

**CITY OF WINTER HAVEN
MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2011
7:30 PM
DRAFT**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Mayor Potter called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
2. **INVOCATION** – Reverend Michael Spivey, Calvary Assembly of God Church
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Dorothy Johnson, City Clerk
4. **PRESENTATION**
 - A. **Award Plaque to Mr. James T. Joiner** - Mayor ProTem JP Powell presented a plaque to Mr. James T. Joiner for his years of service on the Winter Haven Planning Commission.
 - B. **Arbor Day Proclamation** - Mayor Jeff Potter presented the Proclamation to Andy Palmer, Project Planner.
 - C. **Centennial Presentation** - Scott Girouard, Centennial Committee Chairman gave a presentation to the City Commission and acknowledge the committee members and thanked staff for assisting the Centennial Committee.

Mayor Potter acknowledged County Commissioner Todd Dantzler in the audience and asked him to approach the podium and brief the citizens on the direction of the County Commissioners.

Todd Dantzler, County Commissioner congratulated the City on providing free opportunities to the citizens in the parks downtown and commending the City Commissioners for their efforts. I look forward to working with the City in the future.

5. **ROLL CALL** - Dorothy Johnson, City Clerk

Commissioners Present: Steven Hunnicutt, Nathaniel Birdsong, JP Powell, Jamie Beckett, Mayor Jeff Potter

Staff Present: City Manager Dale Smith; City Attorney John Murphy; Assistant to the City Manager Deric Feacher; City Clerk Dorothy Johnson; Community and Economic Development Director David Dickey; Financial Services Director Cal Bowen; Community Services Director T. Michael Stavres; Utility Services Director Kim Hansell; Department Directors

Absent: Gary Hester, Police Chief and Tony Jackson, Fire Chief

6. MINUTES

December 13, 2010 Regular City Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Powell - move approval of the December 13, 2010 Regular City Commission Meeting Minutes.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. ORDINANCES – SECOND READING – PUBLIC HEARING - None

8. CONSENT AGENDA - None

9. REQUEST TO BE HEARD FROM GENERAL PUBLIC - None

10. RESOLUTION – PUBLIC HEARING

A. RESOLUTION R-11-01 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WINTER HAVEN, FLORIDA APPROVING OF THE SIDEWALK, PEDESTRIAN AND MULTIMODAL INFRASTRUCTURE ACCESS PLAN; PROVIDING DIRECTION TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The City Attorney read Resolution R-11-01 by title only. Michael Stavres, Community Services Director stated one of the system-wide, long-term initiatives of the City is the ongoing maintenance and expansion of the public sidewalk and pedestrian-based infrastructure. Focus on, and demand for, this infrastructure has been heightened in recent years due to population growth and elevated vehicular volume; increased costs in personal transportation stemming from higher fuel costs; an increase in desire among people who do not have access to nor desire to travel via personal vehicles; and a greater awareness of the impact non-vehicular transportation has on improving personal health.

In 2007, the City completed the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. During the public input for this plan, one of the recurring comments brought forward was the desire for walking areas for recreation purposes and the need to connect neighborhoods to other destinations such as schools, parks, shopping, and community centers via sidewalks. This need was also identified by the City Commission and management team during the 2008 City Commission Retreat.

The City of Winter Haven, in association with the Renaissance Planning Group, has developed a Sidewalk, Pedestrian and Multimodal Infrastructure Access Plan (the Plan) to address the transportation network and identify ways to promote safe and convenient travel by all modes as an integrated transportation system.

The Plan considers both current and future needs and establishes policies to help decision-makers as they evaluate plans, programs, and projects.

The Plan was developed through quantitative analyses of the City's existing multimodal infrastructure and quality of service, as well as public input through public workshops. The Plan also strives to fulfill the City's transportation vision of providing an integrated transportation system that maximizes the safe and efficient movement of people without using an automobile. The resulting Plan enhances economic productivity and the quality of Winter Haven neighborhoods while minimizing impacts to the natural environment.

