

CITY MANAGER REPORT

FOR CITY COMMISSION MEETING APRIL 25, 2011

1. Workshops

April 25 – 6:00 p.m.

Comprehensive Plan Amendments

May 6 – 9:00 a.m. to noon at the University Area Community Center

Comprehensive Planning Joint Workshop with Hillsborough County, Tampa and Temple Terrace.

May 23 – 6:15 p.m.

Financial Trends Workshop

July 11 – 4:00 p.m.

Preliminary Budget Workshop

July 25 – 3:00 p.m.

Budget Workshop

August 1 – 4:00 p.m.

Budget Workshop

2. Laura Street Revitalization Community Meeting

On Tuesday March 29, a community meeting was held at St. Luke Independent Church to provide area residents an opportunity to comment on proposed improvements in the Laura Street Restoration.

Highlighted projects which are planned for the Lincoln Park and Madison Park neighborhoods include: Laura Street Sidewalk extension from Warnell Street to Morgan Street, Morgan Street from Laura Street to Renfro Street, and Renfro Street from Morgan Street to Warnell Street; extension of the recreational trail in Snowden Park around the Grant-Hunter Pond; and drainage improvements on East Madison Street, West Ball Street, East Alabama Street and East Alsobrook Street.

Funding currently allocated for the projects include \$200,000 under the Community Redevelopment Trust Fund for improvements to the West Warren Street Canal (Madison Park Drainage Improvements), \$200,000 under the Community Development Block Grant Program for drainage improvements on East Madison Street and West Ball Street, and approximately \$150,000 under the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program for the recreational trail around Grant-Hunter Pond. It was also noted that assistance in the amount of \$60,000 has been allocated by the Florida Department of Transportation for the Laura Street Sidewalk Extension; \$50,000 from the City's CDBG allocation for Fiscal Year 2011-12 will be used as a match for the state funds. An application has been submitted for assistance in the amount of \$65,000 to complete the interior restoration of Bing Rooming House.

Maps were presented that showed the current land use and zoning designations for the Laura Street area along Laura Street and Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard between Michigan Avenue and Warnell Street that previously served as the African American business district. It was noted that the only businesses that remain in this district are a beauty salon, barber shop and two funeral homes. Provisions were discussed for amending the Comprehensive Plan to allow neighborhood businesses.

The citizens expressed support for the planned projects as well as a consensus that the City should initiate a plan amendment and zoning changes to allow businesses with low or minimal impact on area traffic. They specifically indicated that bars or social clubs should not be allowed.

Several areas of concerns were also identified including: the desire for paving Marshall Street; installing sidewalk on Church Street, repairing pothole at the intersection of Maryland Avenue and Church Street; removing standing drainage runoff in the area of Ohio Street and Water Street; and controlling speeding on Laura Street.

3. Southland Building Update

The Southland building has been in compliance with the Code Enforcement Board as of Fall 2009. The Building Department recently re-evaluated the property and it does not appear to meet the legal thresholds for condemnation.

4. FDEP Non-Compliance Letter

The City received a non-compliance letter from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) regarding updating of the city's Sewer Use Ordinance. The letter

provides a 45 day time frame for submittal of a draft ordinance to the FDEP. Staff will meet the requested deadline and no penalties or further enforcement actions are anticipated.

5. Senate Bill 934/House Bill 389 – Urban Redevelopment Update

Senator Ronda Storms and Representative Rich Glorioso sponsored legislation on behalf of the City which intends to expedite the stormwater management permit process for projects located in urban redevelopment areas. The goal is to be able to redevelop those areas for economic purposes.

The bills authorize an entity, which has established a stormwater management plan, to apply for a Conceptual Permit from the water management district. Urban redevelopment projects that meet the criteria established in the conceptual permit will qualify as a Noticed General Permit that shall allow construction and operation for the duration authorized in the Conceptual Permit. The permits will address stormwater discharges and demonstrate a net improvement of the quality of the discharged water, among other provisions.

The House bill was approved on Wednesday, April 20, while the Senate Bill is currently in the Budget Committee. Senator Storms has requested that the bill either be heard or withdrawn from the Budget Committee. This would allow the bill to move on to the Rules Committee before advancing to the floor for a full vote by the Senate.

6. Tourist Information Center

The Building Department, General Service Division and Parks Division are to be commended for the recent improvements to the Tourist Information Center on Park Road. The improvements included replacement of the roof, windows, doors, exterior stucco finish, painting, installation of a handicapped access ramp, and restroom repairs. They completed work to a really deteriorated structure with minimal disruption, and now the building looks much more inviting. The building exterior now appears much more welcoming and inviting to those who visit Plant City. The landscaping which should be complete by the end of the week will provide the finishing touches to a nice-looking center. In addition, Annie Carapezza of Central Florida Custom Homes & Construction assisted greatly with the building color palette and Paul Hetrick of Paul's Hand Lettering Service refurbished signage on the site.

