

City of Dunnellon City Council Workshop

Date: July 08, 2020
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Place: City Hall
20750 River Dr., Dunnellon, FL34431

Mayor Burns stated, "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.

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 July 8th. Please see instructions below on how to register.

Public input on non-agenda items will be heard at the beginning of the meeting. A three (3) minute time limit will be strictly administered."

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
Vacant, Seat 5

Staff Present

Dawn Bowne, City Administrator
Mandy Roberts, City Clerk
Jan Smith, Finance Officer
Chief Mike McQuaig, Police Department
Lonnie Smith, Community Development
Troy Slattery, Public Works Manager
Lynn Wyland, Records Clerk

Legal Counsel

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

Proof of Publication

Ms. Roberts announced for the record the agenda for this meeting was posted on the City's website and City Hall bulletin board on Wednesday, July 1, 2020. (Agenda amended on 7/6/2020 to amend item #5 and to amend agenda item #6 due to applicants withdrawing.)

Agenda Item Number 1 – Board Reports

Brenda D'Arville, Chair, Planning Commission, commented on the Solar Farm presentation provided by Allison Megrath and Lonnie Smith. She said the meeting was very educational and productive. They welcomed new members.

Agenda Item Number 2 – Dunnellon Chamber & Business Association Report

Julie Mancini, Director, provided her report of the new members and upcoming events. She noted the DCBA office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. weekdays. They currently need volunteers on Mondays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and on Wednesdays from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The next board meeting is Tuesday, July 14th at 6:00 p.m.

Moved to:

Agenda Item Number 7 – Southwest Florida Water Management District Grant Rainbow River Capacity Study - Mayor Burns

Mayor Burns called upon Jim Couillard, Marion County Parks and Recreation Director. Mr. Couillard said he worked with Chief McQuaig and Dawn Bowne in an effort to prevent KP Hole Park from closing over the holiday weekend. He explained they started by suspending a commercial park pass due to failure to comply with land development code and zoning issues. He said the business was warned approximately twelve months ago and they have not heard from the operator. He noted by suspending the permit, tubing was reduced by approximately 40%. Second, they suspended Chris Anderson and Rainbow River Kayak Adventure only for the holiday weekend. He said third, they banned all floatation devices/tubes not rented from KP Hole Park. He said the commercial operation suspensions and banning personal floatation tubes at KP Hole it reduced tubers on the river by 70% over the weekend. He said revenue was good and this had a lot to do with diversity of the recreational opportunities such as kayaking, canoeing and diving.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar thanked Mr. Couillard and said we do need to be better protectors of the river.

Councilman White engaged in discussion with Mr. Couillard regarding the suspension of the commercial park pass at the Sunoco station on Highway 41 North. Mr. Couillard explained the required procedure for reapplying.

Chief McQuaig commented on the parking at the Sunoco extending all the way to Winn Dixie. He said the business does not have adequate parking and it will be nearly impossible for him to operate the business due to lack of parking.

Councilman White asked Mr. Couillard to review the rental fees for KP Hole Park, which he did. Councilman White questioned commercial use at Blue Run Park. He said according to the management plan of Blue Run Park, it very clearly states that commercial enterprises or vendors are prohibited. Mr. Couillard said it's in the warranty deed for the park that is owned by the City. He said that restriction is something that is within the City's jurisdiction to regulate; not Marion County.

Councilman White said, "So you are saying it's up us to enforce that?" Mr. Couillard replied, "That's the way it has been."

Mayor Burns said he would like to meet with Mr. Couillard, Commissioner Kathy Bryant & Larry Steed, Rainbow Springs State Park Manager to see what we are going to do about a capacity study. He said the grant process starts in August and closes out in September. He thanked Mr. Couillard and said he appreciates him working with staff.

Mr. Couillard said this is one topic he didn't get to yesterday during his meeting at the County and we really do need to have some conversations. He said Mrs. Bowne and he had a good discussion about it last week. We really need some cohesion version towards the river such as who is funding what. He said he will be presenting his budget this Tuesday and he believes he there are additional funds he can use for this study.

