for Utility Billing printing and mailing.
6. Authorize a donation to Apopka High School Academic Consortium of Scholars from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund.
7. Authorize a donation to AMIKids Orlando from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund.
8. Authorize the Police Department to expend funds from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund to be donated to Central Florida Crime Line.
9. Authorize the Police Department to expend funds from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund to be donated to Harbor House of Central Florida.
10. Authorize a donation from Law Enforcement Trust Funds to Loving Assisting Nurturing Educating & Supporting Teenage Girls, Inc. (LANES)
11. Authorize the issuance of blanket purchase orders.

MOTION by Commissioner Smith, and seconded by Commissioner Nolan to approve eleven items on the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Nelson, and Commissioners Bankson, Becker, Smith, and Nolan voting aye.

BUSINESS (Action Item)

1. Final Development Plan/Plat – Oak Point North Subdivision
   Project: Thompson Hills Estates, LLC
   Location: East of SR 429, south of Ocoee-Apopka Road

   Bobby Howell, Senior Planner provided an overview of the Oak Point North Subdivision. The applicant is requesting approval of a Final Development Plan (FDP) and Plat for a mixed-use subdivision on approximately 33 acres of property located east of the intersection of S.R. 429 and Ocoee Apopka Road. He reviewed the location of the property on a map and surrounding land uses. The property is zoned Mixed-use East Shore Gateway and the range of uses are permitted. The FDP and Plat detail the construction of a mixed-use subdivision consisting of lots noted as Tracts A-I and of these Tracts A-C are reserved for future development. A road connection will be provided to Oak Point Residential Subdivision to the south connecting to Ocoee Apopka Road and run south to the development. There will be a 12-foot wide multiuse path provided to the residential development leading to Ocoee Apopka Road and provide future connection to the bicycle trail network. DRC and Planning Commission recommend approval.

Mayor Nelson opened the public hearing. No one wishing to speak, he closed the public hearing.

MOTION by Commissioner Bankson, and seconded by Commissioner Nolan to approve the Final Development Plan/Plat for Oak Point North. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Nelson, and Commissioners Bankson, Becker, Smith, and Nolan voting aye.

2. Final Development Plan/Plat – The Oaks at Kelly Park Residential Subdivision
   Project: Landco Development Group, LLC
   Location: 2309 and 2405 West Kelly Park Road

   Bobby Howell said the applicant is requesting approval of a Final Development Plan and Plat for 124 single-family homes on 39.47 acres. He reviewed the location of the property and surrounding land use on a map. He advised all elements of the FDP and Plat are consistent with the approved Master Plan and Preliminary Development Plan approved by Council earlier in the year. He affirmed 28% of the site is preserved as open space. The amenities include a clubhouse with a pool, an internal trail system, and a passive open space and recreation area. The development will be developed in two phases. DRC and Planning Commission recommends approval.

   Jeff Summit, Summit Engineering said he was here to answer any questions.

   Mayor Nelson opened the public hearing. No one wishing to speak, he closed the public hearing.

   MOTION Commissioner Nolan, and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the Final Development Plan/Plat for The Oaks at Kelly Park. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Nelson and Commissioners Bankson, Becker, Smith, and Nolan voting aye.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/ORDINANCES/RESOLUTION (Action Item)

1. Ordinance No. 2730 – First Reading - Change of Zoning – Hammock at Rock Springs
   From: T (Transitional)
   To: PD (Planned Development)
   Project: Construesse USA, Inc.
   Location: West of Rock Springs Road and South of Disalvo Place
   The City Clerk read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2730

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM TRANSITIONAL TO PLANNED DEVELOPMENT FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2600 ROCK SPRINGS ROAD, COMPRISING 9.59 ACRES MORE OR LESS, AND OWNED BY CONSTRUESSE USA INC; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Phil Martinez, Planner said the applicant is proposing a rezoning from Transitional to Planned Development along with a Master Plan and Preliminary Development Plan. He reviewed the property on a map and surrounding land uses. The property is zoned Transitional with a Residential Low Suburban Future Land Use designation. The proposed plan shows 19 single family lots, four of which are 75 feet wide, and the remainder are 80 feet wide. The subdivision plan was reviewed under the 1993 Land Development Code and calls for a minimum living area of 2,200 square feet. The proposed name is Hammock at Rock Springs. The applicant proposes 3.37 acres of open and recreation space. He reviewed the proposed landscape and landscape buffers. He advised 19 Live Oaks are planned to be preserved throughout the landscaping plan. DRC and Planning Commission recommends approval. The recommendation is to accept at first reading and hold over for second reading and adoption.

