

City of Auburndale Commission Minutes January 8, 2024

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Commission of the City of Auburndale held January 8, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Room of City Hall, after having been properly advertised, with the following members present: Mayor Dorothea Taylor Bogert, Commissioners: Keith Cowie, Alex Cam, Jordan Helms, and Bill Sterling. Also, present were: City Manager Jeffrey Tillman, Assistant City Attorney Drew Crawford, City Clerk Brandon Henry, and Police Chief Terry Storie.

Mayor Dorothea Taylor Bogert declared a quorum present, and the Meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Derrick Yarde, Faith Builders Worship Center, and a salute to the flag.

Motion by Commissioner Cowie, seconded by Commissioner Cam, to approve Minutes of the City Commission Meeting of December 18, 2023. Upon vote, all ayes.

City Manager Jeffrey Tillman wished everybody a Happy New Year. He announced that Auburndale Youth Baseball will have their opening ceremonies on February 10th. Miss Auburndale Softball will have their opening ceremonies on February 24th.

Mayor Taylor Bogert asked if there was public comment on any item not on the agenda. There was no public comment.

1. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – CENTRAL FLORIDA YMCA & POLK COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

City Manager Tillman said the City of Auburndale and the YMCA of West Central Florida have had numerous discussions over the years about building a facility and providing services in the Auburndale community. Former Auburndale City Manager Bobby Green was the lead proponent of the initiative and has continued his support and efforts since his retirement. In 2022, Green learned of a partnership between the YMCA of Greater St. Petersburg and Pinellas County Schools to build a new YMCA-Middle School joint campus.

He asked Deputy Polk County Manager Ryan Taylor, Senior Economic Development Manager at Polk County Tourism & Sports Marketing Marc Zimmerman, and Auburndale Assistant City Manager Amy Palmer to join him in a meeting with the CEO of the YMCA of Greater St. Petersburg to learn more about their project and how the Pinellas partnership was formed. Additional meetings were scheduled with the CEO of the West Central Florida YMCA (Lakeland) and with the Superintendent of Polk County Schools to introduce them to the Pinellas County example, and to seek their interest in pursuing a similar project in Auburndale.

The efforts of this committee have resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the YMCA of West Central Florida, the Polk County School District, and the City of Auburndale. The tri-party Memorandum of Understanding identifies four (4) basic commitments:

1. To provide staff resources to actively research examples of successful joint campuses between YMCA's, School Boards, and Municipalities.
2. To identify a cooperative model for a joint campus.
3. To develop a plan for each party to participate in the development, design, and eventual construction, and shared use of a joint School-YMCA campus.
4. To identify funding sources for the design, construction, and operation of the joint facilities that could be shared by the parties.

The Memorandum of Understanding has no funding commitment and no timeline. Its sole purpose is to agree to explore different models of joint YMCA-School-City campuses, identify each party's needs in a joint campus, and potentially form a separate agreement towards the development of such facility. Staff would request the appointment of Ms. Palmer, Mr. Green, and Commissioner Cam to an ad-hoc committee, working with a representative of the School Board, the YMCA and County. The Memorandum of Understanding was prepared

by the Auburndale City Attorney and has been approved and executed by Natalie Dyal, YMCA of West Central Florida CEO and by Fred Heid, Polk County Schools Superintendent.

Former City Manager Bobby Green made a presentation summarizing the proposal. He thanked the Commission and staff.

City Manager Tillman said staff recommends approval of the Memorandum of Understanding and appointments to the ad-hoc committee.

Mayor Taylor Bogert asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Cowie, seconded by Commissioner Sterling, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and appointments to the ad-hoc committee.

Commissioner Cowie said he appreciates Mr. Green. He recalls when this idea came to fruition in 2011. He is glad to see it coming back. He is excited.

Mayor Taylor Bogert concurred. It is a great opportunity for the City of Auburndale to not only support the city, but our schools – such as the high school with the swimming pool.

Mr. Green said several years ago, we did a recreational needs assessment. Aquatic needs were the number one demand that we did not have. Racquetball courts were number two. The latter was addressed with the new tennis facility. A lot of us learned how to swim at Lake Ariana. When that went away, so did that opportunity. But the need for swimming lessons is so important. That can be addressed by the YMCA. We are looking forward to the partnership.

Mayor Taylor Bogert said it is an opportunity for our high school swimmers to not have to go all the way to Winter Haven to practice.

Mr. Green said to have a facility built that can accommodate swim meets allows for “heads in beds”.

Upon vote, all ayes.

2. RESOLUTION #2024-01 – BUILDING PERMIT FEE REDUCTION POLICY

City Manager Tillman said prior to July 1, 2019, Section 553.80 of the Florida Statutes authorized local governments to collect building permit fees and, at the discretion of the governing body, either carry forward any unexpended balances to future years for allowable activities or refund the excess funds. On July 1, 2019, House Bill 447 amended Section 553.80 of the Florida Statutes prohibiting governments from carrying forward an amount that exceeds the four-year rolling average of its operating budget.