Throughout the 20-month plan development, the public was invited and encouraged to participate in the planning process. Several public outreach strategies were employed including: public workshops, fact sheets, questionnaires, webpage information, and various speaking engagements by the Renaissance Planning Group and City staff. During the planning process of the Plan, several key goals emerged, including:

- Addressing safety through engineering, enforcement, and education.
- Enhancing mobility and flow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic on the City's main corridors, and to improve capacity when appropriate.
- Improving the existing pedestrian and cycling network through connecting gaps and providing new pedestrian and cycling facilities in the transportation network.
- Identifying funding challenges and new funding strategies.
- Building partnerships and improving coordination and communication with other governmental agencies, schools, neighborhood groups, and community stakeholders.

The completed plan includes six main sections as follows:

- Section 1: Summarization of the citywide Multimodal Plan that identifies various types of multimodal facilities and provides a list of proposed capital projects;
- Section 2: Outlines the history of the existing Chain of Lakes Trail and identifies multimodal projects that are currently under construction or programmed as future capital improvement projects;
- Section 3: Identifies and provides information about priority projects that include sidewalks, bicycle lanes, multi-use trails, intersection improvements, traffic calming and other roadway improvements;

- Section 4: Provides an overview of several proposed multimodal projects for six specific areas in the City - Downtown, Lake Howard, Lake Elbert, the Chain O' Lakes Complex, the Northeast area and the Southeast area;
- Section 5: Outlines the plan development process; and
- Section 6: Provides a general implementation plan, including the description of programs the City can initiate to support the Plan, identifying potential funding sources to pay for improvements, and providing design guidelines for multimodal facilities.

To optimize existing and proposed transportation assets, take full advantage of potential funding opportunities, and continue to involve the public, a phased approach to implementation will occur. This will involve a short-term strategy of focusing on key priorities that support the City's economy and address transportation safety items. In the long-term, the strategy is to build and expand on early implementation efforts. Both of these strategies will involve the continuing efforts of City staff to identify funding sources for fully implementing the Plan.

Staff recommended the City Commission adopt Resolution R-11-01, thereby supporting the concepts and recommendations of the Sidewalk, Pedestrian and Multimodal Infrastructure Access Plan.

Michael Stavres, Community Services Director announced this information was presented to the Winter Haven Planning Commission Meeting December 7, 2010 and was unanimously recommended to be forwarded to the City Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Birdsong – move approval of Resolution R-11-01.

Commissioner Beckett stated it will take years to implement this project. We will have to find funding, but I really appreciate you taking this serious. It is a great plan.

Mayor Potter thanked staff. These type of plans need to be brought forward so we will have something to use as a tool as we fund our Capital Improvement.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. RESOLUTION R-11-02 – A RESOLUTION VACATING A 14-FOOT IMPROVED PORTION OF AN EAST/WEST ALLEY, LYING SOUTH AND ADJACENT TO LOTS 11 AND 12, BLOCK 1, AND NORTH OF AND ADJACENT TO LOT 9, BLOCK 1 OF THE REPLAT OF OVERSTREETS SUBDIVISION, IN SECTION 29, TOWNSHIP 28, RANGE 26, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

The City Attorney read Resolution R-11-02 by title only. David Dickey, Community and Economic Development Director reported the applicants, Michael and Geraldine Castrilli, request that the City Commission vacate a 14-foot improved portion of an east/west alley, lying south and adjacent to lots 11 and 12, Block 1, and north of and adjacent to Lot 9, Block 1, of the replat of Overstreets Subdivision. This portion of the alley is currently improved with parking for a restaurant (former Wendy's) located at 301 Third Street, SW.

Tampa Electric Company, Verizon, Brighthouse Networks, Central Florida Gas Company, and impacted City departments were contacted concerning the vacating of this alley. All of the above responded that they have no objection to this vacation; however, Tampa Electric Company indicated that it has utilities within this alley. Therefore, an easement will be recorded in favor of the City and franchise utility providers. No other property owners are abutting this portion of the alley.

All public notice requirements have been met.

Staff recommended the City Commission approve Resolution R-11-02.

Motion by Commissioner Beckett – move approval of Resolution R-11-02.

Mayor Potter closed the Regular Commission Meeting and opened the Public Hearing stating that anyone wishing to speak to Resolution R-11-02 may coming to the podium and stating their name and address for the record.

Kevin Wright, 900 West Lake Otis Drive, stated he and his wife own a dance studio and if the alley is blocked, it is not feasible for parking. Asked the City to come up with a plan providing accessibility to the back of his building.

