

**City of Dunnellon  
City Council Workshop**

Zoom

<https://dunnellon.zoom.us/j/88627211772?pwd=T3NKMzVZZWZPM2JXRWNleGtBR3N0dz09>

Webinar ID: 886 2721 1772

Date: July 06, 2022

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: City Hall

20750 River Dr., Dunnellon, FL34431

**Public Comment**

Anyone who wished to provide public comment was 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 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](mailto:modom@dunnellon.org)

Members of the public who wished to participate were encouraged to register in advance by Noon on Wednesday, July 06, 2022

**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:**

Mayor White called the meeting to order at approximately 5:33 p.m. and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked if any invitee or volunteer was present to open with prayer. Tom Welch provided the invocation.

**Roll Call**

Bill White, Mayor, Seat 1

Valerie Hanchar, Vice-Mayor, Seat 4

Louise Kenny, Councilwoman, Seat 2

Anita Williams, Councilwoman, Seat 3

Jan Cabbage, Councilwoman, Seat 5 - Absent

**Staff Present**

Mandy Odom, City Clerk

Michelle Leonard, Assistant City Clerk

Jan Smith, Finance Officer

Troy Slattery, Public Works Manager

Georgina Cid, Community Development Manager

Julie Danowski, Records Clerk

Chief McQuaig, Police Department

Lt. Yox, Police Department

### **Legal Counsel**

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

### **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 Wednesday, June 29, 2022.

Mayor White welcomed everyone and covered public and Council meeting etiquette. He announced the budget workshop has been rescheduled for July 20, 2022.

### **Agenda Item No. 1 – Public Comments**

Peter Langlois, 1123 SE 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., stated he lives on a canal in Crystal River and participated in the restoration efforts. He stated work was completed on his part of the canal in 2017 and there is grass and sea life there again. He said he encourages anyone who would like to know more to visit the website "savehomosassariver.org". He said the website provides a multi-year history of the Homosassa River restoration and how the whole process works, including legislative funding activities. He stated he values our eco system and offered his knowledge to assist us in our efforts. Mayor White asked if Mr. Langlois is affiliated with One Rake at a Time. Mr. Langlois replied he is a good friend of Art Jones, but he is here as a private individual with a background in this area.

Tony Mahns, 16642 SW 67<sup>th</sup> Place, Ocala, stated he enjoys visiting the Rainbow River every weekend. He suggested the Police Officers working on the river could make the citizens aware of how they are damaging it. He said you can sink in the muck up to your knees in some places and the river needs to be rid of it. He commented a restoration project should start upstream so the muck doesn't roll downstream. Mayor White asked if he is a private company that does this for a living and he responded he was not a business.

Bill Vibbert, 9552 SW 192<sup>nd</sup> Ct. Rd., stated his first point is about the use of Blue Run Park and the Interlocal Agreement. He said the Ordinance needs to be tightened up because the KP Hole Shuttle is picking up customers of Rainbow River Kayak, bringing them to KP Hole and then picking them up at Blue Run Park. He read the following from a handout he provided to Council; *"#2. Shuttle customers are limited to those originating their trip at KP Hole, paying the appropriate fee at the KP Hole Park office and displaying the proper color daily wristband. Transport of non-shuttle customers originating their trip from other locations is prohibited. #4. Authorized KP Hole Shuttle buses shall utilize the designated Blue Run Park drop off area. Use of local streets is prohibited due to safety. Park trails may not be used by shuttle customers."* He asserted the loop hole needs to be closed and if they are walking the trails of the park they are part of the commercial use.

Bill Carroll, 18967 SW 109<sup>th</sup> St., stated he and his wife have done research to discover what is indigenous, what should be pulled and the best way to remove it. He said it is a real problem when neighbors upstream are pulling stuff up and just letting it float down river. He explained he tried to educate people, but they don't listen. He suggested the City put something on the side of the Police boats to educate people on what to pull and how. He added the timing of the traffic light on US41 in front of Winn Dixie is off and needs to be corrected. Vice-Mayor Hanchar stated Council will do what they can, but the portion of the river they are referring to is under Marion County jurisdiction. She suggested they reach out to the County. Mayor White suggested they reach out to Rainbow River Conservation as well.

Arlette Kaplan, 11875 E. Blue Cove Dr., stated when they moved here they saw all the plant life that gets pulled up in the river especially after a busy weekend. She said she was looking for someone to educate them on how to get rid of it and she knows in the beginning they had done things wrong. She commented the rakes that most people use are dangerous. She explained they met Mr. Jones about four months ago and up-river looks way better than where they are. She added they are willing to get into the river to do whatever needs to be done.

