

LAKELAND CITY COMMISSION

FDOT/Chamber Workshop April 1, 2024

The City Commission met with the Chamber of Commerce and the FDOT District 1 Secretary L.K. Nandam to discuss transportation issues. Mayor Bill Mutz and Commissioners Mike Musick, Sara Roberts McCarley, Guy LaLonde, Stephanie Madden, Bill Read, and Chad McLeod were present. Chamber members Amanda Walls, Lori Martini, William Roll, and Jason Rodda were present. Civil Engineer Manager Ryan Lazenby, Urban Planning & Transportation Manager Chuck Barmby, and City Clerk Kelly Koos were present. Other staff and media were in the audience.

Mayor Bill Mutz called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Amanda Walls, Chair of Lakeland Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, offered introductory comments. She and other Chamber members met with L.K. Nandam in late January while they were in Tallahassee during the legislative session. At that time L.K. Nandam provided great insight into the progress of current and planned FDOT projects in the community. As a group they decided to continue the conversation at home. She introduced L.K. Nandam, FDOT District 1 Secretary.

L.K. Nandam recently spoke to the Chamber about transportation in general. He explained the process FDOT goes through when partnering with communities. A long range transportation plan is planning for 20-25 years. The City of Lakeland is involved in setting priorities through the TPO. He wanted to go through FDOT's development process, explain where their revenues come from, how they get to the 5-year program and identify significant investments now and in the future.

Revenue Projections

The expectation for the department is to build a program that is consistent with the revenue projections. They go through a program planning process. Based on priorities they allocate funding to address safety, the number one priority to the Department. They have a separate safety program where they define programs.

The second priority, by law, is preservation. They allocate money to maintain at least 80% of facilities at an acceptable condition. They then go into bridge presentation. They have a robust bridge inspection program. They take that data and build a 10-year plan to maintain bridges at a pristine condition, so they do not have to worry about structural issues.

After that they determine what to designate for public transit, aviation, seaport, and other modal investments. Whatever is left goes to capacity improvements. When it comes to capacity improvements, FDOT has a Strategic Intermodal System. Projects must have

a specific purpose, and support freight movement. After all that, each District gets an allocation based on population.

Inflation in the last few years has been high. The estimates are going up tremendously for each project. These increases require them to continue to balance the program and stop adding new projects. Resurfacing roadways has increased 50% over the last 2 years. Bids for projects have gone up 25% over the last 2 years. That results in a total rebalancing of the program. Because of the increase in growth and truck traffic, they have found the pavement condition is going down at a more rapid pace than predicted. That means the resurfacing program has ballooned 100% per year for the next 4 years. It is at \$1.2 Billion. That takes of most of the revenue coming into the program. The State gave \$2 Billion of ARPA funds and \$4 Billion of excess general revenue to transportation projects. They have received a significant infusion in transportation. The State realized they need funding because of the amount of growth.

In the City of Lakeland, under ARPA, FDOT has widened US Hwy 98 to go from 2-lanes to 4-lanes, which is a significant freight corridor. \$1.8 Billion went to District 1, part of that is going to I-4 to add express lanes between Champions Gate and US Hwy 27. FDOT is also widening of I-4 at SR33 and widening SR33 south of the interchange. They have projects in southwest Florida, widening I-75 to 8 lanes, widening of SR29 and SR70 in Manatee County. These are all needed projects which would have been delayed without the infusion.

They have allocated \$2.5 Billion towards widening I-4 to expand the express lanes from Kirkman Rd to US 27. That includes a complete rebuild of the US 27 and I-4 interchange. Polk TPO asked us to look at the expansion of Sun Rail. They have done a ridership study. At least a couple of segments could support the ridership expansion to Auburndale. Ridership going to Lakeland drops. They will look at what investments will come around the development of a SunRail station. Based on the outcome of the study, it will define what kind of investments have to come from the local governments. There will be a need for investment from local and State.

Commissioner Sara Roberts McCarley clarified that the SunRail from Poinciana into Polk County was a commuter rail, not Brightline. She highlighted the Strategic Intermodal System, aviation, and public transit. There is an overarching presence of FDOT in and around Polk County and Lakeland that is beyond moving "normal" traffic. Transportation is not just streets.

L.K. Nandam commended the City for their efforts to bring passenger airline service to Lakeland.

Commissioner Bill Read stated Lakeland receives about \$2.8 Million in gas tax and \$2.3 Million goes to resurfacing. That does not leave enough for a traffic light. We have not had an increase in gas tax for a long time. How can we get an increase in the gas tax?

L.K. Nandam explained the revenue projections provide a view for the next 10 years. Revenues are going up but not at the rate we would like. They are predicting that the gas tax revenues are going to flatten in 2030 and then slowly go down. The reason is efficient vehicle gas mileage. Electric vehicles are growing. They do not pay the gas tax. There has to be a change in the model that brings revenue toward transportation investments. The conversation on policy is happening at the Federal and State level. That is going to take some time. Local communities are looking for an alternative tax. A lot of local governments have gone through that process. If we want to build a sustained infrastructure system those kinds of models will have to be pursued.

Commissioner Mike Musick: The frustrating part is the electric vehicles using the road but not paying the tax. The idea to phase out gas puts everyone in a strangle hold.

Mayor Bill Mutz: The time delays aggravate our ability to get finished. How can we accelerate that process?

L.K. Nandam responded that they could start looking at alternate revenue sources, partner with businesses, and start looking at silo resources. When we work in those silos we can only get so much done. If we have more partnerships, we can make more projects happen.

L.K. Nandam gave an example of the San Carlos Bridge. That bridge is not even on the State Highway System. When it is not on the State Highway System, he cannot apply state funds. FDOT built a partnership with that local government to make the repairs happen.

In another example, Collier County wanted improvements to Pine Ridge and I-75. They contributed \$75 Million towards the project to make it happen.

Commissioner Chad McLeod appreciated hearing the big picture funding challenges. He wanted to talk about S Florida Ave and the road diet. He wanted to hear about FDOT's role and the City of Lakeland's role.

L.K. Nandam was not prepared to talk about the Dixieland Road Realignment. FDOT did the plans study, got the project approval done, and held public workshops. There has to be a map to get this project into construction. There are 2 paths that need to go. One path to define who does what between the City and the State to figure out the scope and cost of the project. The second path is to define what the partnership will look like.

L.K. Nandam thought the City was ready to start the design for the conversion of the roadway. Over the next two years while the design is being prepared, we need to work on funding the project. FDOT has \$1.5 Million this year and next toward the project. FDOT has reserved \$6 Million towards the project. We know the project will cost more. FDOT needs to know what kind of investment the City can bring.

Commissioner Sara Roberts McCarley: When you used the bridge analogy, you mentioned the State Highway System. She understood all of 37 was on the State Highway System. That should make it a fully funded FDOT project.

L.K. Nandam: You are right, we own the roadway and facility. It should be a 100% investment in the project, but community centric projects typically bring community investment into the project. We support community projects and that is why we are bringing some investments. If it is a capacity project or adding additional pavement, FDOT would fund it completely. However, having said that, our resurfacing needs completely consume all the funds. We do not have the capacity to create new line items for new projects. Partnership will be critical for us to advance this project.