Attorney Heather Krisman, 340 West Avenue spoke on behalf of the applicants, Michael and Geraldine Castrilli to answer questions related to the request to vacate the 14-foot improved portion of the an east/west alley. There are public parking stalls that were improved; all the activities of ingress and egress that Mr. Wright indicated have taken place on private property. This is not activity that takes place within the right-of-way. There is no ingress and egress in the right-of-way.

Mayor Potter asked staff to explain the egress issue that Mr. Wright would have if this property was vacated.

David Dickey stated staff has met with both parties and the current alley runs from east to west with a ninety degree turn south. The north/south portion of the alley is unimproved.

Mayor Potter asked if there is anything defining the improved area as an alley?

David Dickey responded it is a platted alley.

Mayor Potter asked if you drive on the parking lot can you tell if it is an alley?

David Dickey, Community and Economic Development Director answered no sir. It has been improved as the applicant representative, Attorney Krisman, indicated. It is a stripped parking lot with lighting and landscaping. If you were to walk on it, there is no way to identify it as an alley.

Mayor Potter asked would the request to vacate the alley have a negative effect on the surrounding property. The attorney stated they do not enter the building from that portion of the parking lot.

David Dickey, Community and Economic Development Director stated that staff has searched public records looking for an access easement agreement, but have been unable to locate such an agreement, nor has either property owner. Mr. Dickey indicated the Wrights have been using this parking lot as access to the back of their property with no formal agreement. If the City Commission decides to close the alley, the north/south entrance would provide access to the back of the property. The Wrights are currently utilizing on-street parking on the north side of the property.

Staff is recommending to vacate this portion; it is not providing any access to the property.

Mayor Potter asked if there have been discussions between property owners, Castrilli and Wright, giving them permission to use the parking area as it currently exists.

David Dickey, Community and Economic Development Director stated there have not been any conversations between the parties.

Mr. Wright stated we have been in the building five years and parking has not been an issue. It never occurred to me the property had been sold until a few months ago. When the Castrilli's became owners of the property, it never occurred to me I needed to speak with them concerning the parking. I am not trying to avoid conversation with them.

Commissioner Birdsong asked the property owners if they are going to continue allowing Mr. Wright to utilize the property for parking.

Attorney Heather Krisman stated there have been no discussions between Mr. Wright and my clients. We are here to discuss the vacation of the right-of-way.

City Attorney John Murphy stated staff is recommending you consider vacation of the property. From a legal stand point, it has no bearing on the discussion question.

Commissioner Beckett withdrew the Motion to approve Resolution R-11-02 because there are issues to discuss before moving forward.

Mayor Potter accepted withdrawal of the Motion to approve the Resolution R-11-02 and suggested everyone return after the issue is resolved before voting on vacating an alley that is paved. I have a problem giving approval for a vacation when the unintended issues may return to the Commission.

City Attorney John Murphy suggested the Mayor entertain a Motion to Continue Resolution R-11-02.

Mayor Potter responded, yes.

City Attorney John Murphy stated I want to make sure that the applicant is aware and understands the issue.

Attorney Krisman stated I agree with the City Attorney's suggestion. I would like for this to be disposed sooner than later. There may be a private matter that needs to be dealt with between the property owners that may or may not have any bearing on what the City needs to do. I cannot guarantee a resolution between the property owners.

Mayor Potter entertained a Motion to Continue discussion of Resolution R-11-02.

Motion by Commissioner Beckett – move approval to continue discussion of Resolution R-11-02.

City Attorney John Murphy asked the Mayor would he like to offer a Motion to Continue to a date and time.

Mayor Potter responded, no.

Mayor Potter closed the Public Hearing and reopened the Regular Commission Meeting.

Motion to Continue discussion of Resolution R-11-02 carried unanimously.

ORDINANCES - FIRST READING - None

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request to Commence Negotiations for RFQ-10-73: Engineering, Design and Consulting Services – Municipal Park, Recreation and Leisure Facilities

Michael Stavres stated over the past three years, staff has aggressively explored opportunities for the redevelopment and re-programming of Chain of Lakes Park, located at the intersection of US Highway 17 and Cypress Gardens Boulevard. Two of the prime catalysts for this effort included the ending of the Florida Citrus Festival and the departure of Major League Baseball Spring Training in 2008. In anticipation of both of these events, staff solicited citizen input on potential end-uses of the property during completion of the 2007 Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan. The recommendation stemming from this input was for a redeveloped site with multiple uses (commercial, residential, and municipal) while still ensuring the current level of service for parks and recreation.