Tim Inskeep, 12140 Maple St., stated there is only one organization that controls the permits on that river and it is the FWC. He informed Council no one can remove anything in the river without a permit from them and if they do, they will receive hefty fines. He shared there is big bold print on the permit that states they must remove all the vegetation that is pulled. He added the FWC decides where and what can be pulled. Mayor White agreed and thanked him for the reminder.

Dave Porter, 11835 E. Blue Cove Dr., stated he is aware the City has been talking about redoing the vision statement. He suggested using the idea that Dunnellon is the gateway to the Rainbow River, pointing out the time and effort the City has put into the river as a whole. He stated there has to be a bigger approach than shoveling it out. He supports Art Jones and his project and asks Council to do the same.

Mary Ann Hilton, 12078 Palmetto Ct., stated she walked onto her upper dock and there was a large log someone cut and tossed into the river. She said people are constantly throwing waste in the river and she is tired of it. She asserted we need to catch the people that are destroying the river and not allow them back on it.

Art Jones, 12163 Palmetto Way, said Representative Ralph Massullo sent a message to him asking him to read it to Council. Mr. Jones read the following into the record; *"Art Jones has a passion for our environment, for our water, for Florida. Over 10 years ago he decided he was not going to sit idly by and wait for someone else to start cleaning up the muck that had developed over the years of nutrient excess in the Crystal River, so he got out in the water*

*along the shoreline and started removing algae and muck “one rake at a time”. In time his actions elicited more and more people to help him. His volunteer force grew and so did the public’s awareness of the priority of cleaning up our beautiful rivers and keeping them clean. As the movement grew so did its impact and notoriety, reaching the State Capital in Tallahassee where tens of millions of dollars have been allocated over the last few years to both the Crystal and Homosassa River restoration projects. You see, the beauty of America has always been its people’s vision of a better future. Art’s vision of cleaning small amounts of water started a deluge of projects to rectify our rivers and springs and that same vision and concept can work right here on the Rainbow River as well.*

*As your State Representative I enthusiastically support and endorse these efforts and have confidence that your involvement will not only lead to a more pristine waterway. It will give each and every individual involved a sense of accomplishment, pride and ownership in the work they perform and that’s not even mentioning the physical and psychological benefits of being together outside in God’s nature, doing physical labor, improving a small part of YOUR Florida. They say, “The longest journey starts with the first small step”. That adage applies to many conditions in life including cleaning and restoring our most precious resource; our water...one rake at a time.*

*Ralph Massullo, MD*

*Florida House of Representatives Dist 34 which soon will be 23”*

Mr. Jones stated he knows we can make the river better.

### **Agenda Item No. 2 – Board Reports**

Mayor White reported during the TPO meeting last week he brought up concerns of the widening project for US41 being removed from the list. He stated it is a high volume road and the project shouldn’t have been tabled. He said he believes there will be future discussions on this topic, but for now there is nothing in the 5 year plan due to limited funds.

### **Agenda Item No. 3 – Dunnellon Chamber & Business Association Report**

Judy Terwilliger, Executive Director, read the monthly report into the record:

*“New Members*

*Fawn Scott Insurance Solutions*

*Detailed Detailing*

*Upcoming Events*

*July 8<sup>th</sup> - Free Social Media Roundtable at the Rainbow Springs Art Co-Op from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.*

*July 9<sup>th</sup> - American legion Christmas in July Show from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.*

*July 13<sup>th</sup> - Calligraphy workshop at the Rainbow Springs Art Co-Op from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. with a \$15 fee.*

*July 16<sup>th</sup> - Wil-Power Foundation is hosting a Glow Beach Volleyball Tournament (Blacklight volleyball) at Liberty Park & Depot at 286 N. Apopka Ave., Inverness, FL 34450 (352)322-6093. The cost is \$80 per Team of 4.*

*July 17<sup>th</sup> - Sunday Sampler at The Greater Dunnellon Historical Society Train Depot from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. with a \$15 donation.*

*July 22<sup>nd</sup> - Whistle Stop Café at The Greater Dunnellon Historical Society Train Depot. Food from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and Music from 79 by Patrick Foy.”*

Danielle Stevens presented the Discover Dunnellon website information and thanked Mrs. Odom for quickly adding the PowerPoint presentation for her. She thanked Mancini Photography for providing the photos for the website. She shared the features of the website including advertisements, information available to add in the future, Facebook presence and stated its Google friendly. Mrs. Odom opened the website and Ms. Stevens proceeded to navigate the interior pages and explain where information was located, including businesses, visit responsibly and local events.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar asked about the business rotation and QR codes. Ms. Stevens replied the businesses are randomized and they pop up differently each time the screen is refreshed. She said she liked the idea of a QR code and will work on it.