Mayor Bill Mutz: We have great sensitivity for the balance of projects and funding. FDOT does not have the funds, yet the City and Lakelanders feel put upon because it was a project advocated by the FDOT. We must think about our contribution being greater than we ever anticipated. In order for us to accelerate, we all need to work together to understand the constraints and how to fund our share. The design will take 1 ½ years.

L.K. Nandam explained FDOT would have taken care of this but community improvements happen when FDOT resurfaces the road. Florida Avenue is not scheduled for resurfacing for several years. We are beginning now a funding plan which could supplement the investment from the City. FDOT needs to know what the City can bring so L.K. Nandam can figure out a funding plan.

Commissioner Stephanie Madden: Everyone can appreciate inflation and its effect on everything. When we spoke in Tallahassee, we were excited that the Governor was stuck in traffic on I-4 because that accelerated construction. Every single day this thoroughfare is the heartbeat of our city. I do not think they knew ahead of time this was a community project with no funding. The temporary barricades were there until funding became available. Those barricades are one of the biggest frustrations. It was our understanding that something had to be done because the road did not meet State standards. We cannot go a decade with that mile stretch in the heartbeat of our town. We do not go a day without hearing from our constituents about the road diet. We need to figure out how to pay for this. You said partners. She has heard there was money programed for New Tampa Hwy at some point. Is there a way to transfer funds from one road to another? She has also heard that shovel-ready projects get more funding. How do we make it shovel-ready? I know FDOT is working on Lakeland Hills Blvd. She does not get emails from people who are unhappy about Lakeland Hills Blvd. Are there funds we could reprogram? Have we discussed Lakeland taking over maintenance?

L.K. Nandam explained the opportunity to do projects is when they are resurfacing as part of the resurfacing program. FDOT has tried to keep Florida Ave out of the federal funding realm. We are also looking at what other opportunities are available. He lobbied hard to get the SR33 interchange and widening to happen. He was okay with the City

taking \$3 Million from SR33 and putting it towards S Florida Ave. He was actively looking for funding for S Florida Av.

Commissioner Sara Roberts McCarley: Why can we not have federal funding on S. Florida Ave.?

L.K. Nandam responded when you bring in Federal requirements it becomes more complex. When you add Federal funding, you bring Federal requirements which increases the timeline and expense.

Commissioner Guy LaLonde hated the road diet and hears complaints every day. We need real solutions and impacts. How do we resolve the issue?

L.K. Nandam responded that FDOT needed something in writing from the City saying this is the investment we are going to bring, the \$3 Million from SR33 the \$10 Million FDOT has invested and then we figure the gap. Then we seek funding for the gap.

Mayor Bill Mutz: We are in a room where there is tension and strong feelings. How long is the process until we know the overall scope of the project?

Ryan Lazenby responded that FDOT has been partnering in the project all along. He has been saying let us figure this out together. They are providing a design survey, which will save Lakeland hundreds of thousands of dollars. They have expressed a willingness to help on the Right-of-Way. The City has created some initial cost estimates for all phases, design, construction, and engineering. FDOT has reviewed those estimates and provided input. The design would take 18-24 months to complete. The infrastructure is extremely old.

FDOT's force is videotaping the utility infrastructure underground and there are utilities throughout the corridor. It is very complicated. There is a Right-of-Way phase. It will take 18 months at a minimum. We are looking at 3 months of procurement because we have a draft scope of services on which we want FDOT's concurrence. That meeting is next week. We also want to begin drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to loosely lay out the framework for construction. Some of the money Lakeland has committed toward SR33 also ties the City's hands.

Mayor Bill Mutz was grateful for the tone. The problem is we have not done anything in 24 months. That is really the problem. Now we are. We are going to have to share in this to get this done together and be creative in the process.

Commissioner Chad McLeod: It's helpful for an update. Is there anything Lakeland can be doing that would move this process faster?

L.K. Nandam responded that the process and timeline to prepare design is what it is. 18-24 months is compressing the schedule by 6-months. As long as the City starts the design and is progressing and we are working on a solution for the funding agreement

between the City and FDOT, as the design is completed you will have funding in place at construction. It is not focused on repurposing projects around the State. Those communities that are backing away because sometimes people do not like a project. That is a lot of investment from the community and FDOT for a community to back out. The City stepping up to do the design shows Lakeland's commitment. Financial investment will also show commitment.

Chuck Barmby addressed the scheduling concerns. The projects Mr. Nandam discussed earlier today amount to ¼ of a billion dollars of investment in Lakeland alone. The bad news from a scheduling standpoint is those projects will all be under construction at the same time. Maintenance of traffic is imperative. Lakeland wanted S. Florida Ave. to be complete before construction began on Memorial Blvd.

Commissioner Bill Read: The short answer is no we do not have the money. Everyone is experiencing the same thing we are experiencing. We missed a funding source by the County Commission refusing to put the referendum on the ballot. We cannot find a partner, we do not have the plans, we are at a standstill for 2 years. Citizens are calling to take the barriers down and put them back once we have funding.

L.K. Nandam said the barriers can come out. When the City said it wanted the test, FDOT allocated funding towards construction. The condition was that if the barriers come out it will be at the City's cost. Prior to the barriers, there were 5 lanes with a center turn lane. It was essentially working as a 3-lane facility because the lanes were so narrow. FDOT could take out the barriers and restripe but we would restripe to four lanes. It would then be a 4-lane undivided facility. Commissioner Bill Read mentioned there are more accidents happening. Mr. Nandam will take fender benders all day to make sure people can walk away from a crash. Community improvements like this improve safety. Minor delays are a good sacrifice for saving lives. There are minor delays. What is the vision for the corridor and the neighboring area? Is the system and network capable of handling the traffic?

Commissioner Sara Roberts McCarley asked Chuck Barmby when we, as a Commission, did the 3-lane cross section, what happened after that? She felt they were missing things.

Chuck Barmby gave a brief history refresher. The City's resolution was adopted in December 2022. It accounted for several aspects. The City landed on the 3-lane cross section. The sidewalks were not ADA compliant. Other components were to make the streets more bicycle/pedestrian friendly. Since that time brick restoration has been completed on Belvedere between Florida and Lake Hollingsworth. Using grant funding from AARP, the City completed enhancements on Hillcrest St. from Florida Ave. to Drane Park. That included speed humps on Missouri Ave. The City and FDOT are continuing to discuss how to handle Bartow Rd. Bartow Road continues to be a very important arterial route to help relieve some of the traffic that would otherwise be using Florida Ave. That project has Right-of-Way funding in the FDOT work program, but construction is not funded at this point. We see that as a key State project. The City

continues to try and find funding for Wabash Ave from Ariana St. to Harden Blvd. That is a \$35 Million cost. The City has \$6 Million budgeted to complete Right-of-Way acquisition and put away some funding for construction. When completed that roadway will carry 17,000 cars a day. That will relieve Harden Blvd. and Florida Ave.

The City has been looking at strategies to implement the road realignment on S. Florida Ave. and to get the parallel corridors funded also. We are looking at transit improvements, Citrus Connections Peach Line, and funding for the Intermodal Center Downtown. There are a lot of other things that are part of a large mobility strategy of central Lakeland. It is not just about a one 1-mile stretch of road in Lakeland. It is about the system and that system that is being funded and improved as we speak. The problem is it takes time and Florida Ave is looking at a few years until the permanent 3-lane project is done.

