

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING TOWN OF LADY LAKE, FLORIDA

September 4, 2024

The regular meeting of the Lady Lake Town Commission was held in the Commission Chambers at Lady Lake Town Hall, 409 Fennell Blvd., Lady Lake, Florida, with Mayor Freeman presiding. The meeting convened at 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION

Rev. Jim Keough

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Mayor Freeman

ROLL CALL

Commissioner (Ward)	Present
Regan (Four)	YES
Gourlie (Two)	YES
Roberts (One)	YES
Sage (Five)	NO
Freeman (Three)	YES

STAFF PRESENT

Bill Lawrence, Town Manager; C.T. Eagle, Public Works Director; Pam Winegardner, Finance Director; Joella LeDonne, Assistant Finance Director; Mike Burske, Parks and Recreation Director, Police Chief Steve Hunt, Lady Lake Police Department; Lt. Rob Tempesta, Lady Lake Police Department; Nancy Wilson, Town Clerk; and Carol Osborne, Deputy Town Clerk.

Town Attorney Derek Schroth was also in attendance.

A. PROCLAMATIONS

1. Recognition of Constitution Week – September 17 to September 23 (Mayor Freeman/DAR Chapter Representative, Sylvia Walden)

Mayor Freeman read the proclamation aloud and presented it to Sylvia Walden, the Region of the Daughters of the American Revolution Puc Puggy Chapter in The Villages. She stated that Constitution Week is September 17 – September 23, emphasizing that September 17 is the

anniversary day that the Constitution was signed. She stated that the preamble of the Constitution, "We the People", is what keeps us together. She encouraged everyone to know the information within the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

B. PUBLIC HEARING – moved to the end of the meeting

C. CONSENT

1. August 19, 2024 – Town Commission Meeting Minutes

2. Consideration of Approval for the Town to Participate in Florida City Government Week scheduled for the Week of October 21-27, 2024 (Bill Lawrence)

3. Consideration of Approval of the Modified Chamber of Commerce Lease Agreement (Mike Burske)

4. Consideration of approval of School Resource Officer Agreement with the Lake County School Board (Chief Hunt)

Chief Hunt explained the Lady Lake Police Department has entered into an agreement with the Lake County School Board for an officer to be onsite at the school. He advised that Officer Redman attended five weeks of training throughout the summer months and has been at the school since August 12. He stated that positive feedback has been received by faculty and parents. He advised that Lake County is the only county that trains all the school resource officers together.

Commissioner Regan verified with Chief Hunt that Officer Redmond is on duty when school is not in session.

Chief Hunt explained further that the School Resource Officers attend additional training when the school has workshop days.

Town Attorney Derek Schroth explained that the Town will invoice the school for the actual number of hours Officer Redmond is at the school and will be reimbursed by the school board.

Commissioner Gourlie made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; Commissioner Regan seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

D. NEW BUSINESS

E. TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

1. Resolution 2024-110 (First and Final Reading) — A Resolution Opting-Out of the Live Local Property Tax Exemption Program (Derek Schroth)

Town Attorney Derek Schroth presented this agenda item stating in 2023 the state legislature introduced a tax exemption as an incentive for home builders to construct homes for low-

income households. In 2024, the legislature amended the statute to allow local governments to opt out. He advised that Lake County has opted out.

Commissioner Regan asked what estimated revenue would the town receive if the commissioners opted out.

Attorney Schroth stated that cannot be determined as Lady Lake currently does not have developers that are interested in qualifying for this incentive.

Commissioner Roberts confirmed with Attorney Schroth that the Town can opt out because it has a sufficient amount of housing that meets the criteria within the metropolitan statistical area.

Commissioner Gourlie made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-110 on first and final reading; Commissioner Roberts seconded.

Commissioner (Ward)	Vote
Regan (Four)	YES
Gourlie (Two)	YES
Roberts (One)	YES
Freeman (Three)	YES

Motion passed by a 4-0 vote.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Bill Lawrence stated the Father/Daughter Disco Dance is September 7, from 6pm-8pm at the community building.

On September 19, from 2pm – 3pm, the Lady Lake Library is hosting Vampires, Gators, and Wackos, presented by author and ex-news reporter Frank E. Stanfeld. He will discuss crimes that he has investigated in central Florida.

Earlier today the re-opening of Pyramid Park and the new playground equipment was celebrated with a ribbon cutting. Parks and Recreation Director Mike Burske and children from the library's story time program were present to help. He stated that this project was funded with Parks and Recreation impact fees. There were two play structures in consideration and the area children were able to choose which design would be installed.

Mr. Lawrence stated that there have been a lot of car burglaries lately, and arrests were made recently by our Police Special Detail unit. He acknowledged our communications director for placing a notification on our social media alerting the public of the thefts.

MAYOR AND COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Mayor Freeman stated that he, too, attended the ribbon cutting at Pyramid Park.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Resolution 2024-109 (First and Final Reading) — Adoption of the Tentative Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025 (Pam Winegardner)
2. Ordinance 2024-21 (First Reading) — Adoption of Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (Pam Winegardner)

Finance Director Pam Winegardner advised that five votes are required to pass Resolution 2024-109. She stated that the TRIM notice must be readvertised and mailed to each resident.

Due to a lack of quorum the public hearing is continued to a future date.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.



Carol Osborne, Deputy Town Clerk



Ed Freeman, Mayor