

CITY MANAGER REPORT

JANUARY 8, 2009

FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING JANUARY 12, 2009

1. WORKSHOPS

April 27 – 6:00 p.m.

Financial Trends Workshop

June 22 – 4:00 p.m.

Preliminary Budget Workshop

July 13 – 3:00 p.m.

Budget Workshop

July 27 – 4:00 p.m.

Budget Workshop

2. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT TO THE CITY COMMISSION OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2008

The City Manager's Annual Report has been emailed to you and will be posted online tomorrow January 13, 2009.

3. 1404 EAST NEIL STREET/BOBBY FOGLE

The following charges have been filed against Mr. Fogle with the State Attorney's office:

Sec. 30-107, Plant City Code - The defendant intentionally fails to keep the premises located at 1404 E. Neil Street free of garbage, refuse, and other rubbish. The garbage, refuse, and trash currently located on the property are not stored in authorized receptacles for collection as required by city code. The defendant has been cited for the violation by the City Code Board and has refused to comply with orders to remove the garbage, refuse, and other rubbish.

Sec. 30-106, Plant City Code – On 09/08/2008 and on multiple occasions, the defendant did intentionally place garbage, refuse and/or rubbish on private property within the city and failed to prevent the garbage, refuse and/or rubbish from being carried or deposited by the elements upon any street, sidewalk or other public place or upon any private property. The defendant failed to use approved containers when placing garbage, refuse and debris on the private property.

Sec. 78-900, Plant City Code – Section 302-7, International Property Maintenance Code - The defendant intentionally fails to maintain accessory structures such as his fence in structurally sound condition and in good repair. The fence is leaning, falling over and damaged in areas causing a hazard to neighbors and others.

Sec. 102-266, Plant City Code – The defendant intentionally scraps metal and appliances from the residentially zoned property located at 1404 E. Neil Street. Such actions are prohibited by Plant City zoning codes.

F.S.S. 403.413 – Littering- The defendant did intentionally dump litter in excess of 15 pounds, but not exceeding 500 lbs, in the form of a shopping cart filled with cardboard and cans onto the shoulder of the roadway on September 9, 2008. The defendant left the items until they were discovered by law enforcement and did not place the items where the City of Plant City would normally collect refuse or waste.

The court date has been set for the week of January 26, 2009, and the jury trial is to be held at the Plant City Courthouse.

4. RECYCLING UPDATE FOR 2008

Just like any other, the recycling market is driven on supply and demand. We have been fortunate enough to see some extremely high returns on our recycling materials over the past few years. However, over the past three months we have seen a sudden decline in the demand and revenue for recycled materials. There is a worldwide over supply of cardboard, paper, plastics and aluminum. Companies are warehousing materials with no outlet to move most products. This is mainly because the demand for new homes, automobiles and other consumer products is low.

In years past, we have seen cardboard sell for as little as \$20.00 per ton, but have enjoyed an \$80 per ton average since 2004. It is not uncommon to see these prices rise and fall with the economy. However, the current cycle is somewhat unique due to its swiftness in which prices have decreased. Cardboard prices have fallen from \$75 per ton to \$7.50 per ton in only two months.

Plastics follow directly with the petroleum prices. Last year, the City recycled 58 tons of plastic and sold the materials for \$7 per ton. Presently, recycling companies do not buy recycled plastic materials. Now the City pays the same recycling company \$15 for disposal of the materials. This is an additional tipping fee cost.

The City's recycling program could be looking at losing over \$100,000 in revenues compared to last year unless the market rebounds soon.

We are fortunate to have good relationships with buyers as they are either turning away most costumers or charging them higher fees for disposal. The \$15 per ton disposal cost is still our best option compared to our current \$49 per ton disposal fee that the City would pay for disposal of materials not recycled. It is still worth our efforts to continue recycling.

5. REPLACEMENT OF RAILROAD TIES BY CSX RAILROAD

CSX Railroad plans to replace railroad ties at four surface crossings in the City. These crossings are located at:

MLK Boulevard - - - work scheduled on February 3 to 5, 2009

Laura Street - - - work scheduled on February 3 to 5, 2009

Alabama Street - - - work scheduled on February 3 to 5, 2009

Jim Johnson Road at Alexander Street - - - work scheduled on January 23 - 30, 2009

The City will provide the maintenance of traffic and repaving of the street approaches to the railroad crossings.