Mrs. Bowne explained in 2017 the prior Council tried to initiate some interest in a capacity study. SWFWMD has a cooperative grant initiative available and they will fund 50% of the cost of the study. The cost for the study was approximately \$125,000 to \$130,000 back then. Now, she said Mr. Couillard believes it could cost between \$150,000 to \$200,000 or more. She said 50% would have to be contributed towards this initiative. The goal today was to bring the Council up to speed on the grant and the County's interest in being a partner. She spoke to getting feedback from the Council and the partners and developing a scope.

Mayor Burns said what we are looking for is to be able to sit down at the table with the State and County and talk in terms of being equal partners, especially from our safety standpoint. Mr. Couillard said it's not all about numbers; it's all about the cultural experience, the safety and protection of the ecosystem resources.

Note: Agenda Item Number 3 moved; after item number 8.

Agenda Item Number 4 – Rainbow Springs State Park Update- Park Manager Larry Steed

Mr. Steed had an emergency meeting and could not attend this workshop. Council requested Mr. Steed attend Monday's council meeting.

Agenda Item Number 5 – Ocala Marion TPO's Request for Comments on Long-Range Transportation Plan

Vice-Mayor Hanchar spoke to a suggestion which was submitted to the TPO with regard to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Mrs. Bowne said the Ocala Marion Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is developing their Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2045 and has requested feedback and comments from the public. She addressed an email Vice-Mayor Hanchar and she received from Mr. Marraffino containing suggestions for the LRTP which she shared with Council. She explained Mr. Marraffino stated in the letter that these were his comments that she may/or may not want to share with Council. She forwarded the comments to Council not realizing that some of the comments/suggestions addressed specifically the Cannon property.

Mrs. Bowne introduced Derrick Harris, TPO Assistant Director, who is attending this meeting by Zoom.

Mr. Harris provided an overview of the process of the Long Range Transportation Plan. He said they are required by statute to update their Long Range Transportation Plan every five (5) years. He explained the procedure and said they identify any needed improvement projects not already funded through the State Transportation Improvement Program. The goal is to create a list of itemized projects, prioritize those projects and submit those to FDOT annually. He explained the interactive map on their website which is a list of projects that were already on previous plans, including the current long range plan.

Mr. Harris said there has obviously been some discussion regarding some comments the TPO staff has received from a Dunnellon area citizen, who is on our TPO advisory committee. He said they welcome comments and feedback from all. He said it was nothing they have analyzed or looked at in depth. Basically, he said it's just comments and not all comments are taken and implemented.

Mayor Burns called upon Ron Cannon, 12071 SW 180th Avenue.

Mr. Cannon read a prepared letter stating that it's his family's desire for Council to understand that under no circumstances are they agreeable to the taking of their land for a highway or any other project. He said they are very discouraged the taking of their property would be discussed in a government meeting without them being notifying of such and allowing them representation. He provided a brief history of their land and the contribution

they bring to the community. He said they would also ask to include subject property owners in discussions of future land acquisitions so they may be informed.

Mayor Burns and Councilman White thanked Mr. Cannon for attending and providing comments.

Mrs. Bowne noted staff is looking for feedback from Council to be communicated to TPO in reference to their Long Range Transportation Plan. She pointed out a previous discussion regarding Renee Gualeni's recommendation of possibly rerouting truck traffic to Powell Road to alleviate freight traffic through the historic district. She didn't know if this could be an avenue or plan to discuss further in this particular LRTP plan and would like to revisit and discuss the necessary steps.

Mr. Harris said yes this would be the appropriate plan. He explained West Pennsylvania Avenue is a County road and starting with the County would be the best course of action.

Mr. Harris also clarified that no TPO staff has ever discussed any project around the Cannon farm or the taking of any of their land.