Mayor White stated this was long overdue and will make it very easy and convenient for visitors to the area.

Councilwoman Williams stated she would like to see places of worship on the website and brought it up to the board. Ms. Stevens said the board discussed it and chose not to add that feature at this time. Mayor White commented people who spend the weekend might like to go to church so he supports Councilwoman Williams’ thoughts on the topic.

Danielle Stevens stated she is looking forward to maintaining the site.

**Agenda Item No. 4 – Discussion – One Rake at a Time – Rainbow River Restoration Project**

Mr. Jones started with addressing issues others have brought up during public comments. He stated there is a lot of Hydrilla and even though they are starting at the bottom of the river, when they get to the top it isn’t going to cause the river to revert back. He commented it is a clean way to go about it.

He informed Council in 2019 he received a letter from Mayor Dale Burns. Mr. Jones read the following letter into the record:

*“The Dunnellon City Council representing the citizens of the City of Dunnellon, Florida, USA, in a unanimous vote of five on April 8, 2019 declared that it fully supported the efforts of Art Jones and his 501c3 organization; “One Rake at a Time, Inc.” to apply for and hopefully obtain any available grant opportunities to help with the cleanup and restoration efforts in the Rainbow River.*

*The Dunnellon City Council fully supports the issuances of all permits necessary for the removal of invasive weeds and algae and replanting of native eelgrass in areas where it belongs in order to restore fish and wildlife habitat, along with improving water clarity and reducing nutrient pollution. Sincerely, Dale Burns, Mayor”*

Mr. Jones explained he would like to have an updated version of the letter because Dr. Michelle Sivilich has found a possible grant. Dr. Sivilich came to the podium and introduced herself. She stated the legislature just opened up a couple pots of money that would help fund the permitting and a pilot study. She said any support from Council would go a long way to helping them, but they would need a letter by July 11, 2022.

Council discussion followed and there were no issues with duplicating the letter and having it ready for Mr. Jones by tomorrow. Mr. Jones stated the letter is great, but a monetary contribution would be better. He said the organizations that give donations will be more likely to donate to our cause if the City helps with its own financial input.

Mr. Jones invited Mrs. Odom to bring up the One Rake at a Time website so Council could get a feel for what is currently going on. Dr. Sivilich spoke about the website, explained what is on it, the information presented, photos, videos and processes that are being used for the restoration. She explained where they are starting on the river and why. She added study after study is showing the lower river as the impaired portion. Mr. Jones stated they have good support from the community already and they are continuing to pull Hydrilla out the water.

Councilwoman Kenny stated she believes they have been successful in the past and looks forward to their protection of our river. Councilwoman Williams blessed them in their efforts to clean up the river. Vice-Mayor Hanchar said she was in Crystal River on Saturday and she asked the boat captain what he thought of the clean up there and he had glowing remarks about the process. She said he was excited to tell her the eel grass took over and is flourishing. Mayor White stated Mr. Jones needs money for his project and asked Council if this is something they wish to discuss.

Discussion followed regarding the need for Mrs. Smith to see if there is money in the budget, if a Council member can donate personally and a sponsorship page on the One Rake at a Time website. Mayor White asked for the topic to be added to the next meeting agenda.

**Agenda Item No. 5 – Engineer Report on Agreement #AGR2021-15, DEO TAC Roadway Condition Assessment - Troy Slattery, Public Works Manager**

Mr. Slattery stated he has the final report but is not prepared to give a presentation just yet. He said he had spent 3 hours on it yesterday and should be able to provide his report on Monday. Mayor White asked Mrs. Odom to add this topic to the meeting agenda.

**Agenda Item No. 6 – Resolution #RES2022-07, Amending Blue Run Park Management Plan**

Attorney Hand agreed to an earlier point made and stated a vendor operating in Blue Run Park, but not under contract with KP Hole, is a ticketable offense. He explained he spoke to Chief McQuaig and was informed there has been no other commercial activity there within the last three weeks.

Attorney Hand stated the changes to the Management Plan are; incorporating the County requirements for identifying signage on the KP Hole Shuttle and prohibiting bulky or heavy equipment on the nature trails. He explained these changes will positively identify the KP Hole Shuttle and maintain the trails as they were intended, while keeping people safe from dangerous wildlife.