The Building Permit Fee Reduction Policy is being proposed to allocate excess funds to a Building Permit Fee Reduction Fund. Excess funds beyond the 4-year rolling average operating budget would be placed in the Building Permit Reduction Fund, and cannot be carried forward for more than four years. The Funds are restricted for use and must be used to either reduce permit fees, or used for eligible expenses related to the enforcement of the Building Code, Fire Prevention Code, and Life Safety Code.

The proposed policy states that when available Excess Funds are placed in the Building Permit Fee Reduction Fund and are not utilized for eligible expenses, the balance of such Fund may be used to reduce Building Permit Fees by up to 25% in a percentage amount to be determined and authorized by the Building Code Enforcement Agency in consultation with the Director of Finance and City Manager’s Office.

The City’s Building Department has identified a number of vehicles and related equipment that it is in need of for operational and service delivery purposes, but experienced long delay times for delivery. As a result, staff is

proposing to establish a Building Permit Fee Reduction Policy in the event there are excess funds in future Budget years.

A recalculation and reapportionment will be made every year to the average operating budget, the amount of Excess Funds, the Operating Fund, the amounts dedicated to pay for the eligible expenses, all of which shall be determined by a Building Permit and Inspection Utilization Report. The Building Permit and Inspection Utilization Report with the recalculated and reapportioned amounts shall be posted on the City’s website by December 31st and be based upon the most recently completed financial audit. The first calculation will be completed January 1, 2025.

The Resolution was prepared by the Finance Department, Community Development Department and reviewed by the City Manager and City Attorney.

Staff recommends approval of Resolution #2024-01 in support of the Building Permit Fee Reduction Policy.

Assistant City Attorney Drew Crawford read Resolution No. 2024-01 entitled: **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF AUBURNDALE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A BUILDING PERMIT FEE REDUCTION FUND POLICY; MAKING FINDING; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ALL CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS, SEVERABILITY AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE CORRECTION OF SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**, by title only.

Mayor Taylor Bogert asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Sterling, seconded by Commissioner Helms, to approve Resolution #2024-01 in support of the Building Permit Fee Reduction Policy. Upon vote, all ayes.

3. 2024 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

City Manager Tillman presented the 2024 committee appointments:

Board of Adjustments

- Alex Price Re-Appointment (Through 01/27)
- Mike Littles Re-Appointment (Through 01/27)

Planning Commission

- Perry Price Re-Appointment (Through 01/27)
- Danny Chandler Re-Appointment (Through 01/27)
- Dave Holt New Appointment (Through 01/27)

Community Redevelopment Agency

- Tim Pospichal – Chair Re-Appointment (Through 01/26)
- Ellie Harper – Vice Chair Re-Appointment (Through 01/28)

Historic Preservation Commission

- Perry Price Re-Appointment (Through 01/27)
- Beverly Gaddis New Appointment (Through 01/27)

Police Officer’s Retirement Trust Fund Board of Trustees

- Rick Brauckmuller New Appointment (Through 09/24)
- Terry Storie New Appointment (Through 09/24)

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- Richard Mauer New Appointment (Through 09/25)

General Employee’s Pension Trust Fund Board of Trustees

- Angela Turner Re-Appointment (Through 01/26)
- Caleb Gabany New Appointment (Through 01/26)
- Brian Morse Re-Appointment (Through 01/26)
- Steve Lawson Re-Appointment (Through 01/26)
- Eric Pospichal Re-Appointment (Through 01/26)
- Christopher Reeder Re-Appointment (Through 01/26)
- Adam Mayfield Re-Appointment (Through 01/26)

Ridge League of Cities Board of Directors

- Dorothea Taylor Bogert Re-Appointment (Through 01/26)
- William Sterling – Alternate Re-Appointment (Through 01/26)
- Alex Cam – Alternate New Appointment (Through 01/26)

Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board

- Jordan Helms New Appointment (Through 01/28)
- Keith Cowie – Alternate Re-Appointment (Through 01/26)

PTA – Rotate two-year terms with City of Bartow – Bartow - 2026

Polk Regional Water Cooperative (PRWC) Board

- Keith Cowie Re-Appointment (Through 01/26)
- Alex Cam – Alternate New Appointment (Through 01/26)

Staff recommends approval of the 2024 Committee Appointments.

Mayor Taylor Bogert asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Cowie, seconded by Commissioner Helms, to approve the 2024 Committee Appointments. Upon vote, all ayes.

City Manager Tillman said that concludes our agenda for this evening.

Mayor Taylor Bogert said she had some items she wanted to address. She reminded the Commission that the Legislature is in session at 9 a.m. tomorrow. She asks that the Commission and audience keep up to date on legislative developments. There is a certification program for elected officials, she encourages the Commission to register. She encourages the Commission and the audience to sign-up for Local Voices United, at www.localvoicesunited.com. It is a citizen initiative through the Florida League of Cities. She is starting the Mayor’s Wellness Challenge for those on City insurance and encourages those members to participate - any questions can be directed to Assistant City Manager Amy Palmer.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:23:46 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Minutes are true and correct.



Brandon Henry, City Clerk