

**City of Dunnellon
City Council Meeting**

Zoom Meeting

<https://dunnellon.zoom.us/j/83738926879?pwd=RnJjRi9vaXhmM2N2U1A0ODU1NjdqQT09>

Meeting ID: 837 3892 6879

Date: December 13, 2021

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: City Hall, 20750 River Dr., Dunnellon, FL 34431

Dunnellon City Council meeting attendance information.

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

Members of the public who were interested in participating were encouraged to register in advance by Noon on Monday, December 13th. Public input on non-agenda items were heard at the beginning of the meeting with a three (3) minute time limit.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor White called the meeting to order at approximately 5:31 p.m. and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance. He invited any citizen wishing to volunteer to open with prayer. Pastor Tom Welch provided the invocation. Mayor White then called upon the City Clerk to call roll.

Roll Call

Bill White, Mayor, Seat 1

Louise Kenny, Councilwoman, Seat 2

Anita Williams, Councilwoman, Seat 3

Valerie Hanchar, Vice-Mayor, Seat 4

Jan Cabbage, Councilwoman, Seat 5

Staff Present

Mandy Odom, City Clerk

Troy Slattery, Public Works Manager

Jan Smith, Finance Officer

Georgina Cid, Community Development Manager

Michelle Leonard, Assistant City Clerk

Julie Danowski, Records Clerk

Chief McQuaig, Police Department

Lt. Shane Yox, Police Department

Legal Counsel

Andrew Hand,
Shepard, Smith, Kohlmyer & Hand, P.A. – via zoom

Proof of Publication

Mrs. Odom announced for the record the agenda for this meeting was posted on the City's website and City Hall bulletin board on Thursday, December 09, 2021.

One or more members of the City of Dunnellon advisory boards may have attended this meeting and may have spoken to Council.

Mayor White explained the public speaking portion and sign-up sheet. He said this is a recorded meeting with video, audio and closed captioning. This meeting proceeded under Roberts Rules of Order and Chair conducted the meeting. Council was advised to wait to be acknowledged before speaking.

Mayor White called for Council comments regarding agenda.

There were no comments

Mayor White called for public comments on non-agenda items – 3 minute time limit.

Art Jones, 12163 Palmetto Way, provided pictures of Magnolia and Palmetto Way to discuss the crushed culvert and stagnated water. He requested Council find a way to obtain a culvert and repair the damage, stating it is affecting the neighborhood. He stated he went to a legislative delegation in Citrus County regarding a grant to help clean the Rainbow River. He said they were very receptive and he will be in touch with a contractor. He said he wanted Council to be aware of the movement.

Discussion followed with Mayor White stating he attended the delegation as well. He said the senators were very aware of Mr. Jones' work and Mayor White said he was impressed. Vice-Mayor Hanchar requested a copy of the proposal to write a letter of support.

Mayor White spoke regarding Palmetto Way and asked clarifying questions about the damaged area. Mr. Jones said just one area was problematic, not the whole road. Mr. Slattery stated work with the engineers has already begun to replace the culverts and fix the drainage in the area. Mr. Slattery said in the meantime, he will try to help alleviate the pooling.

Charles Lee, Director of Advocacy, Audubon Florida, thanked the Council for the discussion regarding the Northern Turnpike Extension during the workshop. He shared he hopes Council can present the Resolution prior to the Marion County Commission meeting which is scheduled for December 21st. Mayor White stated he is aware of the meeting and he knows the Northern Turnpike Extension will be on their agenda. He said it would carry a lot of weight if we had our Resolution prepared before that meeting. Mr. Lee asserted communicating a message to them is urgent.

Burt Eno, 9220 SW 193rd Circle, asked what message will be given to the county regarding the Northern Turnpike Extension. He reminded Council of the draft Resolution he provided which included the No Build option. He stated he would be in favor of making the verbiage to the county “No Build Now” and disregard the toll road. Mayor White stated Council is against all of the toll road extension routes, not just one or the other.

Kathy Dunn, 11386 SW Hendrix Dr., stated Mr. Slattery put up the speed flashing sign and it is working well. She asked if Council could direct public safety officials to put it on US41 to remind the citizens to slow down. Chief McQuaig stated they can put a sign out and officers are out there every day.