Amanda Walls reminded the group there was a hard stop at 3:00 p.m.

Amanda Walls asked about examples of successful partnerships in other communities that involved the business community. Where can business fit in as a community partner?

L.K. Nandam was more referring to P3s where a private entity could bring investment into a regular project, which could supplement the funding investment.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked Chuck Barmby for a before and current time delay for the road realignment.

Chuck Barmby: Leading up to the 2022 decision, the travel time during the peak of the peak hours was about 2.5 minutes from before to after. Overall, the projection is an additional 30-45 seconds. Mr. Barmby lived on a diversion route and has noticed additional traffic, but it is not unbearable. There are parallel routes of traffic. Congestion on Florida Ave. is down between Edgewood and the Polk Parkway because of the lack of a grid network.

Jason Rodda: Lakelanders have learned alternate routes. That has created new issues. Some of those are on City streets that intersect with Florida Ave. Could there be a greater look at how our traffic is now flowing? Can we look at less expensive alternatives such as light timing changes? Also, you mentioned reimbursement agreements. That potential could be a way for Lakeland to move the needle. Are there any other levers we can pull to help the district move the project forward?

L.K. Nandam: System effectiveness is something we take seriously. We have a unit that continually monitors. FDOT partners with the City of Lakeland on traffic signals. He will ask his staff to look at system timing. The conversation about reimbursement has been included in all the conversations with the City. We do that all the time. FDOT would have to find the money in their 5-year program. They did not have the authority to allocate beyond 5 years.

Commissioner Stephanie Madden: You mentioned utilities you have been finding already in the S. Florida Ave. corridor.

Ryan Lazenby: Right now, we are just navigating where the utilities are located. LE is in the alleyways. There is water in the roadway.

LK Nandam: The utilities do not pay for the roadway portion of the roadway. The State and our communities are seeing unprecedented growth. The growth is putting immediate pressure on us. The growth rate we use is different than what we have seen in the last few years. Our local governments should look for alternate sources of revenues and opportunities to partner with others.

Amanda Walls: We are grateful for you coming today and answering questions you were not prepared to address. The chamber looks forward to working to move this project forward.

Adjourn 2:58 p.m.

DRAFT

LAKELAND CITY COMMISSION

Agenda Study Session April 12, 2024

The Lakeland City Commission met for the Agenda Study Session in the LE Conference Rooms 1A & 1B. Mayor Bill Mutz and Commissioners Chad McLeod, Bill Read, Stephanie Madden, Mike Musick, and Guy LaLonde were present. Commissioner Sara Roberts McCarley was absent. City Manager Shawn Sherrouse, City Attorney Palmer Davis, Finance Director Mike Brossart, and City Clerk Kelly Koos were present.

Mayor Bill Mutz called the meeting to order at 8:42 a.m. He began by reviewing the items on the **Consent Agenda**:

- * **Task Authorization with Control Southern, Inc. for Services Associated with the Integration of the Combee Water Treatment Plant Switchgear into the Existing DeltaV Control System**
- * **Polk County Library Cooperative Interlocal Agreement.** The agreement more than covers the City's costs. The only criteria for a library card is to live in Polk County.

The Commission left both items on the Consent Agenda.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinances (Second Reading)

Proposed 24-012; Approving a Conditional Use to Allow Motor Fuel Sales, Major, as an Accessory Use for the Sam's Club Retail Store on Property Located at 4600 Highway 98 N. (1st Rdg. 04-01-24). Urban Planner & Transportation Manager Chuck Barmby presented this item to the Commission. Sam's would double the number of fueling positions. The expansion requires the conditional use. Sam's will not sell diesel and did not need additional tanks. The site plan is already in house and under review. No FDOT permitting is required. They will provide cross access to surrounding property. This offered improved site circulation.

Resolutions

Proposed 24-022; Authorizing Reimbursement from Bond Proceeds of Costs Associated with Vacant Land Purchase Agreement with Morgan Creek Properties, LLC. City Attorney Palmer Davis presented this item. The resolution was related to the purchase from Morgan Creek. This expresses the City's intent to reimburse the expense with bond proceeds. This preserves the City's financing options. The intention is to use the internal loan fund for now. That is the least costly option and the quickest way to get the funds. The Airport is considering other things and if they ask for a bond issue, they would include this loan if they could get a better rate. The internal loan fund rate is 4%. The resolution does not sunset.

Proposed 24-023; Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement for the Subordination of City Utility Interests Located Upon Parcel 500.3 at Sikes Boulevard (SR 563) and Lake Wire Drive. The City is subordinating the property to provide a deceleration lane. FDOT will pay to move any utilities.

Proposed 24-024; Adopting the Downtown West Action Plan. Valerie Ferrell explained this is the formal adoption of the downtown west action plan. There have been no significant changes since the Commission's review in November. Valerie will do a recap at Monday's meeting. The Commission will get a printed version. It is available on the CRA website now.

CITY MANAGER

Approval of Purchase Order to R2 Unified Technologies for Core Network Infrastructure Switch Replacements. City Manager Shawn Sherrouse presented this item. There was no discussion.

Recommendation re: Award Sealed Bid No. 2023-ITB-203 to Rodda Construction, Inc. for Cleaning the Lake Mirror Promenade. Shawn Sherrouse presented this item. Repointing the concrete was not in this bid. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts would get an estimate if repointing was necessary after the cleaning. They would not clean with any chemicals for the sake of the surrounding wildlife. There is technology available to protect this type of concrete by coating the surface. The professionals, including the National Park Service, advise against that option. Lakeland's historic documents show the balustrades are reinforced. We are not seeing spalling. It is in good shape.

Change Order No. 13 with Cobb Site Development Inc. for the North Wabash Avenue Extension Project. Shawn Sherrouse presented. The Commission discussed the sink hole. Staff was aware of the sink hole before design. They took the most cost effective approach. There was more settlement than anticipated. That did contribute to the 12-inch water main failure. This will finalize the work with this project. Staff hoped to come back in May and ask the Commission to approve a deed giving the road to the County. The north half of the intersection was affected with a concentration where the old road was located.

Approval of Amendment No. 1 to Grant Agreement INV38 between the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the City of Lakeland for The Intelligent Process Automation System to Remove Algae from Lake Bonnet, and Approval to Transfer State Funding from Bonnet Springs Park (BSP) to the City of Lakeland with an Associated Appropriation. Shawn Sherrouse presented. Laurie Smith of Lakes & Stormwater explained the grant. BSP was working to get a grant to clean their lagoon. FDEP had the idea to combine BSP's grant with Lakeland's grant and harvest the algae more effectively. They will put up educational signs for the public to understand the project. They will extract the water from the lake, chemically treat the water so the algae cells float to the top, skim off the algae, return the clean water to the lake. The City planned to use the algae for fertilizer.

Purchase of Maintenance Equipment for Holloway Park and Appropriation Allocating District 2 P&R Impact Fees. Shawn Sherrouse presented. The expense is absorbable out of impact fees. This is the equipment needed. Staffing level will remain the same. The new equipment will be stored at McGee Park. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts already has some equipment they share amongst all locations.