Over the past year, negotiations for a final sale and redevelopment have progressed and are nearing the execution of a contract for sale. In light of the proposed redevelopment plan, it will be necessary to relocate certain recreation elements presently on the property. Based on a proposed phased take-down, one of the first elements needing to be relocated is the athletic field facility on the southern portion of the site.

To begin the process of relocating these amenities, staff issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ 10-73) on September 27, 2010. The intent was to identify and retain the firm/team most qualified to design a new sports oriented facility capable of accommodating the current programming of Chain of Lakes Park while also addressing some of the current needs outlined in the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan specific to youth athletics and geographic location.

On October 20, 2010, the City's Procurement Services Division received Statements of Qualification from 15 separate teams. A review team comprised of staff from the Community Services Department and the Community & Economic Development Department reviewed and ranked the submittals. The following teams were selected/short-listed for oral presentations:

- AECOM (Orlando)
- Bellomo Herbert (Orlando)
- PBS&J (Bartow)

On December 17, 2010, the three firms made oral presentations to a review committee comprised of the following individuals:

- T. Michael Stavres, Director of Community Services – *is ultimately responsible to the City Manager for all aspects of the facility including*

construction, operation and programming consistent with the goals of the City Commission and Administration

- Travis Edwards, Leisure Services Division Director – *is directly responsible for the construction, operation and maintenance of the facility and the delivery of services in concert with all other leisure services facilities and programs*
- Andy Palmer, Leisure Services Project Development Coordinator – *serves as the Leisure Services construction supervisor having been instrumental in the design, bidding and construction of several recent projects including Inman Park, Lake Maude Nature Park and the Downtown Trailhead; significantly involved in the completion of the 2007 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*
- Scott Eilers, Athletic Superintendent – *will ultimately serve as the operator/supervisor of the site and coordinate all third party users, facility rentals and internal programming*
- Joey Murphy, Technical Services Division Director – *serves as the City's technical expert and is directly involved in coordinated efforts related to technical aspects of the project including utility tie-in, permitting, etc.*
- Jeanne Sobierajski, Planner II – *representing the Community & Economic Development Department, provides guidance and insight specific to site plan review, land development regulations, zoning and land use and residential growth patterns in the proposed area of development*
- Marc Zimmerman, Polk County Tourism and Sports Marketing – *representing the largest external user, provides insight and expertise to programming trends and design criteria in consideration of current and potential third-party event organizers (USSSA, AAU, ISA, ASA, etc.)*

It is anticipated that all of these individuals will be involved in the design, bidding and construction process as varying times. In addition, City Commissioner Stephen Hunnicutt sat in on the presentations as an observer.

Immediately following the presentations, the selection committee orally discussed the firms and individually stated their final rankings. Each member ranked the three firms as one, two or three, with one being the most qualified for the project. These rankings were recorded by the Department Director and tabulated on site. Based on this tabulation, staff is recommending the City Manager be authorized to commence negotiations with AECOM. In the event a scope of work and price cannot be agreed upon, the second firm for negotiation will be PBS&J, followed by Bellomo Herbert.

Staff recommended the City Commission authorize the City Manager to commence negotiations with AECOM for Engineering, Design & Consulting Services specific to Municipal Park, Recreation & Leisure Facilities.

Motion by Commissioner Beckett – move approval of Request to Commence Negotiations for RFQ-10-73: Engineering, Design and Consulting Services – Municipal Park, Recreation and Leisure Facilities

Jay Hood , AECOM, 11114 Crest Bay Boulevard, Principal Director of Landscape Architecture with AECOM, based in Orlando have sub-contractors in Polk County working on the Legoland project and will open a Winter Haven Office this week. We have worked several projects in Polk County and are excited to be in Winter Haven.