7. De Soto Trail Kiosk

In July, 2007, the City was approached by the National Parks Service (NPS) regarding the placement of a De Soto Trail commemorative kiosk in Plant City. According to NPS literature:

The Florida De Soto Trail commemorates the journey of Hernando de Soto and his army through the state of Florida. The original Trail started from the grounds of De Soto National Memorial (a NPS site) and went to the Georgia State line.

Unfortunately, the Trail has steadily declined in its use and effectiveness since its original design and implementation in 1985. Trail signs used to be located at five-mile intervals along with roadside exhibits that allowed the motorist to trace De Soto's route through Florida. There was also a trail brochure, last produced in 1989, which has been long out of print. Originally, there were 14 roadside kiosks with site specific interpretation of the expedition. Today, only 11 remain in varying states of disrepair.

In an attempt to reach more people with this story, the Florida Park Service along with the NPS and the Office of Greenways and Trails are working together to realign this trail, making it historically accurate, and to incorporate public spaces such as greenways, local, state and federal public lands and to no longer have the trail be exclusively an auto trail. This project would continue to incorporate major interpretive nodes as the original Trail did, but would also provide opportunities for smaller stories to be told in many, many, more locations as local site specific partners can be brought on board with this project.

After consulting with Dr. Jerald Milanch who authored the book "Hernando de Soto and the Indians of Florida" and based on his and Dr. Charles Hudson's research, we have located approximately 40 site locations throughout Florida in which possible kiosks can be located for the newly created De Soto Trail.

Plant City is an important location relative to the De Soto Trail. "On July 16, 1539, the army travels eastward to the "Lake of the Rabbit", named after the rabbit that suddenly jumped up and startled the horses, creating a horse stampede." The army was headed toward Urriparacoxi's village where Gallegos had gone. The Mount Enon Mound east-northeast of Plant City has produced glass beads, although the age of the beads is uncertain.

In 2009, the project was narrowed to 34 kiosks and the Plant City location was determined to be at Mike Sansone Park. In an effort to give it the highest visibility and foot traffic, it was decided to place the kiosk adjacent to the Tourist Information Center, near the entrance to Mike Sansone Park.

The two-panel kiosk was installed last month by the NPS. One panel shows a map of the entire length of the trail while the other panel relates to the “Lake of the Rabbit” story.

8. Employee Recognition

Officer First Class William Osmanski – PCPD Employee of the Month for April – in recognition of his courage and tenacity in saving a woman from potential death in a mud filled sinkhole. His quick thinking, heroic act of keeping her airway clear and preventing total envelopment while awaiting rescue crews gave her the greatest chance of survival.

Zoe’ Chaiser, Utilities Operations Division – received a certificate for completion of the Advanced Wastewater Treatment self-study course from California State University. This is a preparatory course for taking the FDEP Class ‘B’ Wastewater Exam.

Wayne Everhart, Wayne Abercrombie, Paul Cockrell, Bill Russell, Johnny Felker, and Billie Garcia, Utilities Maintenance Division – obtained Water Distribution System licenses from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Licensure includes completing approved coursework and passing a course exam, taking and passing a state of Florida Licensure Exam, and demonstration of experience and other education. This license is necessary for compliance with new regulations enacted by the state.

Recreation and Parks Department – Savannah Harp, National Club Baseball/Softball Association Director of Spring Training Operations, recently wrote to express her appreciation with their 2011 Showcase event, “Without you & your staff our event would not be possible. With a total of 55 participating teams, this year marks our most amazing & successful event to date! Everyone played a huge part in making this event a success, and I want to personally thank each & every one of you.” Ms. Harp also stated that she is hopeful to sign another event contract with Plant City for 2012 and years to come.

9. Monthly Report on Purchases

Local Area Purchases

Invoices Charged in March, 2011	<u>Number</u>
\$ 677,230	435
Year-to-Date (10/01/10 thru 9/30/11)	
\$ 4,244,728	4,058

Out of Local Area Purchases

Invoices Charged in March, 2011	<u>Number</u>
\$ 1,146,687	783
Year-to-Date (10/01/10 thru 9/30/11)	
\$ 5,861,799	4,377

10. Departmental Monthly Reports – March

Fire Rescue

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Total Calls	520	473
Structure Fires	4	1
Total Fires	19	17
Fire Loss	\$9,437	\$87,725
Rescue & EMS Incidents	413	382
EMS Transports	300	273
	ALS - 194	179
	BLS - 106	94

Police Department

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Docket Charges	991	1,370
Complaints Investigated	6,761	6,842
Accidents Investigated	128	154
Miles Patrolled	60,726	61,471

General Services Division

Building Repairs	135
Furniture Manufactured	0
Locksmithing – Key Cuts	28
Locksmithing – Lock Repairs and Installations	50
Maintenance Call Outs (After Hours)	1
New Construction	2
Total Services	216

Preventative Maintenance	52.5
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Library Department

Information Service

Reference Services	9,818
Internet/PC Users	7,997

Library Programs

Programs	28
Attending	754

Circulation

March 2011	31,683
March 2010	33,502

Meeting Room Use

Groups	12
Audience	224

Patron Registration

March 2011	234
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Library Attendance

22,381