Commissioner Becker inquired about the deviation regarding side entry garages, stating he has a 75-foot wide lot with a side garage entry.

Momtaz Barq, P.E., Terra-Max Engineering said he did not have a presentation, but was available for any questions. He stated the 75-foot wide lot and deviation regarding side garages was due to having 10-foot setbacks on both sides. He said with regard to Mayor Nelson's concerns of the Oak tree roots interfering with the sidewalks in time that they had initially submitted a different tree and it was not approved.

Jean Sanchez said the problems they have had are due to how close the trees are planted to the sidewalks. Code now requires a minimum of 8-feet.

Mayor Nelson opened the public hearing. No one wishing to speak, he closed the public hearing.

MOTION by Commissioner Nolan, and seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve Ordinance 2730 at first reading and carry it over for a second reading and adoption. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Nelson and Commissioners Bankson, Becker, Smith, and Nolan voting aye.

2. Ordinance No. 2731 – First Reading - Comprehensive Plan – Large Scale – Future Land Use Amendment

From: "County" Rural
To: "City" Parks/Recreation
Project: City of Apopka
Location: 2923 Lust Road
The City Clerk read the title as follows:

Mr. Martinez gave an overview of the proposed project. The applicant is proposing a large-scale future land use amendment from County Rural to City Parks/Recreation for approximately 69.5 acres. He reviewed the location of the subject property and surrounding land use. The property was annexed on June 5, 2019, and the zoning application will be brought before Council at a later date. The property is adjacent to a conservation area known as the Lake Apopka Restoration area. The Memorandum of Agreement calls for a nature based recreation and education public use facilities. DRC and Planning Commission recommend approval. The recommendation is to approve at first reading and authorize transmittal to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

Mayor Nelson opened the public hearing. No one wishing to speak, he closed the public hearing.

MOTION by Commissioner Bankson, and seconded by Commissioner Nolan to approve Ordinance No. 2731 at first reading and approve transmittal to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Nelson, and Commissioners Bankson, Becker, Smith, and Nolan voting aye.

3. Ordinance No. 2732 – First Reading - Change of Zoning – Monarchs at Lake Pleasant
From: T (Transitional) and RSF-1A (Residential Single Family)
To: RMF (Residential Multi-Family)
Project: The Monarchs at Lake Pleasant, LLC c/o Rafael Martinez
Location: 1653, 1711 and 1717 Apopka Boulevard
The City Clerk read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2732

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA CHANGING THE ZONING FROM TRANSITIONAL AND RSF-1A (RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY) TO RMF (RESIDENTIAL MULTI-FAMILY) FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1653, 1711 AND 1717 APOPKA BOULEVARD COMPRISING 23.52 ACRES, MORE OR LESS AND OWNED BY MONARCHS AT LAKE PLEASANT, LLC; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Jean Sanchez, Planner provided an overview of the project Monarchs at Lake Pleasant for a change of zoning from Transitional and Residential Single Family to Residential Multi-Family. She said this is the first reading for rezoning and the second reading and adoption of rezoning and future land use amendment are tentatively scheduled for September 18,

2019. She reviewed the location of the property and surrounding uses on a map. She said the property to the south, Chelsea Park, has a typical lot width of 32-feet and 100-feet in length. Piedmont Park to the east has a typical lot width of 52-feet and 115-feet in length. She said the concept plan shows a cluster development contained on the southern 13-acres of the site of seven apartment buildings, clubhouse, gazebo, and a playground. Total acreage is approximately 23.5 acres with a proposed density of 6.3 DU/AC. DRC and Planning Commissioner recommended approval. The recommendation is to approve at first reading and hold over for second reading and adoption.

