

On Monday, March 6, 2023 at 5:00 p.m., the City of Wauchula Commission met for its regular scheduled workshop.

**Nadaskay called the workshop to order.**

Commissioners present were Mayor Pro-Tem Neda Cobb, Russell Smith, Mayor Keith Nadaskay, Commissioner Sherri Albritton and Gary Smith.

Also present were Assistant City Manager/Police Chief John Eason, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Sandee Braxton, Director of Project Management and Procurement Ward Grimes, Community Redevelopment Director Jessica Newman, Communication Coordinator Katie Wheeler, City Attorney Kristie Hatcher-Bolin and City Clerk Holly Smith. Interim City Manager Olivia Minshew was absent.

**Special Event Application – Swine & Wine Event**

Lacey Webb – Chamber of Commerce

Webb addressed the Commission and explained the event would be a business expo with wine tasting and BBQ at the train depot and noted there would be street closure. Webb stated the event was on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Nadaskay asked Eason if he had any issues. Eason replied he did not have any concerns.

**WakeRack Agreement**

Newman addressed the Commission and explained a company had contacted her about kayak rentals for Crews Park. Newman stated after discussion WakeRack contacted her and proposed the inflatable kayak and paddle boards. Newman advised Jesse Helms with WakeRack was on virtually to explain the agreement and answer any questions.

Jesse Helms – WakeRack Regional Manager

Helms addressed the Commission and stated the company began in North Carolina and they had four sites in Florida and more to come. Helms stated this was a self-service system for rentals of kayaks and paddle boards. Helms stated there are eleven lockers each contain either a kayak or paddle board, detachable fin, easy-use pump, full-sized paddle and a life jacket. Helms stated there was an additional locker which contained repair parts. Helms explained the reservation process. Helms noted there was a 3-hour minimum rental and the pick-up and drop-off was the same location. Helms stated no power was needed. Nadaskay asked what was the allotted timeframe and what if the person who rented the equipment lost track of time and ran over the time limit. Helms noted they would try and contact the customer. Helms stated it was a 3-hour minimum and it could be extended hour by hour. Helms added the rental rate was \$36 for 3-hour rental for the kayak and was \$27 for 3-hour rental for the paddle board. Albritton asked if they would be a sole provider. Newman replied yes, no one else provides this type of locker/inflatable service in the area. Nadaskay asked about rental times. Helms stated the rental times were from 6am-6pm. Albritton stated it was \$6,000 for a two-year lease. Newman stated yes and it covered all the maintenance fees. Possible other locations were discussed. Helms stated if there were unsafe conditions the City would notify them to shut down the rentals. Discussion was had on removal of the lockers if flooding was to occur. Cobb asked how long the company had been in Florida. Helms stated they have been in Florida almost one-year and have been in business in North Carolina since 2018. Nadaskay asked how old did you need to be to rent and navigate the equipment. Helms stated eighteen.

**Highway 17 Lighting Retrofit**

Braxton addressed the Commission and explained FDOT wanted the City to switch to LED lighting at Main and northbound 17. Braxton stated the lights would be black to match the pole. Braxton noted FDOT may not swap all the lights in the beginning and they will supply all the fixtures and the City would install them.

Braxton stated there would be potential cost savings on the electric bill along with the fixtures. Nadaskay asked when would the lights be installed. Grimes stated the lights were in but he was unsure when they would be changed out. Grimes noted the cost savings on the fixtures. Albritton recommended changing all the street lights with LED lights within the City. Braxton that was currenting being done as new lights are installed and old ones are replaced.

#### **Resolution 2023-07 – FDOT Public Transportation Grant Agreement Wauchula Municipal Airport Runway 36 Study**

Eason addressed the Commission and explained Resolution 2023-07. Eason stated the grant would be an environmental study and was for \$350,000. Nadaskay asked if this would increase the size of aircraft. Eason replied yes it would increase it to medium sized aircraft. Eason noted the grant was 100% reimbursable.

Eason addressed the Commission and explained the resignation of the City Clerk, Holly Smith. Eason explained per the City Charter the City Clerk was hired by the Commission and asked for direction from the Commission. Albritton asked Smith when was her last date. Smith replied it was undetermined at the time. Eason explained the appointment process for the City Clerk. R. Smith felt the position should be filled in-house if possible. Braxton stated there was someone who was interested in the position. Cobb stated she did not want to lose Smith as the City Clerk but did not want to hold her back either and felt the process needed to move along. Braxton mention Victoria Thompson (past Deputy City Clerk) to help fill the gap. Braxton added Thompson was not aware of the conversation that was being had. After much discussion Hatcher-Boling recommended the Commission to delegate Interim City Manager Minshew to interview any potential in-house candidates for City Clerk and bring back any recommendations to them at the March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Commission agreed with the recommendation. The Commission discussed interviewing Minshew at the May workshop for the City Manager position. G. Smith asked would she be willing to move. Nadaskay stated that would be one of the questions. Albritton thanked Smith for all that she had done for her as a commissioner along with the City. The Commission thanked Smith for a job well done. Braxton addressed the Commission and stated she had tendered her letter of resignation as the Finance Director and would going to the County as well. Braxton stated her last day had not been determined. The Commission told Braxton she would be missed.

**With no further business to discuss, Nadaskay adjourned the Workshop at 6:12 p.m.**

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Mayor Richard K. Nadaskay, Jr.

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City Clerk Holly Smith