Mrs. Bowne stated the bike trail would be another project to place on LRTP list.

Council's agreed to direct staff to pursue the two projects.

Agenda Item Number 6 – Council Discussion -Appointment to Vacant City Council Seat #5. (Please Note: Applicants Donald DeWitt and Gary McGee have Withdrawn Their Applications.)

Mrs. Bowne noted Jay Dugan could not be present for this workshop. She said he will be in attendance at Monday's council meeting. Copies of budget material was provided to both applicants. The selected member will be sworn in Monday night.

Councilman White asked Mrs. Bowne to elaborate on the procedures for appointing a council member. Mrs. Bowne explained and provided answers to his questions.

Council agreed to place this item on Monday's meeting agenda and to accept public comments prior to the vote.

Agenda Item Number 8 – Blue Run of Dunnellon Park Tuber Exit - Councilman White

Councilman White provided a presentation with pictures and comments regarding the congestion and parking at KP Hole, Sunoco station on Highway 41 and the tuber exit at Blue Run of Dunnellon Park. He noted most issues were covered earlier in discussion with Jim Couillard.

Mrs. Bowne reminded Council that Jim Couillard indicated Council is in charge of regulating commercial use of the park. She suggested Council and staff schedule a workshop item to address the establishment of legislation that would govern activity at Blue Run of Dunnellon Park. Council agreed to move this forward to a future workshop.

Agenda Item Number 3 – Short Tower Way - Parcel Donation by Roberts Funeral Home, LLC

Mrs. Bowne provided a brief history of the proposed parking plan for Short Tower Way. She explained the warranty deed and the parking use agreement drafted by Attorney Hand. She proceeded to explain the process in moving forward.

Council and staff engaged in brief discussion.

Mrs. Bowne thanked the Roberts family and said the City is very appreciative of their efforts to assist the City.

Council agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Agenda Item Number 9 – Status Update – Council Directive to Attorney Hand to Review Potential Conflict of Interest – Vice-Mayor Hanchar

Attorney Hand stated he completed his review and provided the memo to city staff and City Council. He said it speaks to the findings and weighing of all aspects of potential issues.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar stated the memo is clear and she expressed her concerns for some possible conflict in the future. She recommended it is in the best interest to the City of Dunnellon residents and the Planning Commission Board to schedule a public hearing. She asked for it to be on Monday's agenda.

Councilman White said if it is the position of the Council with the City Attorney that there is a possibility of a conflict of interest or in particular a likelihood of sunshine violations, this can be rectified if that is the case; this can be rectified in a couple of different ways. The individuals involved could remove themselves from the Planning Commission. Or, the individuals involved could resign their positions as directors of the Rainbow River Conservation (RRC) group. He said either way it removes the possibility of sunshine violations and conflict of interests. He said if they resign their positions with RRC they just become members of RRC and being a non-voting member in itself certainly does not create a conflict of interest or the possibility of a sunshine violation.

Councilman White said his position would be that if we believe that there is a conflict or a possibility of a sunshine violation by being directors of RRC and also being on the Planning Commission, it can be rectified by allowing the individuals involved to resign from one of their positions.

Attorney Hand stated in producing the memo that there is no find of any past wrong doing or anything along those lines. He said if anything has occurred it was probably in the past, but sunshine law does apply to members who are on the same board. He said as long as they are not communicating, or there is no communication via whatever avenue outside of a meeting, there cannot be a sunshine violation. However, if they are doing that in any capacity as private individuals or members of a board, then that's pragmatic.

He said the report contains a Commission on Ethics opinion that a membership of an organization does not in itself create a conflict. It's when you have dues paying members of private organizations that creates an issue. He said there may be other issues that pertain to quasi-judicial matters. He said with quasi-judicial items and so forth, there is a resolution that removes presumption of prejudice for communications regarding quasi-judicial items that come before a board. He said it doesn't mean that communications couldn't occur. That case would apply to anyone regardless of what they do outside of their meetings. Attorney Hand stated resigning from the RRC would resolve some concerns going forward.