Steven Hunnicutt stated he sat in on this process. There are several current projects going on in the City. All three companies listed are qualified and I am confident they can do the work. I have a problem supporting this because of the process and it has nothing to do with individual companies. We have had several conversations about our economy and jobs, but we continue to take Winter Haven money outside the City. It does nothing for our GDP. It has nothing to do with these companies listed here, but I am concerned with the kind of jobs this brings to our local economy. The end result; will we have a great product, sure, because you all do a great job! What kind of jobs will the project bring to our City? My concern is the process and how we have gotten to this point. We have several local businesses. You all mentioned AECOM was opening up an office, but how many people are they going to staff. I am a City Commissioner in Winter Haven. We have local businesses that sponsor our City functions. We are going to have this huge process and the local business will be shut out of this. I have a tough time supporting the process.

Mayor Potter agreed with the discussion and stated the process is one that was established, used and will continue to use, unless the Commission decides to change the process based on four Commissioners input. We are charged with providing our City Manager direction based on staff, qualification, subcontractors, local ordinance for preference that we approved. I am sure all those steps were done with the awarding of the RFQ based on established procedures. I do not have a problem supporting the recommendation from staff.

Motion carried 3/2 with Mayor ProTem JP Powell and Commissioner Steven Hunnicutt voting nay.

B. Office Supplies Annual Contract

Deric Feacher, Assistant to the City Manager reported the various City departments and divisions currently spend approximately \$70,000.00 per year on office supplies. The State of Florida recently awarded a State Term Contract for office supplies (#618-000-11-1) that is valid through October 17, 2013. This contract was awarded to three vendors: Staples Contract and Commercial Inc., Office Depot Inc., and Gulf Coast Office Products. The State Contract bid

amounts are a percentage (%) discount off of the list price (the higher the discount, the lower the price we pay). Local governments are authorized to purchase off of the State Term Contracts by Florida Statute 287.056. Staples' has a local retail outlet near Lowes, and Office Depot is building a local retail outlet at Southeast Plaza. (Gulf Coast Office Products is located in Pensacola, Fl., and does not service Polk County.) Since the State Contract was awarded to both Staples and Office Depot, we are recommending both so that City personnel will have a choice of either local store, as well as ordering on-line from either one.

Staff recommended the City Commission award an annual contract (with options to renew), based on the State Term Contract #618-000-11-1, for the purchase of office supplies to both Staples Contract and Commercial, Inc., and Office Depot Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$70,000.00.

Motion by Commissioner Birdsong - move approval of Office Supplies Annual Contract.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Request by Tapping The Vine, LLC to establish a drinking establishment at 7110 Cypress Gardens Boulevard. The area covered by this request is 5.72± acres

David Dickey, Community and Economic Development Director reported Tapping The Vine, LLC, petitioner, requests that the City Commission grant Conditional Use to allow for the operation of a drinking establishment at 7110 Cypress Gardens Boulevard. The property consists of 5.72± acres and contains the 29,744 square foot Millers Landing Shopping Plaza, one (1) out-parcel, and 151 parking spaces.

The proposed wine bar will contain approximately 20 seats and will operate from 11:00 am until 11:00 pm Monday through Saturday. The wine bar will be closed on Sundays and major holidays. Tapping The Vine currently operates a 1,000 square foot retail wine shop at this location; however, to allow customers to consume wine on-site special/conditional use approval is required.

Based on 20 seats, 10 on-site parking spaces are required. As developed, the Millers Landing Shopping Plaza contains 151 parking spaces for common use by all of the businesses in the plaza. Operation of the wine bar is not expected to cause any parking problems within the plaza or on adjoining parcels. In accordance with criteria contained in Section 21-226, Drinking Establishments or Nightclubs, the use is consistent with the Commercial-Retail Future Land Use on the property, City codes, will not result in reduced level of service, and is consistent with the approved site plan for the plaza.

The nearest residential properties are located approximately 150 feet to the south and west. There are no schools within one (1) mile of this location. The nearest church is approximately 2,300 feet to the west on West Lake Ruby Drive.

Section 21-226 of the Code of Ordinances requires all drinking establishments/nightclubs to receive Special Use approval from the Planning Commission and Conditional Use approval from the City Commission. The Planning Commission, at its December 7, 2010, regular meeting, voted unanimously to grant Special Use approval for this request. There were no members of the public speaking for or against this request.

The uses surrounding this request are: Northwest, Vacant Land and Heather Glen Subdivision; West, Ruby Lake Subdivision; Southwest, Ruby Lake Subdivision; North, Vacant Land and Medical Office; South, Millers Landing Subdivision; Northeast, State Farm Regional Office; East, RV Campground and Walmart Supercenter; Southeast, RV Campground.

