

City of Dunnellon City Council Workshop

<https://dunnellon.zoom.us/j/97401550528?pwd=VldjYU53R1VDTWphOGJrVnpuSkJQdz09>

Date: December 09, 2020
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Place: City Hall
20750 River Dr., Dunnellon, FL34431

Dunnellon City Council workshop will be held on December 9, 2020 at Dunnellon City Hall with Social Distancing Modifications.

Anyone attending the workshops will be required to wear a mask/face covering. All attendees will be subject to screening to include a temperature check.

Public Comment

Anyone who wishes to provide public comment will be able to do so by participating in the City Council meeting in person, or via the Zoom "AUDIO ONLY" platform and/or telephone, by speaking during public comment portions of the meeting when recognized per the instructions below or by submitting written comments, evidence and/or written testimony in advance of the meeting via email to the City Clerk at mroberts@dunnellon.org

Members of the public who would like to participate are encouraged to register in advance by Noon on Wednesday December 9th.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Burns called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 p.m. and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked if any invitee or volunteer was present to open with prayer. Pastor Tom Welch provided the invocation.

Roll Call

The following members answered present at roll call:

Dale Burns, Mayor, Seat 1
Bill White, Councilman, Seat 2
Anita Williams, Councilwoman, Seat 3
Valerie Hanchar, Vice-Mayor, Seat 4
Jay Dugan, Councilman, Seat 5

Staff Present

Dawn Bowne, City Administrator
Mandy Roberts, City Clerk (attending by Zoom Platform)
Jan Smith, Finance Department (attending by Zoom Platform)
Teresa Malmberg, Community Development
Chief Mike McQuaig, Police Department
Lonnie Smith, Community Development
Troy Slattery, Public Works Department
Lynn Wyland, Clerk's Department

Legal Counsel

Andrew Hand,
Shepard, Smith, Kohlmyer & Hand, P.A.

Proof of Publication

Mrs. Malmberg announced for the record the agenda for this meeting was posted on the City's website and City Hall bulletin board on Wednesday, December 2, 2020.

Agenda Item Number 1 – Dunnellon Chamber & Business Association Report

Julie Mancini, Director of Dunnellon Chamber & Business Association, presented her report on the upcoming events and board memberships. The next board meeting will be held Tuesday, January 12th at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Mancini stated, "The Chamber would like to thank Dawn, Mayor Burns and Jay Dugan for their services to the community. The businesses especially appreciate you Mayor Burns for going out of your way to provide information about the CARES Act during COVID-19 and for facilitating our communications with the Ocala Marion Visitor Convention Bureau in order to utilize the resources they offer to help bring visitors to town. As many of you can imagine the general public frequently does not know or understand the difference between the City and the Chamber. So we get a lot of calls for the City and the City gets a lot of calls meant for us. Of course there are many times when I also want to know the answer to the questions they ask, so Dawn has been such an invaluable resource to us. She knows the answer to almost anything related to the City of Dunnellon or the source to get the needed information. We the Chamber hope that the new Council will continue to partner with us and share information for the benefit of the community. To that end, we the Chamber also want to advise local businesses that we are working with our current liaison, Valerie and FGUA about the most recent requirement about backflow devices. I'm sure a lot of businesses got this letter in the mail Monday that they have thirty (3) days to comply and we will continue to keep the businesses informed about that."

Council and staff engaged in brief discussion regarding the letter from Florida Governmental Utility Authority (FGUA) regarding backflow valves.

Agenda Item Number 2 – Board Reports

Brenda D'Arville, Planning Commission Chair, provided an update of past and upcoming board meetings.

Agenda Item Number 3 – Stormwater Education -Illicit Discharge as required by FDEP

Troy Slattery distributed the following public education handout regarding "Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination":

"PUBLIC EDUCATION HANDOUT
City Council Workshop 12/09/2020
MS4 Reporting Requirements and Illicit Discharge

The Public Services Department is responsible for maintaining and improving stormwater management throughout the city limits to include swales, storm drains, drainage (DRA) and water retention areas (WRA) not maintained by the county or state, and responding to flood emergencies to prevent future events, and responding to and addressing citizen complaints or requests.