Councilwoman Williams discussed a pickup truck parked in the lot with a kayak hanging off the back. She stated it was hard for her to drive past without hitting it. She also mentioned a religious organization is sitting on both entrances of the trail with a rack passing out pamphlets. She expressed concern about a bicycle hitting them or someone tripping over the display. Attorney Hand responded and said new rules can be incorporated if trails need to be kept clear.

Councilwoman Kenny requested clarification about this becoming part of the Management Plan. She also expressed concern regarding the time it takes for codification. Attorney Hand and Mrs. Odom addressed her questions and concerns.

Mayor White stated there was an issue with the Resolution regarding the rules and regulations of Blue Run Park prior to the Ordinance. He said it is difficult to enforce a Resolution. He asked if they do not have enforcement powers with it, how it will help us. Attorney Hand explained the Resolution simply changes the Management Plan. He added the Ordinance will have identical language to the Resolution and it will become part of the rules.

Mrs. Odom stated this will be on Monday's agenda for a first reading.

**Agenda Item No. 7 – Ordinance #ORD2022-09, Blue Run Park Rules & Regulations**

Discussion during Agenda Item No. 6 included Agenda Item No. 7 in the conversation. There were no further comments for this agenda item.

**Agenda Item No. 8 – Boat Launch Program - Jan Smith, Finance Officer**

Mrs. Smith stated she is still having discussions with the companies who offer payment processes for the boat launch. She said she has received four responses to date and has asked them to provide quotes for both kiosk and phone payments. She explained the older population prefer working with a kiosk, the younger people prefer an app and those in the middle feel they already have too many apps. She added one company is offering a text pay option. She provided a spreadsheet with the cost options to Council and spoke about a company who offers a barrier gate which would not allow people on the river without paying. She stated she is not ready to make her final presentation yet, because she understands it is important to get this right. She said her goal is to have something in place by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mayor White stated he would appreciate boater input and hopes when it is on the next agenda he'll receive some comments from them.

Further discussion involved speeding up the flow of boaters getting on the river by offering multiple payment choices, the age group of people using the ramp, timing of implementation, supply chain and presentations.

Mayor White asked Mrs. Odom to invite a representative from these services to come to City Hall so the Council can speak with them one on one. He asked Mrs. Smith to present the top 3 companies when she has all the data.

**Agenda Item No. 9 – Discussion - Form DR-420 Certification of Taxable Value 2022**

Mrs. Smith stated this is the beginning of the budget and there is a requirement for Council to adopt a proposed millage rate. She said the property appraiser has certified the City's taxable value at \$212.9 million. She pointed to line 16 and spoke about the roll back rate. She explained she has the budget prepared at 6.5 mills, which is the current millage rate, and she can pay all the bills at that rate for now but doesn't have all the information yet. Mrs. Smith stated this form needs to be submitted no later than August 4<sup>th</sup> and they can set the millage rate at whatever they want, but once it is filed they can't raise it. She said in the past they have started with 7 mills to give them room to move if needed.

Mayor White confirmed in the past they have always started with 7 mills but worked to keep it at 6.5 mills. Mrs. Smith reminded Council insurance is going up and the anticipated action is to decide on the millage rate during Monday's meeting. Council agreed to add this to the meeting agenda.

**Agenda Item No. 10 – Withdrawal of Agreement #AGR2020-23 FEMA Grant Award for COVID Related Expenses**

Mrs. Smith stated FEMA came out with a grant program in the early days of Covid to help Cities and Counties who were losing money. She said the Federal Government also offered



the CARES Act and Dunnellon was able to recover 100% of any Covid related expenses from this program. She explained because of the CARES Act reimbursement, she had nothing to submit for the FEMA grant and therefore would need to formally withdraw.

Councilwoman Kenny asked where the funds from the CARES Act went. Mrs. Smith replied it was spent on anything related to Covid. Council agreed to add this to the consent agenda.

### **Agenda Item No. 11 – Department Head Reports**

Mrs. Odom reminded Council Mayor White asked for Department Head reports to be moved up on the agenda list for meetings. She asked Council if they wanted to make it a permanent change. Council agreed to make this change permanent.

Mrs. Odom stated this Monday Council will have a Proclamation declaring the November 8, 2022 City Council election. She said seats 2, 3 and 4 are open and the qualifying period is from noon on August 22<sup>nd</sup> to noon on August 26<sup>th</sup>. She explained the qualifying process, declaring candidacy, fees and forms. She said there is an introduction packet available and everything necessary has been published on the website. She stressed the importance for appropriate political signs and stated the Clerk's office is here to help them through the process.