Discussion followed with Councilwoman Williams stating she lives on Bostick Street and she hasn't seen a difference. Councilwoman Cabbage commented when the speed indicator sign was on US41, it did make a difference. She said she noticed people breaking and she agrees with putting the sign out there again. Mayor White provided statistics regarding speeders per number of cars and he said even though 95% of the cars are not speeding, 5% means 500 people are speeding through a specific area.

Consent Agenda

1. City Council Minutes

September 01, 2021 - Special Council Workshop

September 08, 2021 - Council Workshop

2. Authorize Mayor To Sign A Letter To Visit Florida To Request Marketing Grants

3. Award Bid #BID2021-03 To Ranger Construction In The Amount Of \$397,427.45 And Authorize Mayor To Sign Notice Of Award

4. Authorize The Reduction Of Code Enforcement Demolition Lien #2013-03 Payoff To The Amount Of \$5,466.50 For The Property Located At 20689 W. McKinney Avenue, Subject To The Condition That The Reduced Amount Is Paid In Full To The City On Or Before December 13, 2022 As Agreed Upon With Property Owner. Said Lien Reduction Shall Not Be Effective And Shall Continue To Accrue Interest If Such Condition Is Not Met.

Consent Agenda Approval

Mayor White called for public comments. There were no public comments.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilwoman Kenny seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed 5-0.

Regular Agenda

Agenda Item No. 5: Special Recognition – City Of Dunnellon Volunteer Program

Vice-Mayor Hanchar spoke to this topic and recounted her memories and volunteer days. She stated a person doesn't volunteer to be patted on the back, but a small recognition makes a person feel appreciated. She noted the work done at City Hall and the staff who put the program together. She said she wanted to recognize this as the first official volunteer job completed.

Mrs. Odom announced the volunteer names and certificates of appreciation were presented.

Kathy Dunn thanked Council for the recognition and said the hope is to open the eyes of the citizens of Dunnellon to the blight happening in our city. She said she also hopes to see an increase in the size of the Public Works and Code Enforcement departments. She stated she is working on a city wide clean-up day for the spring and would like to involve the civic clubs and schools. She offered a special thanks to Mr. Slattery for his efforts in helping start the volunteer program.

Agenda Item No. 6: Special Recognition – Dan Adams, Code Enforcement Officer

Ms. Cid read the special Council recognition for Dan Adams into the record:

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

You are hereby commended for your exemplary service within the city’s Code Enforcement Division during a time in which the city was challenged in addressing code issues on a reactive basis with minimal staff. Your participation and resourceful insight regarding the duties and responsibilities of this essential body deserves generous praise.

You are hereby applauded for “going beyond your call of duty” and serving as an extraordinary Code Enforcement Officer enforcing laws that prohibit the existence of conditions deemed to be a hazard to public health, safety and welfare. Upon recently learning of a violation that presented a danger to the public, your thorough reporting and accurate rapid response proved invaluable.

*With heartfelt gratitude, pride and appreciation for your
dedicated service, enthusiasm and commitment.”*

Agenda Item No. 7: First Reading Ordinance #ORD2021-02, Blue Run Park

Attorney Hand provided an overview and history of where this Ordinance began and how Council arrived at this point in its development. He stated he briefed Council on the newest edits to the Ordinance at the workshop last Wednesday. He said he presumed in January the Management Plan updates will be read and the ultimate effective date of the Ordinance would be April 1, 2022.

Public Comment

Bill Vibbert, 9552 SW 192nd Ct. Rd., stated he is excited to move ahead with the Blue Run Park Ordinance. He said it produces a set of rules for the public to use. He commented it is a people's park aside from KP Hole shuttle and thanked Mayor White, Attorney Hand and Mrs. Odom. He spoke regarding Paul Marraffino and shared a history of their friendship. He commented Mr. Marraffino loved Dunnellon and the Rainbow River. He said not a day went by when Mr.

Marraffino didn't speak to someone regarding the betterment of Dunnellon or the Rainbow River. He spoke about why they chose Blue Run Park to turn their attention to and shared the various projects he was involved in throughout the years.

Mayor White added he spoke to Mr. Marraffino's wife and they reminisced about his finer days. He said Mrs. Marraffino shared he had the computer on his bed working on the details of Nine Island Cove up until his final day.

Jim Couillard, Marion County Parks and Recreation, stated we can see how much people care about Blue Run Park. He thanked Attorney Hand, Mrs. Odom and Mayor White. He then echoed everything Mr. Vibbert shared regarding Paul Marraffino. Mayor White suggested naming the springs in Nine Island Cove after Mr. Marraffino.