CITY ATTORNEY
Miscellaneous

Task Authorization with Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. to Perform Cost Benefit Analysis for Proposed Wastewater Composting Facility. Alex Landback presented. Robbie Kniss gave an overview of the project. They did a study on what final products could leave the wastewater treatment plant. Composting is what they settled on. The analysis looked at monetary and non-monetary values. Composting was the number 1 ranked option. This decision will drive \$60 Million in upgrades. This analysis is to be sure this is the right way to go. The study will look at regulatory requirements. The study will look for grant opportunities. We will see if Polk County or other municipalities will want to participate. This process is drastically different than the County's issues. Lakeland's bio solids will be partially treated. They have visited other sites. They did not find the odors to be offensive. Yard wastes will be mixed in with the bio solids. Co-location with the solid waste transfer station reduces truck expense. Staff will look into a way to gage odor. This would provide a sellable product rather than the City pay someone to haul it away. Staff would return to the Commission for approval of the engineering contract before moving forward. Staff has visited similar operations.

Carillon Lakes Odor Complaint

Shawn Sherrouse gave an update. Staff is investigating as well as Polk County Environmental and FDEP. FDEP has stated the source is not Aqua Clean. Everyone is continuing to investigate to find the source of the odor. There were concerns that some residents were getting sick from the odor.

FINANCE DIRECTOR

Appropriation Request - Transportation Fund for Olive Street Sidewalk Project. Mike Brossart presented this item.

UTILITY
Miscellaneous

Agreement with W. Soule & Co. for Natural Gas Pipeline Modifications for Lakeland Electric. Ramona Sirianni presented.

MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COMMISSION

Commissioner Stephanie Madden:

- Complimented the City's landscape team for their work and the beauty of the City.
- Reported on her attendance at the Ridge League of Cities last night.
- Reminded the Commission about the email from Traffic Operations Manager Theresa Schwartz about Vision Zero for Strategic Planning.

Se7en Wetlands Trails

The Commission discussed the use of the Se7en Wetlands trails by bicyclists. There was a push from that community to open the park to bikes and connect to the trails in other parks. Water Utilities was concerned about the earthen dams around the ponds. Se7en Wetlands was a wastewater facility first and foremost. They had to protect the earthen dams. Chuck Barmby presented other options. There are a lot of opportunities for trail connections back to the east towards Lake Hancock. The Commission asked staff to conduct a public meeting to share information with the bicyclist community about the options. Shawn Sherrouse committed to have staff work on some form of public engagement or community meeting. They will put something together and inform the commission on a plan.

Adjourn at 10:07 a.m.

DRAFT

LAKELAND CITY COMMISSION

Project Update Workshop April 12, 2024

The Lakeland City Commission met in the Lakeland Electric Conference Rooms 1A, and 1B. Mayor Bill Mutz and Commissioners Chad McLeod, Stephanie Madden, Mike Musick, and Guy LaLonde were present. Commissioners Bill Read and Sara Roberts McCarley were absent. City Manager Shawn Sherrouse, Deputy City Manager Emily Colon, City Attorney Palmer Davis, Deputy City Clerk Heather Bradman, and staff were present.

Mayor Bill Mutz called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

City Manager Shawn Sherrouse informed the Commission this is their second projects update workshop. The last one was held in February. Shawn Sherrouse thanked City staff for their work and effort on these updates.

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts – Pam Page

- Lake Crago Park Phase III - The restrooms have been installed. The sod delivery is scheduled this month. Sports fields will be open for play in the fall.
- Peterson Park Boardwalk Renovation. They have a Request for Qualification for construction. Submittals are due April 19, 2019.
- Playground Replacements - Purchase Orders were issued for two playgrounds at Barnett Park. Playground replacements are currently in custom manufacturing with expected delivery and installation in November.
- Shuffleboard Court Replacement Lake Parker Park - Project start date is May 6, 2024 and completion date is August 2024.
- Maintenance Shed Lake Parker Park - They have the certificate of occupancy and are moving forward with customizing the interior to accommodate equipment.
- Holloway Park. This is Lakeland's newest and largest park covering 379.11 acres.
- Lakeland History and Culture Center – They are working to design a new exhibit called, "From the Groves... Lakeland's Citrus Story." The expected installation date is January 2025.
- Library at Kelly Recreation Center and sculpture garden - They have averaged 1,606 visitors a month since September.
- Oak Hill Cemetery Expansion - An average of 500 burial spaces are sold per year. There are currently 1,085 spaces available for sale. The next expansion section will yield 1,600 spaces. The new 3-acre expansion will open in 2025.
- Lake Mirror Promenade Pressure Washing - They are currently evaluating bid submittals.
- On Dog Time Dog Park – The fence and benches have been installed.

Communications – Kevin Cook

- Lakeland Linder International Airport Logo Redesign - They wanted to create a logo that was simple, relevant, memorable, timeless, and versatile.
- The logo highlights the City's dedication to providing excellent aviation service and education.

Public Works – Heath Frederick

- City Hall Roof - The project is 25% complete. The tear off on the north side, decking repair, and underlayment are all complete. The roof tile on the north side has been stocked and installation is in progress. The new air conditioning curbs for the south side are being installed. There have been no issues of note to date.
- RP Funding Center Arena Roof - The installation of the final sections, metal coping, parapet wall flashings, and roof drain work are in progress. This project is 80% complete and ahead of schedule. The Youkey Theater Roof Replacement Project is in design.
- Cindy Collins, RP Funding Center Director, announced they will be celebrating their 50th golden anniversary. Celebrations will begin in November and last all year.
- Transfer Station as of March 2024 - The site condition survey and wildlife survey have both been completed. Groundwater elevations have been measured and the soil testing/drilling is complete. The conceptual site layout has been developed and presented. Draft designs have reached 50%.
- Lake Bonnet Algae Harvesting Project - The City received an Innovative Technology Grant from FDEP for \$1.69 Million. Laurie Smith explained how this technology pumps and treats lake water by removing algae before returning clean water to the lake.
- Three Parks Trail West – This project is expected to be complete by August 2024.
- Sidewalk Projects - A lot of these project are done by grant. Some projects are waiting on construction funding. The budget for sidewalk repairs and upgrades is \$750,000 per year in transportation fund.
- Five Points Roundabout - This project is 99% complete. Landscaping is underway. This will be open in mid-May 2024.

Community & Economic Development – Brian Rewis

- What are people's top two considerations when they move to a new area? A job and a home.
- Valencia at the Park – They are now leasing for a May 1st opening.
- Prospect Lake Wire - The first apartment buildings are scheduled for completion and lease over the summer.
- Prose Lakeland - This construction commenced in October of last year.
- Pointe Grand – This is an example of residential growth and investment in community.
- Keymark Aluminum Extrusion Expansion - In November 2022 the Commission approved a \$400,000 Economic Development Infrastructure Incentive for this project.