Resurfacing funds will be utilized for the repaving of the street approaches to the railroad crossings.

6. NPDES PERMIT COMPLIANCE AUDIT

A letter was received from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) dated November 25, 2008, indicating that the City satisfied the annual reporting requirements for Year Five (5) specified in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). The annual report was prepared by the Water Resources Management staff.

7. ECONOMIC STIMULUS PROJECTS

In response to a request from the Florida League of Cities for a listing of infrastructure projects that could be bid within 120 days we have submitted one that totals \$59,286,320. We also submitted one for projects that could be bid within six to twelve months at \$28,722,000 and another for over twelve months that totals \$61,550,000. All three lists show projects totaling \$149,558,320.

The overall goal of any stimulus plan will be job creation. We estimate 1714 jobs would be created by the projects that could be bid within 120 days.

I am requesting Commission endorsement of these lists as shown or modified by you. They would serve as the basis for any applications we would submit once a stimulus plan is enacted and details are made known. In addition, the Mayor may want to send a letter to our U.S. Congressional Representatives and Senators advising them of our infrastructure needs, costs and jobs created. (A draft copy of the suggested letter is enclosed along with a listing of the projects.)

8. SAFETEA-LU GRANT

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has several discretionary award programs for transportation projects in accordance with Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) legislation. The SAFETEA-LU program cycle was open for applications for project funding. SAFETEA-LU for Transportation, Community and System Preservation (TCSP) Program awards funds qualified projects at 80% of the project cost, requires a 20% local matching funds/in-kind service value, and compliance with federal project guidelines. The applications submitted

proposed that local matching funds/in-kind services value includes city funds and other grant funds obtained for the project. Staff submitted applications for the following projects:

| Rank | Project Description | Match Funds / In-kind Service Value | Funds Requested | Total Project Cost |
|---------|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Wheeler Street Re-Alignment, Phase II: Wheeler Street between Alabama and Ball Streets. | \$280,000.00 | \$1,120,000.00 | \$1,400,000.00 |
| 2 | Mendonsa Road and Pinedale Drainage Improvements: Mendonsa Road between Alexander Street South and Hunter Street. | \$260,000.00 | \$1,040,000.00 | \$1,300,000.00 |
| 3 | South and North Bound Right Turn Lanes at J.L. Redman Parkway (SR 39) and Alexander Street: J.L. Redman Parkway (SR 39) and Alexander Street intersection. | \$350,000.00 | \$1,400,000.00 | \$1,750,000.00 |
| 4 | Alexander Street Sidewalks: Alexander Street between Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Boulevard and Mendonsa Road. | \$60,000.00 | \$240,000.00 | \$300,000.00 |
| 5 | Interstate 4 (I-4) Ramps Study: Interstate 4 Ramps located at Thonotosassa Road, Buchman Highway/Wheeler Street (SR 39), and Park Road. | \$120,000.00 | \$480,000.00 | \$600,000.00 |
| 6 | Cherry Street Traffic Calming: Cherry Street between Park and Wilder Roads. | \$ 60,000.00 | \$240,000.00 | \$300,000.00 |
| 7 | Park Road Sidewalks: Park Road between Park Road East and Reynolds Street (U.S. 92). | \$128,000.00 | \$512,000.00 | \$640,000.00 |
| Totals: | | \$1,258,000.00 | \$5,032,000.00 | \$6,290,000.00 |

9. ROOF REPAIRS – UTILITIES OPERATIONS LAB & OFFICE BUILDINGS

The City Manager has approved the issuance of a purchase order for \$22,700 to Goff-Waller Roofing for the repairs of the roofs at the old Utilities Operations lab and office buildings located at 705 North Alexander Street. The old Utilities Operations Center buildings were vacated when the Utilities Operations Division moved into the new Utilities Operations Center at 1500 West Victoria Street. The roofs on the old buildings are in need of repair to maintain the integrity of the buildings. Water Resource Management staff will be utilizing the buildings when the work is completed.