Mayor White asked Mr. Couillard what his thought is regarding Blue Run Park being expanded now that it is connecting to the Withlacoochee Trail. Mr. Couillard stated it is coming and the local businesses should be engaging with this. He stated these long recreation trails separated from vehicular traffic are very popular and we are going to have to be proactive to accommodate all the trail users. He suggested taking surveys of those on the trail to see what they are enjoying and what their needs are. Mayor White spoke about a weather shelter and Mr. Couillard said the architectural plans are already approved. He added the bathrooms are still a hot topic and being discussed.

Mayor White stated Mr. Couillard was instrumental in obtaining matched funding for the Dunnellon Little League field. He asked Mr. Couillard if the \$50,000 coming from their Parks and Recreation budget will limit their ability to build the shelters and bathrooms at Blue Run Park. Mr. Couillard stated the funding is intact.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar moved Ordinance #ORD2021-02 be read by title only. Councilwoman Kenny seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Odom read the title into the record.

“ORDINANCE #ORD2021-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DUNNELLON, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 46 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF DUNNELLON; AMENDING ARTICLE I OF CHAPTER 46; CREATING ARTICLE III – BLUE RUN PARK; ESTABLISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR BLUE RUN PARK VIA ORDINANCE; ESTABLISHING FINES FOR VIOLATIONS; ESTABLISHING THE APPEAL PROCESS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.”

Vice-Mayor Hanchar moved Ordinance #ORD2021-02 be approved as written. Councilwoman Williams seconded the motion. There being no further discussion a vote was taken and the motion carried 5-0.

Agenda Item No. 8: First reading ordinance #ORD2021-03, Animal Control

Attorney Hand stated this Ordinance is doing two things. He said it is clearing out Dunnellon's regulations regarding animal control and replacing them with Marion County's regulations. He shared Dunnellon has a separate rule for chicken keeping that has been retained.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar moved Ordinance #ORD2021-03 be read by title only. Councilwoman Williams seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Odom read the following into the record.

“ORDINANCE #ORD2021-03
AN ORDINANCE REPEALING PROVISIONS OF AND AMENDING CHAPTER 14 - ANIMALS; PROVIDING ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES THROUGH ADOPTION OF 4 PROVISIONS OF MARION COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE AND ENFORCEMENT THROUGH INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH MARION COUNTY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.”

Councilwoman Williams moved Ordinance #ORD2021-03 be approved as written. Vice-Mayor Hanchar seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion a vote was taken and the motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Odom read the following public hearing statement into the record:

“All persons wishing to address the City Council will be asked to limit their comments to the specific subject being addressed. Public opinions and input are valued by the Council. However, it is requested that comments are directed at specific issues rather than personal comments directed toward the council members or staff in order to foster mutual respect between council members and the public.

Members of the public in attendance at public forums should listen courteously and attentively to all public discussions before the body; and focus on the business at hand. They shall refrain from interrupting other speakers; making personal comments not germane to the business of the body; or otherwise interfering with the orderly conduct of meetings.

Members of the public addressing City Council and boards/commissions on a specific project or proposal are requested to disclose any personal interest or relationship; and any business, professional, or financial interests with any individual, group, project or proposal regarding the subject matter under review. Members of the public should always err on the side of more public disclosure, not less, in order to provide integrity to the public process.”

Agenda Item No. 9 – Public Hearing Ordinance #ORD2021-04 Property Rights Element Comprehensive Plan Amendment – Transmittal #CPA2021-01 (Posted On The City’s Website On 12/02/2021 And Advertised In The Ocala Star Banner On 12/06/2021)

Mayor White gaveled down and said, “It is now 6:32 p.m. and I close the City Council meeting and open the public hearing to discuss, Ordinance #ORD2021-04 Property Rights Element Comprehensive Plan Amendment – Transmittal #CPA2021-01, Posted on the city’s website on December 02, 2021 and advertised in the Ocala Star Banner on December 06, 2021.”

Mayor White called for staff comments.

Attorney Hand stated this had been drafted to be included in the City’s Comprehensive Plan. He said the Ordinance satisfies the legislative requirements.

Mayor White called for public comments. There were no public comments.

Mayor White gaveled down and stated, “It is now 6:34 p.m. and I close the public hearing held to discuss Ordinance #ORD2021-04 and reopen the December 13, 2021 regular City Council meeting.”

