

The Live Oak City Council met Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall located at 101 SE White Ave., Live Oak, Florida 32064 for a regular monthly meeting. The following officials were present: Mayor Frank Davis, Councilmember Matt Campbell, Councilmember Tommie Jefferson, Council President David Burch, Councilmember Lynda Brown-Owens, Councilmember Tesie Allen, City Attorney Todd Kennon, City Clerk John Gill, & City Manager George Curtis

Council President Burch called the meeting to order.

City Manager George Curtis led the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Council President Burch then presented the agenda for any additions, deletions, or changes. Councilmember Jefferson made a motion to add to his section of the agenda asking for termination of the city manager's contract and adding Mr. Ronald Williams as interim city manager. The motion failed for lack of a second. Councilmember Owens moved to approve the agenda as presented, which Councilmember Campbell seconded. The motion carried with Councilmember Jefferson against.

Council President Burch then proceeded to the next agenda item regarding the approval of January 9th city council workshop minutes and the January 10th regular monthly city council meeting minutes. Councilmember Owens moved to approve workshop and regular monthly meeting minutes as presented, which Councilmember Campbell seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Council President Burch then opened the floor for public comment.

Cheryl Pruitt: Matters of the City

Council President Burch closed public comments.

Council President Burch then turned the floor over to Mayor Davis who proceeded with matters of the city. Mayor Davis spoke about the Florida League of City meeting on Thursday, February 23, 2023 at The Spirit of Suwannee and is expecting a great turnout. He also announced "Career Day" at River Oak College on Thursday, February 16, 2023.

Council President Burch then proceeded to the City Councilmember section of the agenda where the next agenda item is discussed by him, discussion on putting topics on the agenda. Mr. Burch suggested that agenda items should be addressed with all parties involved prior to the meeting with the city manager and city attorney. At that point the topic can be brought to a vote at the following meeting, but he will not vote on a topic if it's not vetted by Staff, City Manager, Finance Director, City Attorney, and Engineering because of the legalities. There were no motions made.

Council President Burch then moved on to Councilmember Campbell section of the agenda, discussion concerning status of each city job/position vacancy and reporting and tracking of vacancies moving forward. Councilmember Owens advised the city needs a HR Department in order to keep track of vacancies and keeping up with positions of the city. Councilmember Owens also suggested that each council person can be responsible for a department to always have an updated status, the report from each department can be presented at the regular council meetings. Councilmember Jefferson advised that the city manager should provide the reports of the departments to city council at the meeting. Council President Burch did not agree with councilmember Campbell stated that he should have spoken to the city manager.

Councilmember Campbell moved to the next agenda item, status update on site plan submission and approval for Live Oak Apartments project with input from Mr. Wainwright (owner) and Mr. Brian Pitman (engineer).

Mr. Wainwright discussed the issues at hand on permits for this project and Mr. Pitman also discussed the issues he has come across along with the conversations he has had with staff previously. City Attorney Todd Kenon stated a meeting will be set up to discuss the project.

Councilmember Campbell moved to the next agenda item, status update concerning variance for exiting shopping malls/centers throughout the city. City Attorney Todd Kenon explained several components to establish a commercial recreational facility and what criteria's that would need to be met. There were no motions made.

Councilmember Campbell then moved to the next agenda item, status update on the installation of electronic water meters. Mr. Curtis advised that he received an email from public works director Mike Crandall stating there are two crews working to install residential meters, ranging about 80 meters a day. The email also stated that the estimated completion for installation of the meters will be in mid-March. Finance Director Joanne Luther came up and explained about the software being used to read the meters along with the process of getting the correct bill statement to customers.

Council President Burch turned the floor over to Councilmember Owens with discussion regarding technology upgrades. Councilmember Owens stating it would be much easier to communicate better on getting permits and also when people are applying for jobs with the city, they would be able to fill out the application online. Councilmember Campbell suggested that he may have a grant writer to help get money to upgrade the city's technology.

Councilmember Owens then proceeded with the discussion regarding the need for additional finance staff at the window for customers. Ms. Owens stated there is enough space to develop a better method for customers to pay utility bills. Councilmember Owens moved on to discussion regarding sidewalk trash cans, and the need for more trash cans which would be a great help for some of the trash issues in her district.

Councilmember Owens then proceeded to discussion regarding street signs that are missing and a few that are faded and need replacing.

Councilmember Owens moved on to discussion regarding homeless shelter, suggesting there may be a grant for this project and she would like to see if the city is able to get a grant.

Council President Burch then turned the floor over to Councilmember Jefferson on discussion regarding the Old Suwannee Pack property. Councilmember Jefferson asked Ms. Anitra Williams to come up and speak about a project for this property.

Councilmember Jefferson then moved on with the next agenda item on discussion regarding the City Manager's evaluation. Councilmember Jefferson wanted to know the proper procedures to get the evaluation done and is this information available to the public. City Attorney Todd Kenon did advise once all evaluations are turned in from council it will be made a public record.

Councilmember Jefferson moved on to discussion with possible council action, request for the resignation of the City Manager. The City Attorney advised that Councilmember Jefferson would have to make a motion for the resignation with majority ruling. Councilmember Jefferson made the motion requesting of City Managers resignation, which was seconded by Councilmember Campbell. Councilmember Owens recommended the council contact the Florida League of City for an interim. A roll call vote was taken with councilmembers Burch, Allen and Owens against. Councilmember Jefferson and Campbell for. The motion failed 3 to 2.

Council President Burch then turned the floor over to the City Manager for discussion with possible action, resolution 2023-01, a resolution authorizing the acceptance of a Special Warranty Deed from First Federal F/K/A First Federal Savings Bank of Florida, FSA for the parcel of property known as Azalea Park and located within the municipal limits. Councilmember Owens made the motion to accept resolution 2023-01, which Councilmember Allen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Councilmember David Burch
City Council President

Attest:
Mr. John Gill
City Clerk