Council and staff engaged in lengthy discussion regarding quasi-judicial and ex-parte communications.

Mayor Burns said in 2018 an opinion was requested and never dealt with. He recommended reviewing this issue at the Monday council meeting.

Councilman White recommended moving on to agenda item number 10 and allowing Louise Kenny to speak before deciding on action to be taken.

Agenda Item Number 10 – Louise Kenny to Address Council Regarding Comments Made About Her in Her Absence

Mrs. Kenny spoke of a new Planning Commission board member, John Pierpont, recusing himself during one meeting due to him having family members who would be affected by the issue being discussed. She said he had come to a conclusion there was a problem between two women. She thought that was very rich because in October, 2013, Mr. Pierpont had a son-law who was on Council and even though he was on Council, Mr. Pierpont was allowed to be on staff as a consultant for the sale of Greenlight and receiving payment. She said she would have thought that would have been a conflict of interest.

Mrs. Kenny addressed the sale of Greenlight and the closing being handled by Virginia Cassidy, former City Attorney, and of the City's current law firm. She said Attorney Cassidy neglected to collect the more than \$1M dollars after the sale of Greenlight. To her knowledge the attorney's firm did not report that failure of consideration to the Court.

She spoke to Mr. Pierpont being the owner of an LLC energy related business and taking part and voting on the item regarding the Solar Farm.

Mrs. Kenny said when she contributes her time to the City she does not do it for personal gain. With her being on the Planning Commission, she said she has an opportunity to be a voice in the comprehensive plan. The comprehensive plan is the only voice the citizen have here in terms of how they want the City to grow.

Mary Ann Hilton spoke from the audience that Council has the facts that she was resigning.

Mayor Burns said she was “out of order.” Mrs. Hilton continued to speak.

Mayor Burns called for assistance from Chief McQuaig to have her removed. He said the Council is still discussing this matter and we need to keep order.

Councilman White stated Council has the authority to remove anybody on the Planning Commission. He said he believes after this issue is fully discussed, if we have no other choice, then make a motion to remove. If the Council makes a vote to remove, whatever the process is, we remove. This can be resolve by bringing it to a vote.

Attorney Hand explained the procedure to remove any member by providing written notice and public hearing. At Monday’s meeting the Council would make a motion to schedule a hearing and provide written notice to the members.

Mayor Burns called for public comments.

Brenda D’Arville, Chair of the Planning Commission, 11661 Camp Drive, spoke of the Planning Commission being an advisory board. The board has no authority. She addressed sunshine law violation potential and said we all have that potential. She said she believes there are many points that were made that are open to subjective interpretation.

Bill Vibbert, 9552 SW 192nd Court Road, spoke to the accomplishments of Louise Kenny and her participation in the establishment of Blue Run of Dunnellon Park.

Burt Eno, 9220 SW 193rd Circle, President of RRC, said he would like to know what RRC has done. He said the RRC and the two individuals have been disparaged tonight.

Suzanne Eno, 9220 SW 193rd Circle, spoke of a particular council member and the proposed Gissy project.

David Porter, 11835 E. Blue Cove Drive, noted that Mrs. Hilton and Mrs. Kenny have served the City for many years and have done excellent things. He said he has not heard of anyone being accused of any wrong. When working on both boards, when issues collide, both the individuals and the City could be liable even if they have not done anything wrong. He said we need to decide when those issues collide, what we can do best for the City versus being on the RRC or being on the Planning Commission. Mr. Porter recommended putting emotions aside and focusing on the facts.

Agenda Item Number 11 – Request for Purchase of Replacement Vehicle for Roads and Streets – Troy Slattery

Mr. Slattery explained the truck needing to be replaced is a 1995 Dodge Pickup Truck. He said over the past year they have spent more time and money repairing it than driving it. He is requesting authorization to replace this vehicle with a newer pre-owned economical and dependable one in the class range of a Ford Ranger or Nissan Frontier no older than 2015 and mileage of no greater than 75,000 miles. He said this vehicle shall be an inspected or certified vehicle meeting all FDOT requirements and safety standards.