Agenda Item No. 10 – First Reading Ordinance #ORD2021-04, Property Rights Element Comprehensive Plan Amendment – Transmittal #CPA2021-01

Vice-Mayor Hanchar moved Ordinance #ORD2021-04 be read by title only. Councilwoman Williams seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Odom read the following into the record:

**“ORDINANCE #ORD2021-04
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DUNNELLON, FLORIDA, ORD2021-04, AMENDING
THE TEXT OF THE CITY’S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO INCLUDE A PRIVATE
PROPERTY RIGHTS ELEMENT AS REQUIRED BY GENERAL LAW; PROVIDING FOR
TRANSMISSION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS;
AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.”**

Vice-Mayor Hanchar moved Ordinance #ORD2021-04 be approved as written. Councilwoman Williams seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion a vote was taken and the motion carried 5-0.

Agenda Item No. 11 – Notice Of Intent To Dispose Of Public Property BID #BID2021-02, 11808 N. Ohio Street

Mrs. Odom stated two proposals were received, one arrived on time and one arrived after the deadline. She reminded everyone during the workshop that direction was given to not accept either proposal. She said the suggested motion was formatted to allow a rejection of the proposals and to appoint a real estate agent.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar moved to reject all proposals received in response to BID #BID2021-02, Notice of Intent to Dispose of Public Property located at 11808 N. Ohio Street. Councilwoman Cabbage seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion a vote was taken and the motion carried 4-1, with Councilwoman Kenny opposed.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar moved to remove the property located at 11808 N. Ohio Street from surplus status and utilize the building as the Police Department. Councilwoman Williams seconded the motion.

Discussion included Vice-Mayor Hanchar speaking about the financing of the former Souls Harbor Church and requesting Council to look at it again. She stated it is the most cost effective option we have. Mayor White asked clarifying questions regarding Vice-Mayor Hanchar's intention.

Councilwoman Kenny stated the Council is divided and she is concerned with making any decisions at this point.

Councilwoman Cabbage said the discussion is out of order because they had already decided to put the property up for sale. She said she doesn't see why we are trying to negate a decision already made and she said we are supposed to be selecting a brokerage firm.

Public Comment:

Scott Kiefer, 9075 N. Cedar Cove Rd., said he brought this topic up during the City Council workshop last week and requested Council reconsider the property as a police station. He asserted we already own it at a great price. He stated Council is looking at Gruffs and a modular building both of which will cost more than the building the City already owns. He reminded Council of the former Souls Harbor Church's positive features and he stated it shouldn't cause problems with the community.

Tom Welch, P.O. box 143, stated Council has discussed this for a long time and has done their due diligence. He said it comes down to dollars and cents and without a doubt the Ohio Street property is the least expensive route. He said he believes it is a good decision and Council is allowed to change their mind.

Art Jones, 12163 Palmetto Way, stated the town charter requires us to provide protection. He commented Crystal River is able to work with the Citrus County Sheriff and suggested Council

discuss this with the City of Crystal River and Inverness to find out how they worked with their County's Sheriff. He stated Council should consider all the options, but he agrees with Vice-Mayor Hanchar about the Ohio Street property.

Juliane Mendonca, 11894 E. Blue Cove Dr., stated she heard someone say the recent election campaign had a specific agenda regarding the former Souls Harbor Church. She commented this Council inherited a lot of things from years gone by. She said when she looks at the changes happening with the city, she sees the decision with the Police Department being much bigger than the former Souls Harbor Church or money. She suggested Council not make a quick decision.

There being no further discussion a vote was taken and the motion failed 2-3 with Councilwoman Cabbage, Mayor White and Louise Kenny opposed.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar motioned to appoint Foxfire Realty and Mr. Van Aiken to represent the City of Dunnellon in marketing 11808 N. Ohio St. Councilwoman Williams seconded the motion.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar invited Mr. Akin to the podium to review the marketing proposal.

Van Akin, 615 E. Silver Springs Blvd., stated he sent a marketing proposal to the City and each Council member at the end of August. He provided highlights from that proposal and said he would conduct a market study to develop a marketing package. Attorney Hand explained the requirements regarding advertising and offers per Florida Statute 163.383(a) involving CRA properties. He stated these requirements will slow down the process.