In order to comply with the City's stormwater permit and MS4 reporting requirements, the City is required to distribute educational materials or conduct equivalent outreach activities about the adverse environmental impacts caused by polluted stormwater and the steps the public can take to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff.

In that effort, we have distributed "Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination" brochures to tonight's meeting guests. We would also like to provide some very basic information to Council and the public addressing illicit discharge into our storm drains.

What is Illicit Discharge?

An Illicit Discharge is ANY disposal, emptying or dumping of any substance other than rainfall into the stormwater drainage system. Pollutants entering Dunnellon's stormwater system do not flow to the water treatment plant; they empty into our local rivers and wetlands! Chemicals and nutrients become stormwater pollution as they are soaked up by the passing water. The stormwater pollution is harmful and can lead to algae blooms, resulting in inadequate oxygen levels and other impacts to fish and wildlife.

Improper disposal of oil-based paints, mineral spirits, pool chemicals, pesticides, or other home chemicals can pollute Dunnellon's sensitive environment. Did you know that used automobile batteries and fluids can be returned to an auto parts shop?

Stormwater runoff is rain that does not soak into the ground where it falls. This water runs off yards, streets and parking lots into storm sewers or waterways and carries a variety of pollutants including fertilizers, yard waste, paint, gasoline, motor oil, pesticides, weed killer, pet wastes, detergents and soaps.

These pollutants entering storm drains end up in our Rainbow and Withlacoochee Rivers. Be sure to maintain a "fertilizer-free" zone around all storm drains and be sure that pet waste and yard clippings near storm drains are picked up and disposed of properly.

Disposing Cooking Waste - Cooking oil and grease are wastes that the sewer system cannot handle and should not be discarded down the sink. Dumping grease, fats and oil can clog sewer lines causing sewage back-ups and flooding. Sewage back-ups can damage personal property, public property and also the surrounding environment. DO NOT dump cooking oil, poultry fat and grease into the kitchen sink or the toilet bowl. DO NOT use hot water and soap to wash grease down the sink because it will cool and harden in your pipes or in the sewer down the line. DO place cooled cooking oil, poultry and meat fats in sealed non-recyclable containers and discard with your regular garbage. DO use paper towels to wipe residual grease or oil off of dishes, pots and pans prior to washing them.

Disposing Pharmaceuticals - Flushing medications down the toilet or throwing them into your trash can also be harmful to our environment. These pharmaceuticals can end up in our water system. Residents can dispose properly of expired prescriptions, over-the-counter medications, needles and “sharps,” by visiting the Dunnellon Police Department at 12014 S. Williams Street, 352-465-8510.

Water quality is important to improve and sustain our springs and waterways in Dunnellon and Marion County for future generations to enjoy. Keeping this ecosystem and fishery healthy is critical to protecting the quality of life of the community and wildlife, as well as our local economy.

If you have any questions, or to report a possible illicit discharge, please call the City of Dunnellon (352) 465-8500 x 1010 or visit the City’s website at <http://www.dunnellon.org> and select Departments/Public Services/Stormwater.”

Agenda Item Number 4 – Historic Board Appointment

Lonnie Smith reported an application was received from Danny O’Neal, 19677 SW 82nd Loop for the 2nd Alternate vacancy. He provided a brief background on applicant who introduced himself and answered questions from Council.