Commissioner Bankson inquired if there had been any discussion with moving the project further away giving more buffer to the front.

Ms. Sanchez said this was the rezoning and site plan design has not been discussed.

Commissioner Bankson disclosed the Commissioners were able to meet individually with the applicant. He stated there was a lot of green space left and inquired if that would remain in perpetuity. Ms. Sanchez said it would remain open space for this proposed project.

Commissioner Smith said he met with several residents and they are concerned about the project developed on this site. A major concern is the two buildings closest to the road proposed to be 3-story buildings. He stated he would hate to approve the zoning change not knowing they would be able to consider 2-story buildings at the front or moving these to the back of the project.

James Hitt, Community Development Director said the land-use and zoning would be before Council on September 18, 2019. Jonathan Huels is representing the applicant and has a presentation that may answer some of these questions. He advised they could do a Development Agreement when the site plan is before Council, but they cannot do conditional zoning.

Commissioner Becker said in terms of the Development Agreement, would Council be able to put the framework in place to make some stipulations in advance. Mr. Hitt responded in the affirmative.

Commissioner Becker said he has received emails on this project and he wants to make sure they are talking in realistic terms. He stated he drove through the apartment complexes in Apopka to prepare for this meeting. Oasis near Piedmont Lake is a very nice subdivision. He also referred to Willow Lake and Marden Ridge Apartments stating they were all in very good shape and low crime areas. He asked if people are going to address crime or other matters, to please come with facts supporting concerns.

Jonathan Huels with the Lowndes Law Firm is representing the applicant/owner. He reviewed the process timeline stating this started in May 2018 with the Comp Plan Amendment Application submittal and after going through Council on December 5, 2018, it was transmitted to the state and the state did not have any comments upon return to the city. He stated the city was going through development of a new Land Development Code and they decided to wait for that process to end before moving forward with the rezoning. They submitted an application for the new PD zoning designation and in conjunction with that; they held a Community meeting in March. He advised there were approximately 20 people attending that meeting and there was a mixed response. He said they then went through the PD rezoning process with city staff and came to realize that was more than needed for the project that does not necessitate any off site infrastructure. They met with staff and agreed to convert this to a straight zoning from PD to RMF. This went to Planning Commission last month who voted 3-3 on the project, and they are now before Council with the first reading for the rezoning. If this first reading is approved it will come back before Council for both the adoption of the Comp Plan Amendment and the rezoning. If this is all approved, they will meet with city staff and finalize the site plan that will come before Planning Commission and Council. He said this would lock in all the recommendations possibly discussed here. This also allows comments with respect to the buildings located directly adjacent to Apopka Boulevard. He stated they could pull those back and create an additional setback similar to the other buildings. He said the property is 23 acres, 3 of which is either surface water or wetlands located to the northeast of the property. It is surrounded by existing residential development, consisting of subdivisions or large acreage single-family residential. He affirmed there is more of a use here than simply single-family residential, pointing out the Sam's Club, Super Walmart and heavy commercial corridor of Orange Blossom Trail. He said Chelsea Park has Residential Medium Low zoning, which is what they are seeking. There is also a 1-acre commercial parcel located on the southeast corner of Lakeville Road and Apopka Boulevard, as well as other industrial and institutional uses in the near vicinity. He said they are seeking Residential Multi-family that would allow up to 7.5 DU/AC and they will not be reaching that maximum, and will be at 6.2 DU/AC.