Quotes were received from three contractors. Goff-Waller Roofing is found to be the most cost effective quote. The following contractors provided quotes:

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Goff-Waller 1701 E. Gary Road Lakeland, FL 33802 863-680-1748 Quote: \$22,700 | Ramcon 921 Chad Lane Tampa, FL 33619 813-663-9667 Quote: \$24,100 | Jewellco 13309 US Hwy 92E Dover, FL 33527 813-659-1164 Quote: \$26,430 |
|---|---|--|

10. STUDY OF FLEET MAINTENANCE SERVICES

Mercury Associates, Inc., Bradenton, Florida, proposed to perform a fleet maintenance and repairs services study for the City of Plant City for \$23,460 which I have authorized. The objective of the study is to assess whether the City could staff and operate its fleet maintenance and repairs services less expensively, but with equal or better quality than a vendor or continue to contract for these services.

11. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INDUSTRIAL AND OFFICE PROPERTIES

On December 16 the City Manager and Assistant City Manager met with the Tampa Bay Chapter of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP) at their monthly breakfast meeting. The local Chapter had heard about a number of initiatives underway in Plant City, and the members were interested in a more detailed overview of the business climate in the City. Staff presented a PowerPoint covering the following items:

- NE Area Master Plan
- Midtown Redevelopment Plan
- I-4 Development Task Force
- Economic Development Incentive Program (currently being created by Dr. Fishkind)

These items were received quite well and staff noted a number of positive comments from the attendees. Follow-up correspondence from the Chapter's Government Affairs Director complimented the City for its pro-active efforts to increase development and employment opportunities in the City. The Director further noted that the turnout for this presentation was the highest of all breakfast meetings held in the past year.

12. PLANNING AWARD SUBMITTALS

Staff intends to submit both the NE Area Master Plan and the Midtown Redevelopment Plan to the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Commission for this upcoming awards cycle. Submissions to the RPC are due in January.

The Planning Commission also has an opportunity in February to submit for planning awards. As the City Commission may recall, the City received a Planning Commission award last year for the Midtown Redevelopment Plan. This year staff will submit the NE Area Master Plan for consideration.

13. MOODY COMMUNITY ROOM IMPROVEMENTS

Library Director Anne Haywood worked with Carole Moody Shelton to request the Moody family to donate funds for improvements to the Moody Community Room. The work will include new carpet and a ceiling mounted projector. There is \$6,880 in the Library's Donation Account that will be transferred into the General Fund when the budget adjustment is approved. She reports this cannot be done until January, but would

like to order the carpet and get it installed in early February before tax season takes over the room. Finance Director Martin Wisgerhof stated that funds can be encumbered from the Library's Repair to Building and Property account until the budget adjustment and transfer are completed.

14. TREES PLANTED AT ELLIS-METHVIN PARK

On Tuesday, December 16, 40 trees were planted in Plant City by volunteers and City staff as a part of the National Football League (NFL) Environmental Program. The project was funded by a grant from the U.S. Forest Service and is administered by the State of Florida Division of Forestry.

A buffer of trees and plants has been required by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) to help protect an environmentally sensitive area at the Plant City Tennis Center at the City's Ellis-Methvin Park. The Recreation and Parks Department completed a request for matching grant funding and was approved for \$1,700 to purchase the trees, with the City matching the grant with volunteer and staff labor and equipment.

"This grant is a tremendous help to the City of Plant City and our Recreation and Parks Department" said Jack Holland, Director of Recreation and Parks and coordinator of the grant request. "With past budget cuts and more cuts looming in the future, this program allowed us to develop an area to protect the wetland and its habitat and at the same time improve our local environment. We are pleased to be selected as a part of this effort."

Volunteers from the Florida Division of Forestry, University of Florida School of Forest Resources and Conservation at the Plant City campus of Hillsborough Community College, and the Plant City Garden Club, were on hand to help the Parks Division staff plant the 20 Sweetgum trees and 20 Southern Magnolia trees along the northern edge of the Plant City Tennis Center located at 120 North Wilder Road. The Tennis Center is part of the overall 46 acre Ellis-Methvin Park currently under development. In addition to the four clay and four hard surface tennis court complex, the park will eventually contain eight soccer fields, four youth baseball/softball fields, a lake and picnic areas.