All public notice requirements for this request have been met.

Staff recommended the City Commission approve the Request by Tapping The Vine, LLC to establish a drinking establishment at 7110 Cypress Gardens Boulevard. The area covered by this request is 5.72± acres.

Motion by Commissioner Birdsong – move approval of the Request by Tapping the Vine, LLC to establish a drinking establishment at 7110 Cypress Gardens Boulevard. The area covered by this request is 5.72± acres

City Attorney John Murphy recommended adding all the subject information into the Motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Potter stated there have been many discussions on high tech, businesses, schools, job creations and employment opportunities within the City. Acknowledge Bud Strang, Inland Data Fiber in the audience. They brought a proposal to the City to establish an innovation course when we did an overlay of the fiber optic network. Pointing to the screen, the orange lines are all fiber optic lines laid within the City. The Yellow lines represent Inland Data Fiber. The Blue lines are the CRA Core Improvement areas which currently waives impact fees, except for water and wastewater for construction of new businesses. The Purple line is an extension and improvement boundary that is fuzzy. We are proposing to call this a new Enterprise Zone. Within the Enterprise Zone, the City will rebate up to 50% of the communication tax to any new business starting within the Enterprise Zone based on the number of employees that are brought to this area. We will dedicate 25% of the communication tax to the funding of the Infrastructure for the Inland Fiber Optic to reach every school within the City of

Winter Haven and connect them to the internet. Ingram Leedy with Elephant Outlook has offered to provide free internet access to every school. In our quest to raise the level of the education process to create jobs and become noted as the premiere high tech area within Central Florida, this Enterprise Zone will give us a vast start towards that goal. I just wanted to address the Commissioners tonight and when we have our Quarterly City Commission Workshop on Wednesday, we can determine if this is something the Commission would like to move forward with. I would like to move forward with this Enterprise Zone. I thank staff, Ingram Leedy and Bud Strang for allowing us the opportunity to expand in a public/private partnership; as it relates to the education aspect of providing to the schools.

12. CITY COMMISSIONERS/LIAISON REPORTS

A. **Commissioners Beckett**– Acknowledged former Mayor Ellie Threlkel, Joe and Steve Alcorn, Principle of Bokman Aviation. The Alcorns were one of the companies involved in the bidding process for the FBO Contract at Gilbert Field. Participated in Snow Central and thanked staff for putting it together. Attended Centennial Rockin' New Year's Eve Party at Martin Luther King Park, Jim Davis Retirement Celebration at the Fire Department. Attended the second meeting of the Education Committee between local business, government and private partners where information was gathered about the state of education and what we want it to be and requested assistance from the City. People are embracing this Education issue. Attended the Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School Groundbreaking Celebration, a successful Charter School. While at the groundbreaking, I spoke with Hazel Sellers and Debra Smith-Wright, Polk County School Board Members, and assured them we are just gathering information at the request of the public. I spoke with Gina Williams, Principal at Winter Haven High School. There are a lot of opportunities for us to engage with the Polk County School System, but there is a lack of communication on our part. If we would get out of our comfort zone and meet with them, we can make a difference.

On the RFQ process, we are experiencing persistent unemployment at high rates. When we go out for bids on projects we want to get the best team. We cannot ignore that we have a responsibility to our own people. As I look at the RFQ (10-73) for this particular one, point three (3) is what is expected of each team in their presentation. It is subjective, it list our needs and desires. I do not think it will be inappropriate to include an additional bullet point that asks each team how would their method of involvement in the project affect our local economic situation. I think that is an important point. I implore the City Manager to find a way to achieve this Agreement and ask my fellow Commissioners to take this seriously when we have unemployment at this level and for this length of time. It is up to us as City Commissioners to make it happen.

Commissioner Birdsong – Attended the Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School Building Groundbreaking Celebration, the Employee Service Award and Retiree

Celebration Breakfast and it is an privilege to honor City employees no matter how good we are as a City Commission we could not achieve goals without the assistance of the employees. Announced Joanne Tyler retired after 41 years of service to the City. Attended Jim Davis' Retirement Celebration at the Fire Department and received an autographed painting depicting 911. Announced Polk State College's 7th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Breakfast to be held Tuesday, January 11. The Martin Luther King Jr. Parade will be held Saturday, January 14, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Committee's Annual Prayer Breakfast will be held Monday, January 16. Attended Governor Rick Scott's Inaugural events.