Council discussion followed regarding the statutory requirements and the options for listings. Mr. Akin said he would like to see it advertised for the first 30 days to evaluate interest. Details of how Council would need to work with Mr. Akin were discussed. Vice-Mayor Hanchar commented she would like to make sure Mr. Akin was aware of the regulations. Mayor White asked how to list it if Council chose to move forward. Attorney Hand provided details regarding the terms of a listing agreement.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar amended her motion to request Foxfire Broker, Mr. Van Akin, to provide the City a listing agreement for a term of one year and a current market analysis to be presented at the January workshop. Councilwoman Cabbage seconded the motion.

A vote was taken and the motion passed 4-1, with Councilwoman Williams opposed.

Agenda Item No. 12 – Kimley-Horn IPO #99 Design And Construction Plans For Mockingbird Drive And West Blue Cove Drive Roadway Project, Agreement #AGR2021-32

Mr. Slattery stated he looked into Kimley-Horn reducing their cost for the plan development. He said a response from Allan Garri was sent to Council. Mr. Slattery refreshed Council's knowledge by providing a history of the construction plan and reasons behind the discussion. He stated the IPO was for \$33,600 and he said Mr. Garri told him the fees could be reduced by 10%. Mr. Slattery

said Mr. Garri informed him it would require a change order if situations arise during construction which cause additional expenses.

Public Comment

There were no comments.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar asked if removing the 10% reduction in cost removes the contingency as well. Mr. Slattery answered if the work exceeds their new amount, then a change order would be made. He explained what the change order would entail and he provided examples. He said he doesn't suspect they will uncover any major setbacks on this project.

Mayor White commented the extra \$3,000 is actually an insurance policy in the event Kimley-Horn discovers something unexpected.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar moved to authorize Mayor White to sign Agreement #AGR2021-32, IPO #99 for design and construction plans for Mockingbird Drive and West Blue Cove Drive roadway project in the amount of \$33,600. Councilwoman Williams seconded the motion.

A vote was taken and the motion carried 4-1, with Mayor White opposed.

Agenda Item No. 13 – Council Discussion – Police Facility

Mayor White directed Mrs. Odom to add a special workshop on January 5th at 3:30 p.m. to focus on the police facility. He commented it is frustrating this has been going on so long and it is time to make a decision. Mrs. Odom recommended putting Mr. Akin and the listing topic on the regular workshop agenda.

Agenda Item No. 14 – Liaison Assignments

Mrs. Odom displayed a list of liaison assignments for Mayor White and he talked about his interest in the TPO. Mayor White commented he believes, as Mayor, he must have an in-depth knowledge of the projects the TPO is working on. He stated this is a key position he must hold, but he agreed to wait until December upon Vice-Mayor Hanchar's request before suggesting the liaison change.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar spoke about her being underappreciated in the past during her work with the TPO. She stated she represents not only Dunnellon but all county residents and visitors. She commented on her work fighting the turnpike and how she spent a year and a half of her time voicing the concerns of the City's citizens. She shared she believes she is an asset to the City and its citizens by being the TPO liaison. She said she also has a good working relationship with the TPO members and she would like to remain the liaison.

Mayor White reminded Vice-Mayor Hanchar at the time this was initially discussed, Vice-Mayor Hanchar stated she would gladly step aside in December. Attorney Hand stated he is not aware of any codes regarding committee or board assignments and Council can decide how they want to deal with it. Councilwoman Cubbage said she spoke to a senior attorney because it is not a compensated position and the Council has a right to take a vote to decide who fills the liaison

positions. Councilwoman Kenny referred to the last workshop and the number of people who attended regarding the Northern Turnpike Extension. She stated it shows how much the people are interested and the Mayor of Dunnellon needs to be in the lead.

Councilwoman Kenny moved to vote on the decision of who would represent the City of Dunnellon as liaison to the Transportation Planning Organization. Councilwoman Cabbage seconded the motion.

A vote was taken with Vice-Mayor Hanchar and Councilwoman Williams in favor of Vice-Mayor Hanchar's continuation as TPO liaison and Mayor White, Councilwoman Cabbage and Councilwoman Kenny in favor of Mayor White's appointment as TPO liaison.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

A motion was made to affirm the vote by Councilwoman Kenny. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cabbage. A vote was taken and the motion carried 3-2, with Vice-Mayor Hanchar and Councilwoman Williams opposed.

Further discussion involved various boards and meetings council members attended, as well as a request for a council member to join Ms. Cid in a working group for the school board. Councilwoman Cabbage agreed to this appointment.