- Lakeland Regional Health Kathleen Road Campus - This was completed in late October of 2023. The current building already serves as home to LRH's Family Medicine residency program.
- VA Lakeland Outpatient Clinic for the Department of Veterans Affairs - Construction of the building was completed in March. The site is awaiting equipment.
- Orlando Health – Site and foundation work began in January 2023. The completion and opening are expected in April 2026. This hospital will create 2,500 new jobs.
- These projects are part of a larger economic system that encompasses more than 53,000 jobs in incorporated Lakeland.

Mayor Bill Mutz and City Manager Shawn Sherrouse returned from visiting Pittsburg with the Lakeland Economic Development Council (LEDC). He is grateful for our community and city team that is front and center of our growth.

Kevin Cook informed Sun 'n Fun is still going on today and tomorrow!

Shawn Sherrouse announced the next Project Update Workshop will not be next month, but the month after.

The workshop adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

LAKELAND CITY COMMISSION

Regular Session April 15, 2024

The Lakeland City commission met in Regular Session in the City Commission Chambers. Mayor Bill Mutz and Commissioners Chad McLeod, Bill Read, Stephanie Madden, Sara Roberts McCarley, Mike Musick, and Guy LaLonde were present. City Manager Shawn Sherrouse, City Attorney Palmer Davis, Finance Director Mike Brossart, and City Clerk Kelly Koos were present.

CALL TO ORDER - 9:00 A.M.

PRESENTATIONS

CRA Annual Report (Valerie Ferrell, CRA Manager)

Valerie Ferrell Vaught announced she got married last month. A copy of the Lakeland CRA Annual Report is on file in the agenda packet.

PROCLAMATIONS

Donate Life Month
Fair Housing Month
Lakeland Christian School "Vikings" Day - Florida Class 2A Girls Soccer Champions

Commissioner Sara Roberts McCarley arrived at 9:29 a.m.

Medical Laboratory Professionals Week
National Arbor Day
National Day of Prayer
Water Conservation Month
Third Annual Just Cares - Just Pay It Forward Day
Volunteer Appreciation Week

Ridge League of Cities Home Rule Heroes Award presented to City Manager Shawn Sherrouse.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RELATED ITEMS

Municipal Boards and Committees 04/12/24

Commissioner Stephanie Madden presented this report.

Motion: Commissioner Sara Roberts McCarley moved to approve the appointments. Commissioner Chad McLeod seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and audience. There were no comments.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Real Estate and Transportation Committee 04/12/24

Commissioner Mike Musick presented this report to the Commission.

Vacant Land Purchase Agreement with Morgan Creek Properties, LLC.

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

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments from the audience.

Commissioner Bill Read supported this purchase. The additional mitigation credits were important and it supports ACE.

Mayor Bill Mutz: The internal loan allows us to maximize the use of funds.

Kris Hallstrand recognized Mike Brossart for his assistance in making this happen. This is a great investment for the future of the airport. She appreciated the Commission's support.

Mike Brossart explained the Internal Loan Fund. The City borrows money in 3-ways: internal loan fund, bank borrowing, and bonds. Internal loan funds are short term loans for quick cash for a department.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Purchase Agreement for Real Property - Lakeland Park Center Drive Parcel 102

Motion: Commissioner Sara Roberts McCarley moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Mike Musick seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Purchase Agreement for Real Property Located North of E. Parker Street, South of Plum Street, West of N. Tennessee Avenue and East of N. Florida Avenue

Motion: Commissioner Sara Roberts McCarley moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Stephanie Madden seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments from the audience.

Valerie Farrell Vaught explained the City owned an adjoining lot.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

Motion: Commissioner Mike Musick moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Sara Roberts McCarley seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (with any amendments)

- * Utility Committee Minutes – March 29, 2024
- * City Commission Minutes – Mar 29 – April 1, 2024

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

REQUESTS TO APPEAR FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC – None

EQUALIZATION HEARINGS – None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinances (Second Reading)

Ordinance 6031; Proposed 24-012; Approving a Conditional Use to Allow Motor Fuel Sales, Major, as an Accessory Use for the Sam's Club Retail Store on Property Located at 4600 Highway 98 N. (1st Rdg. 04-01-24)

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO ZONING; MAKING FINDINGS; APPROVING A CONDITIONAL USE TO ALLOW MOTOR FUEL SALES, MAJOR, AS AN ACCESSORY USE FOR THE SAM'S CLUB RETAIL STORE ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4600 HIGHWAY 98 NORTH; FINDING CONFORMITY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Palmer Davis read the title.

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

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience.

Mim Robinson, civil engineer representing the applicant, was present to address any questions from the Commission.

The Commission discussed:

- Sam's on US Hwy 98 North was doubling the size of the fuel station. There are 6 existing pumps. They were adding an additional 6 pumps. They will be improving circulation to the fuel pumps.
- Chuck Barmby and his team did a great job presenting on Friday.
- Commissioner Mike Musick appreciated the circulation redesign.

Action: Upon roll call vote Commissioners Guy LaLonde, Mike Musick, Sara Roberts McCarley, Stephanie Madden, Bill Read, Chad McLeod, and Mayor Bill Mutz voted aye. Ayes-seven. Nays-zero. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions

Resolution 5897; Proposed 24-022; Authorizing Reimbursement from Bond Proceeds of Costs Associated with Vacant Land Purchase Agreement with Morgan Creek Properties, LLC

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE INTENT OF THE CITY OF LAKELAND, FLORIDA TO INCUR COSTS RELATED TO THE ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR THE LAKELAND LINDER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT; EXPRESSING THE INTENT FOR PURPOSES OF COMPLIANCE WITH UNITED STATES TREASURY REGULATION SECTION 1.150-2 TO REIMBURSE WITH THE PROCEEDS OF REVENUE BONDS THE CAPITAL EXPENDITURES MADE WITH RESPECT TO SUCH PROJECT; EXPRESSING THE INTENT FOR THE FUTURE ISSUANCE BY THE CITY OF NOTES, BONDS OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS IN ONE OR MORE SERIES IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING \$3,000,000 TO BE APPLIED TO PAY THE COST OF SUCH PROJECT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Palmer Davis read the title.

Motion: Commissioner Chad McLeod moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Sara Roberts McCarley seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Palmer Davis explained this would permit the City to repay the internal loan with bond proceeds.

Action: Upon roll call vote Commissioners Chad McLeod, Bill Read, Stephanie Madden, Sara Roberts McCarley, Mike Musick, Guy LaLonde, and Mayor Bill Mutz voted aye. Ayes – seven. Nays – zero. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 5898; Proposed 24-023; Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement for the Subordination of City Utility Interests Located Upon Parcel 500.3 at Sikes Boulevard (SR 563) and Lake Wire Drive

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAKE LAND, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT FOR THE SUBORDINATION OF CITY UTILITY INTERESTS LOCATED UPON PARCEL 500.3 AT SIKES BOULEVARD (SR 563) AND LAKE WIRE DRIVE; MAKING FINDINGS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Palmer Davis read the title.

Motion: Commissioner Mike Musick moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Sara Roberts McCarley seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Upon roll call vote Commissioners Guy LaLonde, Mike Musick, Sara Roberts McCarley, Stephanie Madden, Bill Read, Chad McLeod, and Mayor Bill Mutz voted aye. Ayes-seven. Nays-zero. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 5899; Proposed 24-024; Adopting the Downtown West Action Plan

A RESOLUTION OF THE LAKE LAND CITY COMMISSION ADOPTING THE DOWNTOWN WEST ACTION PLAN; MAKING FINDINGS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Palmer Davis read the title.