Commissioner Hunnicutt – announced the City Commission Workshop will be held January 12; attended Snow Central December 16 in Central Park, the Centennial Rockin' New Year's Eve Party December 31. I do not know of any other City that had an event of that magnitude. Thanked Staff, Donna Sheehan, Centennial Committee.

While visiting some of the local businesses, I noticed a coupon booklet with activities advertised for the City of Winter Haven. Anytime we can market the City, it is always positive. Suggested when new residents come to town, maybe the City can provide a welcome packet. Commended Donna Sheehan for a great job of marketing the City and suggested marketing the City by advertising through utility bills or staff a booth at special events. Attended Governor Rick Scott's Inaugural events. Governor Scott's speech addressed the importance of approaching business owners in your city to assist with prosperity of that business. When the business prospers, it only strengthens the City. I had the opportunity to speak with one of Governor Scott's Economic Development Committee Members. One of the big issues in the Legislature is Growth Management. Amendment 4 failed and we need to make sure that process never returns again. As Commissioners, we should consider putting together a plan for developers as they arrive in the City. They do the outreach with the neighborhoods, bringing that information back to the City before moving forward. When you run for office, it is all about you, but once elected, we as Commissioners are a team. I want the best for the City.

Commissioner JP Powell – attended the Unveiling of Keith Goodson's Master Oil Painting "Light of the World" at the Champions Church; attended Snow Central; Lake Howard Heights Holiday Extravaganza and spoke to the residents and wished everyone a Merry Christmas; attended Moffitt Fundraiser; Centennial Rockin' New Year's Eve Party; Chamber First Wednesday Breakfast with Chief Hester, the speakers have been fantastic; Thanked Chamber Representatives Bob Gernert and Cindy Price, for putting on the First Wednesday Breakfast. Attended the Employee Service Award and Retiree Celebration; Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School Building Groundbreaking Celebration at Polk State College, and EPC100 Luncheon. Announced the Central Florida Regional Planning Council will meet Wednesday, January 12 and the Library Board will meet Tuesday, January 13; The Planning Commission did not meet this month

and the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee will be announced at a later time. I look forward to hearing more on the City of Winter Haven Fiber Optic Cable Layout.

Mayor Potter – announced on January 14 at 11 a.m. Winter Haven Housing Authority Open House showing how far they have prospered with support from the City and the State and they used Stimulus Funds. At 12 Noon on that date a Wreath Laying at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park will take place. Lake Region Lakes Management District will meet January 19, 2011 for the swearing-in of their new commissioners. Encouraged all City Commissioners to attend in support of moving forward as a team. Thanked Main Street, the Benefactors and Bob Gernert, Chamber Commerce for the repairs to the Clock. Because of dialogues we have an opportunity to embrace the Education System, letting them know we are partners and not the enemy. I challenge everyone involved in this process to read the education aspects of Polk Vision. You will find many answers there and that would be great!

City Attorney – Wished everyone a Happy New Year. Introduced Seth Benton Claytor, new associate with Boswell & Dunlap LLP, who will be assisting him.

City Manager – None

Assistant to the City Manager - None

City Clerk – None

15. **DEVELOPMENTS OF NOTE** – None

16. **EMERGENCY MATTERS NOT RECEIVED FOR THE AGENDA** – None

17. **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Sal Trimarche, thanked the City Commission for taking a leadership role on getting involved in education.

Bishop Anthony Lawrence asked the City Commissioners to evaluate safety measures at City Hall.

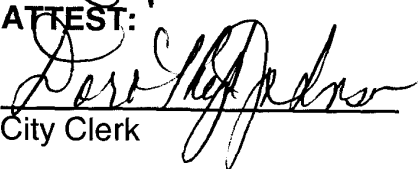
Mayor Potter stated Ellie Threlkel wanted to speak on security issue also, but has left the building. City Manager Dale Smith is aware of the issues and staff will make recommendations to the Commission concerning security for access to the building and the City Commission Meeting.

18. **ADJOURNMENT** - 8:51 p.m.

CITY OF WINTER HAVEN, FLORIDA



Mayor-Commissioner

ATTEST:


City Clerk