Agenda Item Number 5 – Replacing City Administrator - Councilman White

Councilman White said the City of Dunnellon has a strong Council and weak mayor form of government. He explained the Council as a body, has the final say on everything. The Mayor’s position is basically to run the meetings, attend ceremonies and speak for the City. He referred to the 2016 referendum where it was voted to eliminate the City Manager position from the City Charter and create the position of City Administrator with Ordinance ORD2017-04. The City Administrator position that is currently in place is the overseer of all the departments. He said with Mrs. Bowne’s retirement, we have a situation with that authority that has been delegated to a person to run the City and it is now up to Council to run the City until Council determines what to do with this position.

Councilman White said after speaking with the leaders of other cities and Florida League of Cities he discovered that the situation we find ourselves in now is fairly regular especially after an election. He said we can find an interim. The Florida League of Cities has a program called “Members in Transition” who are willing to come in and serve until the position is filled.

He said there is some thought going on about this and things in the works. He said it’s a little cumbersome because we cannot really do anything yet until the new Council is placed. Come Monday when the new Council has its seats he is sure this will be on the front burner.

Councilman White said we all know that we have a great staff here. There isn’t a meeting that somebody does not compliment staff. He said this is an opportunity for staff now to really step up during these times and show us if all those compliments and everything that has been said are true.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar wanted staff to know that there is nothing more they need to prove to this Council, the City or anyone who is listening. She said staff has always gave their very best.

Mrs. Bowne noted that should Council not fill her position immediately, Council should consider the City's Charter regarding the paying of bills. She recommended placing a motion on the agenda for Monday's council meeting to appoint a designee to approve disbursement of funds for a check and balance.

Agenda Item Number 6 – Special Presentations

Chief McQuaig – Hiers-Baxley Hometown Hero Award

Chief McQuaig provided a brief overview and presentation of the program. He said Corporal Megan Feliciani, Corporal EJ Raines and Officer Fred Depka were honored to be nominated for a Hometown Hero award. Corporal Feliciani won the award for her work revamping the DPD field training program which ensures all new officers are released into duty well trained and prepared. He thanked the three for the hard work and excellent service.

Special Presentation by Vice-Mayor Hanchar

Vice-Mayor Hanchar presented Mayor Burns a plaque and read the following into the record:

“Presented to
Mayor C. Dale Burns, Jr.
On the 9th Day of December 2020

With an abundant of gratitude and heartfelt appreciation for your passionate leadership as Mayor during a time of inordinate challenges for our community and country including Hurricane Irma, COVID-19 Pandemic and unexpected financial hardship for many businesses and residents.

Your spiritual guidance has aided Council, staff and our residents to remember the principals in which our Country was founded; “We must hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

Your time and faithful dedication spent strengthening and prioritizing the relationship between the City and our business community is well noticed, valued by many and the effects will be evident for years to come.

In special recognition for the importance you placed on pursuing the objectives of City Council, including assigning unlimited and physical responsibility, the well-being of the businesses and residents through our rapport with Marion County Board of County Commissioners and maintaining a professional and productive connection with staff through positive reinforcement, established goals, clear directives and effective communication.

Delivered with our most sincere thanks for the precious time you have sacrificed by devoting yourself to fulfill your obligation as Dunnellon's Mayor with boundless pride, just the right amount of humbleness and serving with admirable distinction.

September 2018 – December 2020
Dunnellon City Council”

Special Presentation by Councilwoman Anita Williams

Councilwoman Williams presented flowers to Katherine Burns as a token of Council's appreciation for her service, presence and input at Council meetings; the proof of her love and concern for the City of Dunnellon.

Special Presentation by Mayor Burns – Jay Dugan

Mayor Burns presented Councilman Jay Dugan with a Certificate of Appreciation. He read the following into the record:

“City Council Certificate of Appreciation
Presented to
William “Jay” Dugan

In recognition of your heartfelt dedication to the Dunnellon community and its citizens.

You are hereby commended for your exemplary service on the City's Planning Commission during a time in which the City was challenged in maintaining full board membership. Your participation and resourceful insight regarding the duties and responsibilities of this essential body deserves generous praise.