He recommended the purchase be funded by the 1% Discretionary Sales Tax in the fiscal year 2019-2020 capital budget of \$12,000.

Council agreed to place this item on the regular agenda.

Agenda Item Number 12 – Proposed Resolution #RES2020-11 Surplus Playground Equipment

Troy Slattery described a lot of miscellaneous playground equipment in need of repair that has been accumulating in the yard at public works. He recommended disposing of the items by sealed bid with a minimum bid of \$100.

Council agreed to place this item on the regular agenda.

Agenda Item Number 13 – ICOP Pro In-car Video System for 3 Patrol Vehicles - Jan Smith

Mrs. Smith explained Officer Russell Klar is in the final phase of training and will be assigned vehicle 125. This vehicle does not have an in-car camera system. Vehicles 136 and 137 have systems that are outdated and in need of replacement. The system is used for officer's safety and transparency. The in-car camera system is activated when the officer turns on their blue lights to record the event for future use.

The item is budgeted in fiscal year 2019-2020 budget. Funding will be provided from the 1% Discretionary Sales Surtax Reserve of \$10,000. This purchase complies with purchasing ordinance #ORD2015-08 as a single/sole source Sec. 2-382(3). Safety Vision is the only company to provide the ICOP Pro camera system directly to the City. Mrs. Smith explained a requisition will be prepared upon purchase approval.

Council agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Agenda Item Number 14 – Consideration of Reappointment of Geoffrey Gascay, Pension Board Member, Term Expired

Ms. Roberts explained Mr. Gascay's term expired June 11th. He has agreed to serve another term and be reappointed. She said the board still has one vacancy which was advertised. No applications have been submitted to date.

Council agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Agenda Item Number 15 – 94th Annual FLOC Conference - Appoint Council Member as Voting Delegate

Ms. Roberts explained a letter was received from Florida League of Cities requesting the municipality of Dunnellon designate one official to be the voting delegate for the Florida League of Cities Business meeting. Mayor Burns agreed to be the designee.

Council agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Agenda Item Number 16 – Proclamation #PRO2020-07, Carol Westmoreland

Mrs. Bowne said Carol Westmoreland, Director of the Florida Redevelopment Association, is retiring June 30, 2020. She provided of brief background of Ms. Westmoreland and said she has been a long standing CRA advocate and a significant asset in our area. She explained the FRA requested a proclamation from the City. If directed, staff will prepare a proclamation for Council's consideration and it will be mailed to her.

Council agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Agenda Item Number 17 – Council Comments

Vice-Mayor Hanchar recommended having staff prepare a congratulatory letter to welcome Marion County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Diane Gullett.

Council agreed to place this item on the consent agenda.

Mayor Burns requested extending an invitation to Mark Landers, Administrator of Marion County Department of Health to attend a meeting and provide education regarding COVID.

Council agreed.

Vice-Mayor Hanchar noted an M-CORES meeting is scheduled on July 22nd at 9:30 a.m. at the Hilton in Ocala. The meeting can also be attend by the Zoom platform. She recommended Council write another letter regarding keeping the toll roads/highways out of Dunnellon.

Council agreed to direct staff to prepare a draft letter.

Councilman White commented on the Gissy proposed project and noted it was to be done in phases. He said he has asked Mrs. Smith what is the amount of direct tax revenue the City would receive. Mrs. Smith said she is working with Marion County Property Appraiser for a projection.

Councilman White said a petition with signatures has been circulating regarding the proposed Gissy project. He said he was asked to deliver the same to Mayor Burns when finished. He said he will deliver it soon.

Agenda Item Number 18 – City Administrator Comments

Mrs. Bowne clarified that at a previous Planning Commission meeting Kimley-Horn provided a presentation regarding the solar farm. She said it was a presentation only. There was no hearings, no motion or action taken during that meeting.