Mr. Huels said the site plan is a 126-unit apartment project that would be clustered toward the south of the property leaving the remainder as open space, keeping development away from the surface water, Lake Pleasant, and the adjacent wetlands. He affirmed they are prepared to commit today through whatever means will satisfy the city to insure that open space on the northern portion of the property remains open space by whatever contractual obligation of condition of approval that would satisfy Council. He pointed out the proposed site plan shows seven buildings surrounding a central green space or courtyard anchored by a pool, tot lot, and a clubhouse. The landscape plan shows where all trees would be planted. He said this does show the two residential buildings with a 25-foot front yard setback. He affirmed these buildings were placed there based on comments from staff and not a motivation of the owner/developer and they would have no issue pushing those buildings farther interior much like the remainder of the buildings that are more than 100-feet from the property boundaries. He declared if that is a concern of this Council and directive is given, they would be willing to try and accommodate that request. He pointed out the southeast corner is being shown as a dog park. They are providing amenities to keep this competitive with the market and will be developed as a market rate apartment project. A recreation trail will wrap around the perimeter of the project including the stormwater pond to the north.

Mr. Huels said it was important to note that what they are proposing, as opposed to what the minimum requirements would be if this property were developed as another use such as single-family residential, open space requirements in the new Land Development Code is at 20% through either development. This project is proposing 72% open space with the majority of that on the north side. He affirmed they would commit to keep the height at 35-feet. They are not seeking any waivers from height or any performance standards. He pointed out they are proposing over 100-feet side setbacks. Their proposed buffers are between 16 and 25 feet, depending on where located on the property. He reviewed renderings of the proposed buildings and an aerial rendering of the entire proposed project. He stated this rendering does not depict where the landscaping will be placed. He said they have heard a lot of what the traffic and school impacts are going to be. Pursuant to Orange County Public Schools Impact fee Study a 77 single-family residential unit development would generate 32 students as opposed to 126-apartment complex would produce 35 students. They have entered into a School Capacity Mitigation Agreement with OCPS. He reviewed the Traffic Generation study pursuant to ITE Trip Generation Manual and an average daily trip rate for 77 single-family residential homes is 9.44 and 126-apartments is 7.32, and peak hour trips is 76 and 71 respectfully. He affirmed their traffic study did make a recommendation for a left turn lane in from Apopka Boulevard and stated they are committed to providing this. They will also provide a right turn lane into the property. He asked that Council keep these things in mind that are based on facts and studies that have been reviewed by city staff when they hear opinions during the public hearing. He said they would request approval of the first reading of the proposed change of zoning consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Development Review Committee.

In response to Commissioner Becker asking Mr. Huels to talk through the traffic study since this is a major issue of concern, Mr. Huels pointed out the actual threshold to perform a full blown traffic study is actually 1,000 average daily trips, or 100 PM peak hour trips. He advised that they did not hit either of those thresholds, but still performed the study. The Traffic Study did show that based on the standards the city sets forth and the methodology given, all road segments evaluated operate in accessible level of service. He affirmed the new Land Development Code requires the right turn lane and this will be provided as part of the site plan.

Scott Israel, Traffic Engineer said he would never say a development has zero impact on a road. He said they try to measure what those impacts are if it is going to need mitigation and then determine a cost effective way to mitigate any congestion or such issues. In this case, they were below the threshold for requiring a traffic study, but it is good that this traffic study was performed out of respect to the residents in the area. He said the impact was that they determined a left turn lane is needed on Apopka Boulevard. He explained that they look at the existing intersections, and how they are running, and then they add new traffic to see the difference. He said the average delay at Lakeville Road and Apopka Boulevard in evening rush hour is 15.9 seconds and after development 16.1 seconds. Hiawassee Road and Apopka Boulevard is a busy intersection currently operating at level of service D with a current average delay of 37.2 seconds per vehicle and after development 38.5. He explained that this is not just development traffic, it includes generic growth. He affirmed the existing roadways can accommodate the development and they recommend a left turn lane for safety.

Mr. Huels said Adam Martinez has lived in Apopka for 10 years. He is in construction and property management. While he will not manage this property, he will hold on to it as an income generator. He said that since Mr. Martinez has been in Apopka, he has accumulated a portfolio of residential income generated properties that he leases and serves as property owner. Mr. Huels said that Mr. Martinez owns this property today and wants to make better use of the property by developing it as a multifamily project with the intention to utilize it to generate income at a high rate.

Commissioner Smith said residents are concerned with crime. He stated he visited apartments in the area and realized they are well kept. Realizing we have a shortage in workforce housing in Apopka, he asked Mr. Huels to define market rate.