Agenda Item No. 15 – Council Liaison Reports And Comments

Councilwoman Cabbage reported she received an email from Marion County Commissioner Kathy Bryant declining an invitation to attend today's meeting. Councilwoman Cabbage spoke about Commissioner Bryant's email which stated the Marion County Commissioners opposed the project in 2018 and Commissioner Bryant requested the board send a letter to FDOT asking them to follow the recommendations of the MCORES task force. Councilwoman Cabbage stated some of the commissioners are representing commercialism and Dunnellon needs to keep on top of it.

Councilwoman Cabbage addressed Art Jones' comment about returning to Sheriff Billy Woods to further discuss the possibility of Marion County assuming the City of Dunnellon's policing responsibilities. She reminded everyone of the past meeting Sheriff Woods attended and the financial details he provided if the County were to assume control. Councilwoman Cabbage said there was a prior meeting with Sheriff Blair who stated two officers would be \$450,000 which was substantially less than what Sheriff Woods quoted. She asserted it should not be out of the question to discuss this again with Marion County, because it seems to have worked out well for Inverness, Crystal River and Homosassa.

Mayor White reminded Council during the workshop they agreed to instruct staff to work on a Resolution regarding the Northern Turnpike Extension. He asserted its importance to have the Resolution ready before the Marion County meeting on December 21st and the next legislative

session on January 11th. The Council consented to a special meeting on December 20th at 9:00 a.m. to complete the process and pass the Resolution.

Mayor White asked Mrs. Smith if it would be possible to offer CRA money to the County to entice them to move forward with a weather shelter at Blue Run Park. He commented the County seems more willing to discuss projects if the City is willing to contribute funds. Mrs. Smith stated she will look into it.

Mayor White stated he attended the Northern Turnpike Extension meeting in Chiefland and approximately 500 people were there. He said half that number attended the Hernando meeting. He shared these weren't actually meetings and there was no public forum. He said FDOT is not planning any venues where the public can speak for nearly a year. He stated he attended a Citrus County legislative delegation meeting with about 100 people and he was surprised to see himself as the only person who spoke regarding the Northern Turnpike Extension. He commented it seems that people from Citrus County are either for the turnpike or ambivalent.

Mayor White showed photos of the new bike trail tunnel. He stated the tuber take out and the current plans for the bike trail are really going to make this special. He also showed photos of the council chamber with the crowd who gathered regarding the Northern Turnpike Extension and an Ocala Star Banner headline "Packed House In Dunnellon, A Resounding NO For Florida's Proposed Northern Turnpike Extension."

Agenda Item No. 16 – Department Head Comments

Mrs. Odom reminded Council of Thursday's official tree lighting beginning at 5:30 p.m. She said Councilwoman Williams has gathered members of the community to sing and cookies will be provided. She explained how staff is tying our event with the Historic Train Depot event.

Mrs. Smith shared the auditors will arrive tomorrow and stay for a couple days. She said they will return after the holidays.

Ms. Cid provided an update regarding the Santa At The Park event. She thanked Council, the Dunnellon Chamber and Business Association, the volunteer group, Patrick Shepherd for bringing the inflatables, Gregg Mackler for portraying Santa Claus, local restaurants who contributed food and the wonderful City employees who volunteered their free time. She said there was a small, but special, group of families that participated. She stated the park looked amazing and she believes this is the beginning of wonderful years to come. She commented she will present a budget for next year's event.

Ms. Cid provided the Community Development Report and details about the number of permits pulled, inspections completed, fees collected and a new business named "24 Hour Workout". She stated Ms. Dorsey, Florida Paddling Trails Association, provided information about how the paddling trail will help market resources to recreation enthusiasts. She said Ms. Dorsey told her that Yankee Town became part of the Florida Paddling Trails and because of this move they achieved great improvement in participation of kayaking and festivals. She stated this has

increased the success of all their local businesses. She shared Community Development is in the process of reviewing the memorandum for the designation.

Agenda Item No. 17 – City Attorney’s Report

Attorney Hand had no report and wished all Happy Holidays.

Agenda Item No. 18 – Adjourn

At approximately 8:21 p.m., Vice-Mayor Hanchar moved the City Council meeting be adjourned and Councilwoman Williams seconded.

A vote was taken and the motion carried 5-0.

Attest:

Penned Signature of
Amanda Odom, CMC
City Clerk

Penned Signature of
William P. White, Mayor