Mrs. Bowne provided the following report:

City Administrator Report 08/10/2020

City Clerk(HR)&City Administrator:

- **Hiring process for new reserve (unpaid) police officer nearly complete.**
- **Pension Board Meeting to be held at 8:30 a.m. on August 11th.**
- **One vacant position remains on Pension Board. Staff has advertised on the city website and multiple times in the Riverland News.**
- **Staff working with carriers on October 1st insurance renewals to include benefits, property, auto, liability and workers compensation.**
- **Staff completed/submitted safety grant application to Preferred TIPS Program. City received \$3,712.14 grant award.**
- **As requested by Council, Clerk has prepared a modified evaluation format for City Administrator to be emailed to Council for review.**
- **Amended Election Proclamation 2020-08 to be published in the Riverland and on the city website once approved. Qualifying period is August 17 – 21. Qualifying packets available on the City website and at City Hall.**
- **Two candidates have begun qualifying process by filing appropriate documents with the City Clerk.**
- **Staff received request for Constitution Week proclamation from the Rainbow River Chapter of the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) for September.**
- **Mayor along with staff attended a meeting with Marion County on Thursday, July 16th to begin discussing a scope for a Rainbow River Capacity Study with Chairwoman Bryant and staff. Efforts to encourage FDEP participation are in process. Chairwoman Bryant was non-committal indicating it would need to be presented to the entire commission. She expressed some doubt about the need for the study considering the changes recently made to reduce the number of tubers entering KP Hole Park. Staff will continue to work with the County encouraging a partnership moving forward in applying for a grant to help fund 50% of a capacity study.**

Finance:

- **The Cooperative Funding Initiative (CFI) SWFWMD grant the City applied for is included in SWFWMD's budget for FY2019-2020. SWFWMD has selected Kimley-Horn as the engineering consultant to perform the inventory. This grant is to inventory and assess the City's stormwater infrastructure assets and identify and prioritize stormwater projects. We have requested \$285,000 over 3 years. The City's commitment (match) is \$47,500 each fiscal year beginning in 2020 to be funded with 1 cent sales tax revenue. SWFWMD Governing Board has approved the 1st year funding agreement. The application requesting 2nd year funding has been submitted for consideration.**

Kimley-Horn is in the process of preparing a scope of work. Once that is complete and approved by SWFWMD work will begin. It is estimated that 25% of Year 1 tasks will be completed by 9/30/20. The remainder has been carried over to the FY20/21 budget.

Funding in the amount of \$142,500 is on reserve from the 1 % Discretionary Sales Surtax received as of 9/30/19.

Staff will be submitting the funding application for the 3rd year of the project which is due by October 2, 2020.

- **The FY20/21 proposed budget was discussed at a special workshop on July 22nd. The millage rate of 6.5 has been maintained for the 3rd year in a row. The next budget workshop is scheduled for August 19th at 3:00 pm.**

Police:

- **Statistics report available Monday, August 10th.**

Community Development:

- **Staff is working with the Planning Commission to propose various code updates regarding RV parks, Solar facilities, etc.**
- **Staff will be attending the TPO TAC meeting on the 11th for updates from Marion Co.**
- **The IT department is working with Dell for configuring a new server that was budgeted for this fiscal year. Also upgrades to the WiFi system are forthcoming.**
- **The RFP for Inspection Services has been completed and sent out for bid. Proposals are due by the 17th of August. We expect to gain some savings by moving to an hourly billing vs percentage.**
- **Technical Assistance grant application (TAC) has been submitted to DEO for consideration of funding for 2021.**