You are hereby applauded for “stepping up to the plate” and serving as an honorable City Councilman when we lost beloved Councilwoman Linda Fernandez. Your extensive financial background and professional leadership proved invaluable in your team approach to support the Council in developing a balanced budget while preserving the millage rate and increasing reserves.

With heartfelt gratitude, pride and appreciation for your Generous service, enthusiasm and commitment.

Dunnellon City Council
December 9, 2020”

Special Presentation by Mayor Burns – Dawn Bowne

Mayor Burns presented Mrs. Bowne with City Council Retiree Commendation and read the following into the record:

“Presented to Dawn M. Bowne
June 4, 1986 – December 10, 2020

In recognition of your 37.5 years of dedicated service to the City of Dunnellon.

You are hereby commended for the many years of faithfully serving the citizens of Dunnellon. Your loyalty and devotion is resolute, and your unwavering commitment to our community will forever be treasured.

With heartfelt gratitude, pride and applause, we wish you a well deserved

Happy Retirement with hopes that your years to come will be truly amazing.

Dunnellon City Council
December 9, 2020”

Mayor Burns presented a plaque and Key to the City to Mrs. Bowne. He read the following into the record:

“Presented to Dawn M. Bowne, City Administrator
June 4, 1986 – December 10, 2020

In recognition of 34 and a half years of remarkable achievements and faithful devotion to the citizens of Dunnellon. You have served the community with boundless distinction holding a multiple titles; excelling as our City Clerk, Human Resource Director, Finance director and Interim City Manager. Finally, accepting the ultimate challenge, you exceeded Council’s expectations and shined brilliantly while serving as our first City Administrator.

As you enjoy your retirement, we encourage you to look back with heartfelt pride on your many accomplishments. You established yourself as an admirable and spirited leader by using your experience and knowledge to teach and guide staff, while continually inspiring and challenging their ability, never failing to proclaim; “Always strive to leave it better than you found it” and “Go learn something new today.” You possess a natural talent to bring individuals together for a common goal using your unwavering gift to inspire compromise.

Your skills have proven invaluable as you became a vital and essential asset to the City Council assisting in their efforts to ensure a state of solid financial stability and promoting the well-being of our residents and businesses. This was accomplished by your diligent efforts to negotiate with Marion County for an improved level of Fire Rescue Services through a shift in management, Sale of the Water and Wastewater Utility System to FGUA resulting in expert government oversight and significant debt reduction, and strategically restructuring our City government administrative organization.

In profound appreciation for your loyal and tireless commitment to public administration. You hold the key to our City and to the hearts of countless councilmembers and employees who served passionately alongside you throughout the years. “Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever. Daniel 12:3.”

Presented this 9th day of December 2020 By the Honorable Dunnellon City Council.”

Special Presentation by Mandy Roberts and Vice-Mayor Hanchar – Dawn Bowne -
Ms. Roberts (attending by Zoom) thanked staff for continuing to keep the office open and running during the absence of Loretta Barton and herself the past two weeks.

Ms. Roberts stated, “Dawn has been a friend and mentor for over twenty years now and you mean so much to me and so much to so many people. It saddens me to see you go but I respect it and I understand why you have made this decision.

Dawn, in keeping with tradition, with all retirees of the City, we have strived to find the perfect gift that suits the individual and will be meaningful to them for years to come. I have to admit for someone as unique as you, this was not an easy task. We wanted to gift you something special that symbolizes who you are and what you believe in that will carry with you and fondly remind you your many dedicated years of exemplary public service. In addition to being the universal symbol of Christianity, the cross also symbolizes faith, devotion and sacrifice. All of which you have so passionately exhibited throughout your successful career.

You have faithfully served the Dunnellon community, past city councils and always adamantly conveyed faith in your staff. You have devoted thirty-four (34) plus years of your life in service to the public, ensuring that the residents of Dunnellon were well served by the most qualified public servants. In that, you have sacrificed sleepless nights, lost time with your family, working holidays, nights and weekends and the list goes on.