Motion: Commissioner Mike Musick moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Sara Roberts McCarley seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments from the audience.

The Commission discussed the approval process. They first saw this plan in November 2023. There have been no substantial changes. Valerie Ferrell Vaught gave a presentation, a copy of which is on file in the Agenda Packet.

Commissioner Sara Roberts McCarley complimented Valerie Ferrell Vaught on the graph displaying the priority projects. It simplified a complicated subject. She thanked Valerie Ferrell Vaught for bringing the Commission back up to speed and requested this slide again as it is updated.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked why this was under Commission rather than CRA. Palmer Davis thought it was more appropriate because they were adopting by resolution.

Action: Upon roll call vote Commissioners Chad McLeod, Bill Read, Stephanie Madden, Sara Roberts McCarley, Mike Musick, Guy LaLonde, and Mayor Bill Mutz voted aye. Ayes – seven. Nays – zero. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY – None

CITY MANAGER

Approval of Purchase Order to R2 Unified Technologies for Core Network Infrastructure Switch Replacements

The City of Lakeland received a proposal from R2 Unified Technologies, an authorized reseller of Cisco Systems Inc.'s products, for replacement of hardware technology and software licenses. The current solution is due for hardware replacement and requires new software licensing to manage and operate. The solution provides the core network communications across the data network for servers, workstations, and internet connectivity. Key elements for the technology include:

- Hardware and Software
- Software Defined Networking
- Port Level Encryption

Funding is provided in the Fiscal Year 2024 Department of Information Technology budget and is part of the lifecycle replacement schedule. The total estimated cost of the work for the initial year of the contract is \$1,091,429,92. The total estimated cost for Fiscal Years 2025-2028 for switch licensing will be \$192,113.88 annually, pending budget approval. The City's Purchasing Division has approved R2 Unified Technologies pursuant to the NASPO Value Point Data NVP #AR3227 Participating Addendum for FL #43220000-NASPO-19-ACS contract as a piggyback.

Staff recommends the City Commission authorize the issuance of Purchase Order to R2 Unified Technologies in the amount of \$1,091,429.92 for the procurement of Core Network Infrastructure Switch Replacements, including an annual payment of \$192,113.88 for Fiscal Years 2025-2028 for switch license subscription, and authorize the appropriate City officials to execute the appropriate documents.

City Manager Shawn Sherrouse presented this item to the Commission.

Motion: Commissioner Mike Musick moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Sara Roberts McCarley seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Recommendation re: Award Sealed Bid No. 2023-ITB-203 to Rodda Construction, Inc. for Cleaning the Lake Mirror Promenade

On February 14, 2024, the Purchasing Division issued Sealed Bid No. 2023-ITB-203 for the cleaning of the Lake Mirror Promenade and Loggia. The city issued cleaning specifications that were furnished by Pennoni, Inc., for the historic cast concrete balustrade and columns surrounding Lake Mirror.

Purchasing received three bids on March 15, 2024.

Rodda Construction, Inc. (Lakeland, FL)	\$368,068
Semco Construction, Inc. (Bartow, FL)	\$649,205
American Efficiency Services, Inc. (Cumberland, MD)	no bid

City staff evaluated the submittals and recommended that the contract be awarded to Rodda Construction, Inc. Purchasing issued a Letter of Intent to Award to Rodda Construction, Inc., on April 2, 2024. Funding is provided in the Fiscal Year 2024 Public Improvement Fund.

Staff recommends the City Commission authorize the issuance of a Purchase Order to Rodda Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$368,068 for the cleaning of the Lake Mirror Promenade.

Shawn Sherrouse presented this item to the Commission.

Motion: Commissioner Sara Roberts McCarley moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Mike Musick seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Change Order No. 13 with Cobb Site Development Inc. for the North Wabash Avenue Extension Project

The Public Works Department (PW) requests the City Commission approve Change Order No. 13 with Cobb Site Development (Cobb) in the amount of \$68,984.84 for additional work related to soil settlement damage discovered during the North Wabash Avenue Extension project.

Public Works and RK&K, the City's Construction Engineering and Inspection consultant, have negotiated with Cobb a scope of work and its corresponding cost. The proposed scope of work is located within the intersection of 10th Street with N. Wabash Avenue. There are three 2-barrel pipe crossings located under the intersection. During the design of this project, it was noted that the highly organic soils encountered at depths of up to 62 feet below ground surface were consistent with a paleo-sinkhole (ancient sinkhole) that appears stabilized at depth. Special geotechnical construction techniques (soil improvement and reinforcement) will be required in the vicinity of the intersection because of these soil conditions. Six soil stabilization methods were evaluated and a surcharge method, which includes wick drains, was selected. Wick drains are plastic drainage channels wrapped in geotextile filter fabric that allow for faster drainage of excess water, thus reducing soil settlement time in soft soils.

It was anticipated that some settlement would occur after constructing the double-barrel crossings. Settlement was observed at the time of a water main failure in August 2022. Staff has monitored the intersection over the past 18 months and has observed minimal settlement change since September 2022.

Public Works and Cobb have identified stormwater pipeline joint deficiencies for repair and support. Cobb will use Florida Department of Transportation approved methods of grouting and will provide all dewatering activities without expense to the City. Dewatering is estimated to cost \$20,000-\$25,000. The City will be responsible for all other expenses in the amount of \$68,084.84. The \$68,084.84 required for this change order is available in the project budget within the Transportation Fund CIP.

Staff recommends the City Commission authorize the appropriate City officials to execute Change Order No. 13 with Cobb Site Development, Inc. in the amount of \$68,084.84.

Shawn Sherrouse presented this item to the Commission.

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

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Amendment No. 1 to Grant Agreement INV38 between the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the City of Lakeland for The Intelligent Process Automation System to Remove Algae from Lake Bonnet, and Approval to Transfer State Funding from Bonnet Springs Park to the City of Lakeland with an Associated Appropriation

The State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has awarded the City of Lakeland \$1,685,000.00 in grant funding for Lake Bonnet under the Innovative Technology Grant Program. The grant will fund innovative technology that can help mitigate harmful algal blooms (HABs) by removing nutrients from Lake Bonnet and the nutrient load discharged downstream during storm events flowing from Lake Bonnet, reaching the Hillsborough River and into Tampa Bay.

The City and Bonnet Springs Park (BSP) have partnered to support the project that will demonstrate an innovative Intelligent Process Automation System (IPAS) that can be incorporated into the algae harvesting technology to provide a cost-effective and comprehensive solution for mitigating and preventing HABs. BSP requested legislative funding from the State of Florida in FY22/23 to complete the Bonnet Springs Park Algae Mitigation and Removal Project. BSP was awarded a grant (LPA0466) in the amount of \$450,000. The City's and BSP's projects are similar in scope, utilizing the same equipment and technology, therefore, to streamline efforts and reduce duplicative contracting and deliverables, BSP has offered to transfer their grant funding and combine it with the City's grant INV38. FDEP has approved this request, and the City as Grantee, will oversee the completion of the project while BSP will remain as a coordinating partner. The combination of the two grants will also allow the harvesting activities to be extended an additional 8 months through December 2025. A dock at BSP will be used to assemble and deploy the automatic intake pump structure to extract water from the pond at Bonnet Springs Park, which is hydraulically connected to Lake Bonnet. The algae harvester will be self-sufficient and connected to an existing powerline with an internet connection for continuous and remote operations.