- **Jim Gissy Rainbow River Ranches Comp Plan and Zoning Change Application has formally been withdrawn by applicant.**
- **We are in preliminary review of one proposed residential dock permit application that will be submitted shortly by Jim Gissy's engineer, Rodney Rogers. No permit has been issued and will not be until there is a thorough review by Community Development, City's planner and legal counsel indicates it must be permitted based on City's Code and is compliant with City Code.**
- **Staff has been updating several code enforcement matters that are reflected on the monthly report.**

Public Services:

- **CDBG Project update: The contractors have been working to ensure final completion is achieved by Aug. 12th. All major construction has been completed with a few minor corrections being addressed.**
- **Walnut Street ground depression/sinkhole: Repairs have been completed and we have received the "Compliance letter" from GEO-TECH. The scope of work was estimated to be around \$60,020.00 and the final cost came in at \$43,563.00.**
- **City Hall: We have identified the materials and an estimated cost for installing the nautical rope fence around the parking area. It may take a few weeks for the material to arrive and work will begin shortly after. Estimated cost is \$3,100.00.**
- **Dunnellon Heights: Annual tree trimming, clearing of the Right of Ways have begun and anticipate road grading to be completed within the next two weeks.**
- **Rail Road Crossing: Last month Florida Northern Rail Road replaced the crossing located on Penn. Avenue during which traffic was rerouted down Bostick Street to E. McKinney Avenue. A couple of weeks after the construction was complete the crossing arms failed causing traffic to be diverted again. This has contributed to excessive wear to the intersection at Bostick and McKinney. Staff is currently working with the CSX Railroad to hold them responsible for repairs.**

Agenda Item Number 19 – City Attorney Comments

Attorney Hand noted whenever he is asked to do something by staff or Council, he will do it whether he likes to do it or whether he doesn't; it is completely immaterial. He explained it is his job to be straight with Council and tell them when there are potential problems.

Agenda Item Number 20 – Public Comments

Wally Dunn, 11386 Hendrix Drive, said he agreed with David Porter's comments on the issue with Mrs. Hilton and Mrs. Kenny. He thinks people's emotions get in the way and they are not listening to what is being said. He said the two woman have done great things for the City over the years, but that is not the point. It appears there is a conflict of interest. He requested a copy of Attorney Hand's memorandum.

Ms. Roberts read a document submitted by Rick Hancock into the record:

“I’d like to thank Chief Mike McQuaig and Mayor Burns for their excellent efforts to reduce river traffic along the entire Rainbow River corridor and at Blue Run Park, which also reduces road congestion and public safety concerns. Their efforts are paying off with the recent tuber activity reductions at Marion County’s KP-Hole Park. The elimination of outside commercial tubing vendors to this park will dramatically improve river conditions and provide for a safer, quality experience for all river user activities.

The City has long been stymied by a poorly written Blue Run Park Management Plan that provides little recourse for the City to protect Blue Run Park from being overrun by county park users. However, Mayor Burns, Chief McQuaig and Dawn Bowne continue to challenge our county partners in a positive way to better protect the river, our residents and guests and our community’s quality of life. Mayor Burns has initiated a renewed effort to perform a river carrying capacity study similar to the recently completed Weeki Wachee River study. Mayor Burns is coordinating the coalition of public partners in order to fund and complete this study, sooner rather than later. I believe this project is the single most important opportunity for long term protection of our river resource and local quality of life, and every citizen should actively support the city in this effort.

This study could provide the framework to establish best management practices for the entire river corridor and to hold all our public partners accountable to follow. I believe that City Council and city staff will ensure that any development, including the current Jim Gissy project will be the right fit for our river community and will comply with all planning codes and ordinances.

I ask the council and staff to aggressively educate the public on the planning process and to encourage their full participation. Informed public participation in all planning processes will help ensure the appropriate outcome for our community, while reducing rumors and hearsay at the same time. Thank you City Council and Staff! You continue to prove that the City of Dunnellon is the Rainbow River’s best friend and who every citizen can rely on to protect and preserve our unique river’s quality of life.”

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Attest:

Amanda Roberts, CMC
City Clerk

C. Dale Burns, Jr., Mayor