One dictionary definition of “cross” is to go to, or extend a cross to the other side. Now, that time has come for you. Time to cross that bridge that leads to new and fulfilling endeavors and more precious time with your family.

It has been a blessing to this Council, many past Councils and staff to have served alongside you. You have been a true professional, mentor, guidance counselor and friend to many of us. Personally, I would not be where I am today, professionally or in my personal life, without your leadership, love and support over the past twenty (20) years.

Now on behalf of the Dunnellon City Council and staff, we present you with “the cross.” We hope that you will wear it proudly in remembrance of all that you have generously contributed and proudly accomplished.”

Special Presentation by Larry Winkler

Larry Winkler wished the incoming mayor, Councilman White, the best of luck.

He stated that he and Mrs. Bowne were involved in an ethics complaint and they received word on December 4th that the complaint was frivolous. He said it cost the State and taxpayers a lot of money.

Mr. Winkler requested Troy Slattery read comments from a performance evaluation from ex-council member, Robert Rutkowski, regarding Mrs. Bowne. He said this councilmember was a vice-mayor and is on the board of the Rainbow River Conservation Group.

Mr. Slattery read the following:

“Directing: Dawn never hesitates to contribute to the council discussion to aid in direction where needed. She directs her staff accordingly and because of her longevity and familiarity with her department is also able to successfully provide advice and direction in all areas. She promotes cooperation among her staff to achieve her department’s goals and objectives. Dawn has continued to serve as Chairman of the Police and Fire Pension board of Trustees and has insured the board has followed policy and procedures mandated by the State. Dawn was assuming all agenda, minutes, administration and communication for the board because of a lack of participation from employee members. She has resolved that situation and directed both the fire and police to handle the communication of meetings and the recording of minutes.

Budgeting: Dawn strives to keep City Council and department heads updated on sensitive issues that may arise at public meetings such as complaints from citizens. She keeps Council apprised of all sensitive personnel issues. Ie: complaint regarding a Fire Department volunteer, previous building official regarding retirement & previous asst. city clerk salary issue. Dawn implemented email communication procedures to more quickly and efficiently communicate correspondence, agendas, minutes to department heads, council and citizens.

Delegating: Dawn receives numerous typing/researching requests from all council members, which she quickly delegates to appropriate staff members to provide timely responses. Dawn provided the cashier/receptionist with better administrative tools and developed procedures for her to track meetings for council members and send reminders through e-mail. She reorganized and re-delegated workload to split the finance and clerk/personnel responsibilities after the resignation of the previous Asst. Clerk. The financial asst. now assumes certain evaluation responsibilities. Dawn hired an extremely capable cashier/receptionist who she then delegated a number of administrative functions. However, Dawn is still very much hands on in several areas that she manages such as finance, personnel and administration.

Planning: Her efforts are innovative and creative, providing for the most effective use of resources. Dawn is exceptional at planning short and long range projects and is one of the best I have met at not only using resources effectively, but also at obtaining resources in order to complete a project that most people would think impossible.

Evaluating: The evaluations completed by Dawn contain significant detail and justification. She is fair, even though she expects employees to excel in their performance. Her employees are never surprised by any evaluation because of the extensive verbal communication Dawn provides them.

Budgeting: Dawn submitted a 2000-2001 balanced budget for all funds meeting certain goals and objectives outlined for her by Councilman Rutkowski, such as outlining capital expenditures differently than in the past and bringing a surplus number to council to allocate within the general fund. She was able to do this working under very difficult circumstances with the Public Service Director. Because of untimely department budget submittals, Dawn worked a 24-hour period non-stop at her desk in order to insure the city met the deadlines established by the state. Dawn mastered the new budget program and created customized budget reports on the report writer that were now available as a canned report. Dawn kept department heads committed to spending within their budget restraints by placing controls on her system to flag over expenditures and created policies for departments to obtain council authorization prior to over expending or transferring monies. Under Dawn's management, once again, the General Fund will result in a surplus to reserves. Dawn and her staff received excellent compliments and review from the auditors during the FY 99-2000 audit conducted February 2000.