The parties anticipate the total cost of the project will be \$2,135,000, combining the City's grant funding of \$1,685,000 and BSP's funding of \$450,000.

Staff recommends the City Commission authorize the appropriate City officials to execute the Amendment No. 1 to Grant Agreement INV38, and appropriate and increase the estimated revenue in the Stormwater Utility Fund in the amount of \$450,000 for the additional funding transfer from LPA0466.

Shawn Sherrouse presented this item to the Commission.

Motion: Commissioner Chad McLeod moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Sara Roberts McCarley seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments from the audience.

The Commission discussed the staging area, next to the lagoon. The extraction will be by floating device that will move around the lake surface.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously, 6-0. Commissioner Chad McLeod was absent at that time.

Purchase of Maintenance Equipment for Holloway Park and Appropriation Allocating District 2 P&R Impact Fees

Holloway Park was recently donated to the City of Lakeland. To maintain the park, the City has determined a need to purchase three (3) mowers and two (2) Kubota tractors. The City has obtained quotes for this equipment which will be purchased and maintained by the Fleet Management Division of Public Works.

Fleet Management will purchase the three (3) mowers with tires and flex forks utilizing the Sourcewell #0311210HTE bid for \$50,052 from Commercial Lawn Equipment II. Fleet will also purchase two (2) Kubota vehicles utilizing Florida Sheriff's Association Bid #FSA23- EQU21.0 for \$42,062 from Crystal Tractor & Equipment. The total cost for this equipment is \$92,114.

Staff recommends the City Commission authorize the appropriate City officials to purchase the equipment and authorize the Appropriation and Increase in Estimated Revenues from the Parks & Recreation Impact Fee District 2 Fund to the Fleet Management Operations Fund in the amount of \$92,114 to facilitate the purchase

Shawn Sherrouse presented this item to the Commission.

Commissioner Mike Musick moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Bill Read seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments from the audience.

The Commission discussed the Kubota tractors. They are RTV multi use vehicles that will move 4 employees.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Verbal Reports – City Manager Shawn Sherrouse

Sun 'n Fun Fly In 50th Anniversary: Recognized Airport staff, police, fire, and our partners at Sun 'n Fun. He also recognized the 2,900 volunteers who came from around the nation. It was a great week of events.

Public Power Rodeo: Recognized some line workers who competed in the 22nd Annual Public Power Rodeo. They competed and faired very well.

CITY ATTORNEY

Ordinances (First Reading) – None

Miscellaneous

Task Authorization with Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. to Perform Cost Benefit Analysis for Proposed Wastewater Composting Facility

This proposed Task Authorization with Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. (“Geosyntec”) was to provide professional engineering services for conducting a Cost-Benefit Analysis of a proposed Composting Facility for the Water Utilities Wastewater Department. This initiative is aimed at assessing the feasibility and potential benefits of integrating a composting process into the treatment of biosolids produced by Lakeland’s Glendale and Northside Wastewater Reclamation Facilities (“WWRF”).

Currently, the WWRFs treat wastewater to produce a reuse water stream, utilized for industrial cooling and excess water management, and a biosolids stream, which after processing, is used as fertilizer. The proposed composting facility seeks to enhance the biosolids treatment by incorporating yard waste, thereby producing a nutrient-rich soil amendment. This method not only presents an opportunity for generating a positive revenue stream through the sale of the compost but also offers a solution to mitigate costs associated with the current anerobic digestion treatment process.

Under this Task Authorization, Geosyntec will perform a comprehensive study to evaluate the feasibility, benefits, and potential market for the compost product. The analysis will include a cost-benefit evaluation, taking into account the initial setup costs, operational efficiencies, potential revenue streams, and environmental impacts.

The services provided by Geosyntec will be performed in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the City’s Continuing Contract and Agreement for Professional Municipal Engineering Services, dated October 1, 2019, and Geosyntec’s proposal dated March 6, 2024. The total not-to-exceed cost for this Task Authorization is \$119,547 and is included in Water Utilities’ FY 2024 budget.

Staff recommended that the City Commission approve this Task Authorization with Geosyntec and authorize the appropriate City officials to execute all necessary documents related to this Task Authorization.

Alex Landback presented this item to the Commission.

Motion: Commissioner Sara Roberts McCarley moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Mike Musick seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments from the audience.

The Commission discussed City liability. The City will comply with all regulations if they move forward. Ft. Myers and Hillsborough County have a facility.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

- * **Task Authorization with Control Southern, Inc. for Services Associated with the Integration of the Combee Water Treatment Plant Switchgear into the Existing DeltaV Control System**

This proposed Task Authorization with Control Southern, Inc., ("Control Southern") was for professional engineering services to assist the Water Production Division in enhancing the operational efficiency and reliability of the control systems at the Combee Water Treatment Plant. This project involves decommissioning an outdated Modicon Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) that currently manages the switchgear for site power and seamlessly integrating this switchgear into the existing DeltaV control system.

Under the terms of the Task Authorization, Control Southern will conduct initial site visits to assess the current setup and formulate preliminary design documents. These documents will be submitted to city staff for review and approval. Following approval, Control Southern will proceed with the integration process, ensuring a streamlined and enhanced control system for the Combee Water Treatment Plant.

The services provided by Control Southern will be performed in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the City's Continuing Agreement for Professional Software Engineering Services, dated September 5, 2023. The total not-to-exceed cost associated with this Task Authorization is \$94,324.00 and is included in Water Utilities' FY 2024 budget.

Staff recommended that the City Commission approve this Task Authorization with Control Southern and authorize the appropriate City officials to execute all necessary documents related to this Task Authorization.

Action: The Commission approved this item as part of the Consent Agenda.

- * **Polk County Library Cooperative Interlocal Agreement**

This was an updated Polk County Library Cooperative Interlocal Agreement. The Polk County Library Cooperative was formed on October 1, 1997, when an Interlocal Agreement was entered into between the Polk County Board of County Commissioners and the thirteen (13) municipalities with public libraries in the County: Auburndale, Bartow, Dundee, Eagle Lake, Fort Meade, Frostproof, Haines City, Lake Alfred, Lake Wales, Lakeland, Mulberry, Polk City, and Winter Haven. Over the years, the Interlocal agreement has been reviewed and renewed to continue the delivery of seamless public library services for all residents of Polk County.

Under the Interlocal Agreement, each participating municipality agrees to provide library services without charge to all persons residing in Polk County, including residents of the unincorporated areas and those incorporated areas not served by a public library. In exchange, participating municipalities are eligible to receive funds from the Polk County Library Cooperative derived from Polk County library impact fees, the Polk County Library Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU), and State grant funds.

The term of this Agreement extends the City of Lakeland's participation in the Library Cooperative for an additional ten (10) years, beginning October 1, 2024, with automatic renewals thereafter for additional 10- year terms unless the City elects to withdraw from the Cooperative.