The NFL Environmental Program, in partnership with the Tampa Bay Super Bowl Host Committee and assisted by the non-profit Tampa Bay Reforestation and Environmental Effort, Inc. (T.R.E.E. Inc.), has developed a series of initiatives to reduce the environmental impact of Super Bowl related events. These include recovery of prepared food from events, solid waste recycling at major NFL events, donation of all leftover building and decorative materials to local nonprofits, use of renewable energy to power the NFL Experience Football Theme Park and the stadium on game day, collection of used books and sports equipment for local schools and youth agencies, and travel offsets for the teams and NFL officials traveling to Super Bowl XLIII.

A dozen different tree planting projects are scheduled throughout the Tampa Bay area in the weeks leading up to Super Bowl XLIII at Raymond James Stadium on February 1. The projects range in size from individual tree plantings in downtown areas to huge

plantings of thousands of trees in environmentally sensitive management areas. These projects are part of the NFL Environmental Program's urban and community forestry initiative developed in partnership with local, state, and federal agencies.

This is the fifth year that the NFL has developed urban forestry projects as part of its overall environmental program at Super Bowl. This year marks the first time a long term monitoring program will be put in place to track the environmental impact of the tree plantings. Using software developed by the U.S. Forest Service and with the support of the Florida Division of Forestry, data will be collected from planting sites over time to help calculate the actual greenhouse gas impact of the trees each year.

15. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

David Stevens - Plant Operator IV, Utilities Operations Division, Public Works Department, has met the requirements for certification as a FDEP Class 'B' Water Operator.

Isaac Bostic - Plant Operator IV, was recently honored by the Prison Rehabilitative Industries and Diversified Enterprises (PRIDE) at a dinner on Wednesday, December 3, 2008, as a PRIDE STAR. This program was set up to recognize parolees that have gone out of their way to become a model for others.

The Utilities Operations Division has been involved with the transition of parolees into the work force since the mid-1990's. We have hired numerous operators coming from a prison environment into our workforce over the years. For this the Utilities Operations Division was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for their contributions to the success of the PRIDE Enterprises Transition Program.

Tanya Turner - Plant Operator III, Utilities Operations Division, recently met the requirements for certification as a FDEP Class 'A' Wastewater Operator.

January 12, 2009

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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| <p><u>Other original letters to be sent to:</u> Senator Bill Nelson Senator Mel Martinez Congressman Adam Putnam</p> |
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Dear Congressman Bilirakis:

As the new Congress begins work on emergency economic stimulus legislation in January, I strongly encourage you and your colleagues to make a substantial investment in our nation's infrastructure, and do so by providing federal stimulus funds directly to local governments.

Infrastructure spending is a wise investment. Not only will it generate good-paying jobs quickly, it will also spur economic activity that will serve to jumpstart the economy. Such an investment will also bring critical infrastructure improvement that will increase our nation's competitiveness abroad and bring improved quality of life here at home.

Local governments are good stewards of federal funding. As evidenced by the enduring success of the Community Development Block Grant program, local governments understand what our local infrastructure needs are and can quickly turn federal dollars into shovels in the ground.

Delay will reduce the stimulus's positive impact. By steering federal funds directly to localities, Congress will eliminate unnecessary bureaucratic delay and better ensure that its stimulus investment actually stimulates the economy.

As you know, our area needs this investment in jobs and infrastructure badly. If it funneled another layer of bureaucracy, my fear is that it will not produce the results our economy so badly needs. We at the local level understand our needs best. We have shown we can use federal funding wisely and be accountable for every dollar that is invested.

We look to and count on your help to allow us to make this investment effective and enduring. I have attached a list of examples of the types of necessary projects that the City could accomplish. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself or David R. Sollenberger, City Manager, at phone 813-659-4239. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rick A. Lott
Mayor

cc: City Commission
David R. Sollenberger, City Manager