Mr. Huels said it was not workforce housing. This is market rate, which means they will compete for the highest rent they can achieve.

Commissioner Bankson said when they get to the point of site plan; he would push to have the project setback as it gives more of a grand curb appeal.

Mr. Huels said they would work with staff to push the front buildings back. He stated they were separated from the residential homes across Apopka Boulevard by a 25-foot buffer, a wall, a roadway, another wall, and a backyard. This is over 100-feet and not as though they were appearing with a 25 or 35 foot setback.

Mayor Nelson opened the public hearing.
The following people spoke against the project and rezoning citing concerns of traffic, change of zoning to residential multi-family, stormwater and flooding, crime, property values, density, and the desire to preserve the character of their neighborhood. Ms. Olsen had a petition electronically and was advised to send a copy to the Clerk.

Melanie Johnson
Lou-Ann Olsen
John Acevedo
Karin Settle, President of Piedmont Park HOA

Jean Swette spoke in favor of the project and regarding the owner/developer's character and work ethic, stating she has known him for several years. She said he maintains his residential income generated properties very well and helps the surrounding neighbors.

No one else wishing to speak, Mayor Nelson closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Becker pointed out that the second reading of the land use change is back before Council at the next meeting and needs to be approved prior to the second reading of the zoning.

MOTION by Commissioner Nolan and seconded by Commissioner Becker to approve Ordinance No. 2732 at first reading and hold over for second reading and adoption. Motion carried 4-1 with Mayor Nelson, and Commissioners Bankson, Becker, and Nolan voting aye, and Commissioner Smith voting nay.

4. Resolution 2019-16 - FY18/19 Budget Amendment
The City Clerk read the title as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-16

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2018 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2019, PROVIDING FOR A BUDGET AMENDMENT.

Jamie Roberson reviewed the budget amendment stating this includes changes in funding and appropriations for the previous lawsuits that were settled. These were previously paid from the claims expense and this has been exhausted because of the ongoing claims. Additionally there are appropriations for the Harmon Road Tower repairs as a result of a lightning strike.

Mayor Nelson opened the public hearing. No one wishing to speak, he closed the public hearing.

MOTION by Commissioner Smith, and seconded by Commissioner Nolan to approve Resolution 2019-16 for a budget amendment. Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Nelson, and Commissioners Bankson, Becker, Smith, and Nolan voting aye.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Commissioner Nolan said one of the first things she expressed an interest in the City obtaining was a wheelchair for the Splash Pad. She stated working with staff they have collaborated with Advent Health to provide this wheelchair.

Commissioner Bankson said we were all devastated with what we have seen happen in the Bahamas with Hurricane Dorian. He stated the pilot’s association at the Orlando-Apopka Airport along with the City working to provide a reduced fuel rate in order to help provide supplies where most needed.

Commissioner Smith thanked Public Services and staff for working and going beyond duty making sure residents felt safe.

Commissioner Becker apologized for missing the citizens' police academy event this past Monday.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – No report.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – No report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

1. Appointment of Fire Chief.

   Commissioner Becker said he did not have an opportunity to officially and publically thank outgoing Chief Carnesale. He served the city for 37 years admirably and was well respected in the community. He stopped in to see Chief Carnesale that Friday morning and honored to be there when he received his last radio call that morning. He said he can appreciate the administration and Chief Carnesale of where they have gotten to and stated that he has no control of that.

   Commissioner Becker said he does have the opportunity to ratify appointments as our Charter states. He stated his frustration is they are trying to make a decision on the next wave of leadership for our Fire Department, and yet they have an investigation in their hands prior to this meeting with no enough time to consume and ingest the report to understand how this plays across the entire department. He said he did not know where this investigation lies in terms of the scope and scale of what the findings are applied to. He stated several counts noted as inconclusive.