Staff recommended that the City Commission approve and authorize the appropriate City officials to execute the Polk County Library Cooperative Interlocal Agreement, extending the City of Lakeland's participation in the Cooperative.

Action: The Commission approved this item as part of the Consent Agenda.

FINANCE DIRECTOR

Appropriation Request - Transportation Fund for Olive Street Sidewalk Project

The Public Works Department requests the City Commission approve an appropriation from the Transportation Fund for the Olive Street Sidewalk Project. The project is located on Olive Street between Pinewood Avenue to South Cornelia Avenue.

This project is a partnership between the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and Public Works. The CRA has invested \$96,000 in the section between Pinewood and Central avenues, which is now complete. Staff estimates the remaining 1,270-linear foot portion (almost a quarter of a mile) of the project to cost \$130,000.

The funding currently available from the Transportation Fund is \$60,000. Public Works requests an additional \$70,000 appropriation from the Transportation Fund's Unappropriated Surplus for the project.

Staff recommends the City Commission appropriate \$70,000 from the Transportation Fund Unappropriated Surplus to the Olive Street Sidewalk Project.

Finance Director Mike Brossart presented this item to the Commission.

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

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

UTILITY

Ordinances – None

Resolutions – None

Miscellaneous

Agreement with W. Soule & Co. for Natural Gas Pipeline Modifications for Lakeland Electric

This proposed Agreement with W. Soule & Co. was for Natural Gas Pipeline Modifications for Lakeland Electric. The City of Lakeland owns and operates two (2) existing gas piping systems that feed the McIntosh and Larsen Power Plants. This project includes various modifications to these piping systems that will enable Florida Gas Transmission Company, LLC (FGT) to provide natural gas directly to these Plant facilities.

Modifications to the existing sixteen (16) inch supply piping will include tying into the FGT’s new meter station, which it will build, own, and operate pursuant to a separate agreement. The modifications will also add valving and additional piping to complete a loop so gas can be routed in either direction around the entire McIntosh facility. This project will also include some modifications to the piping at the Larsen facility to enable FGT to feed gas to the existing unit.

On July 10, 2023, the City’s Purchasing Department issued Invitation to Bid 2023-ITB-070 seeking qualified vendors to supply, fabricate, install, and test all components associated with modifying plant piping to support the new natural gas loop system in accordance with the City’s Bid Specifications. The City received responses from the two (2) vendors listed below.

Company	Location	Bid Price
W. Soule & Co.	Lakeland, FL	\$1,471,000
PSIC-Pro Serv Industrial Contractors, LLC	Lakeland, FL	\$1,549,825

Upon evaluation by City staff, W. Soule & Co. was selected as the most responsive, responsible bidder with the lowest price capable of meeting the City's Bid Specifications. Upon approval by the City Commission, the City will issue a purchase order to W. Soule & Co. Work associated with the McIntosh Power Plant is anticipated to be completed during its shutdown scheduled for November 4, 2024, to November 18, 2024, and work for the Larsen Power Plant will be completed sometime prior to November 4, 2024.

W. Soule & Co. will perform all work in accordance with the City's Bid Specifications and corresponding addenda thereto. The total cost of the work is \$1,471,000 and is included in Lakeland Electric's FY24 budget.

Staff recommended that the City Commission approve this Agreement with W. Soule & Co. for Natural Gas Pipeline Modifications for Lakeland Electric and authorize the appropriate City officials to execute all corresponding documents on behalf of the City.

Deputy City Attorney Ramona Sirianni presented this item to the Commission.

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

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments from the audience.

The Commission discussed:

Connections – This should be the final piece of the puzzle. This would get the plants caught up to speed. LE did not take the gas supply down to the plants very often. This is an opportunity to do modifications.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

AUDIENCE

Adam Spafford came forward and thanked the Commission for responding to requests to disable facial recognition. He wanted to say downtown is a wonderful place and he apologized for omitting that last time. He encouraged the Commission and community to remain vigilant.

MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COMMISSION

Commissioner Guy LaLonde enjoyed Sun 'n Fun and witnessing the proclamation for Major Chad Smith, a local hero.

Mayor Bill Mutz: It was the fruit of Sun 'n Fun in Major Smith's life that caused him to sign up for the Air Force.

Commissioner Sara Roberts McCarley:

- Sun 'n Fun: She attended the 50th Anniversary Heritage Marker for Sun 'n Fun. The unveiling was very moving. She was there Saturday and heard so many different languages.
- Ridge League of Cities Dinner: Staff did an awesome job hosting. Mayor Pro Tem Stephanie Madden did a wonderful job emceeding the event.
- Friday is Lincoln Avenue Farm Day. She encouraged others to attend. The Kindergarten team puts it on.

Commissioner Stephanie Madden:

- Sun 'n Fun was unbelievable! The drones were amazing!
- CFRPC: She attended Central Florida Regional Planning Council last week in Wauchula. They announced Florida Commerce held a press release on April 8, 2024 and announced \$1.5 Million available to Florida communities for Community Planning and Strategic Economic Development Initiatives. This was to cultivate local economies, stimulate aggressive economic growth, critical local planning issues, promotes innovative planning solutions and included Florida's natural resources. She will forward the information to Shawn Sherrouse.
- She met with Tiffany Van Wieren, of Arts & Medicine, at Watson Clinic. The Cancer Center of Watson Clinic looks for volunteers to play the piano or teach arts/crafts with cancer patients.
- Bike Paths: She has been talking with the bicyclist community. It is controversial to talk about opening up Seven Wetlands to bicyclists. Staff is reticent to open the park to bicyclists. Gravel bike enthusiasts are making the request. We talked on Friday about Chuck Barmby holding an informational event for local bicyclists to better understand connections that could be made and are coming. They are hosting a Ride of Silence on May 15th at 7 p.m. at First Presbyterian to honor all those who have been injured or killed in our area.

Commissioner Bill Read asked Chuck Barmby if he was at TPO last week. He asked Chuck Barmby to come forward.

Chuck Barmby explained a lot of the conversation was about budgeting shortfalls of the State's resurfacing program and the \$58 Million in earmarks affecting FDOT District 1. Those earmarks jumped to the front of the priority setting process for local governments who went through the State legislative process and had their project specifically identified without requesting that funding come from the General Fund. That created a \$58 Million deficit in the statewide FDOT Work Program. The state is going to have to remove \$58 Million from the 5-year program.

Commissioner Chad McLeod heard several comments yesterday about the fireworks and drones at Sun 'n Fun.

Mayor Bill Mutz attended the Lakeland Economic Development Council's (LEDC) city visit to Pittsburg. They are excellent in research and development. Their research teams are promulgated by funding from Carnegie-Melo and the University of Pittsburg.

Shawn Sherrouse: The LEDC city visit to Pittsburg was a tremendous trip. The group will debrief later and produce a report, which they will share. It was interesting to see the innovation and technology clusters that stem out of Carnegie-Melon and Pitt.

Publix is using one of their innovation centers to improve warehousing. It makes you recognize that the work we do with the comprehensive plan is critical. Its important to be careful planning the “by right” land use and zoning.

CALL FOR ADJOURNMENT - 11:30 a.m.

DRAFT