

On Monday, March 1, 2021 at 5:00 p.m., the City of Wauchula Commission met for its regular scheduled workshop.

Nadaskay called the workshop to order.

Commissioner's present were Mayor Pro-Tem Neda Cobb, Russell Smith, Mayor Keith Nadaskay, Sherri Albritton and Gary Smith.

Also present were City Manager Terry Atchley, Police Chief John Eason, Finance Director Sandee Braxton, Deputy City Manager Olivia Minshew, Community Development Director Kyle Long, Community Redevelopment Director Jessica Newman, Project Management and Procurement Ward Grimes, City Attorney Kristie Hatcher-Bolin and City Clerk Holly Smith.

Downtown Parking

Atchley addressed the Commission and briefly explained the presentation staff was about to present. Long addressed the Commission and began to explain the Code of Ordinance Chapter 19 – Traffic.

Nadaskay recessed the workshop for 7 minutes regarding a vehicle fire in front of Historic City Hall. Nadaskay reconvened the workshop.

Long continued with the presentation.

Section 19-3 - Commercial Motor Vehicle Traffic Regulated – This section was struck through because there are no Florida Statutes that support the section.

Section 19-4 – Two-hour Time Limit – The proposed changes were for parking on Main Street between Fifth Avenue and Eighth Avenue and parking on North Seventh and Eighth Avenue from Orange Street to Palmetto Avenue between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Any violators of this subsection shall be fined \$30.00 for each violation and a reasonable tow away charge. The City shall require the owners of such vehicles to pay all expenses in connection with such removal, in addition to the penalty for violation of this article, as a condition to obtaining possession of such vehicle.

Section 19-15 – Time Limit in City Lots – This section was struck through because public parking lots are for the public.

Section 19-16 – Parking Tractor-Trailers or Semi-Trailers at Night – A reference to Section 3.03.02(F) of the ULDC was added.

Section 19-17 – Parking to be Within Space if Designated – Vehicles shall not park in opposite flow of traffic. Violation will result in \$30 fine and will be subject to registered vehicle owner.

Long opened the floor for questions.

Albritton asked about signage regarding downtown parking regulations. Eason stated currently there was no signage downtown regarding parking requirements. Eason added if the changes were approved, he would encourage the parking regulations be posted.

Nadaskay asked how would it be tracked. Eason replied an officer would have to chalk a tire and once a tire was chalked the time limit would begin.

R. Smith asked about parking meters. Eason replied they were expensive and they would have to be maintained.

R. Smith asked about weekends. Long replied the time limit was only Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Nadaskay added that was not noted language in the ordinance.

Albritton asked what prompted the proposed changes. Eason stated the parking discussion prompted the review of the parking ordinance.

Newman addressed the Commission and gave an update on where there was current parking. Newman noted there currently were 309 public parking spaces from 9th Avenue to George Burris and Palmetto Street to Orange Street. Within that area there were an additional 176 privately owned spaces. Newman briefly discussed additional parking that would be constructed behind Historic City Hall in the near future. Newman stated she felt there was adequate parking downtown. Newman noted the City did own a parcel of land on Highway 17 next to airplane. Atchley summed up the discussion on parking and stated he felt there was adequate parking at this time. Atchley noted in the future, parking could be reviewed on a yearly basis.

R. Smith expressed his concerns with the intersection at Main Street and 7th Avenue. More discussion was had on the intersection and downtown traffic.

Fund Balance Policy

Braxton addressed the Commission and explained the proposed fund balance policy was for the General Fund. Braxton noted the general fund reserves would be at a minimum of 17% of general fund operating expenditure appropriations.

IDA Grant Administration Contract

Atchley addressed the Commission and explained the IDA grant administration contract. The contract at the request of the IDA was asking for the EDA to manage the grant for the water and sewer utilities feasibility study.

Body Camera Discussion

Eason addressed the Commission and discussed the body-worn camera presentation. Eason asked to Commission to consider allowing him to purchase the Watchguard V300 continuous-operation body cameras. Eason explained the function the Watchguard V300. Eason stated the request was for thirteen body-worn cameras. The 5-year cost with Motorola (Watchguard) was for \$67,171.65 and fully integrates with current in-car video recording system. The other quotes received were from Lenslock for \$203,040 and from Axon for \$108,420 and would require a complete system change from full integration to dual BWC/In-car video recording system. Eason asked for consideration to utilize up to \$37,200 from the 2020/2021 General Fund contingency line item. Eason stated \$10,000 would be taken from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund. More discussion was had on the three quotes and the terms of all the contracts. Nadaskay asked how much was in the General Fund contingency. Braxton stated \$110,000. Nadaskay stated he felt the body-worn cameras were a necessity. Atchley stated after the discussion this item would be on next Monday nights agenda.

With no further business to discuss, Nadaskay adjourned the Workshop at 6:42 p.m.

Mayor Richard K. Nadaskay, Jr.

City Clerk Holly Smith