   City Attorney Byrd advised this report was provided to the Council as a courtesy, and it has not officially been signed. He stated in his opinion it was inappropriate for anyone on Council to discuss a report that has not been finalized. He asked Council to please refrain from referring to specifics in the investigative report that was only provided in draft form as a courtesy, as explained in the memorandum. He stated these two matters are separate issues. He advised the final investigative report would be released tomorrow-early morning.

   Commissioner Smith said he did not have an opportunity to congratulate our outgoing Chief for his service provided and all the community events he participated in and supported. He publically acknowledged all of his hard work and service. He congratulated our new incoming Chief and said he looked forward to his work and service to the City.

   Commissioner Bankson said you could not be around our former Chief without knowing he loved what he did. He stated not being party to the decision making process, he respected that process and spoke with Chief Carnesale and wished him well. He affirmed he has had the opportunity to observe our incoming Chief and his character. He stated the investigative matters are separate, though they may have some bearing. He declared it was important to have someone at the helm that has proven to the standard of understanding our program and cares about our employees and he sees that with this individual.

Commissioner Nolan agreed with pushing the voting ahead a week to give the opportunity to review everything. She would also like the courtesy to be able to meet with Deputy Chief Wylam.

Mayor Nelson asked if it would be helpful to have an Acting Chief for a week to give the opportunity for Commissioners to have an opportunity to meet with him.

City Administrator Bass said they could place Deputy Chief Wylam as the Acting Fire Chief and bring back the ratification on September 18, 2019.

City Attorney Byrd said through the Mayor's authority, he could serve as Acting Chief until confirmation next week.

Mayor Nelson asked the Commissioners to reach out to Acting Chief Wylam and get to know him better prior to the approval process next week.

2. Economic Development Partnership with the Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Nelson said there was an agreement in the packet regarding a partnership with the Chamber of Commerce on Economic Development. He stated Commissioner Becker has brought up having an economic advisor or director and this is an alternative. He has met with the Chamber and they have many photographs and videos they are working on putting together. He said this is a proposal the Chamber would like to offer to the City as partners in economic development.

   Commissioner Becker said he has contacted several economic development directors and municipalities. Those that are doing economic development well have this at city staff level. He inquired in terms of what the scope of work would be for the Chamber to satisfy and what is the City investing from a financial contribution. He felt a better use of funds would be to keep it in house.

   Mayor Nelson said this agreement facilitates the City to start to have a portfolio. He agreed at some point we would want to have an economic development director, but at this time, we do not have the tools for a director to sell what the City has to offer. He said Mr. Agrusa will be at the Budget Hearing and this could be discussed.

   Commissioner Smith said having been part of the Chamber Leadership team and knowing Mr. Agrusa, he brings a lot of expertise to the field. He stated this would be a good move in the right direction until the City is ready to hire our own economic development director. He said he was in support of this agreement.

   Commissioner Bankson said he appreciates Commissioner Becker's work on this and the logic moving in that direction. He stated having been on the Economic Development Committee, this has been focused on and discussed for some time now and Mr. Agrusa does bring contacts and expertise to the table. He said this is good for the City and Chamber to come together in teamwork and will be a good tool for when the City is ready to make the next step.

Commissioner Nolan said she likes the opportunity to work with the Chamber of Commerce and knows it will be successful under Mr. Agrusa.

Mayor Nelson recognized former Commissioner Billie Dean. He also said Next Step Ministry was present and stated there was a seminar earlier today on homelessness.

Mayor Nelson said yesterday morning Cliff Long made a presentation and the average median price of a home in Apopka is $255,000. The inventory of housing in the Apopka area is 270 units and a home is on the market an average of 39 days. Apopka ranks 50 in the United States for starting a small business.

Mayor Nelson reported that post red light camera crash numbers are reduced.

Mayor Nelson reported Brian Bowman is working with SJRWMD to help provide fire protection on their program to reduce nitrous and phosphorus on Lake Apopka.

He advised that Public Services, Police, and Fire had worked on disaster preparedness and reported we ran pumps at Lake Hammer, worked on filling sandbags, and reviewed the number of hours spent by these departments in preparedness prior to Hurricane Dorian.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Bryan Nelson, Mayor

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Linda F. Goff, City Clerk