Mr. Slattery stated there has been a delay installing the Duke Energy EV charging stations due to supply chain issues and it may not be until January before they begin. Mr. Slattery explained there is a statewide shortage of asphalt and we could have delays on three paving projects. He indicated there shouldn't be any more delays with the Ohio and Cedar Streets project nor the Blue Cove project. He said he started the paving project at the Blue Run Park overflow lot, but there will be no asphalt delivered tomorrow and it might be another two to three weeks before it is available.

Ms. Cid stated she sent the advertising out for the Request For Proposal on Wayfinding Signage and now is waiting for contractors to submit proposals. She suggested conducting a survey on the boaters with regard to the boat launch fees and thought ROTC students would be a great help.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar asked Ms. Cid to confirm there hasn't been any interest from Chick-Fil-A or Wawa for the vacant land where Owens produce has recently vacated. Ms. Cid said she hadn't heard anything yet regarding that property.

Chief McQuaig stated a solution to the problem of people parking on the grass over the weekend at City Hall was suggested prior to the last election. He explained a rope fence was proposed and he provided example photos. He said it is an aesthetically pleasing way to prevent cars from parking where they shouldn't. He pointed out they are nice, inexpensive, moveable, decorative and would eliminate a lot of problems. Chief McQuaig stated they have

written 77 citations since the first of the year, but people feel the ticket is worth it if it helps them get on the river.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar suggested a sign with a diagram showing where the overflow parking is located. Mr. Slattery stated signs are present and do not seem to work.

Chief McQuaig stated 57 citations were written on the river. He shared a story of two young people who decided to get on the river at 7:00 p.m. and didn't know where they were going. He said when it got dark, the parents were worried so they sent out a helicopter to find them. He said they were found on the road, scared because they didn't know where they were.

Mayor White stated he likes the rope idea and thinks it would make City Hall look really nice. Mr. Slattery stated it was about \$4,000 for the rope fence when they reviewed it the first time, but he would reopen the file and bring something to the next meeting.

#### **Agenda Item No. 12 –Council Comments**

Councilwoman Williams stated she left early from the last Council meeting to attend another meeting at the European Union Missionary Baptist Church. She said the purpose for the meeting was to see if the County would be able to help with the septic to sewer project in Chatmire. Commissioner Kathy Bryant stated they could not help because it is an FGUA project. Councilwoman Williams expressed her surprise at the fact they could donate \$50,000 to the Dunnellon Little League but they couldn't help the people. Mayor White suggested Councilwoman Williams speak to the County Commission in person.

Mayor White stated we are now the owners of the Powell Road property. Mrs. Odom added we have not signed the paperwork yet, but the due diligence period is over.

#### **Agenda Item No. 13 – City Attorney Comments**

Attorney Hand stated a number of Ordinances will be coming forth. He said he was asked to provide information regarding the City boat launch and commercial use. He explained there are no regulations for commercial use at any of the City parks except Blue Run Park. He suggested a comprehensive park regulation and stated we already have a good start with Blue Run Park because those regulations should work within all the parks. He added an option is to implement a commercial pass system or utilize a franchise system similar to Crystal River.

Mayor White stated a commercial entity brought a huge barge loaded with equipment and was preparing to back it into the river from the City ramp. He said they did not notify anyone and staff stated there is nothing in our rules requiring them to notify us. He described photos from Mr. Slattery of an excavator with a claw trying to load at the ramp. He said these things need to be looked at along with the rules of the parks we are discussing. Attorney Hand stated the easiest way is to incorporate the rules we already have for Blue Run Park and the next step

would be to bring in some of the franchise agreements from other cities to a workshop environment.

Councilwoman Kenny stated other municipalities have Park and Recreation departments large enough to include a system for permitting, while providing a source of income. Attorney Hand stated generic rules are easy and he explained the franchise system. He said any vendor would have to abide by the rules and have an agreement with the City.

Mayor White asked Mrs. Odom to put together some concepts for review at the September workshop.

Attorney Hand stated the vacation rental Ordinance is still being worked on and has been retooled to incorporate everything we need. He said it will come before Council after the Planning Commission has reviewed it.

**Agenda Item No. 14 – Public Comments**

Tim Inskeep, 12140 Maple St., stated with the price of insurance, gas and groceries this may not be the time to do what we have done in the past regarding the budget. He said 6.5 mills will cause an increase to the public and create further difficulty for them.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:28 p.m.

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Penned signature of:  
Amanda Odom, CMC  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Penned signature of:  
William P. White, Mayor