Motivating: Dawn is able to keep her staff motivated by providing incentives for job well done, usually at her own expense. Dawn conducts fair reviews of her staff and rewards with salary increases when earned. Dawn can be tough and demanding with her staff but if asked, they will tell you she is fair. She motivates her staff to participate in community projects and functions such as Boomtown Days, etc.

Judgment: During her career with the City of Dunnellon, Dawn has consistently displayed good judgement, as evidenced by the fact that other department heads and city employees go to her for advice and direction. She displayed excellent judgment this year in her decision to hire Mrs. O'Brien and Mrs. Roberts as a part of her team. Each of these employees has excelled in their responsibility. Dawn displays admirable judgment in handling sensitive matters and utilizes her resources for advice when needed.

Teamwork: Dawn promotes a teamwork attitude within her staff. She is always willing to assist other departments when needed. She continually works to assist the Fire Chief who does not have secretarial support. Dawn assisted him through the RFP process for obtaining billing agencies for rescue services. Dawn has encouraged and implemented the department heads to meet weekly to review project/goals, establish agenda items and to promote communication and coordination among the departments. Dawn worked and guided the Police Chief through the process of updating his computer system and obtaining maintenance/support. Dawn demands a teamwork approach from the other department heads in order to balance the respective budgets. Dawn each year teams up with the Marion County Supervisor of Election to provide prospective council candidates with the necessary laws and paperwork to run for office and guide them through any necessary election process.

Job Knowledge: Dawn keeps herself up to date on changing legislation and state mandates. Dawn attended courses provided by the Florida League and the Department of Revenue in order to completely understand the impacts of the new Communications Services Tax Simplification Law. She then followed through with supplying the state with a full audit of our communication revenue in order to insure the City receives an appropriate percentage as a result of the recalculation of the distribution. Dawn also attended educational classes regarding GASB 34. In short this is the legislation in which the state is amending in its entirety how the City must report its financial position and contains additional unfunded mandates regarding budgeting, capital asses and depreciation. This will create significant additional workload in which the City must prepare for. Dawn continually displays her knowledge regarding the City policy and procedures during council workshops and formal meetings. On several occasions during the past year, she has politely corrected staff members who incorrectly recalled City ordinance requirements. This helps facilitate meetings and deter from misleading Council members, which could result in inappropriate decisions.

Training: Dawn provides her staff with appropriate training and attends continued educational classes herself. In the past year she has attended 3 day hours of training by the Institute of Government through Florida State University, 8 hours of training by the Department of Revenue, State of Florida, 8 hours of training by the Florida Government Finance Officers, 12 hours of training by the Florida Association of City Clerks. These classes specifically provided training knowledge in the area of budget/finance, personnel, Florida Law and local government training. Dawn personally trained her staff as well as other departments on the new budget program, which facilitated data entry by other departments. Dawn installed a new business license software program to more efficiently track local business and more accurately provide license data via public regards request. She received training and trained her staff on the program creating new policies and procedures to better track the accounts receivable and revenue.

Leadership: Dawn was recently appointed President of the West Central Florida Association of City Clerks due to her commitment to leadership and excellence in government. Dawn maintains a positive working relationship with her staff and has received no personnel complaints related to her management. Dawn stays active in community events attending functions to show government involvement in the community. Dawn displays a professional image and is articulate and to the point during public presentations. She professionally led the City's Police Union negotiations resulting in both successfully agreeing to the terms of the contract.

Organization: Dawn properly prepares Council for all meetings and is organized during her presentations to council and the public. She is prepared for most questions and can usually anticipate data/information that will be needed for discussions.”

Mr. Slattery stated the evaluation was written back in 2000 and Mrs. Bowne has not changed a beat. He is very proud to have worked with her.

Mayor Burns called upon any staff member who would like to speak.

Teresa Malmberg, 22925 SW 117th Street, said, “Dawn, my leader, my mentor, my friend. I attempted to put words on paper and I realized that just words would work best for you and the first word that comes to mind stays with me when I think of you is “Fierce”. In Webster’s this led me to the adverb, “Fiercely” meaning: to a high degree. Fiercely Loyal- unswerving in allegiance, as in: faithful in allegiance to God, one’s family, friends, government, employees and work. And I thought, Fiercely Honest, at which time I stumbled upon this: Honest meaning: free from fraud or deception; legitimate, truthful genuine, real, humble, reputable, respectable; worthy of praise, an honest day’s work; puts forth an honest effort; marked by integrity; marked by integrity; marked by free, forthright, and sincere expression; direct and uncomplicated.

Day in and day out for thirteen (13) years, we’ve remained steadfast in our roles. Through thick and thin, good and bad, unwavering.

In closing, I read from the King James Version, Joshua 1:9: Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

As Mama proofed and critiqued my words, she added, and I quote, “The word sweet comes to my mind, Dawn is a sweet girl, and I love her and wish her the very best. Tell her I’ll see her soon.” Fair winds and following seas....you’re always in my heart.”

Lonnie Smith, 200th SW Place, Ocala, Mr. Smith stated, “I witnessed in this past election some of the most disappointing and appalling behavior imaginable. This small town election has cost many people the loss of their privacy and their dignity. Things were said whether truthful or not and dirt was dug up and exposed for all to see. Lives, reputations and futures have been changed permanently. Long standing relationships were strained or irreparably severed. Not many have come away from this unscathed and I keep asking myself, for what. Dawn has dedicated her entire working life to this City. How many of us can say that? Over the years through effort and determination, consistence, skill building and willingness to take on new and more difficult challenges she earned enough respect and trust to be offered the highest and most responsible leadership position in this city’s government. That was not by accident, but by proving herself day in and day out for thirty (30) years. Dawn is a top-notch leader. She truly cares for her staff and is willing to put herself out to make sure the team is supported and nurtured to succeed. In working with her over the last eight (8) years I can adamantly attest that Dawn always, always had the City’s best interest at heart. The City is losing an excellent administrator and will be very hard-pressed to find a person more qualified and more dedicated to this city than her. I wish her the best in whatever new endeavor she avails herself to and I am confident that whatever she decides to do, she will do it with class and excellence.

Regrettably, there has been many injuries in this latest battle for City Council. Staff and elected officials included. I have also taken my fair share of bullets and shrapnel and at this point in my life and career, cannot justify willingly in enduring any more character deformation stress and sleepless nights. It is with deep regret that I have submitted my resignation and will be terminating my community development career with the City of Dunnellon January 5, 2021. This was not an easy decision to make as I have enjoyed

getting to meet and know many fine people in this local area. But one that I feel is necessary. My heartfelt appreciation and thankfulness goes to those who have encouraged and supported me and gave me a chance to try something out of my wheelhouse and to run with it as far as I could. Thank you.”

Councilman Dugan thanked Lonnie and said he was a very talented person and he appreciated the comments he often provided to Councilman Dugan.

Mayor Burns called upon any other members of the public who would like to speak regarding the outgoing Council or Administrator

Former Mayor Walter Green, said we have witnessed the change in the City. He commented on Lonnie’s resignation and said it is one we all regret. He said Mr. Smith worked so hard and put so many hours in for our city. He offered his sincere thanks as a citizen of this town and how much he deeply appreciates all of his efforts for the betterment of this town.

Former Mayor Green commented on the many blessings of Mrs. Bowne’s efforts. He thanked Mrs. Bowne for the leadership she provided to staff and the smooth operations of the city.

He commented the Dunnellon Tigers are now in the top four teams. They are undefeated. If they continue to be undefeated at the next game Friday night, they will be in the State Championship game.

Katherine Burns, 20181 Short Tower Way, said she prays for God’s healing. Her hope for our city is that we lay down our hurts so that we can move forward and keep this city, a balanced budget and do the things that are right for the citizens.

Agenda Item Number 7 – Council Comments

Vice-Mayor Hanchar thanked Lonnie Smith for his service and said she is sorry that he was one of the victims.

She said she would like to make sure this new Council honors and respects one another. She spoke of the false statements that were made. She would ask that the new city council members, when they make mistakes and they put it out in public and it is deemed they are not truthful, that they would have enough integrity and respect for those that they have harmed to please apologize publically.

Councilwoman Williams thanked both Mrs. Bowne and Mr. Smith for being very helpful to her and professional in performing their job duties. She appreciated them. She said we are losing good people.

Councilman Dugan said he has enjoyed his brief time on Council.

Councilman White said everything that needs to be said, has been said. He believes those who have spoken have spoken from their heart how they really feel and there is nothing wrong with that. He wished everybody the best.

Mayor Burns noted that Loretta Barton is attending the meeting by Zoom and would like to make a comment.

Loretta Barton, staff member, said thank you to Mrs. Bowne for being a wonderful mentor and boss. Mrs. Barton said she has learned so much from Mrs. Bowne in her past ten (10) years with the City and she will miss her.

Mayor Burns provided his comments and thanked staff. He appreciate all the relationships that have developed. He said he was honored to offer his help to the city.

Mandy Roberts spoke of Lonnie Smith's resignation, working with the Mayor and Councilman Dugan.

Agenda Item Number 8 – City Administrator Comments

Mrs. Bowne said the Bid opening for BID2020-04 Short Tower Way and Ernie Mills Park Parking Project is scheduled for December 14th.

Troy Slattery has arranged for storm drain cleaning along San Jose Drive. This will be taking place tomorrow morning.

Mrs. Bowne spoke of Lonnie Smith's resignation and her appreciation.

Mrs. Bowne addressed the formal complaint filed by Louise Kenny against Larry Winkler and herself. She said she was contacted by the Complaint Coordinator for the Florida Commission on Ethics to advise her that the formal complaint was determined to be legally insufficient and therefore considered dismissed.

She said, "I had no doubt that there would be a complete exoneration of the unfair and spearheaded baseless accusations made against myself and former Councilman Winkler. Unfortunately it was conveniently timed during the council election for an occurrence that happened in 2017. Because I was publically attacked I am pleased that the timing of this notification allows me to leave on a positive note and share this information with the people that I so cared very much about in our great city. I have four generations of family in this city and care very much for the city. I do want to point out, please everybody know, that I just sensitize the point that when claims like these are made, baseless claims, without people doing their homework or contacting the Commission on Ethics first, when they are baseless and it's filed against a public official, the city is liable for the legal expenses incurred by that official. When they are found to become insufficient, it becomes a financial burden on the taxpayer. We spend every day here trying to reduce the expenses to the taxpayer. Some may not believe that and everybody has their opinion on how things are managed and how budgets are formed. That's a part of the public process. But please know that we have staff and a council. Each council I have worked with, has worked incredibly hard to try to reduce expenses and provide the best budget and the best service for the least cost. Sometimes there are certain expenses that have to make that become reality. But its expenses that are not necessary that are incurred by the city, its' the taxpayer that takes that hit."

Agenda Item Number 9 – City Attorney Comments

There were none.

Agenda Item Number 10 – Public Comments

There were none.

Mrs. Malmberg called for public comments from any Zoom participants.
There were none.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:50 p.m.

Attest:

Amanda Roberts, CMC
City Clerk

Valerie Hanchar, Vice-Mayor